

NATIONAL UNION OF  
WOMEN WITH  
DISABILITIES OF UGANDA.

**SPECIAL  
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OF INTER-  
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- **Training against GBV**
- **Case Study**

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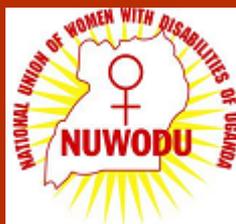
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# NUWODU Weekly

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Quote Of The Week: "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."- Maya Angelou

## Partnership Meeting

NUWODU held a partnership meeting with its Sexual Reproductive Health Rights partners on mainstreaming disability in their organizations.

Unaware of their Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), girls and women with disabilities are often taken for asexual by society. The lack of awareness on their sexual rights led to the birth of the SRHR project through which they are sensitized on their rights leading to empowerment.

The objectives of the meeting were: to share experiences and draw lessons for better integration of disability, identify challenges of access to SRH services for girls and women with disabilities and explore their sexual rights.

In attendance were representatives from Reproductive

Health Uganda, Nurture Africa, Naguru Teenage Center, Straight Talk and DSW who made presentations on the



### Reproductive Health Uganda leading an exercise on SRHR

ways in which they are including disability in their organization.

As the meeting drew to a close; partners made the following resolutions as a way forward for the inclusion of

disability in their organizations.

Naguru Teenage Center suggested the attainment of competitive academic qualifications for girls with disabilities to have the same advantage as able-bodied people. Also promised to work hard in bridging the gap of integration for persons with disabilities and the workforce.

Reproductive Health Uganda called for the sharing of radio talk shows to promote knowledge on disability and the sexual reproductive health rights of girls and women with disabilities while DSW is to strengthen networks with partners doing continuous work in society.

NUWODU is to network and keep partnerships strong to gain far reach in advocacy.

## Farewell, Pamela

Pamela Nizeyimana, a former Board Of Directors' member paid a surprise visit to our offices. She served as the General Secretary on the NUWODU BOD for five years and is now pursuing a PHD in India.

We are proud of her performance and contribution to-

wards the development of this organization in her capacity as the General Secretary from 2009-2014.

"Pamela, we cherish your hard work in making us proud as women with disabilities. This is why we had to honor you with our little gift to express our gratitude." Said the ES.



# Disability Awareness Advocate



**GBV Program Officer in class**

*“I believe this internship will give me more exposure in disability awareness and the interactions made will help boost my self confidence.”*

**Eunice Ogweng**



Congratulations to our Program Officer for Gender Based Violence!

UMI’s gaps in disability awareness and ineffective communication almost made her miss the final exams. Examination times were changed and not communicated to her as an audio impaired student leading to her advocacy for disability awareness and reasonable accommodation.

In a letter to the Academic Registrar; she addressed the lack of disability awareness

and finally succeeded in influencing UMI to provide reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities.

The Academic Registrar appreciated her black and white voice for it brought to attention the lack of communication from students with disabilities on grievances they may have with the Institute.

Her advocacy for the provision of reasonable accommodation is to be discussed by the BOD of UMI where a decision will be reached and

changes made to benefit the next generation.

Since she cannot have a Sign Language Interpreter in class, she is to be given notes a week in advance and an assistant to help her through practical sessions like computer classes.

Her experience serves as a reminder to fight for our rights as girls and women with disabilities and not pass at the chance to change someone’s life through advocacy for disability awareness.

# Internship Expectations

NUWODU Weekly sat down with one of the new interns—Bridget Bagaya to find out her expectations for the internship period with us.

Share experiences. We all go through different experiences in life which shape us into who we are. I hope to know more of the experiences of fellow girls with disabilities and the lessons they learned from them.

Networking with the staff members and it’s fellow partners to enrich my education and experience in working for an organization.

Improvement on my skills and knowledge on how to lead my life as a girl with disabilities.

To know more about organizational work especially NUWODU’s as an organiza-

tion advocating for the rights of girls and women with disabilities. The impact NUWODU has in society and the training they do for the empowerment of girls and women with disabilities.

I believe this internship will give me more exposure in disability awareness and the interactions made will help boost my self confidence.

# Case Study

Eunice Ogweng got married to Tom Ogweng in 1990 and is a 44 year old mother of 10 with a physical disability.

Due to the stories on family planning from her peers about it’s side effects and

her lack of a cow to sell in order to settle the hospital bill once affected, she is resigned to having as many children as God intended for her.

Out of frustration with life’s challenges and inability to work, she has resorted to alcoholism. Her husband is of no help and she does not

have the means to take her children to school.

She finds it hard to make a living due to the limitations in her mobility as she missed out on the 150 wheelchair donations the Ministry of Gender donated to Apac district like so many others at the training.

# Training on Gender Based Violence



NUWODU with support from Open Society Initiative for East Africa conducted a training for spouses, parents and care-givers of Girls and Women with Disabilities in the two districts of Koboko, Kotido and Pader.

## Spouses, Parents and Guardians during training

The training focused on mitigating cases of Gender Based Violence in the three districts.

Attendees tackled the meaning of GBV, the root causes of violence against women, why mostly targeted to women and what they needed to do as activists against GBV in households.

The GBV Program Officer in charge of the training emphasized the need to report GBV cases to the police and health care centers

as one of the methods for positive action.

GBV victims and survivors are to go for the PEP treatment in prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission, and for adolescent victims of rape and defilement, ECP treatment to fight unwanted pregnancies.

Parents, guardians and spouses were encouraged to give full support to family members with disabilities and non family members to report cases to health centers then to police without washing away the evidence so the culprit can be apprehended.

**“Many girls with disabilities’**

**sexual**

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# Challenges Facing Girls with Disabilities

In a get to know session with interns, NUWODU Weekly sought their experiences and challenges they face as literate girls with disabilities.

Society Unconsciousness about persons with disability has affected us as individuals especially where our participation in activities is concerned. The people we are surrounded with consider us weak.

The over protection from our parents curtails our need to explore our lives and the communities we live in. We are not allowed to travel or take extensive trips out of fear for our wellbeing.

Many girls with disabilities’ sexual reproductive health rights are violated and we are no different despite our education. Our parents and guardians do not educate us on our sexual reproductive

health rights forcing us to seek the information elsewhere.

Boarding schools typically do not come with disability friendly sanitation and these schools lack awareness on disability. Using unfavorable toilets and navigating uneven terrain proved to be challenging.

The stigma on disability within society where people with disabilities are looked at as abnormal made us lose our self-esteem and confidence.

Able-bodied people tend to fear disability which in turn makes it hard for us to interact and make friendships with them because of their discomfort in our presence.

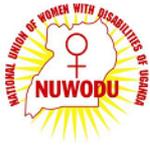
We faced issues of child neglect at

home because of our disabilities. Some family members thought us misfortunes and curses to the family which inadvertently led to our late start in education.

Our ideas and suggestions are easily ignored because of people’s belief that persons with disabilities have no future hence not entitled to have opinions on any subject.



**Hajarah Kasuswa and Bridget Bagaya**



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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.*

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