
January E-Newsletter for FAWE Uganda Chapter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

“Enabling positive change for girls’ Education” is the noble duty of Forum For African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU), as enshrined in our vision of a country in which all girls and women have access to equitable quality education, that enables them to effectively participate in development at all levels and our mission to promote gender equity and equality in education in Uganda, by influencing policies and nurturing positive practices and attitudes towards girls’ education.

The year 2017 brings FAWEU to twenty (20) years of stretching out hands of succor and guidance to the needy girl-child in Uganda. Over the years, since our inception in 1997, we have seen our interventions impacting thousands of girls, boys and young women and men through education. We are very proud of having made this noble contribution to Education in Uganda and thank the Government, Development and other partners and all friends and well-wishers, without whose support and good will, we would never have managed.



**Figure 1: Mrs. Atim Margaret Mugeni,
CHAIRPERSON FAWEU**

Looking ahead, we note that an educated girl and woman are empowered and hold the key to kick-start all inclusive economic growth of Uganda, and are very key, if Uganda is to attain a middle income status by 2020. This view is evident as well at continental and global level, as evidenced by the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025) which emphasizes the need to accelerate processes leading to *gender* parity and equity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5, which lay emphasis on education for all and gender equity and equality.

I therefore congratulate FAWEU founders (1997) for their foresight; the governance and management over the twenty (20) years, for a job well done.

Wishing you the best of returns in 2017.

CONGRATORY MESSAGE

We would like to congratulate the Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE) Executive Director, Ms. Hendrina Doroba on being appointed as Gender is my Agenda (GIMAC) Steering Committee Chairperson effective on 26th January 2017 during 29th GIMAC meeting in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. Ms. Hendrina Doroba, who leads the FAWE Regional Secretariat in Nairobi, is a seasoned educationalists and leader but most important, she is very passionate about girls' and women's education and has contributed to the cause in various capacities and leadership positions over the years.



Figure 2: Ms. Hendrina Doroba,
FAWE Executive Director

Our readers can learn more about Hendrina on an interview at the Scoop Talk show in 2016 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH4LL2bcyiY>

MEDIA WORKSHOP IN TORORO

The promoting of girls' rights through the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Project, held two high level workshops for the media on 17th and 18th of January 2017, as part of the orientation process to support the media industry understand and report on issues affecting girls and how to realize their rights in the districts of Kamuli and Tororo respectively.

Speaking on behalf of the Program, Mr. Anatoli John Olweny the Unit Manager Plan Tororo thanked the media fraternity for being a part of the meeting, citing that Plan international decided to bring the media on board because the media has the widest outreach to amplify issues that affect women and girls.

On the other hand, the media fraternity through one of its representatives Mr. Paul Gonza from Rock Mambo FM Tororo gave a vote of thanks to Plan international for the job well done and mentioned that the media training had been very helpful to them because it will give them a platform of mapping stories.

Gonza noted that originally they had been overlooking stories about discrimination against girls but the training has given them direction. "We hope it will give us a new selection and views on gender issues and we hope we shall in solidarity ensure that our community is a better place for the girls and women".

The promoting of girls' rights through CEDAW is a project implemented by Plan Uganda in partnership with Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU) and

Uganda Women Parliamentarians' Association (UWOPA). The project seeks to contribute to the realization of women and girls' rights in Uganda, in particular increasing access, retention and performance in school, improving sexual and reproductive health, and reducing gender-based violence among adolescent girls.



Figure 3: Inset is Joel Kadede with Robert Wafula (Plan International Uganda officers) facilitating participants from different media houses in Tororo

29th GIMAC MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA - ETHIOPIA

FAWE participated in several meetings under the theme “***Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth***”. FAWEU was represented by its Alumni member Ms. Grace Nanyonga.

“Empowering young people, especially young women, for Leadership and Civic participation” was among of the meetings that stretched from 22nd – 26rd January 2017 , followed by Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) 22nd – 23rd January 2017, Civil Society Gender Pre-Summit on the 24th to 25th January, 2017. The third meeting was the 9th AU Gender Pre-Summit and the AU International Centre for Girls and Women’s Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) High Level Dialogue on Gender equality and Education on the 26th January, 2017 and Lastly the African Union (AU) Ministerial Consultation Meeting Africa Pre-Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) that was held on the last day on the 27th January, 2017 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

The meetings aimed at Empowering young African women leaders with advocacy skills to effectively engage policy makers and positively influence gender perspectives at regional, national and community levels, to engage the global and continental actors to influence continental gender agenda–setting and catalyzing relevant gender policies, strategies and processes, to participate in the Ministerial deliberations and commitments tracked to inform gender advocacy within East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and to engage global

and continental actors to influence continental gender agenda–setting and catalyzing relevant gender policies, strategies and processes.

Grace Nanyonga participated in a youth platform on CESA Gender Education Strategy which was chaired by FAWE. She emphasized the issue of economic empowerment in both formal and informal Education sectors. Giving a personal experience where she learnt how to smoke fish informally and the business has now grown into a Company registered with a certificate of Incorporation under Grana Fish Supplies Ltd. On the other hand, she was supported by FAWEU to complete formal education and was empowered to interact with educated people, as well as exposed to the Nation and the Global world.

