

END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

December 2021 newsletter



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM LAUNCH



The Global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute. The "16 Days," as it has become known, was launched and continues to be coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. Every year, from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (World Human Rights Day), the world observes the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. It is an opportunity to come together to call out, speak up and renew commitments towards ending gender-based violence.

Oxfam joined the world in commemorating the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence under the theme: "Orange the World, End Violence against Women Now".

This year's commemoration of the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) marks thirty years since women's rights activists launched it at the inaugural Centre for Women's Global Leadership. It is a time to reflect on the immense gains that feminist movements have made – that is lived through the safety and opportunities of women and girls across the world.

According to Oxfam's new study, the ignored pandemic, the COVID 19 pandemic led to an increase in cases of GBV – especially intimate partner violence – that has led to the loss of lives, injuries, anxiety, emotional distress, and more. The world faced a setback in the fight to end GBV.

For example, the Uganda Police Crime report 2020 also indicated over 14,000 cases of defilement were reported in 2020; 44 percent of girls and 59 percent of boys aged 13-17 had experienced physical violence, while 20 percent of children aged 13-17 had experienced emotional abuse.

The 16days of activism campaign, therefore re-awakened Ugandans on the reality of the impact of GBV on women and girls.

Oxfam in Uganda carried out a series of activities throughout the 16 days of activism calling for action from communities, the Government, and other stakeholders towards ending gender-based violence. The activities included radio talk shows, stakeholder influencing engagements, staff reflection meetings, a feminist convening on unpaid care work and GBV and a launch of South Sudanese women's anthology titled No Time To Mourn.

Oxfam in Uganda together with her partners launched the start of the 16 days of activism in different locations: **Rhino camp, Nakivale, Kyangwali and Kyaka II refugee settlements.** Activities included official launch events, radio spot messages on ending violence against women and girls, radio talk shows, and music, dance and drama.

The aim of the talk shows was to create an understanding of 16Days of Activism, advocacy/campaign on mechanisms of addressing GBV in the community and mobilization of the community to participate on Human

Rights day on 10th December 2021. The talk shows were supported by Oxfam.

The talk shows which were call ins, gave an opportunity to the public to participate raised key interest on GBV causes and response. Some of the comments/questions included; The need to recognize how GBV affects people living with disability and actively engaging them in such campaigns. Some callers also acknowledged the campaign efforts towards creating awareness on ending GBV.

The Launch in pictures



Kyangwali: The police representative explains the role of police in handling GBV cases during the launch of 16 days of activism.



Rwamwanja: A dance and drama performance portraying the impact of gender-based violence on women and girls and methods to prevent it.



Oxfam, ALIGHT, Refugee-youth leader for disability & refugee welfare council one participating in the radio talk show in Rwamwanja settlement



Nakivale: Launch of 16 days of activism

THE CONTEXT OF UNPAID CARE AND GBV AMIDST COVID 19



Zakayo and Florence working hand in hand to finish their chores in their home in Arua district.

Oxfam in partnership with Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) conducted a radio talk show on 6th December 2021 at Radio One FM. The radio talk show brought together gender experts including Hon. Justice Batema David, Ms. Aciro Rita (Executive Director) and Professor Bukuluki Paul who discussed the intersectionality of Unpaid domestic care work and GBV in Uganda amidst COVID 19.

In her remarks, Ms. Aciro Rita said, "Domestic unpaid care work is predominantly done by women and girls, and that means that it is largely associated with our socialization, but we want to let people know that its work that ought to be valued, respected and it can be done by anyone not only women and girls." She further restated that it is a concept that is urgent and needs to be raised within the public sphere.

"In the judiciary, we have taught ourselves to recognize unpaid care work and see the value it adds to our households," mentioned Hon. Justice Batema David. Ms. Aciro Rita also noted that there are limited voices of women in the public spaces because most of the women are involved in domestic unpaid care work. Men have used violence to maintain the status quo in our society and it escalates when men do not get the privileges that have been prompted by our social norms.

