

# FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA NEWSLETTER

**OUR THEME:** SERVING THROUGH RESILIENCE AND PERSISTENCE

## In this Edition

We made 15 years in service as we Continue serving the LBQ womxn through Resilience and persistence to ensure Meaningful inclusiveness, safety, opportunities and development

**FARUG CELEBRATES  
ANOTHER YEAR OF HER  
EXISTENCE.**

**MENTAL HEALTH  
INFORMATIVE  
CONVERSATIONS**

**DIALOGUE ON LEGAL AND  
POLICY FRAMEWORK ON  
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SERVICES.**

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## OUR BIG STORY



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!** FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA

FARUG celebrates another year of  
existence.

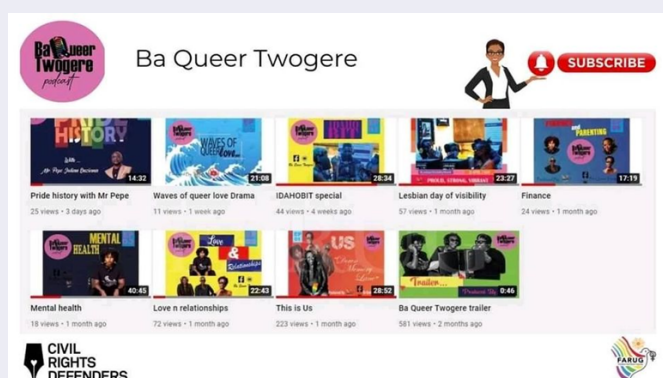
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On the 4th of July 2003, FARUG was born! As our slogan goes, FARUG since its inception has continued to serve her community through creating visibility, addressing issues that affect LBQ womxn as well as advocating for their rights. The broken chains are witnessed through the number of LBQ womxn coming out to address issues affecting them, the increasing number of partners from the mainstream movements, the number of talents discovered, friends and funders giving a hand of support, activities implemented that have changed the lives of many LBQ womxn lives, to mention. This milestone can be evidenced by visiting our social media platforms. Please continue donating and supporting our work. Shared below was the message for our reborn day;



**“Happy Birthday to us!!**

*It is with great pleasure that we are here as Freedom and Roam Uganda to celebrate another year of our existence. We are grateful for surviving all the challenges throughout was the last 18 years as those have served to make us stronger and wiser in our resolve to serve and fight for the rights of Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer womxn. Today, in spite of the difficulties we are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we renew our vow to do the aforementioned as we continue to hope for a world where being an LBQ womxn is normal. #farug@18*

