



Gender, Transformation
& Empowerment

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

UGANDA WOMEN'S
NETWORK



Amplifying Women's Voices

UWONET

VISION

A just society where there is gender parity

MISSION

To transform unequal gender relations in society for development through networking, women's empowerment, collective visioning and action among different stakeholders.

*Gender, Transformation
& Empowerment*

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT



It is with great pleasure that I present the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) Annual Report for the year 2002. In the same respect, I would like to thank those that entrusted me with the responsibility of leading the Network. I further appreciate the outgoing Chairperson, Treasurer and Co-ordinator for the commendable work that they did in getting the Network where it is today.

Throughout the year, UWONET continued to fulfill its mission and vision through a number of activities with great success but not without challenges. The year 2002 saw a revitalised advocacy campaign for a new Domestic Relations law with increased participation and commitment of the coalition members. In addition, there was continued advocacy with regard to the issues of land, domestic violence, women's political participation and economic rights of women. The Network also deepened its role in global affairs by engaging in the preparation of a shadow report to Uganda's third country status report on CEDAW. The alternative reporting process that the Network participated in informed and enriched our experience in policy advocacy.

UWONET is aware that there are still many challenges in advocacy for women's empowerment more especially because there is a need to look beyond women's practical needs to the more strategic means of meeting those needs. To address this more appropriately, in the coming year UWONET intends devise strategies to take the advocacy campaigns to the lowest levels.

With the support from our donor partners UWONET has been able to change the lives of many Ugandan women and we are very grateful for this. The close links between the Network and its development partners has continued to flourish and demonstrate the teamwork that is at the heart of our approach. This trend of collaboration and cooperation signifies increased opportunity for success in the process of combating all forms of gender discrimination. The Executive Committee and the Secretariat of the UWONET would like to extend their appreciation to member organizations and allies. Their commitment towards elimination of gender discrimination has been amply demonstrated in promoting the Network. Finally, the Executive Committee is grateful to the Secretariat staff for their dedication towards pursuing the organisation's goal. Without their valuable services the Network would not be vibrant and sustainable.

A senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India, Rajeev Dharan, said "the constitutional command not to discriminate falls miserably to the ground if endemic disadvantage continues to be sustained in society." In contributing to building a culture of constitutionalism in Uganda, UWONET will continue its advocacy efforts to bring about a society without gender discrimination. Together let us continue the struggle against gender discrimination as we meet our challenges with even greater achievements in the coming year. I wish us all the best in 2003.

Christine Kasule Mugerwa
CHAIRPERSON



Gender, Transformation
& Empowerment

UWONET

(Uganda Women's Network)

Annual Report 2002

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

Plot 15 Kanjokya Str., Kamwokya
P.O. Box 27991, Kampala - Uganda
Tel. / Fax: 256-41-543968
E-mail: uwonet@starcom.co.ug
Website: www.uwonet.org

Editorial

Compiled and edited
by

Valarie Vat Kamatsiko

Designed and printed
by:

EXCEL Graphics, Tel: 347541

CONTENTS

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE	3
WHAT IS UWONET?	4
THE LONG OVERDUE FAMILY LAW	5
DENYING WOMEN LAND IS DENYING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY OUT OF POVERTY	10
WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND DECISION-MAKING	14
MEMBER'S PAGE	18
2002 HIGHLIGHTS	21
FOLLOW UP TRAINING ON LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY	30
DOCUMENTING WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES IN ARMED CONFLICT	33
INFORMATION SHARING AND NETWORKING	35
NATIONAL NETWORKING	36
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING	37
UWONET INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2002	38

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



Throughout 2002, UWONET kept its charge and commitment to women's rights by continuously amplifying women's voices. What was unique about last year is that there were two international fora which presented UWONET with the opportunity to raise these voices. One was the Women's World Congress

at which UWONET hosted a dialogue on the Domestic Relations Bill under the theme "37 Years of Advocacy and No Fair Family Law". This provided an opportunity to share Ugandan women's experience in advocating for a gender sensitive family law, as well as learn how others round the world have succeeded in having women's rights protected in the home.

The second opportunity came in the form of the CEDAW Committee's hearing of the Uganda government's report on the implementation of the Women's Rights' Convention (also known as CEDAW). Here again, UWONET was present, both in the preparation of the NGO shadow report, as well as physically in New York when the government report was presented. UWONET had a chance to lobby some of the members on the CEDAW Committee about many of the issues of concern to women such as lack of the DRB, the lack of the co-ownership clause, sexual violence and domestic violence that still prevail and on which there is government in-action. We are pleased to say that the Committee put these questions to the government delegation and the government is committed to do something about them. However, we all know that our work is still cut out for us because we have to challenge government to follow up on the commitments and promises made at the international stage.