"Gender roles are social constructions, and they can change through the process of dialogue, awareness and influencing social norms in our communities," said Professor Bulukuki Paul. He further explained that men can influence fellow men to recognize and share in the unpaid care work which will reduce violence and the burden of care work on women and girls in homes. More on this discussion can be accessed on the talk show recording [here](#).

STAFF REFLECTION ON 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



Mr. Edward Mwebaze, the Head of Program at Oxfam addressing staff during the reflection on 16 days of activism.

Reflection meetings were organised for staff in the various field locations. In Kampala, two reflections were held on 6 and 10 December 2021 to enable staff to share their experiences on GBV, lessons learnt, and ideas on ending GBV.

In the online reflection session, staff discussed forms of GBV, its effects on the communities and whether sexual harassment is a myth or reality in workplaces amidst COVID 19. They also explored the impact of climate change on women as well as how COVID-19 has influenced our ways of working.

Ms. Nivatiti Nandujja, the Women's Rights Co-ordinator, Oxfam in Uganda said, "With the spike of COVID 19, we realized that there has been an increase in gender-based violence both in public and private spheres. So, these 16 days give us an opportunity to speak out, re-strategize but also re-energize the actors who have been handling GBV cases."

From the group discussions, staff agreed that due to COVID-19 and measures like lockdowns, there are increased cases of GBV leading to increased teenage pregnancies, economic hardships, separation of spouses, loss of life, distress, and depression of school-going children.

Members also agreed that sexual harassment is real in workplaces. It should be tackled by creating safe reporting channels for the victims, criminalizing the vice thus making it punishable by law, and protecting the victims from their perpetrators to avoid further occurrences. They also agreed that the Oxfam safeguarding measures in place including the policy, will go a long way in preventing and responding to sexual harassment.

Other groups shared that the impact of climate change such as food insecurity and drought has increased the care burden of women and led to cases of GBV.

“As a result of dwindling income, families were broken and separated, this is a form of economic violence which leads to GBV,” shared Ms. Jane Ocaya, the Women’s Rights Advisor.

In one of the reflections, Jackson Muhindo, the Climate Change Coordinator, said, "I know GBV first hand as some family members have experienced it. I have now become a champion towards ending GBV since I know the impact. We need to do more to address GBV, especially at the grassroots."

Staff appreciated the sessions and picked a number of lessons, including understanding the different forms of GBV. They indicated that a lot more still needs to be done towards ending GBV.

This will require a change in the narrative of gender-based violence against women and girls to include men and boys, creating safe spaces for men to open up, influencing the strong cultural norms against women, the need to nurture young boys into responsible men, influencing the removal of dowry as it gives men power to mistreat women. The team recommended more awareness sessions on GBV that will help our programming and at a personal level.

Mr. Mwebaze, the Head of Program, appreciated efforts put into 16days of activism, staff participation and generally staff efforts through the year.

"I know GBV first-hand as some family members have experienced it. I have now become a champion towards ending GBV since I know the impact. We need to do more to address GBV especially at the grassroot," Jackson Muhindo

FEMINIST CONVENING ON UNPAID CARE AND GBV



Participants pose for a group photo after the feminist convening at Kabira Country hotel.

On 7th December 2021, Oxfam, together with Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), conducted a feminist convening to facilitate dialogue on unpaid care work and GBV. Gender experts, the police and other partners joined in the discussion drawing experiences from women involved in domestic care work.

"Unpaid care work takes a toll on women and girls physically and mentally. We need to reduce, recognize and redistribute care work and equally get representation for the people who do it," noted Ms. Rita Aciro, the Executive Director, UWONET while making her opening remarks.

Irene Namatovu, a community mobilizer with Gal's Forum International, also a housewife, shared her experience on unpaid care work and called upon state actors to recognize unpaid care work because it contributes to the development of society.

During the convening, CSOs urged the government to improve care-related services and infrastructures through investing in

domestic technology, providing safe child-care measures and better health systems. This will reduce unpaid care work and the time women spend doing it.

