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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The month of December is highlighted with many important events like the campaign of 16Days of Activism against violence against women and girls, International Human Rights Day, Christmas Day...to mention but a few. As we come to the end of the year we share with you some highlights of our work in this bi annual newsletter. 2021 has been a success and we thank everyone for supporting our work.

We wish you a prosperous 2022.
Dialogue on finding community amidst the pandemic and internet restrictions

On 7th July 2021, HER Internet hosted a virtual dialogue on “Finding Community amidst the pandemic and Internet restrictions”. The aim of the dialogue was to inspire creativity, self care, well-being and connectedness while using the internet and other ICTs during the pandemic. This dialogue therefore created space for community LBQ Womxn to share on the different ways they are living and trying to cope with during the second lockdown.

CyberBullyingEndsNow Campaign

HER Internet ran an online campaign under the hashtags CyberBullyingEndsNow #nottodaybully and #HERONLINE SAFETY. This campaign ran across all our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram during the months of June, July and August 2021. Stop Cyberbullying Day is recognised every 3rd Friday of the month of June each year to celebrate and promote a truly diverse and inclusive online environment. We used this as the foundation for the CyberBullyingEndsNow online campaign. This anti-cyberbullying campaign involved awareness raising on what cyberbullying looks like, as well as tips and possible ways of how to deal with cyberbullying.
Brochure on CyberBullying Defined

The content developed and shared throughout the duration of the CyberbullyingEndsNow online campaign were condensed into a brochure titled ‘Cyberbullying Defined’ available for downloading on our website www.herinternet.org

Dialogue on Cyberbullying defined

On 12th October, HER Internet held a dialogue titled Cyber bullying defined. It's objective was to build and deepen awareness on bullying in the digital era especially with communities of LBQ womxn.

The space also fostered conversations on the CyberbullyingEndsNow #nottodaybully online campaign that we ran from June to July August.

#HERONLINESAFETY
Launch of Animation Videos

HER Internet hosted the launch of the animation videos on Decoding Online Violence which showed some of the many forms of violence LBQ womxn and FSW face on online spaces. These videos depict objective representations of what online violence is, how it manifests and some of the factors at play as in experiences of Violence against Womxn unique to lesbians, bisexual and queer womxn; and female sex workers. HER Internet hopes to contribute to attitude change in society regarding (online) violence against these specific communities of womxn with the help of the messages carried by these resources and materials. Each participant was provided with the ICE material produced (handbook, brochure, stickers and a flash disk with the animated videos and soft copies of all resources produced throughout the entire project.) and encouraged to share them widely. The lively conversations at the end of the launch with various participants showed a need to organise more dialoguing spaces and create and maintain strategic partnerships and networks.
Launch of HRAPF research report on COVID-19 and Access to justice.

HRAPF completed a study titled ‘The Impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on access to justice for key populations in Uganda: A case study of LGBT persons and sex workers in Kampala and Wakiso Districts.’ The study discusses the impact of the April to June 2020 lock down on access to justice for LGBTI persons and sex workers in Uganda. The report makes recommendations on what access to justice related institutions can do to ensure that Key Populations access justice even during COVID-19 lock downs, which can also apply to other minorities and other Ugandans in general.

Panel at FIFAfica 2021

The panel "Digital Rights Violations and Digital Security Practices in Africa" was a session where Pollicy and Paradigm Initiative presented Digital SafeTea and Ripoti, different tools towards digital security violations. It was also a forum to talk about the unique digital security challenges groups like journalists, politicians and LGBTQIA+ people face, and the importance of accessible digital security education.

Here are some of the questions that guided the conversation:
1. What are some key digital security challenges you have noticed in your line of work?
2. Why are digital security tools like Ripoti and Digital SafeTea important? What gaps are they filling?
3. What other ways do we envision digital security education can be made more accessible to everyone?
4. How can technology companies contribute to making digital security more accessible to everyone?
UPR shadow Report: LBQ Loose network

In collaboration with CREA world and Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI). The Uganda LBQ women Loose network in July 2021 submitted the first ever LBQ women UPR shadow report to the UPR council highlighting the Human Rights concerns of LBQ women in Uganda. A launch event was therefore held to officially introduce this report to the public for advocacy purposes as well as information sharing.

Training WHRDs on digital security management

HER Internet delivered trainings for Women Human Rights Defenders on digital security management at individual and organisation level. We facilitated 3 trainings targeting different groups: journalists, regional focal persons of the WHRD Network Uganda, as well as LBQ womxn and sex workers. Each group of WHRDs was trained over the course of one day, and topics covered include:

• Phone – Safe texts and calls, Privacy and Security settings on social media.
• Data - Back up
• Anonymity - VPN, TOR Browser, Browser extensions.
• Hacking - Social Engineering and Phishing, Passwords and Password Managers, Two-Factor Authentication