

International Youth Day 2019

Youth Dialogue

Lead Partner: Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

Support: Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and Oxfam

Venue: Makerere University, Freedom Square

Date: 10th August 2019

Project Overview

As part of the 2019 International Youth Day celebrations, the **Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)** organized a **Dialogue** at Makerere University Freedom Square under the themes "*Youth Leadership and Sexual Harassment*" and "*Unpaid Care and Domestic Work.*"

The event sought to mobilize young people to take an active role in addressing gender inequalities, promote safe learning environments, and challenge social norms that perpetuate gender-based discrimination.

Comedian and storyteller **Akite Agnes** participated as part of the creative engagement team, using performance and humour to help convey key messages on gender equality and youth empowerment.

Project Context

The 2019 celebration came at a time when the need for youth inclusion and leadership in gender justice conversations was gaining momentum. UWONET used the occasion to shine a light on issues affecting young women and men in universities and communities; particularly sexual harassment, unequal participation in leadership, and the heavy burden of unpaid care work on women and girls.

By combining art, advocacy, and dialogue, the event aimed to make these topics approachable and relevant to the youth audience.

Implementation

The day began with a **community marathon**, followed by a **Youth Dialogue moderated by UWONET**. The dialogue provided an open platform for students and youth leaders to reflect on challenges facing young people and propose solutions toward equality and inclusion.

Through **short skits and comedic drama**, Akite and her team introduced the themes of sexual harassment, gender stereotypes, and shared domestic responsibilities in a lively and relatable way.

These performances set the tone for deeper discussion, allowing participants to engage freely and share personal experiences and perspectives during the moderated dialogue.

Impact

The interactive approach helped:

- Create awareness about sexual harassment and gender-based violence in higher education;
- Encourage young men and women to challenge harmful gender norms and stereotypes;
- Promote youth-led leadership in building safer, more equitable learning spaces;
- Reinforce positive attitudes toward sharing unpaid care and domestic work.
- By blending performance with advocacy, the event succeeded in making serious issues accessible and inspiring youth to become active voices for change.

Partners

This initiative was implemented by the **Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)** with support from the **Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)** and **Oxfam**.

Akite Agnes participated as a subcontracted creative under the project's youth engagement component.