In addition, ASP Francis Ogweng said that the benefits of equality are for both men and women. Men need to unlearn the negative masculinity and embrace positive masculinity. He encouraged women to include men in the fight against GBV & through the recognition of unpaid care work.

In response to what can be done to change the narrative of unpaid care and GBV, Dr. Peace Musimenta said, "We need to rethink our socialization process, especially when apportioning and training our boys and girls on domestic care work and teaching them about GBV. We need to change the mindset of society."

In her closing remarks, Ms. Jane Ocaya, the Oxfam in Uganda Women Rights Advisor, encouraged stakeholders to continue contributing collectively to bring about the positive change we want to see in society in relation to ending GBV and addressing unpaid care work.

NO TIME TO MOURN BOOK LAUNCHED IN ARUA CITY



Mr. Solomon Osakan, the chief guest(Refugee Desk Officer at the office of the Prime Minister) launching the “No Time to Mourn” book in Arua city

As 16 days of activism came to an end on 10 December, World Human Rights Day. Oxfam, in collaboration with FEMRITE Uganda launched the “No Time to Mourn” book in Arua city. The book is a collection of short stories, poems, artwork, and photography penned, produced and presented by South Sudanese women. It reflects the lived experiences and lives of every woman of South Sudanese heritage.

The book launch provided a platform and amplified the voices of South Sudanese women who went through conflict and war in their country. They came to Uganda in search of a better life, and for their healing process to begin, they need to tell their stories as they try to find peace and rebuild their lives after experiencing violence brought about by war.

Juan Jacklyn, one of the writers, narrated her story of fleeing war in South Sudan. "The memories of conflict/war exist in our lives, they are present and can never be erased"- she said. She also shared her early life in Uganda where she faced language barrier, cultural differences, and discrimination due to being South Sudanese. Despite all these hardships, she prevailed and was

able to study and complete a course in mass communications.

The Country Director, Mr. Francis Odokorach in his remarks, delivered by Ms. Jane Ocaya, said, “We hope that this publication will contribute to dialogues about the impacts of discriminatory gender norms, conflict, and displacement on South Sudanese women and the country more broadly.”

Mr. Solomon Osakan, chief guest & Refugee Desk Officer at the Office of the Prime Minister, added, “We need to mentor, train & coach young women from refugee settlements and host communities to become good literature writers. Books are also a source of income, livelihood & sharing.”

The launch was attended by the No Time to Mourn writers, CSOs, Office of the Prime Minister, Danish Refugee Council, FEMRITE, Local government officials, UNHRC and online participants from across the world. You can access the event recording [here](#)

WOMEN LEADERS DIALOGUE IN IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



Women leaders listening attentively during the dialogue in Impevi Settelement camp.

Oxfam in Uganda, in conjunction with YSAT, organized a women's dialogue targeting participants from all zones of Imvepi including: All RWC I, II, III Women Leaders, Volunteers with INGOs CBOs, LNNGOs, CPC, SGBV Task Force, SMC, Opinion and Cultural Leaders.

In Imvepi Refugee settlement, according to Police and Protection Partners, over 96% of women and girls are affected by SGBV incidences whereas men are affected at a very minimal level. From January to September 2021, a total of 416 new SGBV incidences were recorded with 402 affecting women while 14 affecting men.

As a result of the dialogue, the women leaders learnt and established strategies for eliminating GBV, promoting economic and cultural rights for women & girls, equal inclusion, and participation of women in leadership.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN ON 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

As part of mobilizing the wider public to engage in the campaign, Oxfam engaged with social media activists and influencers. The lead activist, Ms. Angella Asimwe, shared her personal experience with GBV and encouraged others with similar stories to break the silence and speak out on the different forms of GBV. This broke the ground for other online users to share their experiences and engage in discussions.

