



## 16 Days of Activism at a Glance:

**What are the 16 days of activism against GBV?** The 16 Days of Activism against GBV is a global campaign that runs from November 25<sup>th</sup> – the International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women, to 10<sup>th</sup> December – International Human Rights Day, and encompass 1<sup>st</sup> December – World AIDS Day. For those of us supporting national and global efforts to prevent HIV and end AIDS, this fortnight presents the perfect opportunity to highlight how gender inequality, violence against women, and other forms of sexual and gender based violence can be a cause and consequence of HIV, especially for adolescent girls and young women, women from key populations, members of LGBTI communities, including those living with HIV. These populations face high rates of GBV, which can make them more susceptible to HIV acquisition, and act as a barrier to accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. HIV diagnosis and disclosure can also be a trigger for GBV from intimate partners, as well as in the community, workplace and from health service staff.

From the 25<sup>th</sup> November PITCH Partners were out in their numbers to contribute to the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign. Their actions ranged from dialogues, marches, statements as well as internal reflection and community debates to raise awareness of the linkages between GBV and HIV.

### Kenya

#### Sex Workers against GBV

The Kenya Sex Worker Association (KESWA) joined Nairobi County's Women's Representative at the launch of the "Orange the World" and "Hear Me Too" campaigns against Gender Based Violence. The Women's Representative personally requested KESWA to display their publications on violence against sex workers at the county archives. While they feared for their security, KESWA came out in large numbers to bring their voice and solidarity to this positive initiative.



#### AGYW against GBV

In addition, two Bar Hostess paralegals who are young women themselves were guests at Radio Jambo to talk about the 16 days of activism. They discussed shifting the blame for violence from survivors to perpetrators, as well

as the link between GBV and HIV, AGYW rights, and access to justice for GBV victims. The PITCH advocacy officer highlighted the role of civil society in defending the rights of women and AGYW.



### Ending teenage pregnancy through addressing GBV

In Homa Bay County, Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK) took part in a county dialogue launched by the Department of Youth, Gender and Social Services in collaboration with all the CSO's within the county and the gender technical working group. Under the banner of ending teenage pregnancy to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls, a breakfast meeting was convened to launch the dialogue. Adolescent girls in the Homa Bay area experience high rates of teenage pregnancy, which is driven by (among other things) gender inequality, harmful gender norms, and sexual and gender based violence. The dialogue aims to enhance safety for adolescent girls and young women in Homa Bay County, advance their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and promote re-entry into learning for girls whose education is interrupted due to pregnancy related issues. The meeting and procession culminated in a tree-planting ceremony to mark the occasion, and called for the strengthening of protections against GBV at legislative and programming levels, greater agency among adolescent girls to claim their sexual and reproductive health and rights, empowerment of communities to prevent and respond to GBV, and greater engagement of men and boys in dialogues around masculinities, gender norms, GBV and HIV.



### Young People against GBV



LVCT also worked with the Youth Advisory Council in Mombasa to sensitise them on violence awareness, and staged street and beach theatre to create public awareness on GBV. In Nairobi the trained health officials on strengthening the prevention of and response to GBV, including through post-rape care. The discussions also addressed the roles of men in ending GBV. The group identified a need to have M&E tools for collecting information on GBV that can be used for better programming.

## Mozambique

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### Sex workers against GBV

In Mozambique, debates were held in 8 of the 11 provinces during the 16 Days. These are discussions with sex workers and the police about violence and health, including HIV. In addition, Pathfinders launched the guidelines to the ministry about how to engage key populations.

## Myanmar

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### Social media photo campaign #EndGenderBasedViolence



## Nigeria

### Social media campaign #XGBVNG

Education as Vaccine in Nigeria ran a 17-day long social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to raise awareness on sexual and gender based violence affecting adolescent girls and young women. The campaign used impactful survivor stories of violence to raise public awareness about the prevalence and impact of S/GBV; garner support for the passage of the Sexual Harassment Bill in tertiary institutions, and influence decision makers to commit to stronger legislation and policies to prevent and address S/GBV. During the campaign, EVA also organized two twitter chats to engage the public on discussions about violence against girls and young women in secondary schools, raise awareness on the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill and help Nigerians understand and support the passage of the Bill. The campaign generated high traction and participation from our audience across our social media platforms, with the twitter campaign achieving over 82,000 impressions over the 16 Days, an average of around 5,000 per day.

#### Top media Tweet earned 3,628 impressions

The story of Fatimah portrays a severe betrayal of trust in the home and one of the many reasons parents need to make their homes a safe space by providing their children with age-appropriate information about #SRH, relationship, and sex #XGBVNG #HearMeToo #OrangeTheWorld #16Days [pic.twitter.com/zHgqJPtjpp](https://pic.twitter.com/zHgqJPtjpp)



**The Survivor's Story**

My name is Fatimah (not my real name), I am from Niger State, and this is my story!

Growing up was painful for me, I hated times when we were on holidays because there was no one to stay with my younger sister and I when everyone left for work except for a family friend who had lived with us since I was 6 years old. For many years, he raped me everyday, especially when no one was at home.

