

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTER- EST:

- **Menstruation Hygiene Day**
- **Refugee Women with Disabilities workshop**
- **New Interns**
- **Case Story**

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Quote Of The Week: "Knowledge and culture are two of the best gifts a person can receive." - Unknown

## Menstruation Hygiene Day

28th May is the world wide day for menstrual health hygiene. It was put forth to create a world in which every woman and girl can manage her menstruation in a hygienic way—wherever she is—in privacy, safety and dignity.

Our Program Manager and Officer for Advocacy attended a radio talk show to discuss the challenges and implications of menstruation for girls and women with disabilities face during this period.

Menstruation as a cycle is hard enough as it is for able-bodied girls and women and twice as hard for those with disabilities due to challenges in management of the cycle, illiteracy on menstruation and the lack of assistive aides make it impossible for girls

and women to remain as clean as possible during their menstrual cycles.

Accessibility to disability



### Menstruation Hygiene Day Symbol

friendly sanitation is limited in schools and sometimes hardly there for the physically handicapped. They have a hard time looking after themselves during this trying time without proper sanitation and aides.

The limited focus on the subject of body changes by teachers in schools leave girls and women with disabilities inadequately prepared for the onset of menstruation and its implications..

The Program Officers beseeched government to include relevant information for girls and women with disabilities in their PIASCY program and asked for the development of disability friendly sanitation amenities and to make available of assistive aids for the blind girls in schools. These would help girls and women with disabilities to better take care of themselves, prevent them from the plague of embarrassment as they are well equipped with the knowledge on how to handle their menstrual hygiene.

## Refugee Women With Disabilities Workshop

NUWODU hosted the Network of African Women with Disabilities workshop in January 2015 and as well held a consultative meeting with Refugee women and girls with disabilities living within and around Kampala. The meeting

generated a number of issues affecting girls and women with disabilities in a humanitarian setting.

As a follow up activity to advocate for inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in humanitarian setting, we orga-

nized a one day workshop to share the experience of refugee women and girls with disabilities.

In attendance were representatives from the Office of The Prime Minister, Finnish Refugee, United Nations High

# Refugee Women with Disabilities Workshop



NUWODU Staff, Partners and RWWDs.

Commissioner for Refugees, Refugee Law Project and Foundation for Human Rights.

As the RWWDs extolled their plight in Uganda and the challenges they face for not being in settlement camps—ridicule from society, illiteracy, lack of access to amenities and the ever unchanging eviction from land lords, Partner organizations in attendance agreed on the following to help their successful inclusion in society.

UNHCR is setting up a revolving fund for training of refugee women with disabilities with NUWODU as a contributor.

The Finish refugee counsel is supporting income generating activities in all settlement camps around Kampala which RWWDs are requested to join.

Foundation for Human Rights offered free legal services to everyone, especially refugees to help them attain their judicial rights.

The OPM promised to en-

sure co-ordination of activities for RWWDs for their sustainability. She further asked them to include themselves in the income generating activity groups around Kampala. The UNHCR and OPM representatives concluded by asking the refugee women to use Uganda's favorable environment to full use and not let the freedom they are accorded go to waste. At the end of the day all they can do is afford them the skills to sustain themselves.

*“Parents of GWWDs are motivated by money and end up settling out of court with the culprits’ families.”*

Police officers during training.

# Police Thoughts on WWDs

The training of Police Officers on the handling of women and girls with disabilities has, so far, been one sided. We got the opportunity to find out how these officers really think of girls and women with disabilities when it comes to handling their cases.

Women with disabilities expect immediacy in the handling of their cases disregarding police procedures of

investigation, questioning and arrest.

When it comes to finalization of the cases, many do not report back to the police and if they do so, they exaggerate the details of the crime.

There is a challenge in Sign Language and Interpretation for both the Police and women with disabilities. In cases where a sign language

interpreter is availed, the victim a times cannot communicate because she doesn't know the language.

Most parents of girls with severe disabilities are motivated by money and end up settling out of court instead of obtaining justice hence making the police look ineffective.

Some parents/care-givers of girls with disabilities are



forced to make extra statements against their will.

The flaw in the penal code of the Government which guides the implementation of justice makes the system challenging. In a case where a girl with disability is

raped, and reported to the police. It is hard to ascertain whether it was consensual or rape because of her inability to express herself.

In the same breath; the language used in the penal code limits some disabilities from accessing justice for example the mental health,

deaf blind and learning disability groups.

More often than not; women with disabilities expect transport back to their homes from the police which is always unavailable as it is not part of their civic duty.

## LIDDWA Case Story



**Brenda inside her mother's grass thatched house.**

Brenda Amongi is an 11 year old with multiple disabilities. Born to Awidi Costa and Oremo (deceased) in Atyeeno Wee Village, had her rights violated by her mother who would lock

her inside her house and never paid attention to her.

Brenda's mother; 28 year old Awidi Costa says she married at 17 and lost her husband to Hepatitis B in 2013. She found herself inherited by her brother-in-law who never supports her and is forced to dig neighborhood gardens to eke a living for her and her child found life difficult without the

help of her husband. The land left to her by her deceased husband can not grow enough crops to sustain the livelihood of her and her 2 daughters who eventually had to drop out of school due to lack of school fees. She cited these as her reasons for locking Brenda in the house.

LIDDWA offered support to Costa for Brenda's physiotherapy at Lira Hospital with the PA to follow up on the case at the time of the slated appointment.

**"We are excited to do our internship from NUWODU."**

## New Interns

In line with its mentorship program, NUWODU welcomed Hajara Kasuswa and Bagaya Bridget to its internship program.

Both Hajarah and Bridget are third year students from Kyambogo University pursuing a Bachelors degree in Guidance and Counseling. The intern-

ship program at NUWODU is an added bonus for the attainment of their Degrees.

As girls with disabilities they are excited about the new experiences being NUWODU's interns is going to bring them.

We shall get to know more on Hajarah and Bridget in the

weeks to come as they tell as their stories on challenges they face as girls with disabilities.

## DPOD Staff Meeting

NUWODU DPOD staff held a meeting with the DPOD International department co-coordinator Mariane and Sonny to discuss the future plans of NUWODU for 2016-2017 and the issues raised in the meeting.

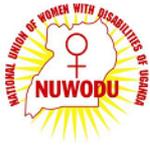
On the agenda were the updates on progress of work, DPOD's own update and future plan as well as the International repre-

sentative's thoughts on the matters at hand. The DPOD coordinator talked about the change in leadership and governance of DPOD with the new chairperson being Tokki Nielsen, a blind representative. She also imparted DPOD's plan to phase out in Uganda although the phase out is dependent on the Danish government elections.

Much as it is phasing out, DPOD plans to play a networking role for NUWODU to other partners if it meets the resolutions and changes agreed upon in the meeting.



**DPOD Intl Coordinator and NUWODU Chairperson**



**NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN  
WITH DISABILITIES OF UGANDA.**

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**A society where girls and women live  
dignified lives.**

The National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda is an indigenous organization formed in 1999 with the overall purpose of bringing together all girls and women with disabilities in Uganda.

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

*Vision: To provide a society where girls and women with disabilities live dignified lives.*