Using the hashtags #ItStartsWith #LastingChange #Feministrecovery and #16daysofactivism, we influenced narratives on GBV and Unpaid care work. We called on everyone to play their role in ending GBV, especially the Government, to intensify efforts towards addressing the increased cases of GBV such as increase in teenage pregnancy as a result of rape and defilement.

Reach

Our social media campaign through the 16days of activism reached over 6.2 million (40% male, 59% female) people. (Data source: Meltwater analytics)

The different hashtags had the following reach.

#ItStartsWith – 6.2 million (40% male, 59% female)

#LastingChange – 4.51 million (31% female, 68% male)

#Feministrecovery – 603k (49% female, 50% male)

#NoTimetoMourn – 836k (18 % female, 81% male)

Top Tweets

Oxfam in Uganda @OxfaminUganda · Dec 7

We must address unpaid care work to solve GBV because many women and girls face domestic violence when they fail to do all the work in the household. They get beaten, and blamed for it. [#FeministRecovery](#) [#LastingChange](#)



National Association of Women's Organizations Ug and 3 others

17 35

Oxfam in Uganda @OxfaminUganda · Dec 6

The burden of care work increased during COVID 19 for women and girls. They were also exposed to GBV due to isolation with their abusers during lockdowns. Join us on Radio One, this evening for a discussion on care work and GBV in Uganda amidst COVID 19. [#ItStartsWith](#)

RADIO TALK SHOW

The Intersectionality of unpaid domestic care work and GBV in Uganda amidst Covid-19





Hon. Justice Batema David Ms. Aciro Rita Prof. Bukuluki Paul

MONDAY, DEC 6, 2021 | TIME 7:00 - 8:00PM

With support from  

@OxfaminUganda | @uwonet [#LastingChange](#)

You Retweeted

Arthur Musinguzi @digitaldidan · Dec 10

The @OxfaminUganda Country Director Mr Odokorach Francis says, "We supported this process to bring together seasoned and nascent South Sudanese female writers to think, foster belief in themselves, forge a sisterhood. [#NoTimeToMourn](#)"



Angella Asiimwe
24K Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet

Angella Asiimwe @AAssimwe · 1m

14yrs ago I was intoxicated & defiled. This resulted in to pregnancy & I became a teen mom at 15yrs however this didn't define me. I survived against odds & am now a proud mum, lawyer & human rights activist that broke the silence. [#Itstartswith](#) u& me taking immediate action NOW



Oxfam in Uganda and 9 others



Oxfam in Uganda @OxfaminUganda · Nov 27

As the world marks 30 years of the 16 days of activism against Gender-based violence, there is an urgent need for a truly gendered approach in every country's effort to respond to and help survivors recover from GBV. [#ItStartsWith](#) [#LastingChange](#) [#16daysofactivism](#)



Uganda Women's Network and 3 others

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM PICTORIAL





IN NEWS

- EVENT LINK: <https://oxfam.box.com/s/6hus9dw5wjtgeaaiqcrvr8xqrj94s67v>
- PHOTOS: <https://oxfam.box.com/s/6r4950byuvlu39g8bqm2vs7duowdpef>
- NTV: <https://youtu.be/8oe7begG0bo#ScovinIceta-NtvUg>
- NTV : <https://www.ntv.co.ug/ug/news/national/anthology-of-south-sudanese-women-s-stories-launched--3651288>
- New Vision <https://www.newvision.co.ug/articledetails/122071/oxfam-launces-book-written-by-refugees>
- Radio Parcis- https://soundcloud.com/user-432337515/211214-dibaba-the-story-of-how-women-suffered-in-southsudanbyoxfam?si=d5fba0eee325467db7adaa68463c1778&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing
- Arua One: <https://oxfam.box.com/s/9v5zfyqx9srukyer3hr9l7mo1nr7oeys>
- Voice of life Radio: <https://oxfam.box.com/s/qi16twjmwzvvh51evrmip82qxytbch5yv>
- West Nile Tv: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3xRbQLT9UY>
- New Vision: <https://oxfam.box.com/s/a3yvegiakmwnb1hyz0z9n2rfmenlrgj>



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