



Dear Reader, the campaign against MPs' Tax exemptions is still on. It is in your power to cause the your area Member of Parliament to pay their fair share of tax. [Click here](#) to read the latest developments on the campaign and how you can be part of it. Welcome to the Weekly.

## The 16 Days of Activism are Here!



Over the years, ActionAid has worked with women and girls to break the bondage of Gender based violence. They are not only smiling again but also flying without wings. (File photos/Samanya)

The 16 days of activism against gender-based violence kicked off on Friday with a call on everyone to do something positive about eradicating the vice which is a serious development challenge.

Nivatiti Nandujja, the National Women Rights Coordinator at ActionAid says this year, the Women Rights coalition is working to ensure that girl children enjoy a violence free childhood both at home and school.

The 16 days of activism runs between International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women which falls on November 25 and the International Human Rights Day on December 10 to speak against Gender Based violence worldwide. The campaign, according to Nandujja, is intended to re-enforce the fact that eliminating all forms of violence against women is a human rights issue and that the act of perpetuating violence against women is a human rights violation.

This year's national theme is "From Peace in a Home to Peace in the Nation: Prevent Violence against Women".

In Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, the activists have adopted the theme "Everyone; Everyday; Everyway: Prevent Violence against Women; Your Way!"

Nandujja explains that this year's theme aims to introduce and maintain the idea that every day people within the communities can do something in their means to prevent violence against women. She says all have a role to play in preventing violence against women, adding that cumulatively the efforts should alleviate the problem.

"Every member of society can and must take action in their own way to contribute to the prevention of violence against women. Let us also remember that women suffer daily so the campaign and actions should not be limited to the 16 days", she added.

Nandujja explains that this year's campaign is a reminder that whether small or large, individual or community, all action can contribute to changing the power imbalance between men and women.

This week, ActionAid together with her partners will conduct a dialogue on nurturing a violence free society at Gulu University. During the same meeting, ActionAid will establish a reporting mechanism with the University to ensure that Girls and women get justice in cases of abuse of their rights.

## Universal Periodic Review faults UG. On Human Rights violations



The Civic Space Advisor at ActionAid, David Manyonga shares a handshake with Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sam Kuteesa during the periodic review in Geneva Switzerland.

In the past week, the ActionAid Shrinking Civic and Political Space project team participated in the quadrennial UN's Universal Periodic Review that was convened in Geneva, Switzerland.

Under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, the meeting subjected the global community of states to an assessment of their commitments towards human rights observance and protection in the years 2011 to 2016.

Uganda was primarily assessed on the civil and political rights aspects such as liberties, freedoms and rights to assembly, association and expression. The social-economic aspects in relation to health care budgetary allocations were also looked into.

A number of countries commended Uganda's steps forward demonstrated by the enactment of progressive legislations and policies. In equal measure, several countries expressed their reservations for Uganda's Human Rights status. They pointed out the flagrant violations of the civil and political rights by the state and other political actors.

"Uganda has recorded rampant break-ins into offices of civil society organization, opposition leader as the arbitrary detentions and malicious prosecution of citizens" stated the review team.

The meeting called upon the Ugandan Government to stand by her commitment under the Abuja Declaration and ensure that 15% of her National Budget is allocated to the health sector.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) aimed at **improving the human rights situation on the ground** of each of the 193 United Nations (UN) Member States. Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN Member States is reviewed every 5 years. 42 States are reviewed each year during three Working Group sessions dedicated to 14 States each. This year, the three sessions were held in January/February, May/June and October/November. The result of each review is reflected in an "outcome report" listing the **recommendations** the State under review (SuR) will have to implement before the next review.

While reviewing Uganda or any other state, the UN based on three documents: a national report prepared by the State under review; a compilation of United Nations information on the State under review prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and a summary of information submitted by other stakeholders (including civil society actors) also prepared by OHCHR.

## Students debate good governance & Accountability



The winners of the day, Mandela SS receiving their trophy from the AG-Minister of Education Bunyoro Kingdom. Below are the Kitara students receiving their trophy.

Last week, ActionAid conducted school debates in Hoima district with a purpose of engaging young people in policy and accountability aspects of their country. Four schools: Kitara SS, Mandela SS, Premiere SS and Daystar SS competitively debated on corruption in the Oil and Gas Sector.

The debates were organized to create awareness on the negative effects of corruption and hence groom youths into responsible and accountable Ugandans.

The debate was opened by Mr Godfrey Serwanja, the District Education Officer of Hoima. In his remarks, Godfrey commended ActionAid for creating such innovative and educative spaces for the youths on issues that affect the society they live in.

"I hence request ActionAid to create similar spaces in other parts of Hoima but also the country at large. We need them", he requested.

The informative, interactive, competitive and educative debates were won by Mandela SS and these were closely followed by Kitara SS.

Allan Bamuha, the AG-Minister of Education in Bunyoro Kingdom commended the students for the excellent exhibit of patriotism, intelligence and eloquence. He pledged that in future, the kingdom would procure airtime on local FM radio stations so that the debates are listened to in the whole of Bunyoro kingdom and beyond.

Mr Bamuha officially closed the debates by awarding the winning schools and best debaters with certificates and accolades.

Aside from the debates, ActionAid used the platform to orient teachers on the legislative structures against corruption but to also inspire the young people to develop a culture of holding their leaders accountable and always show interest in the Governance issues in their society.

## WEEK AHEAD:

- ⇒ ActionAid will conduct a dialogue at Gulu University on how to nurture peace in society. This is part of the 16 days of Activism campaign against Gender Based Violence.
- ⇒ Preparations are in final stages for the anti-corruption marathon and music festival. Watch this space for details on how you can be apart of it.
- ⇒ AAU will be hosting a team from ActionAid Denmark from Wednesday to Friday this week.
- ⇒ ActionAid Uganda will also participate in the DGF partners' meeting this week.
- ⇒ The Governance, Board and Organizational Development committee of the Board will have a meeting this Saturday