



# FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA

## WOMEN'S DAY STATEMENT

"For All Women and Girls: Rights, Empowerment, and Equality"

**For immediate release**

8<sup>th</sup>-March-2025

On this **International Women's Day**, Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG), a feminist organization dedicated to advancing gender equality and empowerment for Lesbians, Bisexual, and Queer (LBQ) women in Uganda, stands in solidarity with all women and girls around the world. FARUG has always been at the forefront of promoting and protecting the rights and well-being of LBQ women in Uganda, adopting a feminist approach grounded in social justice, human rights, and collective empowerment. We recognize the unique barriers LBQ women face and remain committed to supporting them in overcoming these challenges.

Our work has taken various forms, but we take immense pride in the progress we have made in mobilizing the LBQ community, promoting wellness, and fostering mental resilience among LBQ Ugandans. Through our efforts, we are contributing to a more just and equitable society for all.

However, recent discussions about U.S. Presidential Executive Orders and the freeze of foreign aid are deeply concerning. The interruption of international aid, particularly to countries with limited resources, disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including LBQ women. International aid plays a critical role in providing vital services such as healthcare, education, and safety. The ongoing aid freeze only deepens existing inequalities, exacerbating the challenges faced by LBQ women, especially in regions where access to basic human rights and healthcare is already limited.

This year's International Women's Day theme, "***For All Women and Girls: Rights, Empowerment, and Equality,***" resonates deeply with FARUG's mission to uplift and empower LBQ women. As we commemorate this significant day, we also recognize the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

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**BREAK THE CHAINS!!!**



## FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA

While we celebrate the progress made in advancing gender equality, we also acknowledge the work still to be done, standing firmly with LBQ women who continue to face discrimination, violence, and marginalization.

In this critical year, we call for:

1. **Increased Visibility** – The voices of LBQ women must be more visible, not just within gender equality discussions, but also in conversations around sexuality, identity, and culture. The contributions of LBQ women should be acknowledged as an essential part of the broader feminist movement.
2. **Intersectional Advocacy** – We advocate for a comprehensive approach that recognizes how multiple identities, such as sexuality, race, class, and disability, shape the struggles of LBQ women. By embracing the diversity within our community, we push for action that addresses the varied barriers we face, ensuring no one is left behind.
3. **Representation and Leadership** – More LBQ women must hold leadership roles across all sectors—political, social, cultural, and economic. Achieving true gender equality requires the active participation and leadership of our community in decision-making processes.
4. **Access to Inclusive Health and Wellbeing** – Sexual and reproductive health services tailored to the unique needs of LBQ women remain a critical concern. We call for policies that ensure equitable access to healthcare and support services for our community.
5. **Safety and Protection** – Many LBQ women continue to face violence, harassment, and discrimination. We demand greater support for mental health resources and safe spaces that allow LBQ individuals to live free from fear and violence. We particularly focus on addressing the systemic issues that disproportionately affect our most marginalized members, including trans and non-binary individuals within the LBQ spectrum.



## FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA

As we reflect on the progress made and the challenges ahead, we honor the legacies of those who fought for our rights before us. FARUG remains committed to advocating for the rights and dignity of LBQ women in Uganda, who often face intersecting forms of discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, and other lived experiences.

Today, we re-affirm our commitment to advancing the rights, empowerment, and equality of all women, with particular emphasis on Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer, and marginalized women. Let us continue to rise together, demanding equality and justice for all women everywhere.

**Aluta Continua!**

***#ForAllWomenandGirls #AccelerateAction #Rights #Empowerment #Equality  
#InternationalWomensDay***

**Happy International Women's Day!**



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