

Weekly

Mar 2 - Mar 8



Celebrating Women's Day

ActionAid's Harriet Gimbo addressed the nation on women's day eve

On the National Women's day eve, Harriet Gimbo, the Programs Director at ActionAid and Women Rights Activist was on NTV's Talk of the Nation.

In less than 10 minutes, Harriet informed the Nation that the harmful traditional practices that continue to prevail in some of our societies and the low capacity of women in leadership to influence policies were holding back Women and Girls Empowerment.

Harriet decried the high levels of corruption that are affecting service delivery in the health, Education and Agricultural sectors.

"The largest consumers and players in these sectors are women. Their empowerment can only be attained if the evil of corruption is handled with an iron hand," she said.

Harriet concluded her talk with a call to all actors to ensure that girls attain quality education, a unified fight against sexual and gender based violence, elimination of harmful cultural practices in our communities and zero tolerance to corruption tendencies.

Join the debate this Tuesday on CBS radio, 89.2 FM, and find out who is standing in the way of Women's empowerment.

12 human rights key to women empowerment, a must read!

As we continue to celebrate International Women's Day, the Weekly brings to you the 12 Human Rights that are key for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality!

- The right to life
- The right to liberty and security of the person
- The right to health
- The right to decide the number and spacing of children
- The right to your consent to marriage and equity in marriage
- The right to privacy
- The right to equality and non-discrimination
- The right to be free from practices that harm women and girls
- The right to be free from torture or other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- The right to be free from sexual and gender based violence
- The right to education and information
- The right to enjoy and benefit from scientific progress

Have you facilitated the women in your lives to enjoy these rights?

Pallisa WPC commissioned amidst alarming statistics



Guest of honour commissions the Pallisa WPC

Pallisa LRP joined the rest of the world to commemorate International Women's Day yesterday. However, rather than celebrate, the leadership was alarmed by the statistics that ActionAid presented to them.

Job Isaac Oonyu, the AG-Coordinator for Pallisa LRP stated that the Women Protection Centre received over 289 women's rights abuse cases in 2014.

Job added that there was continuous limited access and control of productive resources as evidenced in the cases reported at the centre. Job pointed out that the women have continued to endure the insufficient poor quality health services in the district, limited access to financial services and limited participation in decision-making processes.

The resident district commissioner and area members of parliament called upon all actors to ensure that the status of women's rights improves this year.

The WPC was then commissioned, after three months of renovation. Women were called upon to utilize the facility as the leadership continues to fend for a lasting solution to the Women Rights Abuses.

Place rural women farmers at the forefront; Harriet Gimbo

On March 5th, ActionAid Uganda organized a Non State Actors consultative meeting on the establishment of Rural Women Assembly in Uganda. The meeting was attended by more than 24 national partners of ActionAid, including World Vision, Hunger Fighters, ACODE, TRO-CAIR, CSBAG, etc

Speaking at the workshop, the AAU programs Director, Harriet Gimbo stated that it is high time the rural women championed their own livelihood. They should therefore be part of all decision-making processes that affect them.

"Time for middle men is over. We have done enough of that. Can we bring the women to champion their own livelihoods processes? It's more sustainable," Harriet said.

The meeting resolved to develop a draft TORs as a framework for the Assembly. These will be spearheaded by a team of seven members. The rural women farmers also look forward to the commemoration of the International Rural Women day on 15th October later this year.

As Rukia Safi, a rural woman farmer from Yumbe put it, "Investment in Rural women Farmers capacity building and training is not just a smart investment but the surest way for total transformation of Uganda".

World leaders re-strategize for equity and empowerment of women



AAU participated in the PRE-Commission on the Status of Women meeting with Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development organized by UNFPA. The meeting was intended to provide a platform for UN agencies and CSOs to provide comments and suggestions for improving the draft political declaration on the twentieth anniversary of the fourth world conference on women.

The meeting learnt that the world leaders: heads of states, governments, ministers and representatives of civil society organizations are gathered in New York. This time around, they are reviewing and appraising the implementation of the outcomes of the Beijing conference held in 1995 and the 23rd special session of the general assembly, entitled "Women 2000."

The focus is on challenges affecting the implementation of the platform of action and achievement of gender equality, and empowerment of women. They will also identify Opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post 2015 development agenda. The UN general assembly member states are also expected to renew their commitment by signing a new political declaration reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.

Leaders are also being called upon to commit to tackling the critical remaining gender gaps and take concrete actions to eliminate discriminatory social norms, stereotypes to achieve gender equality and sustainable development.

THE YES MEN!

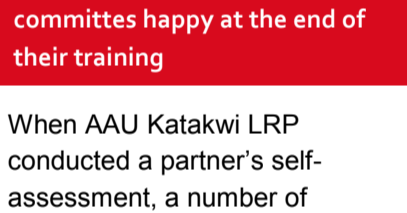
The documentary movie The Yes Men are Revolting is currently being premiered at different film festivals in Europe.

