



NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES OF UGANDA (NUWODU) Newsletter

Edition 1: January – April, 2015



THE VOICE OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES OF UGANDA

NUWODU

EDITORIAL NOTE

Idah Lukwago

Dear readers welcome to our 1st newsletter Edition, 2015. We thank all those who participated and posted their comments on our website and Facebook for the last edition in 2014. We hope that as you read this, you will spare some time and post your views and comments on our; Facebook Page: Nuwodu Uganda, email: nuwodu@gmail.com and Website: www.nuwodu.org

In this edition, our theme for this first quarter 2015 is Inclusion of Girls and women with disabilities in mainstream development and the key highlights include;

1. NUWODU General Assembly
2. Hosting of the Network of African Women with Disabilities
3. Sharing of experiences of Women with Disabilities and Refugees in Uganda at the Nations conference in New York at the 59th Session of Commission of the Status of Women
4. The voice of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Uganda on issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence and Gender equality in the development spheres.



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WORD FROM THE NEW CHAIRPERSON OF NUWODU



Ms Achayo Rose Obol

I wish to extend my greetings to you all and welcome you to our first newsletter edition, 2015. It's a pleasure to share with you the progress of our activities and programmes and also the joy of celebrating 14 years of continuous Advocacy for the rights and dignity of women and girls with disabilities in Uganda.

As a disability fraternity, we have the power to create change through collective voices and actions to strengthen our advocacy on mainstreaming the needs of Girls and Women with Disabilities into the development programs such that we are fully fledged citizens of Uganda.

I would like to thank the outgoing Board members for fulfilling the vision and mission of the organization and I welcome the new Board members. I promise to uphold the constitution and the mission of NUWODU.

Our program focus remains the same in areas of gender mainstreaming, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Gender Based Violence and equalisation of opportunities for women with disabilities. As an organisation, we would like to thank all those partners who have been with us in this struggle.

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WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Ms Acen Jolly.

I would to take this opportunity to bring to you the first Newsletter of this year 2015. As you read the Newsletter, we should focus on thinking of the Women's Rights Movement, Gender Equality and Women empowerment and

here we want to show that Women and Girls with Disabilities are part and partial of this movement.

This year, NUWODU is undergoing a number of institutional reforms as well as Development of new strategic direction to guide our Advocacy work. I am pleased to inform you that as a learning and democratic Organisation, NUWODU held her 4th General Assembly and elected new leaders who are ready to take on the task from the old Board of Directors. The organisation also conducted an Organisation Capacity Assessment to identify gaps and give opportunity to rebrand and restructure the system in place.

Development of the new strategic plan is yet another main activity the Organisation is undergoing through.

NUWODU's focus this year is mainly on inclusion and mainstreaming of Women and Girls with Disabilities in all development programs. We would like to say that our partnership strategy is growing from local to International forum.

The hosting of the Network of African Women with

Disabilities regional workshop and participation in the Commission on status women 59th Session in New York gave NUWODU a platform to share the experiences and progress of Advancing the Equality and Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities at regional and Global level.

Taking part in the amendment of the PWD Act 2006 is critical in ensuring that the bill takes into consideration the rights of women and Girls with Disabilities. "We want a bill which is Gender sensitive" since women and Girls with disabilities are more vulnerable and need more protection under the law. We want to thank the coalition for spear heading the amendment of the bill and the consultation they conducted regionally.

NUWODU Advocacy has reached yet another section of the population living in Uganda, Refugee women with Disabilities and shared their experience in Uganda which highlights a number challenges these women are facing , being a woman, a refugee and a disabled brings triple burden to their livelihood and rights.

Special consideration should be put on the Refugee Women and Girls with disabilities and we call upon all humanitarian workers, Disabled Persons Organisations to put more attention to these vulnerable groups in Uganda.

Finally I would want to sincerely thank our supporters, donors, well-wishers, DPOs and all those advancing the rights of Girls and Women in any form to continue with the Advocacy for their rights as well as mainstreaming them into all development programs to promote their well-being.

