His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni launched the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls and Harmful Practices and Promote Sexual Reproductive Health Rights in Uganda. The President on the same occasion launched the National Report on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This momentous event was attended by government, development partners and private sector dignitaries at the highest level.

The President condemned violence against women and advised the public to report cases to police. The day was hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) under the theme “Celebrating 25 Years of the 1995 Constitution: Milestones on promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Uganda”. Hon. Frank Tumwebaze (MGLSD) declared: “If we don’t take action now, we will continue to have broken families and the dreams of young girls shattered. We must take action to stabilize our families, and our societies.”

The Global Spotlight Initiative is the world’s largest targeted effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls?

- 56% of women aged 15 to 49 in Uganda have experienced physical violence at least once since age 15. (UDHS 2016)
- UN Women was founded ten years ago?

The President launched the National Report on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
Wednesday, 5 February 2020

Angella Muhindo (60 years old) is a beneficiary of NUWODU’s work. She is one of the selected women from her community who is being empowered and trained by the organisation. NUWODU trained Angella to understand her legal rights and use it for reclaiming land that rightfully belonged to her. Angella is a member of the Katoka Batoro People with Disabilities group, she is empowered as a leader in her community. Angella feels heard and is a confident speaker about her rights and those of other women with disabilities. Angella is especially passionate about equal opportunities for women and girls with disabilities.

The training offered by NUWODU helped Angella regain confidence lost, she reclaimed her land and now similarly empowers other PLWDs on their rights. **Angella is a community champion.** Angella illustrated her personal experience around land inheritance and the stigma and discrimination that she faces due to her physical disability. She lived on land that her mother bought for the family, but following the death of her mother, her uncles denied her the legal right to the land. Her maternal uncles reclaimed the land even though her mother’s legal will left the land to her.

**NUWODU is the National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda,** a women-led organisation formed in 1999 by a group of women and youth with disabilities. NUWODU advocates for an inclusive women’s movement in Uganda and therefore operates under Pillar 6 of the Global Spotlight Initiative, working directly with women with disabilities (WWDs). This is important as Spotlight aims to **leave no one behind,** by taking deliberate actions to check inequalities, confront discrimination and fast-track progress for the furthest behind so they can catch up with those who have experienced greater progress.
Continued from Page 1 (FGM Day)

Tina Musuya of CEDOVIP Uganda spoke to the trainees of the strides made to #EndFGM as communities now question the practice’s necessity. Anne Gamurorwa (CDFU) highlighted work being done in Amudat. using SASA! Methodology to bring about social norm change and replace them with positive norms. The importance of working with cultural leaders to end FGM was highlighted to the young trainees, as these leaders have a role to play in bringing about changes so women and girls don’t have to experience violence from cutting.

The trainees came away from the day’s training and discussions with an understanding of the complexity of community based interventions. This exposure left the trainees with an extensive understanding of UN Women’s work on ending harmful practices in Uganda.

*The SASA! Methodology designed by Raising Voices in Uganda has been RCT tested and shows 52% reduction in IPV against women in SASA! Communities.*

In Uganda, 1 percent of women and girls, aged 15-49, have undergone some form of FGM (UNFPA/2011)

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**New Project: Access to Justice**

**PROJECT TITLE: WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESS JUSTICE THROUGH EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS**

The project is premised on outcome 1 of the Austrian Development Cooperation Strategy for Uganda, which seeks to enhance staff capacity in institutions involved in the administration of justice, with a focus on gender equality and equitable access to justice, including for vulnerable groups and enhancing the observance of human rights in the delivery of justice.

The Second Annual National Female Police Officers’ conference was held under the theme: ‘Promoting Women’s Advancement and Leadership in the UPF.’

The Speaker of Parliament was the chief guest at the Conference. The session provided a forum for female officers to discuss challenges that were impeding their advancement in the Uganda Police Force, key actions to address them, and progress made in making the Force gender responsive.

