CHEERS TO PRIDE 2022!

In the spirit of Pride 2022, our team at HER Internet congratulates the entire LGBTQ movement in Uganda on the monumental 10th anniversary of Pride Uganda. It’s our prayer that despite all the daily adversities that we experience for who we are or who we love, the odds always stay in our favor.

At this juncture, let's dive in to some gist of what we have been up lately and a roundup on new developments through this third edition of our biannual newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Examining the Effect of Shrinking Civic Space on Feminist Organizing Online
- Uganda Feminist Forum #UFF2022
- Women’s Month: #BreakTheBias social media advocacy drive
- Sensitization workshop on cyber laws
- OVOF Consortium Consultative Meeting
- #IDAHOBIT Celebrations 2022
CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING AROUND ONLINE VIOLENCE

To put a spotlight on emerging trends and solutions to the impacts of Online Gender Based Violence on the work of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in Uganda, HER Internet facilitated a session on Consciousness Raising Around Online Violence at a breakfast meeting that was organized by Women Human Defenders Network (WHRDN) in collaboration with Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) in Kampala earlier this year in January.

UGANDA FEMINIST FORUM #UFF2022

From 28 February to 2 March 2022, Uganda Feminist Forum #UFF2022 geared us up for Women’s Month under the theme “Feminism As Practice”.

We were honored to engage in a panel discussion on “Reimagining a feminist vision for Uganda” which highlighted the experiences of the past, present and aspirations for future of the feminist movement in Uganda.
EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE ON FEMINIST ORGANIZING ONLINE

Just incase you missed it, watch the full conversation on Examining the Effect of Shrinking Civic Space on Feminist Organizing Online via NTV Uganda's YouTube channel to get insights on contributing factors and recommendations to the diminishing civic space for vulnerable and minority womxn online by state and non-state actors in Uganda:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtbIQytFAL0

SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY DRIVE: #BREAKTHEBIAS

As it is our tradition in the first week of Women's Month every March, we took to our social media platforms to run an advocacy drive under the global theme #BreakTheBias in which we sought to address the challenge of stereotypes and prejudices faced by womxn and girls online which has widened the digital gender divide today.
SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON CYBER LAWS

Bearing in mind that the prevalence of gender-based violence online can also be attributed to minimal or lack of information on ICT laws enshrined within the constitution, we held a sensitization workshop on Cyber Laws for WHRDs based in Kampala on 4 March 2022 prior to International Women’s Day with the goal to enrich participants with knowledge on ICT laws and their application in human rights work.

THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE IN THE POST PANDEMIC ERA

On 22 March 2022, we joined in a thought-provoking panel discussion at Civic Space TV on The Gender Digital Divide In The Post Pandemic Era.

To catch more on this discourse on how to create a safe space for all womxn and bridge the gender inequality that exists on the internet, please follow link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elfBWwc3anw
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH OUR VOICES, OUR FUTURES (OVOF) CONSORTIUM.

It was a great opportunity to attend a consultative meeting hosted by CREA in April 2022 under the Our Voices, Our Futures (OVOF) consortium, an initiative that seeks to amplify the voices and visibility of structurally silenced womxn.

The OVOF consortium also aims at demand and advancement of human rights and gender equality through meaningful engagements and participation across the physical, legal and online spaces.

#IDAHOBIT2022 CELEBRATIONS

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT 2022) celebrations in Uganda took place on 17 May 2022 at Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) secretariat offices in Kampala.

The core of this year's theme "Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights" reminded us of our right to dignity and freedom to live fully regardless of our sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
Kudos to Pollicy on the official launch of the #VoteWomen Curriculum 2022 programme that took place on Friday 20 May 2022.

This exciting educational platform seeks to capacitate women leaders with digital tools which will enable them to fulfill their ambitions in the civic space.

**THANK YOU!**

As we come to the end of this digest, we remain immensely indebted with gratitude to all our awesome partners, allies and community members especially within the LGBTQ, sex workers and women's rights movements for their relentless solidarity and support towards our work. *Asante sana!*
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