It features Activista's own Kodili and ActionAid's work for climate justice. Read more [here](#) and contact:

soren.bierregaard@actionaid.org

if you would like to watch the movie.

AAU Partners in Katakwi Embrace Constitutionalism



Katakwi partner board committees happy at the end of their training

When AAU Katakwi LRP conducted a partner's self-assessment, a number of Governance gaps were identified.

According to Samuel Ntale, the Katakwi LRP Coordinator, a number of board chairperson organisations were not even aware of the contents of the constitutions of their organisation. The board members were not aware of their roles, a weakness that has often been exploited by the technical staff.

The comprehensive training of board committees turned heated and stormy as some board members realized for the first time that the organisations they govern actually have policy documents. The facilitator took time to take the team through their respective policy documents, outlining their roles and responsibilities.

Mr Samuel Ntale is confident that with this eye opening training, there will be better performance from these partner organisations.

"The technical teams in these organisations were now more enthusiastic than ever on their roles, and this is for the betterment of the organisation. I look forward to better performance by our partners," he said.

CSOs propose amendments to



Mining - Ken Lukyamuzi handing over CSO recommendations

Mining communities' representatives and Civil Society last week handed over their proposed amendments to Uganda's mining laws to the Inter Ministerial Committee reviewing the country's mining legislation.

This was the climax of a process that was started last year by AAU, Safer World and Ecological Organisation (ECO) to contribute to the enactment of progressive and pro-poor mining laws. Joseph Okedi represented the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development as well as the Inter Ministerial Committee that is drafting the new laws. He received the proposed amendments from different mining community representatives that were led by their members of parliament. A national stakeholders meeting is scheduled for early April. The draft Green Paper of the new mining laws will be shared with the public then.

"When you come to the meeting on April 1st and 2nd, am confident most of the amendments you have forwarded to us will be contained in the Green Paper," Okedi assured participants.

Earlier in the week, the Oil Unit together with Programs Director, Harriet Gimbo, and Sally Henderson from ActionAid Australia, visited mining communities in Mubende District to better understand the issues faced by women in mining. They got to see first-hand the gold extraction value chain, and interacted with some of the women

AAU Kumi LRP strengthens child protection



Members of the children protection committees ready to deliver!

On 5th March 2015, ActionAid Kumi LRP convened the first quarterly Child protection committee review meeting to enable review of the work of the 15 child protection committees in Ongino, Malera and Kidongole sub counties. The half day meeting which was held in the Kumi GBV shelter was attended by chairpersons of the different parish-based Child Protection committees.

Formed and trained in 2014, the committees are expected to identify, handle, report and refer any child related case to either the school Administration, Probation office, Police, family of the child, WDC(s) or to any organization working with children in their District(s). They act as watchdogs in the community to report refer and monitor child issues.

This meeting enabled documentation of child cases that require follow-up and legal support. We also generated a quarterly work-plan to guide the actions of the committees in the next 3 or so months. Committee members were also And lastly facilitated with some basic stationery like note books, case and referral forms for recording of cases and referral to relevant authorities.

Country Director returns from Vietnam!



Our CD and other Review Team Members at a visit to a Livelihoods Project by AAV

As part of the AA Uganda's commitment and responsibility to supporting federation-wide efforts, for two weeks, our Country Director was on official mission in Vietnam. He was selected to be part of 4 person International Review Team led by Hon Irene Ovonji, the AAI Board Chair and also had Ms Seema Joshi, International Fundraising Manager based in India and Ms Patricia Whaley, a Board Member of ActionAid UK. The task of the team was to conduct an Association Review to establish the extent of ActionAid Vietnam's (AAVs) readiness to be admitted as an Associate Member of the ActionAid Federation.

AA Uganda went through a similar process of Association in 2006 and Affiliation in 2009 and so it was felt that having Uganda's experience as a mature Affiliate would not just add value to the review process but would also offer insight in AAV's journey to membership. Accordingly, for ten gruelling days, the CD, as part of the team reviewed documents; meet readiness of the Country Program. At the end of the exercise the review team members were unanimous in commending AAV for association. The final decision will be made by the AAI General Assembly in June and prior to that further discussion by the AAI GBDC and Board.

As expected, in addition to supporting the AAV journey to membership, the exercise was a great opportunity to learn about the unique circumstances that an aspiring sister organisation AAV is operating under in a country that is one of very few Communist led countries in the world. There were many lessons in programming, fundraising and organising that the CD believes he picked that will be of use to AA Uganda. In his words, "...this mission was as enriching to me personally as it was a support to AAV's quest to become a member...I am preparing a separate matrix of lessons that I believe will be of value to AA Uganda...".

Look out for more of this in subsequent editions of the Weekly

WEEK AHEAD

- The Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fredrick Kawooya and the Administration Coordinator, Davis Bekunda are in Bangkok attending a community of practice meeting on security.
- The Country Director is back in office from official duty in Vietnam. He will conduct the leadership and CMT meetings this week.
- Peter Clever Kalule, the National Livelihoods coordinator is in Mozambique for the face to face meeting on Land, Agriculture and Natural resources.