One key commitment made by the leadership was to provide babysitters for female officers and day care facilities at the Headquarters and Police training schools. Some of the progress made by the Force in terms of being more gender responsive include the development and launch of a Gender Policy and Implementation Strategy in 2018 with technical and financial support from UN Women that clearly highlights possible actions on how to deal with the marginalisation of female officers in the Uganda Police Force.

Other actions taken by the Force to make it more gender responsive include the establishment of the Departments of Women Affairs, Child and Family Protection Unit and Sexual Offences under the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID). The UPF have recently included modules on Gender, Human Rights and Child Protection in the curriculum for training of police officers. This ensures that new onboarding police at the Uganda Police Training School are gender sensitive. Additionally, affirmative action is now practiced in the recruitment and promotion of female officers to the UPF.
UN Women organized a High-Level Dialogue on Positive Masculinity in Kampala. In attendance were senior Police Officers from the Uganda Police Force, led by the Inspector General of the Uganda Police Force—Martin Okoth Ochola, ASP Francis Ogweng UPF Child & Family Protection Officer (a leading HeForShe Advocate) and other directors, heads of departments and regional police commanders of UPF. Also in attendance from the UN were Mr. Robert Kotchani, OHCHR Representative and Ms. Adekemi Ndieli, UN Women Deputy Country Representative in Uganda. The aim of the training was to activate countrywide actions to engage, sensitize and highlight the duty of male police officers to unlearn social norms linked to toxic masculinity and to eliminate all forms of discrimination & VAWG both within the force and the public at large. The UPF was applauded for its role in investing in logistical and policy development; personnel capacity building as well as community awareness raising in its contribution to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Uganda.

“IT IS MY INTENT THAT THE ENTIRE UPF IMPLEMENT MALE INVOLVEMENT THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF POSITIVE MASULINITIES AS A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STRATEGY TO END ALL FORMS OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICERS AND CREATE A CONDUCTIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES A GENDER RESPONSIVE POLICING. WE SHALL DO THIS THROUGH THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR POLICE WEEKLY BARAZAS. THE POSITIVE MASULINITY CAMPAIGN IS AIMED AT TRIGGERING A COUNTRYWIDE ACTION TO ENGAGE, SENSITIZE AND HIGHLIGHT THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT MALE POLICE OFFICERS HAVE TO UNLEARN SOCIAL NORMS LINKED TO TOXIC MASULINITY AND ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS BOTH WITHIN THE FORCE AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.”

- Inspector General of the Uganda Police Force, Martin Okoth Ochola

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING HOTLINES

Uganda Police — 999
FIDA Uganda — 0800 111 511
Uganda Law Society — 0800 100 150 or 0800 100 151
CDFU Uganda — 0800 200 600 or 0800 100 066
Justice Centres Uganda — 0800100210

Implementing the Domestic Violence Act (2010)

Domestic violence is widespread and socially acceptable in Uganda, with over half of married women experiencing physical or sexual violence and over a third of women experiencing multiple types of controlling behaviours.

Domestic violence is a form of gender-based violence (GBV) as it predominantly affects women and is both caused by, and reinforces, structural gender inequalities. Domestic violence is rarely just an isolated incident arising out of a particular frustration, but a systematic pattern of power and control exerted over another, using a variety of physical and nonphysical tactics of abuse and coercion.

The Domestic Violence Act (DVA) was enacted in 2010 pursuant to Uganda’s international obligations and policy commitments. The DVA criminalizes domestic violence, and imposes responsibilities on local council courts, police, medical practitioners, and magistrates courts in order to protect and support victims and punish offenders.

In March 2020, UN Women and CEDOVIP with financial support from the Embassy of Sweden completed a study that sought to understand the status of public justice sector’s implementation of the DVA and its Regulations, almost a decade after its passage. The study report reveals that less than 10% of DV survivors are advised of relief under the Act, assisted to obtain shelter or issued with a protection order. Findings from the study will inform amendments to the DVA. An advanced report is available and under final review with a plan to launch soon.