



SHELEADS CONSORTIUM STATEMENT DURING THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM.

Theme 2023: *Invest to Prevent Violence against Women & Girls*

BACKGROUND

The “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” is an international campaign that takes place annually from November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10th, Human Rights Day. This initiative aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence and promote action to end violence against women and girls. 16 days of activism serves as a platform for dialogue, education, and collective action to challenge societal norms that perpetuate gender-based violence and to advocate for policies and practices that promote gender equality and women's rights.

ABOUT SHELEADS

She Leads is a five-year consortium programme of Plan International Netherlands, Defense for Children - ECPAT the Netherlands (DCI-ECPAT), African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), and Terre des Hommes Netherlands, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The She Leads programme objective is to

increase sustained influence of girls and young women in decision-making processes and the transformation of gender norms in formal and informal institutions. In Uganda, She Leads is implemented by seven (7) local based organizations working directly under three Alliance partners of Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Plan international and FEMNET. It is in eight districts; Kampala, Wakiso, Bugiri, Buyende, Iganga, Kamuli, Napak and Moroto. The project is built upon three major domains, i.) political / institutional domain; ii.) social norm domain; and iii.) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) or GYW-led group domain. The project is designed to have girls and young women 14-24 years at the center of its implementation and programming.

SHE LEADS CONSORTIUM RECOMMENDATIONS

As the She leads Consortium joins the rest of the world in observing the 16 days of activism this year, stakeholders should play a crucial role in supporting efforts to combat gender-based violence. The following are calls to actions from the She Leads Consortium;

- Ministry of Local government to fast-track

the approval and implementation of the ordinances in Bugiri, Buyende, Iganga, Kamuli, Kampala, Napak, Moroto and Wakiso districts. We also call upon the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development to expedite the process of revising the Uganda National Employment Policy of 2023.

- Government and relevant stakeholders to implement the existing laws that protect GYW against Gender Based Violence.
- Stakeholders come together, revise, update and amend laws around cybercrime. Laws and policies on cyberbullying should be popularized.
- We call upon cultural and religious leaders to promote the positive gender norms that protect girls and women from all forms of GBV.
- Girls and young women call upon CSOs, Local leaders and all stakeholders to provide platforms for meaningful participation in decisions that affect them.
- Government should Strengthen reporting pathways for Gender based violence victims and these should be easily accessible for people with disabilities.

- We call upon parliament especially the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Youth Affairs, UWOPA and other youth focus structures such as the National Youth Council to meaningfully engage GYW and strengthen their coordination from the grassroots to national level to ensure that views of GYW are adequately represented.

In conclusion therefore, by committing to these actions, leaders and stakeholders contribute to a collective effort to eliminate gender-based violence and create a more inclusive and equitable society.