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, 2015

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

NUWODU HOLDS ITS 4TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NUWODU being a membership and democratic organisation, she conducts her general assembly every after 5 years.

In December 2014, NUWODU saw an era of new leaders after its membership had exercised their political freedom and right to elect new Board members who would take forward the vision of the Organisation. The reports for progress of work for the last five years (2009-2014) and the constitution were reviewed and amendments made.



Delegates casting their votes during the 4th General assembly

THE NEWLY ELECTED B.O.D. MEMBERS, THEIR REPRESENTATION & TITLES



The newly elected Board of Directors

NAME OF CONTESTANT	REPRESENTATION	TITLE
Regional Representatives		
Achayo Rose Obol	Rep. Nothern Region	Chairperson B.O.D
Iyute Deborah	Rep. Eastern Region	Member
Nankabirwa Harriet	Rep. Central Region	Member
Asiimwe Eunice	Rep. Western Region	Treasurer
Representatives of Disability Category		
Hajat Afuwa Nalubega	Rep. Physical	Vice Chairperson B.O.D
Ajio Agnes	Rep. Blind	General Secretary
Appy Namatovu	Rep. Deaf	Member
Namugosili Caroline	Rep. MHU	Member
Kharasi Prossy	Rep. UPPID	Member
Aviah Judith	Rep. NADB	Member
Ideu Immaculate	Rep. ESAU	Member
Youth Representative		
Betty Cheptoek	Youth Rep	Chairperson Personnel Committee



Madam Achayo swearing in for new mandate of office

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ADVOCACY FOR PROVISION OF A COMPREHENSIVE MATERNAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE.

Through NUWODU's effort to advocate for the provision of disability friendly beds in health centers with Ministry of Health, an adjustable bed was procured for the Maternal ward in Nebbi Hospital to ensure access to maternal Health care to pregnant Women with disabilities.



An adjustable bed in Nebbi Regional Hospital, Nebbi District.

RECOGNITION FOR CONTINUED ADVOCACY AT THE GRASS ROOT

NUWODU's continued advocacy through Lira District Disabled Women with Disabilities Association led to the recognition of LIDDWA chairperson for the continued effort in the advancement of the rights of Girls and Women with Disabilities during the celebration of Women's day in Lira District.



Chairperson (LIDDWA)- Ms Florence Odong (in the middle and in a wheel chair) being carried in recognition of human rights Advocacy for Girls and Women with Disabilities in Lira District

Also Kabale women with Disabilities Association joined the rest of the world to celebrate the International Women's day in Kabale District.



Chairperson BOD, Rose Achayo Obol (Extreme Left) with Members of Kabale District Disabled Women's Association

Through NUWODU's Advocacy to advance the rights of Girls and Women with disabilities, its membership associations across the country can now fully participate in public arenas as a right.

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PARTNERSHIP ON ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INFORMATION IN NEBBI DISTRICT

NUWODU partners with Straight Talk Foundation to train Girls with disabilities in schools on the need to know their growing bodies as adolescents and also builds the capacity of teachers on how to handle the sexual and reproductive issues of Girls with disabilities while in school.

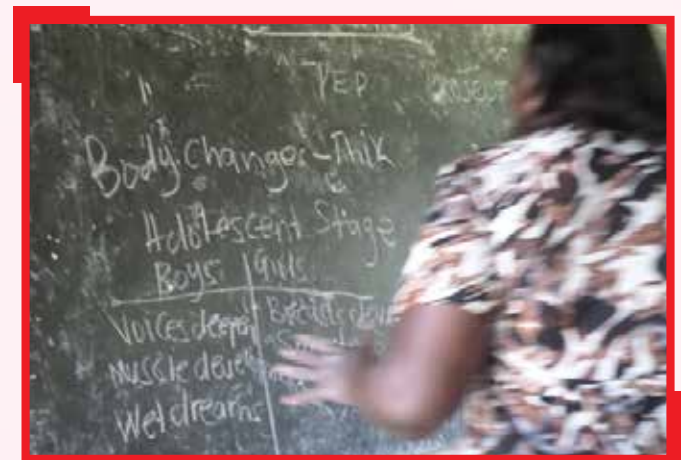
Sex Education prepares girls to choose safer sex choices as they grow up.