Furthermore, during the Ministerial deliberations and commitments tracked to inform gender advocacy within EAC and ECOWAS, Grace contributed to the Minister's statement and supported it by giving her example as a beneficiary of Universal Primary Education (UPE) program in her Primary Seven (P.7) she said "I took on positive attitude to keep myself in school". UPE is a Government of Uganda Program to keep children in school under the "Education for All program"

On the other hand, speaking during the meeting another representative from Uganda, Elizabeth Kalemera founder of Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation which aims at empowering young lives and creating a bright future for them emphasized the need to engage girls and young women through child and youth led campaigns to end child marriage through engaging them at different levels to amplify awareness, utilize safe spaces for girls and young women to support and protect one another.

However she added the following during the meetings; there is need to push for a school re-entry policy for young mothers to access education and skills so that young mothers break the chain of dependency and live meaningful lives, adopt the FAWE Gender Responsive School in different countries to increase effort to end Gender Based Violence (GBV) in schools, teenage pregnancy and child marriage, empower children and youth so they can thrive, make use of role models (a success story for FAWE) utilizing young women that have transformed their negative experiences into positive stories and engaging young men and boys (FAWE trained boys on scholarships, SRHR and MHM) as a support system for girls and women.

FAWE had Regional Representatives from Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and East African Community (EAC). With support from Association for the development of Education in Africa (ADEA), SADC was represented by three FAWE Alumni from *Malawi* Annette Mainala, *Tambudzai* Theresa Tumale (Zambia and Nqobile Nkiwaneto (Zimbabwe) attend specifically the GIMAC meeting and they were accompanied by the two Network Specialists Daphne Chimuka and Houraye Mamadou Anne as well as a consultant Dr. Luswata Sibeso on the draft Gender Equality Strategy for CESA 16-25. Other participants included FAWE Executive Director Ms. Hendrina Doroba, Senior Programmes Coordinator Mrs. Martha Muhwezi, FAWE Regional Secretariat

Communication & Advocacy Assistant Ms. Juliet Kimotho, FAWE Alumni Chairperson from Mali Ms. Hawa Semega, FAWE Alumni Ndeye Soda from Senegal.



Figure 4: Grace Nanyonga (FAWEU Alumni) emphasizing a point during 29th GIMAC meetings in Addis Ababa Ethiopia



Figure 5: FAWE Executive Director, Ms. Hendrina Doroba (left) speaking during a panel discussion on strengthening Gender Equality in the continental Education strategy for Africa using technology

NEW PROJECT ON BOARD

FAWEU in partnership with Dubai Cares is implementing a three year (2017-2019) project “Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) amongst girls in Uganda.

The STEM project will focus on the main four regions of Uganda namely; Central, Western, Northern and Eastern and aims at improving teaching and learning practices by advancing pedagogical methodologies utilized in Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Technology learning; and promote educational excellence in STEM amongst girls in Uganda’s secondary schools.

The project will address the gender disparities and barriers girls face in studying STEM, addressing the issue of girls’ increased and improved enrolment, completion rates, especially in sciences and in so doing respond to the post Millennium Development Goals (MDG) agenda issue of positioning STEM as a pathway to socio-economic development.

Apart from that STEM will increase Government support to replicating positive project practices in more schools and universities for improved teaching and learning of STEM.

Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) amongst girls in Uganda for equitable and sustainable development” is building upon FAWE’s past gender responsive interventions in STEM education for girls, among them the Intel funded regional STEM competition project which Uganda has been a part of that targeted secondary school girls and has been implemented since 2012 and the Islamic Development Bank IDB funded STEM program implemented in Burkina Faso.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING FOR TEACHING AND NON TEACHING STAFF TRAINING IN FORT PORTAL

Access to education is one of the fundamental rights of every child which should be delivered in a conducive and safe learning environment. Children need to access quality education and complete the education cycle in an environment free from violence.

In view of this, FAWEU organized a four day workshop in Fort Portal on child protection for 60 teachers and 60 non-teaching staff from Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko districts.

The workshop aimed at; a) improving the understanding of child protection among the school teachers, b) equipping the teachers with knowledge and skills on monitoring and reporting abuse using the report, tracking, response, and referral (RTRR guidelines), c) strengthening skills to recognize diverse child protection issues in schools and communities, d) strengthening teachers’ skills in upholding child rights and e) equipping

teachers with knowledge and skills on alternatives to corporal punishment (safer school concept).

Speaking during the workshop, FAWEU Project Coordinator (Violence against children in schools) Ms. Lynn Nakabugo emphasized the importance of the workshop and added that it aimed at creating a violent-free school environment for children. However, she urged the participants to fully and actively participate so as to derive maximum benefits and achieve the workshop objectives.

Participants were equipped with knowledge on various topics such as; child rights and responsibilities, international, regional and national frameworks for child protection, systems approach to child protection, protective environment and rings of responsibility, the linkage between education and protection, creating a protective environment, corporal punishment and positive discipline, discipline **Not** Punishment: Alternatives to corporal punishment, defining Abuse and identifying different forms of child abuse and RTRR guidelines on violence against children in schools.

Speaking during the workshop, a facilitator from the National Children's Authority Mr. Tom Mulundu said that the goal of child protection is to promote, protect and fulfill children's rights to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights, humanitarian and refugee treaties and conventions, as well as national laws.

Participants were trained on how education can help to protect children, for example schools should be a place where children feel free to communicate that they are in trouble and teachers should also be able to recognize abuse and respond to it in a sensitive manner.

It was noted that a safer school provides an environment, relationships and governance structures that enable children to grow to their full potential, to become compassionate, responsible, creative and thoughtful individuals. Moreover a safer school has a zero tolerance policy toward corporal punishment and uses a positive discipline approach which helps children develop self-discipline by providing children with mentoring, clear guidelines and ongoing support.



Figure 6: Participants in a group photo during a child protection training in Fort portal