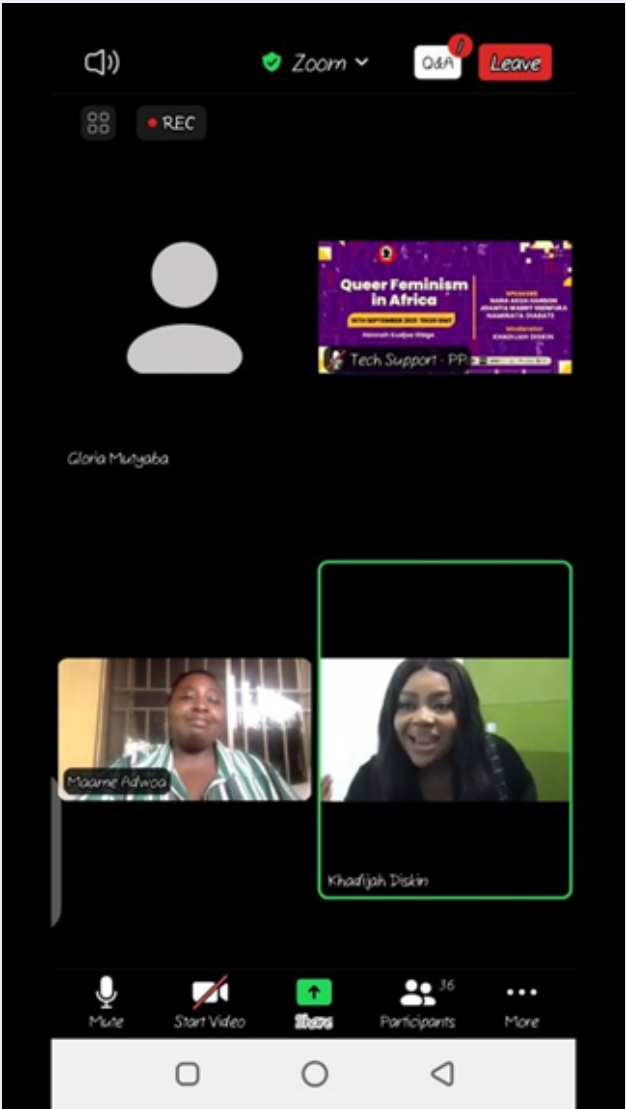


With support from Civil Rights Defenders, we have continued to discuss different topics on situations that have faced LBQ persons during the pandemic. Among these were the increasing cases of drug and substance abuse, Intimate Partner violence, menstrual hygiene, and many more. The issues have been broadly dissected and the information is to help LBQ womxn thrive in this challenging pandemic situation. Shared below are some links that you can tune in to listen

1. Drug and substance abuse:  
<https://youtu.be/VhrZdvEXqJ8>
2. Intimate partner violence:  
<https://youtu.be/XtHxEWUc-zI>
3. Waves of queer love:  
<https://youtu.be/YIIQzsoeN4o>

QUEER FEMINISM IN AFRICA

Our Programs Director presented as a panelists at the “*Queer feminism in Africa*” session at the Kwame Nkrumah Pan-African Intellectual and Cultural Festival 2021. These engagements boost our visibility both at national and regional level.





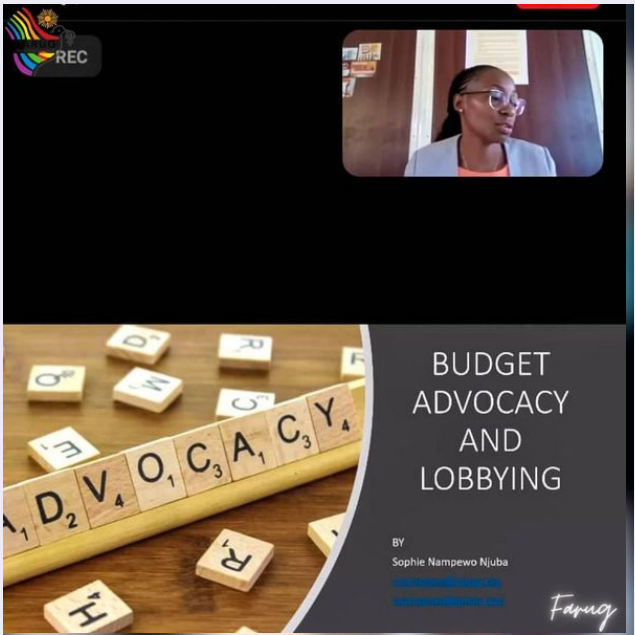
**GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR ACCESS TO SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION**

To mark the Global Day of Action for access to safe and legal abortion (28th September), The coalition to stop maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion-CSSMUA; where FARUG is a member has convened a public dialogue on stopping maternal mortality due to unsafe abortions under the theme "Making the law responsive to women's reproductive Health needs"; This dialogue was broadcasted live on the national Television channel NTV.



ADVOCATING FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

On 23rd September we attended a training that was organised by Akina Maama Wa Africa (AMwA) whose goal was to deepen CSO's knowledge and understanding of budget cycles, processes and strategies for influencing each cycle, as a means to advocating for health systems strengthening. By strengthening the health systems, they will become more accessible and effective in service provision. As a measure of preventing the spread of Covid-19 infection, this training was conducted through ZOOM. Thank you AMwA.....