Girls with disabilities listening attentively to the Facilitator from Straight Talk Foundation in Mamba Secondary School.



Teachers being sensitised on the need for sex Education among Girls with disabilities



Ms Quinta demonstratig the stages of development as seen above.



Action points drawn on paper to support intergration of Girls with disabilities in Sexual Health talks

Teachers are mainstreaming disability into sex education and Girls with Disabilities are able to choose safer sex choices because of the information given.

NETWORKING – NEW AREA

NUWODU held a consultative meeting with Refugee women with disabilities to share their challenges , experiences and feeling of being a refugee, a woman and a woman with disability. Refugee women with disabilities

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face challenges such as rape, defilement, discrimination, stigma and economic crisis as expressed below ;

“It is not easy to live in another country, language, culture and social aspects are different. Families are torn apart, you don’t know what is happening with other family members, no communication. I think they assume that I am not alive”.

“We love Uganda, there is freedom but earning a living is a challenge. People look at us as a burden, they do not want to associate with us nor to live near us”.

NUWODU took the initiative to share these experiences both at National and at global level during the United Nations conference in Newyork.

Challenges of Refugee women with disabilities shared are more touching than those faced by Women with disabilities and therefore NUWODU appeals to all humanitarian agancies , Disability People’s Organisations and Women rights activist to take lead in advancing the rights of this vulnerable group of the population.

ENTERPRISE SELECTION

NUWODU builds the capacity of its membership on enterprise selection and in Lira district one Elastina, a woman with a physical disability who was trained identified pumpkin growing as an enterprise that would fetch an income to the family.

Income generating activities has made women with disabilities have choices on health, education for their children hence living dignified lives.

Elastina using her negotiation skill and power to earn a just income for her pumpkins she reaped from her garden.



Elastina a woman with physical disability using her negotiation skill and power to earn a just income for her pumpkins she reaped from her garden.

MENTORSHIP

NUWODU has a Youth professional scheme for Girls with Disabilities from Tertiary institutions where she imparts skills of self-esteem, confidence and assertiveness in order to prepare them for any future challenges in all spheres of life.

NUWODU has a Volunteer and Internship policy where Girls with Disabilities are eligible to apply for job placements as Volunteers where skills of work relationship are given in preparation for future job opportunities elsewhere.

In this year (2015), NUWODU has taken on three Girls with Disabilities from Makerere University and they are engaged on job training .



Girls with disabilities from universities of Uganda during a mentorship workshop on knowing self.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2014



The Newly Elected B.O.D Members

NEW B.O.D MEMBERS BEING SWORN IN TO TAKE FORWARD THE VISION OF NUWODU

Vision: A Society Where Girls And Women With Disabilities Live Dignified Lives



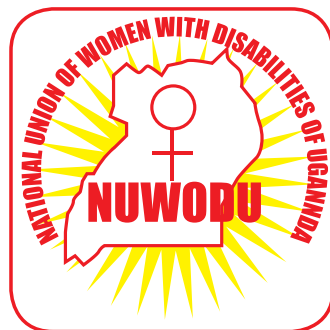
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The Outgoing Chairperson (Hon Asamo Hellen Grace) Handing Over Office To The New Chairperson- Ms Achayo Rose Obol as the New Vice Chairperson, Hajat Afuwa Nalubega (Extreme Right) receives a present.



The Outgoing B.O.D cutting a cake with the New B.O.D.



Vision

A society where girls and women with disabilities live dignified lives.

Mission

To promote social, cultural, economic and political advancement of girls and women with disabilities through advocacy for their effective participation in development

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

P.O Box 24891 Kampala (U), Plot No. 62, Ntinda Road Kampala-Uganda

Telephone: +256-414285240

Email: nuwodu@gmail.com, Website: www.nuwodu.org

Facebook: nuwodu Uganda