

PROMOTING GENDER JUSTICE AND COMBATING HARMFUL PRACTICES THROUGH RELIGIOUS INITIATIVES

Introduction:

The Western Uganda Faith-Based Organizations Network (WUFBON) is dedicated to advancing gender justice and eliminating harmful practices through the power of religious teachings. Our initiatives aim to foster social cohesion, empower marginalized communities, and promote human rights.

Actions Taken: WUFBON has implemented several key interventions:

1. **Interfaith Dialogues:** Organized forums to encourage discussions on gender equality and non-violence.
2. **Educational Programs:** Conducted workshops and training sessions to raise awareness about gender-based violence and harmful practices.
3. **Community Mobilization:** Engaged religious leaders and community members in advocacy campaigns.
4. **Men-Fathers Month:** Celebrated the gazetted Fathers Month as a district-led initiative to highlight the role of men in ending gender-based violence, addressing insecurities, teenage pregnancies, and advancing climate change solutions using the Population, Health, Environment, and Development (PHED) approach.
5. **Mapping of Cultural Resources:** Published a report on mapping cultural resources for the advancement of women, which is widely used by partners to promote women's inclusion.
6. **Support for Queer Women and Women with Disabilities:** Implemented activities to support and uplift women with disabilities, albino women, and queer women, ensuring they have access to religious leaders for their spiritual needs.
7. **Women of Faith Movement:** Established a movement to unite women of faith in advocating for gender justice and social change.
8. **Forum for Women District Councilors:** Formed a forum bringing together district councilors to advance gender equality and advocate for women's budgets in district councils.

SUPPORTING MINORITIES FOR MINORITIES ACTIONS- THE SOLIDARITY PRIDE MONTH CELEBRATED



EXPERIENCES FROM SELECTED CULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF MID-WESTERN UGANDA

Outcomes and Impact:

- **Increased Awareness:** Significant rise in community awareness about gender justice issues.
 - **Empowerment:** Empowered over 1,000 women and girls through educational and support programs.
 - **Policy Influence:** Successfully influenced local policies to better protect women's rights.
 - **Community Reach:** Reached over 110,000 individuals through various programs and initiatives such as radio talk shows, district interfaith hubs engagements, sports and music shows, brass band outreaches, churches, mosques, and community meetings (source: fbonetwork.org).
- Challenges Faced:
- **Cultural Resistance:** Overcoming deep-rooted cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality.
 - **Suicide among Queer women and Youth:** Emerging mental health challenges due to discrimination and stigmatization of Queer people.
 - **Resource Constraints:** Limited funding and resources to expand our programs.

Lessons Learned:

- **Community Engagement:** The importance of involving community leaders in advocacy efforts.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Developing sustainable models for long-term impact.

FUTURE PLANS:

- **Program Expansion:** Extend our educational and advocacy programs to more regions.
- **Partnerships:** Strengthen partnerships with local and international organizations to enhance our impact.