We also raised voices on issues such as violence against women,

especially domestic violence, the challenges women face in participating politics and decision making at national and local level and we demonstrated against the sentence of Amina Lawal, a Nigerian woman living under Sharia law. We highlighted the plight of women with family responsibilities, using the case study of women who work in Owino Market and we finally started on our project to document women's experiences in armed conflict in Arua.

By the end of the year though, most of the issues over which we advocated were still pending, with little or no action by those, especially in Government, whose responsibility it is to pass and implement gender friendly and gender responsive laws and policy. Nonetheless we are committed to raising our voices even louder and shouting even harder until women's rights, women's voices and the issues that affect their lives move from the margin to the mainstream, from the personal to the political!

On a personal note, many of you know that I took over from Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi, who was coordinator of UWONET for six years (June 1996 - June 2002) and under whose able leadership, UWONET rose from a little-known network to now, a force to be reckoned with. Of course we all knew about Sheila's dynamism and commitment to women and I was afraid that I could not match up to the great work she had done. However, I would like to thank you all - staff, Executive Committee, members, allies, donors and the media for your support, encouragement, words of wisdom and for believing in me. I know that together, we can continue the good work that Sheila began. We should remember to support Sheila in her new role as a woman in politics. You can be sure that wherever she is, she is Amplifying Women's Voices!

Jackie Asiimwe- Mwesige

What is UWONET?

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) is an advocacy and lobbying coalition of national women's NGO's institutions and individuals in Uganda. UWONET was born out of the East African Women's Conference held in Kampala in 1993. This was in preparation for the UN World Conference on Women in China in 1995. UWONET is a registered Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), with its secretariat in Kampala.

Objectives

- Promote and ensure women's access to power and decision-making positions in all sectors and at all levels.
- Improve the economic conditions of women and other marginalised groups by lobbying for debt relief and mobilising women to take collective action to address Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and other economic policies taken at the national and international level.
- Advocate for equal opportunities and rights for women in all sectors and increase women's access to, and control of resources and benefits.
- Advocate for the elimination of defilement, rape and all forms of abuse and violence against women and children.
- Collect and disseminate information on priority and other issues of concern to women.

Administration and Management

UWONET is governed by a General Assembly of all members of the Network which meets once every calendar year. The Executive Committee of UWONET which comprises of two representatives from each of the member organisations has done a commendable job in publicising the Network and ensuring that it takes off. UWONET secretariat was opened on June 1, 1996 to act as a focal point and nerve center of the Network. It implements the activities as recommended by the Executive Committee.

UWONET STAFF AND BOARD

The Secretariat is headed by a Coordinator Ms. Jackie Asiimwe-Mwesige who replaced Hon. Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi in June 2002. UWONET also has a new Advocacy Officer Ms. Solome Nakaweesi-Kimbugwe who joined UWONET in November 2002. She replaced Ms. Vat Kamatsiko who was Ag. Advocacy Officer. Mr. Twalibu Kaggwa is the new driver. The rest of the staff remained the same:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| ● Ms. Eunice Busingye | - Accountant |
| ● Ms. Margaret Mugenyi | - Administrative Secretary |
| ● Ms. Rose Kironde | - Resource Centre Manager |
| ● Mr. Amos Adule | - Office Assistant |

Interns

- Mr. Joseph Nyakana
- Mr. Martin Musoke

Volunteer

- Ms. Christine Sande

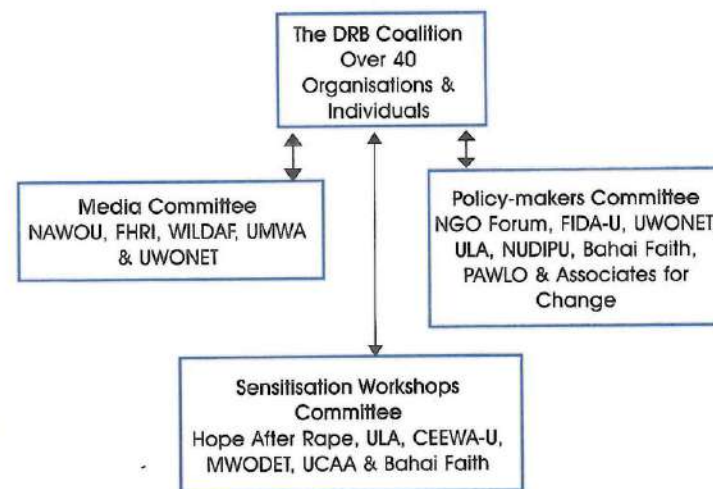
There were changes in UWONET Board as well. Ms. Judy Kamanyi and Ms. Veronica Namagembe who were Chairperson and Treasurer respectively are pursuing further studies. Ms. Christine Mugerwa (FIDA-U) is now the Chairperson while Ms. Patricia Munabi (FOWODE) is the Treasurer.