It became a routine sexual trauma! The worst part of it was that I couldn't tell anyone about it. I didn't even know what sex was or what the sex organs were called. My mum was strict and never told us anything about sex. I became silent about almost everything in my life. I never talked to anyone about the experience I had and I hated anything that had to do with sex.

And then, I grew up feeling inferior and looked at myself and wondered if I was going to overcome the trauma for the rest of my life.

I learnt about my sexual and reproductive health from the wrong sources and got the wrong ideas.

I really wished someone had come to my rescue when I was younger, but how would they have known what I was going through.

#XGBVNG #HearMeToo

## Uganda

### Sexual harassment in the workplace

In keeping with the #HearMeToo offshoot from the #MeToo campaign, spotlighting the global issue of sexual harassment in the workplace, CHAU was engaged in social media campaigns advocating for the end of GBV in workplaces. This included internal reflection on their own workplace policies. The Human Resources Manager organized an engagement meeting with all CHAU employees to ensure staff appreciate and understand the organization's policy against GBV, sexual abuse, assault and harassment.

**#HearMeToo**  
**END VIOLENCE**  
**AGAINST WOMEN**  
**AND GIRLS**

### Sex workers against GBV

WONETHA held commemoration event on the 17<sup>th</sup> November – the Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, and arranged breakfast meetings with parliamentarians during the 16 Days to discuss the how the Sexual Offences Bill can be strengthened to protect the rights of sex workers. They also held two creative space events for sex workers during as part of their 16 Days commemorations.

In addition, HRAPF launched the 2017 Report on the Protection and Violation of Human Rights of Sex Workers in Uganda. The report was a compilation of incidents of human rights violations documented by organisations promoting of the rights of sex workers. It revealed that police were the greatest perpetrator of human rights violations against sex workers, including physical, mental and sexual abuse. Discussions were held between police officers from the Legal and Human Rights Directorate of the Uganda Police, and Sex Worker leaders, on how best the directorate could be used to curb the human rights violations perpetrated against sex workers. The launch of the report was officiated by the secretary to the Equal Opportunities Commission.



HRAPF also conducted a legal and advocacy strategy meeting with key populations rights activists on a petition challenging the constitutionality of the offence of 'being rogue and vagabond,' which is used to subject sex workers and transgender persons to extortion, physical and sexual violence.



### AGYW against GBV



CYSRA-Uganda with CHAU held a dialogue meeting with district officials, community stakeholders, and leaders of the networks of AYGW in Bugiri district. The dialogue centred on how violence against women hinders access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for those most affected by HIV.

### #Didyouknow? Social media campaign

CHAU shared tweets and messages on Facebook about ending gender based violence throughout the 16 days of activism using **#Didyouknow?** and images from Uganda's photo voice project.



[#Day10 #16daysofactivism](#). Did you know? Some of the contributing factors to violence include couple arguments arising from reduced food rations, poverty, kameza money etc. GBV actors should continue to provide awareness campaigns and survivor-centred, multisectoral response services to reported incidents.

[#Day12 #16daysofactivism](#). Did you know? One in three women and girls experience violence in their lifetime. It happens in every country and every society. It happens at home, in schools, on the streets, at work, on the internet and in refugee



camps. It happens during war, and even in the absence of war. Too often, it is normalized and goes unpunished.

No matter where violence against women happens, what form it takes, and whom it impacts, it must be stopped. To leave no one behind—cannot be fulfilled without ending violence against women.



Gender Based Violence, in all its forms, deprives women of their rights, respect and dignity, which leads to a lack of bargaining power for safe sex, contributing to high HIV infection rates.

Report Gender Based Violence – seek support.

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| International HIV/AIDS Alliance  
| PITCH | Uganda



### Women living with HIV against GBV

ICWEA ran an online 16 Days awareness campaign highlighting the different forms of violence and how they impact women and AGYW. Each day focused on a different issue/topic, including fertility rights for women living with HIV, how criminalization of HIV transmission harms women, and violence against women living with HIV in health care settings. More details can be found on [www.icwea.org](http://www.icwea.org)

The climax of the 16 Days' campaign was a Community Dialogue in Gulu District which brought together AGYW, and women key populations under the coalition "Woman Today", the district leadership and district opinion leaders. As an outcome the district committed to having AGYW represented in the district working groups and a team of 5 AGYW were nominated to participate in those committees, technically supported by ICWEA.



### **AGYW against GBV**

In Vietnam, several CBOs came together to establish the "Young Women and Adolescents Supporting Alliance". The new network made its debut during the 16 Days and was welcomed by other networks. The first event of the new alliance was a gathering of AGYW to learn about GBV. Their plans include painting a mural in the capital to help the community to appreciate diversity, collaboration, and imagination.

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## **Zimbabwe**

### **LGBTI community against GBV**

During the 16 days, Gay and Lesbians Zimbabwe (GALZ) held a training on violence, safety, and security for men who have sex with men in Mutare, and conducted a dialogue with 40 lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women from Bulawayo and Plumtree on GBV. The dialogue sought to understand the power dynamics in relationships and to get first hand information on the lived realities of violence amongst the LBT persons. GALZ also held a reflection session with 30 journalists to understand how to raise public awareness about LGBTI issues, including through stories and personal narratives. GALZ commended the journalists for their great contribution to evidence and factual reporting during 2018, to reduce prejudice against LGBTI communities.