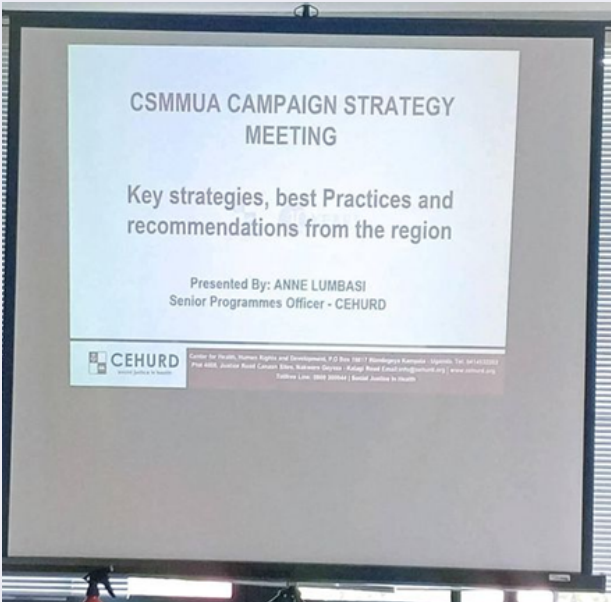


COVID -19 VACCINATION DRIVE

With support from All-out, Men of the Night Uganda (MONU) geared a COVID -19 vaccination drive that targeted Key populations in their different localities. This drive further aims at reaching key populations with non-discriminative services to prevent Covid-19 infection. The only legal requirement from beneficiaries is the national Identification card to foster assurance of being vaccinated. Cards that confirm the vaccination are issued at the inception of the initial Jab and vaccination certificates are received after the second and last jab. This drive is extended to different KP organisations in different divisions of kampala and regions of the country.

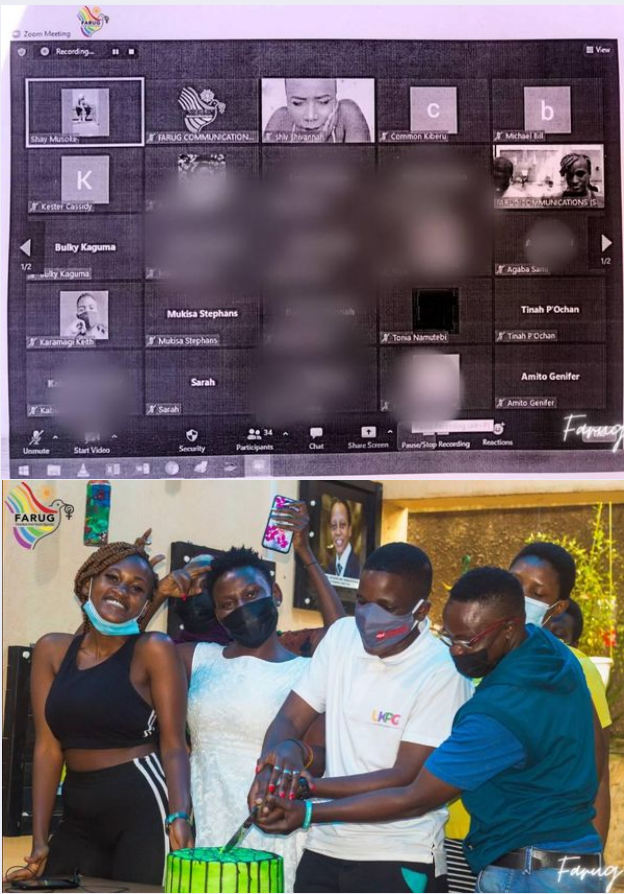
CSMMUA CAMPAIGN

We were part of the team that developed the CSMMUA campaign strategy that was to collectively be implemented during the Global day of safe and legal Abortion. This meeting was held on September 15 2021 and FARUG was represented by the program's associate.



POLICY FRAMEWORK ON ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES.

Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum - HRAFP in partnership with FARUG convened LBQ womxn from Kampala to dialogue on the legal and policy framework on access to health services. The discussion further looked at Contextualising the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of LBQ women. This will create a friendly and accessible environment for LBQ women in accessing SRHR services.