Focus: Gender sensitive laws and policies developed and implemented for gender equity and poverty reduction

1.1 THE LONG OVERDUE FAMILY LAW

Part of UWONET's agenda during the year 2002 was to influence the reform of unconstitutional marriage and divorce laws; and eventually turn them into laws that guarantee the rights of men and women at marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Much has been achieved; and long strides have been made towards attaining a fair family law. The understanding of advocacy as a process - and not necessarily an event - has been important for UWONET and the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) Coalition. This has enabled us to persevere and to remain committed to the struggle. Even if the ultimate goal has not been realised, every success that has been made along the way must be acknowledged. Although a number of activities were implemented, the process was slowed down. There were limited resources; and a new Parliament (7th Parliament) had newly been constituted.

Nonetheless, the year 2002 saw increased participation, commitment as well as advocacy activities by members of the Coalition. UWONET continued to spearhead the Coalition by bringing all stakeholders together to dialogue, discuss strategy and pool resources. The Coalition meets once every quarter. The meeting held in the first quarter (26 March 2002) constituted committees to spearhead implementation of activities (see diagram below).



Media Committee:

identifies messengers and what media to use. It also determines the frequency of media activities. Builds partnership with the media and sustains public debate on the DRB.

Policy-makers Committee:

reaches out to Members of Parliament (MPs), decision makers in relevant government ministries, cultural leaders and religious leaders. Organises lobbying and advocacy meetings.

Sensitisation Workshops Committee:

liaises with organisations that hold district based workshops to incorporate DRB issues on the workshop agendas. Facilitates district-based workshops where necessary.

Activities carried out by Coalition members in 2002:

FIDA – U in conjunction with **NGO Forum** organised a round table discussion on the DRB in December 2002. The discussion theme was "Do we need a new family / domestic relations law?" The discussion brought together MPs, religious leaders, academicians and civil society. The Speaker of Parliament, who was the chief guest, promised support for the DRB when it is brought to Parliament for discussion.



A cross section of participants at the DRB Mini-workshop during the Women's World Congress in July, 2002

Lily Artz presenting a paper on the South African Experience on Legal Reform during the DRB Mini-workshop organised by UWONET during the Women's World Congress in July 2002



LAW – U held a consultative workshop for MPs on the draft DRB in September 2002. Participants advised LAW-U to explore, among other things, ways of introducing the DRB as a private members bill.

WOTODEV organised a public dialogue targeting women councillors in Kampala District in September 2002. The dialogue helped raise awareness about DRB issues.

UWONET organised a mini-workshop in July 2002 on the theme



Mary Sonko of ActionAid-U makes her contribution at the DRB Mini-workshop during the Women's World Congress in July 2002

"37 Years of Advocacy and No Fair Family Law." This was during the 8th Interdisciplinary Women's World Congress convened by the Department of Gender and Women Studies of Makerere University. Participants had an opportunity to learn from the South African experience on legal reform. Lilly Artz and Kelly Moults presentation emphasised that an all-encompassing bill, as is the case of the DRB, may create problems because of conflicting interests. They advised that "breaking" the Bill into Acts would ease the advocacy process.

UWONET organised a public dialogue in July 2002. The dialogue theme was **"Auditing Uganda's Commitment to Gender**

Equity: The Case of the DRB." The dialogue involved a wide range of members from the public in appraising progress towards Uganda's constitutional and international commitments to gender equity. It also provided an avenue for raising awareness and seeking support for the DRB. The key note address was given by Dr. Sylvia Tamale. Ms. Margaret Oguli, who represented Government, discussed Dr. Tamale's paper.

NAWOU sought to create a critical mass necessary for enactment of the DRB through drama. Grassroots communities were involved in drama competitions at different levels. The project was carried out in 12 districts: Apach, Moyo, Kitgum, Kanungu, Kabarole, Hoima, Mubende, Kalangala, Masaka, Pallisa, Katakwi and Kapchorwa.

