

A REPORT FOR ON 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM HELD IN KAABONG TOWN COUNCIL, KAABONG DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

NES in partnership with AWARE UG and Kaabong coalition launched the 16 days of activisms Against Gender Based Violence on 28th /11/2021 this period started on November, 25 up to 10th December in order to call for elimination of violence against women and Land related human rights abuses.

This period also highlights other significant dates including December 1st, world Aids Day, 10th December, 2021 international human rights defenders day.

The activity targeted both all the community members including elders, children clan/opinion/women group leaders and the stake holders in Kaabong district, eg community development officers, their assistants and the schools, the number was 700 people who participated.

The member groups matched on the streets of Kaabong town council chanting, playing music, dance and drama, participatory theater plays, open focused discussion, question and answers, community dialogue, community conversation, the topics were; on land violence, women land grabbing, GBV prevention methods and accessing justice, aimed at calling for the elimination of all forms of violence against women/ girls. The facilitators were leaders of Kaabong cbo groups from KAPDA, DOFRICA, DADO, ST.MONICA, ATOSOMA, police family protection unit,



Community dialogue in Kaabong Town council on GBV/DV and a GBV/awareness week in Kaabong, community dialogue and sensitization and a march to commemorate 16 days of activism

ISSUES RAISED WERE; a) rampant defilement and rape for both women and girls especially in Kapedo and Kaabong west due to drug abuses, alcoholism

b) forced marriages forced land grabbing, brothers are killing parents for land, brothers are chasing sisters away from property instead of sharing, forced marriages due to poverty due to

poverty brought by covid 19, because of wealth by parents, two typical cases were aired out by Lomilo Martin who is a community paralegal of AWARE and he reported this cases to the local council and rescued the girls whose names withheld because of privacy one was aged 13 yrs and another 14yrs.

c) Sexual harassment; happening mostly on Lopedo road, because of alcoholism taken by idle communities, loitering soldiers, business men who come from far to buy Gold, drug abuses

d) Battering women; This was reported happening because of conflicts in homes, concerning land, polygamy, sharing wealth/income, products from Garden, like sorghum, maize, beans and also drunkardness

e) Women inheritance; several women are forcefully inherited when they lose they husbands by the brothers in-law, if the brother is not there they get a distant male relative. A life story was reported by Nakiru sylina whose husband died recently she has five children, she said she was forced to have the distant male relative as a new husband to replace her late husband. She refused and reported the case to the elders who said it was normal, she was assisted by a neighbor to the LC court and traditional court which was shared by a community paralegal, the case was heard and was resolved, that the lady was left free to decide what to do with her life.



AWARE Members during a match on GBV/DV awareness week in Kaabong and members of AWARE having a dialogue on GBV and womens rights in katheli Kaabong

f) Land and property ownership; there were so many issues raised on women's land and property rights which customary law infringes on women's land and property rights, there was a lot of issues concerning women being married away so they should not own land, ignorance on land. Ms Nachiru who has lost a husband brought a live story on her, she married the husband and lived happily for 15 yrs, she was barren unfortunately when the will was read, she was nowhere in the will, the husband had given all his property to his sister's son. This has put our campaign on GBV at the right time and such violence is a violation of human rights.

g) participants also shared experiences on the effects, causes and impact on GBV on the lives of the people eg. Impacts mentioned were divorce, death, bad cultural practices, high rate of

illiteracy, denial of women's rights, poverty, conflicts, in-equality, street children loneliness, loss of land and property.



Police officer giving a speech during the 16 days activities on GBV preventions in Kaabong and Loyoro

Responses and Leaders;

Leaders present were 2 Police members, a representative of CDO and the Coalition members, LC 1 of the area. The launch was flagged off by the CDO.

The leaders and the coalitions were shocked to hear some other cases of GBV which came out from the victims and survivors, the family police protection unit, briefed the community on ways and how to report and they promised to follow up cases of GBV and DV in the community seriously and they also explained the laws surrounding GBV, advocacy and campaign on women's land and property rights, access to justice. The lady police personnel Sarah who is in the FPU introduced herself and promised to move from house to house to make sure cases of GBV come out and the perpetrators and punished through the law, she also promised to make available "form 3" without any payment during reporting. There was a lot of applause when she mentioned this especially from the women were so excited to mention all abuses they have been suffering silently by their male counter parts. AWARE Uganda has also volunteered to photocopy more copies of the form 3, the coalition has agreed to have regular meeting to share strategies on how to address GBV/VAW/DV in the community as well as monitoring.

All the coalitions' partners were present during the launch of the 16 days of activism

The day attracted 120 for dialogues and 210 participants on the match, who joined the coalitions and the women groups of AWARE, ST. MONICA, ATOSOMA, KWAKIPI, BIAFRA, during the marching in the streets of Kaabong town council and the open community dialogues was done under the tree near market of Kaabong town council,

Communities were sensitized and educated on the topic pertaining violence against women through music, dance and drama played by women groups that translated the common forms of violence mostly violence against women and the ways of preventing violence against women. In

order to highlight the above activities, in Karamoja when you want to relay a message or campaign its highly taken and understood through music and drama.



Letter were delivered to respective offices as agreed by the coalitions CAO, RDC, DISO,LC V, CDO, DPC , LC1 LC III and religious leaders notifying them about the launch of the 16 days of activism.

We hired a music and public address system to boast the campaign.

All the women groups and the coalition members who participated during the launch were facilitated, had lunch and refreshments

The evaluation meeting was conducted by the coalitions at AWARE UG office to evaluate how the all activity was

The planning meeting was also conducted before the launch at AWARE UG offices to plan for the activities to be carried on the 16 days of activism this included;

Continuous Open focused discussions, One on one dialogue, community dialogues, guidance and counseling to survivors and victims



AWARE Members and men involvement on matching during the 16 days of activism launch in Kaabong



Aware members during a match to commemorate 16 days of activism as well as the days conference gathering in Kaabong town council