



Dear Reader, ActionAid is counting down to the launch of its 5th Strategy Paper. One of the organisation's critical objective will be to **strengthen citizen actions to deepen democracy and hold the State, corporations and political leaders accountable for social justice by 2022!**

AAU at Feminism Forum!



Left: Harriet shares her experience and learnings at the Feminism Forum. Right are the women leaders discussing next steps for the feminism agenda in Uganda

The 7th Uganda Feminist Forum is a safe space that brings together feminists from different regions of Uganda to deliberate on key issues affecting them. It was hosted by Akina Mama Wa Afrika last week at King Fisher Resort Hotel in Jinja. The forum attracted over 100 women with the aim of mentoring and bridging the gap between the seasoned and young feminists in Uganda.

ActionAid was represented by Programs Director, Harriet Gimbo, Women Rights Coordinator, Nivatiti Nandujja and the Fair, Green and Global Project Coordinator, Jennipher Achaloi.

While the women recounted several challenges encountered, the Uganda Feminist Forum also ticked off a number of achievements. These included increased membership to the forum, diversity, sisterhood, solidarity and support among members, which are key in nurturing a formidable and strong feminist movement.

The feminists also questioned their role in challenging patriarchy which is one of the greatest forces behind abuse of women and girls. The forum also discussed the shrinking civic space and came up with recommendations to push back the continued attack on civil societies.

During a panel session on feminism and governance, AAU's Harriet Gimbo shared several skills and copying mechanisms for Civil Society Organisations drawing experience from the siege on ActionAid Uganda by the Uganda Police. These range from being transparent, solidarity with others, psychosocial support for staff, and individual safety plans among others.

Harriet also challenged the feminists to have a clear position on critical issues affecting women and to actively participate in the current governance discourse in Uganda with the aim of dismantling patriarchy in its form and manifestations.

Lira GBV Shelter to receive Funding for children!



Jonathan(2nd Right) and Nancy(M) with the guests from child fund last week.

Lango Child & Community Development Federation (LACCODEF) together with one of their donors visited Lira Gender Based Violence Shelter last week. LACCODEF is one of the partners facilitated by ActionAid to monitor response and prevention of Gender Based Violence in Lira and other surrounding districts.

Dr Klipper from Child Fund Germany specifically wanted to check if the shelter had the capacity to receive and offer services to children who have been abused.

"We want to extend financial support to the shelter but also train staff in handling children. Am impressed by what I have seen", he said.

Dr Klipper added that what stood out for him at the shelter was the level of organisation and professionalism exhibited by staff. He was also impressed by the special attention to the interests of the children exhibited by the children play area at the shelter.

"This partnership should go beyond supporting the shelter to provide safety for children but an opportunity to raise resources to address children and women rights issues in the region", he said.

AAU's Nancy Akidi welcomed the partnership.

"With the expected Financial and Capacity Building support, we shall be able to provide services not only to women but children who are often directly or indirectly affected by Gender Based Violence."

The AG-Cluster Coordinator, Bua Jonathan thanked the team for choosing to partner with ActionAid and reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to professionalism but above all restoring the dignity of women and children through the services provided at our GBV shelters.

AAU Governing Board Speaks out on Police Siege



Some of the current and former members of the ActionAid Governing Board and General Assembly during a past meeting (file Photo)

Last week, the ActionAid Governing Board spoke out on the police siege of ActionAid offices and the blocking of the organisation's accounts.

According to Mr Nicholas Opiyo, the organisation's Governing Board Chairperson, ActionAid has enjoyed a good working relationship with the police for over 35 years.

"ActionAid International Uganda has enjoyed a cordial relationship with the people and government of Uganda since 1982 - working with the most

vulnerable and excluded people to improve their lives. However, this long dedicated service was on 20th September disrupted when agents of the police and other security operatives took siege of our head office in Kansanga, Kampala, cordoned and searched it for over nine hours over 2 days."

The Board went on to say that the raid took them by surprise.

"The raid took us all by surprise as it was the first time we had experienced such a magnitude of disruptive action by the government in nearly 35 years of dedicated service. We continue to experience unwarranted scrutiny and in some cases disruptions of our and partners' activities across the country."

[Read the entire statement here!](#)

AAU calls for operationalisation of policies!



Fredrick Kawooya during his presentation in Entebbe last week.

The policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid, Fredrick Kawooya made a presentation on the Africa Mining Vision to the Tax Justice Academy organised by the Tax Justice Alliance Africa at Entebbe last week.

The Africa Mining Vision was adopted by Heads of State at the February 2009 AU summit following the October 2008 meeting of the Ministers responsible for Mineral Resources Development. It is Africa's own response to tackling the paradox of great mineral wealth existing side by side with pervasive poverty. The AMV is holistic. It advocates thinking

outside the "mining box".

Accordingly it's not just a question of improving mining regimes by making sure that tax revenues from mining are optimized and that the income is well spent – although that is clearly important. Rather it's a question of integrating mining much better into development policies at local, national and regional levels

Fredrick emphasised the role of good governance and accountable leadership as a requirement for sustainable management of Africa's natural resources. He noted that Africa is not lacking in terms of policies and the AMV is simply one of the very good policies that have only remained on paper and never translated into real programs on ground.

He closed by urging all actors to work at attaining operationalisation of the AMV.

"We should operationalise this policy so that we can open out our mining's enclave status so that

WEEK AHEAD:

- This week, all National thematic heads and managers will be in Cluster offices to review the operation plans of the respective Local Rights Programs to ensure that they speak to the National level plans but more importantly speak to the transition from Country Strategy Paper Four to the yet to be launched 5th Strategy Paper
- AAU's Country Director, Arthur Larok is in Nairobi attending an ActionAid federation meeting. He will be back in the country on the 24th of November.