

## Weekly

Nov 20 — 26



I'm so honoured and delighted to be the recipient of the 2017 award. If you believe in the rights of women, of children, of refugees – simply, if you believe in the corpus of human rights, you must then defend the rights of everybody”, Stated AAU Board Chairperson, Nicholas Opiyo after receiving the award last Thursday! Welcome to this weekly edition!

### AAU Board Chair Receives Global Award!



(L-R) Coenraad Vrolijk, the CEO of Allianz SE (Africa Region), AAU's Nicholas Opiyo (recipient of the German Africa Award 2017), The president of Germany together with the First Lady, and Markus Nitsche, the Head of Allianz in a group photo at the award gala. Congratulations Nicholas!

The Chairperson of the AAU Governing Board, Mr. Nicholas Opiyo was honoured with this year's German Africa Award for his efforts and dedication to defending the rule of law and political liberty in Uganda.

Opiyo, 37, ranks among the major Ugandan voices for constitutional order and rule of law in an increasingly autocratic setting.

Nicholas, also the founder and head of “Chapter Four Uganda” is an outspoken and prominent defendant of political participation as well as the constitutionally guaranteed Freedom of Expression, Press and Assembly.

He played a substantial role in the annulment by the Ugandan Constitutional Court of the anti-homosexuality law of 2013.

Currently, Opiyo is defending Makerere University lecturer Dr. Stella Nyanzi, who has just been released after more than a month in jail on charges of cyber harassment and offensive communication. Opiyo also stood out when he travelled to Kasese to speak and defend the rights of the people during the infamous Kasese conflicts.

For his relentless and courageous work, he was awarded the German Africa Award, for which he had been selected by an independent expert jury.

The festive ceremony took place last week in Berlin. The award was conferred by the President of Germany, His Excellency Frank Walter Steinmeier. While handing him the award, the president said that,

“You have become a key figure for your country's democratic development and your courageous fight for equal rights has been giving hope to so many people in Uganda and beyond.”

Coenraad Vrolijk, Regional CEO Africa at Allianz, commended Nicholas Opiyo's exemplary courage, highlighting the lawyer's outstanding commitment to the sustainable development of Uganda and to “creating a brighter future for the country's young population.”

Nicholas, in his acceptance speech stressed that it was an obligation to defend rights of every one.

"I'm so honoured and delighted to be the recipient of the 2017 award. If you believe in the rights of women, of children, of refugees – simply, if you believe in the corpus of human rights, you must then defend the rights of everybody”, he said.

Congratulations Nicholas

### Girls demand violence free environment!



The boys pledged to protect their sisters from violence

The LC (III) Chairman of Nsinze subcounty, Mr Bagise John Baptist last week committed that the Namutumba district authorities will work at ensuring that the rights of the children are respected.

Speaking at a Gender Based Violence dialogue between Buwongo Primary School girls club and the Nsize Sub county leadership held last week, Mr. Bagise commended the efforts made by the children in speaking for and demanding for the respect of their rights.

“We applaud such efforts being made by our children in airing out their voices against violence and as the sub-county leadership, we will work together with other stakeholders to ensure that children's rights are protected by challenging the cultural norms and values that perpetuate gender based violence in homes and schools,” he said.

The Dialogue was held to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The girls also presented a petition to the Nsinze country leadership urging them to make education safe by ending defilement, child marriages and creating safe spaces for girls to realise their full potential among other things.

Gladys Logose, one of pupils was very excited about the event.

“It was my first time to speak in front of sub-county leadership and I am now more confident than ever and will continue fighting for children's rights in my school and community”, she said.



The girls demanded for violence free environments.

Chipo Bangira, the Inspirator at the Busiki LRP stated that the LRP is dedicated to ensure that public spaces, schools and homes are safe for children especially girls.

She added that effort is being put into mentorship sessions so as to build girls competencies such as confidence, self-esteem and activism in Sexual and Reproductive Health justice.