MENTAL HEALTH  
INFORMATIVE  
CONVERSATIONS

We summarised the month of August with an informative dialogue through sharing about drug and substance abuse. This was a result of the reported increase in drug and substance abuse among LBQ womxn and LGBTIQ community at large. The discussion conducted through zoom included participants from across East Africa and partner organisations like WERO, Rella Women Foundation, Ice breakers Uganda, to mention.

This event was a key learning and healing session for many queer womxn and LGBTIQ persons struggling with drug and substance addictions.

We ended the day celebrating the birthday of our clinic manager

PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE  
ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE  
LGBTQI SRHR ALLIANCE  
YOUTH ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE.

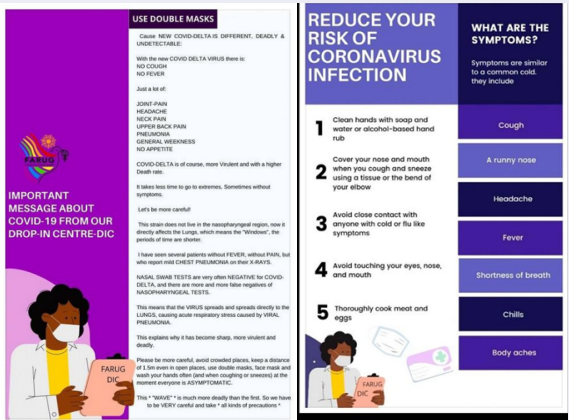
Our programs associate was elected to represent the LGBTQI community on the SRHR Alliance substantive youth Advisory committee.

This responsibility will not only benefit the LBQ community but will improve and broaden her knowledge as far as SRHR is concerned.



FIGHTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Through our social media platforms, we continue to share messages of Covid-19 pandemic to stop the spread of this infection as well as emphasising our members follow the Standard Operating procedures.



MORE HEALTH-RELATED MESSAGES

Through social media, we have continued to share other health-related messages with our members, partners and friends. We believe that together we can achieve a healthy and productive community free from illness or reduced cases in infection. These messages range from recognizing the world Suicide prevention day, sharing on serotonin as a key hormone that stabilises moods, feelings of wellbeing and happiness, wellness tips, mental health and many more.





AGILE POLICY

The Rapid Research for Agile Policymaking consortium convened a phase 2 project kick-off meeting. This was led by Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG); This is aimed at sharing project plans, strategies and information with key project stakeholders in order to seek support and participation of key project stakeholders and to create a sense of ownership and project sustainability. The agile policy has played a big role in bringing together stakeholders in order to realise a common goal. Our programs manager Gloria Mutyaba was one of the main facilitators during this convening.

STAKE HOLDERS' VALIDATION MEETING

our country partners, CEHURD, FIDA Uganda and RAHU in collaboration with Sonke Gender Justice convened a stakeholders validation meeting for the draft baseline study report of the Generation Gender Uganda Program. Among the participants were MPs, CSOs, Cultural leaders, Government officials, local government representatives among others. The baseline will inform interventions to be carried out under a 5year program. When called upon to give the closing remarks, the FARUG program Director cautioned the participants to think beyond binaries when implementing the program as well as pointed out the importance of LGBTI inclusion when implementing SDG5 in Uganda.





## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

FARUG staff and members tuned in to this session and this equipped them with knowledge on improving human rights situations, supporting and expanding the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground.

“Join a special session today live on NBS accessing Uganda is human rights progress from 3 pm-4 pm.”

