



## FARUG LIMITED

### (TRANS AND GENDER NON-BINARY COMMUNITY) TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY (TDOR) STATEMENT

"I AM ENOUGH".

**For immediate  
release**

31<sup>st</sup>-March-2022



The international transgender day of visibility is recognised and celebrated worldwide. This is the day that creates visibility for transgender persons all-over the world. This day is dedicated to celebrating Trans women, trans men and gender non-binary persons for their contributions to the community and raising awareness for the work that is still needed to attain Transgender equality and acceptance.

Among the steps needed towards making a change in our communities, awareness creation for our existence is our number one priority. Many Ugandans deny the existence of transgender persons, a thinking that has termed our existence into mental illness. Hence many believe that being transgender is a mental illness. We further look forward to sensitizing people about the importance of using Trans people's correct names and pronouns. This will enhance respect toward Trans people while creating an environment that values transgender inclusion.

Transgender people in Uganda still face challenges in accessing services ranging from health care, legal aid, social support and care, economic and education rights. This has affected their well-being a thing that has contributed to the increasing numbers of transgender persons battling mental-related illnesses. The continuous false charges implicated on them have totally denied them a right to a fair hearing and representation in courts of law. Many trans people have been arrested under charges of theft and impersonation as this is the easiest crime for their tormentors who happen to be lawmakers mandated to keep law and order.

The social and cultural settings have continued to affect the transgender community in Uganda by exposing them to hate crime, physical assault, suicidal attempts, drug and substance abuse all of which endanger the lives of trans persons in Uganda.

On this international Trans Day of Visibility, we take the opportunity to celebrate the various organizations and individual activists who have continued to advocate for trans rights and inclusion, provided platforms for trans persons to address their issues, and furthermore provided a safe home for the homeless trans persons. We acknowledge LGBTQ human rights defenders and allies who have effortlessly continued to seek justice and equality aimed at lifting transgender persons in Uganda.

We further acknowledge trans persons who have accepted the change, advocated for their rights and inclusion, have taken a step to sensitize communities about gender diversity, physically came out to show transgender faces and existence in Uganda regardless of the insecurities accompanied with their visibility, have created safe spaces for their counterparts and those who have dedicated their lives to serving their community from different sectors of their professions.



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There are laws and policies that criminalize trans existence however the Ugandan constitution guarantees the inherent dignity and equal inalienable rights for all Ugandans. All Ugandans are free to enjoy their freedoms, liberty and a right to life irrespective of their gender diversities or sexual orientation.

The trans movement through support from the Ugandan LGBTQ movement will continue to advocate and address issues affecting trans persons while claiming equality, representation and meaningful engagements in the national policy structuring, decision-making platforms and leadership positions. We request for the inclusion of transgender men in the health sector, and the creation of non-discriminative environments when seeking for services. We are Enough!

We call upon the government to respond to the different challenges encountered by trans persons in the different sectors of Finance, education, social security, health and economic sectors by creating non- discriminative environments and responding to the protection of trans persons.

We celebrate our visibility as transgender persons born and raised in Uganda!

**We are Enough!**

**Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG) Trans desk, TDOV statement 2022**

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