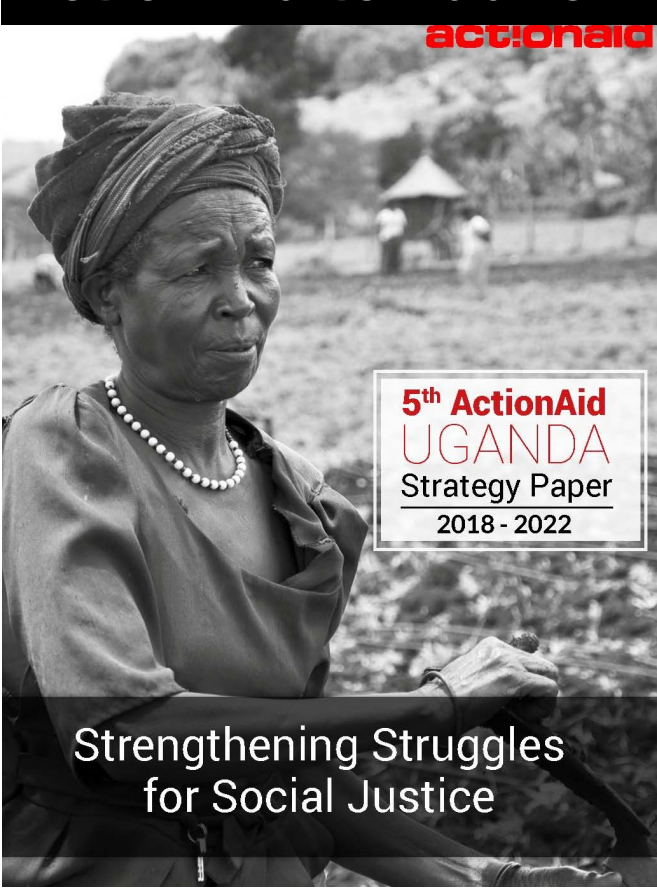
Congratulations Nicholas

### In Solidarity with AAU #unfreezeaccounts



The children of Busiki took off time during the commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based violence to stand in solidarity with ActionAid by demanding that the accounts be unfrozen. Some of them are ActionAid Sponsored children.

### ActionAid to Launch 5th Strategy!



This Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, ActionAid Uganda will launch its 5<sup>th</sup> Strategy Paper at Protea Hotel in Kampala, starting at 2pm. The chief guest will be the Deputy Chief Justice of Uganda.

This 5th Strategy Paper; **Strengthening Struggles for Social Justice**, has been developed to provide an overall framework for delivering the organisation's mission between 2018 and 2022. It has been designed at a time when the world community and our country not only face immense challenges, but also great opportunities for progress.

On one hand, the unprecedented climate change challenges, rising inequality, high youth unemployment, a failing economic system, weakening governance institutions at grassroots, national, regional and global levels, and a severe test on the commitment by ruling elites to the value of democracy - all these defy conventional thinking. On the other hand however, new technology is opening opportunities for mobilisation, interconnection and service delivery. Social movements and citizens' struggles against injustice are gaining strength, with young people in the lead, claiming greater stakes in the varied processes of governance.

The strategy is a product of an extensive consultative process, representing not just our perspective and that of the communities and partners we work with, but also the fruit of a wide-ranging and participatory analyses of development trends and priorities, informed by government's plans and strategies and those of other stakeholders.

In the strategy, ActionAid commits to work with women and young people to deliver social justice. We recognise that this can be achieved by deepening our use of feminist and human rights principles and approaches, and by strengthening the capacity and agency of people living in poverty and exclusion to assert their rights.

ActionAid also commits to work with social movements that embody the struggles of the poorest and most vulnerable and to directly challenge and seek to transform all faces of power - visible, invisible or hidden if they perpetuate poverty, inequality and vulnerability.

More importantly, ActionAid shall assume the risks that arise from using innovative engagement methods, working with people's struggles of all types, standing with social justice activists and human rights defenders as part of a wider movement for positive change.

Contact James Ameda on 0774494949 if you have not yet received your invitation card.

### WEEK AHEAD:

- The Governing Board and Management of ActionAid Uganda invite you all for the launch of the 5th Strategy paper(2018-2022); **Strengthening Struggles for social Justice**, to take place on Thursday 30th November at Protea Hotel, starting at 2pm. The chief guest will be the Deputy Chief Justice of Uganda, Justice Owiny Dollo. See you all.
- ActionAid will also bid farewell to outgoing members of the Governing Board on the evening of 30th November 2017 at a dinner to be held at Protea Hotel. Your invitation, if not already with you is on the way. Book off the day.