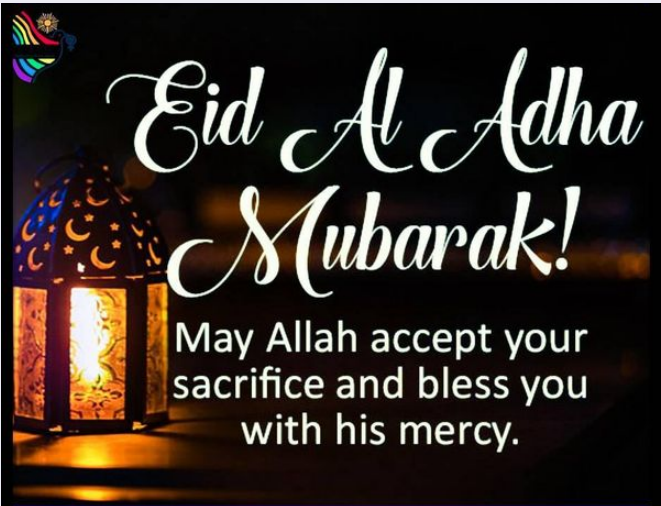
## RECLAIMING MULTILATERALISM

On July 07th FARUG Executive Director was live sharing about Reclaiming Multilateralism: Building Solidarity and Safeguarding Rights. This conversation was on our Twitter and shared is the link that was used for the conversation. [https://twitter.com/Far\\_Uganda/status/1412745060026753027](https://twitter.com/Far_Uganda/status/1412745060026753027)



## INFORMATION ABOUT SPYWARE.

Spyware is malicious software designed to enter your device, gather data about you, and forward it to a third party without your consent. Spyware can infect devices, allowing operators to extract messages, photos, and emails, record calls and secretly activate microphones and cameras. Although most people are unlikely to be targeted by this type of attack, here are still simple steps you can take to minimize your potential exposure.

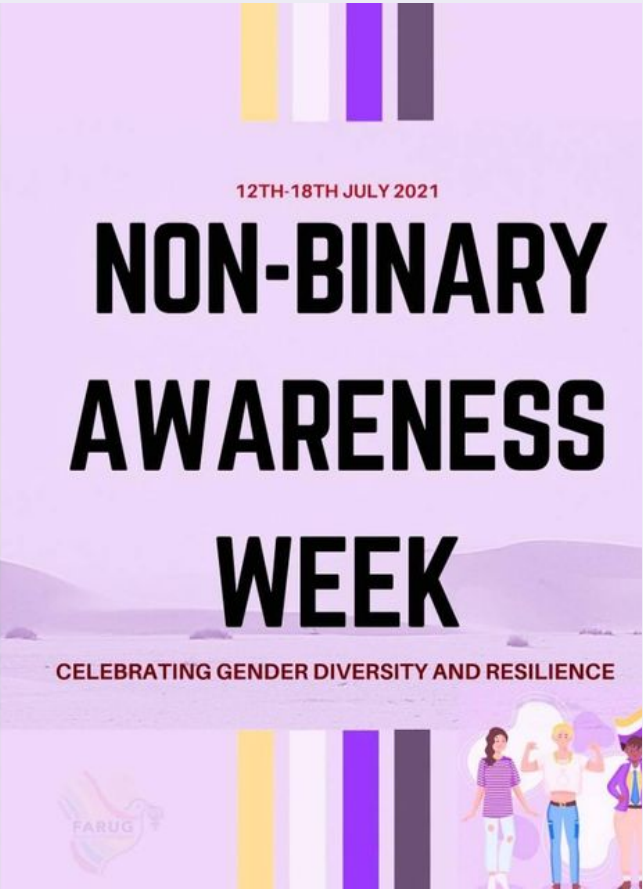


**CELEBRATING EID AL ADHA**

FARUG celebrated this day by wishing all Muslim friends and members a joyous and blessed Eid. “We would like to wish our Muslim friends a joyous and blessed Eid al-Adha”. This special message was further addressed to those who were spending the holiday separated from family and friends due to the pandemic.

BISEXUAL WEEK

Being Bisexual does not indicate confusion about what one wants, it simply means that one is attracted to both male and female genders. To recognise bisexuals from the globe, the bisexual week was observed on 16th -23rd September. FARUG observed this week through celebrating all bisexual womxn in the country.



NON-BINARY AWARENESS WEEK.

FARUG dedicated that week to those who do not fit within the traditional gender binary or put simply, those who do not exclusively identify as a man or a womxn, or who may identify as both a man and a womxn or may fall outside of these categories altogether. To all the non-binary people out there, we see you, we love you, we recognize you and we respect you.



LAUNCHING THE 6TH EDITION OF #BOMBASTICMAGAZINE

Kuchu Times, the LGBTIQ Ugandan-based media house launched their 6th magazine called the Bombastic magazine. Different from the previous topics that concentrated on the different acronyms of the LGBTIQ constituency, this 6th issue is about the power of allyship. You can get a copy from the Kuchu times social media platforms, i.e. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @KuchuTimes

TRANSITIONING TO ANOTHER LIFE

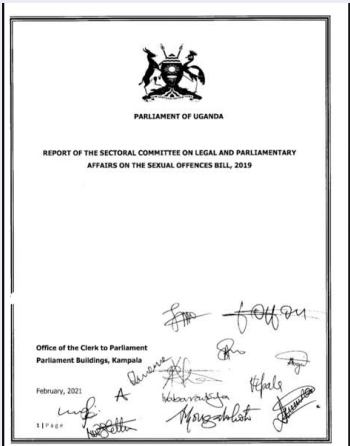
On that fateful day, we woke up to sad news about the untimely death of one of our members. Suzie was a very vibrant hardworking and promising young lady who believed in happiness and self-care as pillars of mental and spiritual wellbeing. She portrayed this by her constant jolly appearances that showed a promising future. We are sorry that you never lived to witness this but we are strong that you are in a better place. Rest well, Suzie!

On 30th July we were saddened by the untimely death of another member Amiya Sasha. She was also young and vibrant with a high sense of humor and a kind heart. Rest well, Sasha. You will always be missed.



THE SEXUAL OFFENSES BILL

On 17th August the president of Uganda declined to sign the sexual offenses bill. The homophobes targeting punishing sexual minorities wanted the president to sign it into law. There are many clauses in this bill that affect LGBTI persons and the punishments associated with them are lifetime arrests. This was a reliever for the LGBTQ community in Uganda although this did not stop the hate crimes towards Sexual and gender minorities.





## OBSERVING THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

August 12 was international youth day. We recognised this day through a message as quoted below; “For the young queers, those in the closet, or out, those questioning your sexuality. Remember sexuality is fluid and gender is socially constructed! Happy International Youth Day.”

## REMEMBERING REV. PHUMZELLA

On hearing the sad news, the day never became the same. July 6th you transitioned to another life.

Reverend Phumzile Mabizela was the Executive director of INERELA. She was an ally of FARUG and played a very big role in empowering LGBTI persons to take up and be included in interfaith spaces.

As FARUG, we thank you for spreading love and faith wherever you went. Your legacy still lives on. May her soul rest in peace. Till we meet again!



## THE GHANA LGBT BILL

Lawmakers in Ghana proposed a new bill that sought to criminalize LGBTQ+ persons and activism. The law also proposes a ten-year jail sentence for what they have termed as "propaganda, advocacy for LGBTQI+ and related activities"

This bill, if passed into law will make it impossible to even support or campaign for LGBTQ+ rights online like social media platforms, there will be the prohibition of LGBTQ+ activities. The bill also mentions that anyone who engages in sexual intercourse with a person of the same sex commits a second-degree felony and is liable to a term of not less than three years and not more than five years in jail.

This same bill would threaten fight on HIV/AIDS, as said by UNAIDS

If passed, this legislation will drive LGBT+ people further away from HIV prevention, care and treatment services and endanger the advances made against the HIV epidemic in the last decade.

"This proposed legislation is a gross violation of the human rights of Ghana's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, who already face high levels of violence, abuse, stigma and discrimination,"



*We thank you for being great partners, allies, friends, well-wishers, and members of FARUG. We further remind and encourage you to continue following the presidential directives during the covid-19 pandemic through washing your hands, wearing your mask and keeping social distance to prevent contracting this virus.*

**We continue to look forward to a world where being an LBQ womxn is normal**

**For questions or concerns:**

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**For more information about our work please visit our social media platforms**



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