The DRB Advocacy Materials and the Training of Trainers

UWONET also developed information packs for DRB advocacy. They were developed with the input from members of the DRB Coalition and pre-tested to make them more user friendly. The Packs have been disseminated widely and used extensively in lobbying and advocacy. The Packs also serve as quick reference material for MPs, decision-makers in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as well as the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Other relevant government ministries, decision-makers at district level, religious and cultural leaders as well as many other individuals and institutions were furnished with Packs. A DRB Information Pack contains 10 cards that give relevant information on the following:

- Background about the DRB
- Marriage and the rights of a family
- Recognised marriages
- Contracting a polygamous marriage
- Excerpts from the 1965 Kalema Report
- Rights and obligations in a marriage
- Bride price / Marriage gifts
- Age of marriage
- Widow inheritance
- Cohabitation
- Matrimonial property
- Property rights in a marriage
- Matrimonial property in polygamous marriages
- Divorce
- Maintaining a spouse after divorce
- A decree of separation

In addition, UWONET organised a Training of Trainers workshop. The objective was to train DRB advocates on how to effectively use the Information Packs. Through training, participants better understood the Bill. As a result, trained advocates can now articulate the salient issues and concerns about the DRB. A pool of competent resource persons was thus created. These have been very valuable in the various DRB advocacy activities - such as radio programmes, sensitisation workshops and lobbying meetings.

The workshop attracted 86 participants (71 female and 15 male) including activists, academicians, journalists and

development practitioners. The one-day workshop was held on 30 May 2002.

MEETING WITH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

UWONET, on behalf of the DRB Coalition, organised a lobbying meeting with the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA). 25 women MPs and 16 members of the DRB Coalition attended the meeting which was held in May 2002. UWOPA promised to use its legislative powers to lobby the Ministry responsible for tabling the DRB before Cabinet and Parliament.

The meeting enabled the Coalition establish the concerns of women parliamentarians. The following are some of the concerns raised:



Sheila Kawamara facilitating at the DRB T.O.T. in May 2002

- **Not all women are on board:**

It is often taken for granted that any woman will support the positions taken in the Bill. Efforts should be made to bring out those issues that are generally taken to be obvious, when actually they are not. There is need for wider consultations, especially with all categories of women. Some women think that the proposed law will "spoil" the current social set-up.

- **More sensitisation is needed:**

People, including members of the Executive, the Legislature as well as district leaders, need to be sensitised so as to internalise the details of the Bill. This way the Bill may win more support. Women NGOs should target districts where there has been no or limited NGO activity.

- **How does the Bill benefit the whole country?**

In relation to the current development framework, there is need to stress the gains expected if the Bill is enacted into law. Namely, the benefits of the Bill to the country should be highlighted in very clear terms.

- **The stake of men:**

Men need to be sensitised on how they stand to benefit if the Bill is enacted. They also need to be sensitised that the bill stands to benefit every body – men, women and children and that it is not meant to transfer power to or and enrich women.

- **Is the Bill representative?**

Uganda is heterogeneous with different cultures, religions, values, land tenure systems, etc. In order for the Bill to gain

more acceptability, a more encompassing approach to these issues and concerns will have to be taken. Wider consultations should therefore be made with cultural, religious and opinion leaders.

- **The co-ownership clause:**

Government's position is to have this in the DRB. What are the implications of having this clause in the DRB?

The meeting enabled participants to share information, exchange views as well as strategise on how best to advocate for the enactment of the DRB into law. The meeting also enhanced partnership between the two bodies; and created an environment for working together to promote women in Uganda.

Additional strategies for 2003

- There is a feeling that each aspect of the DRB should be handled one at a time. It is argued that this will enable the less controversial issues be discussed and acts put in place, without being held back by the controversial ones.
- There are calls for public interest litigation. The argument here is that the failure of government to repeal the old family law and pass a new one violates the rights of women and men under Article 31 and 33 of the 1995 Constitution. Through litigation, the Constitutional Court would declare the present law inconsistent with the Constitution, thus creating a gap. This would then hasten the Government to enact a law.

1.2 DENYING WOMEN LAND IS DENYING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY OUT OF POVERTY

Another year has gone by without guarantees to increase women's access and control over the land they cultivate. Husbands still "own" land-use determination; culture continues to discriminate girl-children from inheriting land; widows are unabatedly faced with eviction from land and women continue to suffer poverty. There is no doubt that women's increased access to and ownership of land will go along way to: give them a sense of ownership and belonging; improve their decision-making position; give them control over proceeds; and increase their productivity levels. Land for women is therefore an issue that, if not addressed, will only serve to subjugate as well as maintain women in the lowest poverty strata. UWONET's concern over the years has been - and still is - to increase women's access to and control of resources, to improve their economic condition as well as

that of their families. In the year 2002, a lot was done towards attaining this vision. Nonetheless, the Government is still adamant about its position on co-ownership of land by spouses. Namely, it will be considered when the DRB is discussed in Parliament. But this is yet to be done.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS AT LOCAL LEVELS



A participant contributes during the DRB/Land Rights sensitisation workshop in Luweero District in August 2002

UWONET organised women's rights advocacy workshops in five districts of Uganda. The workshops focused on the DRB and women's right to control and own land. The workshops:

- * raised awareness of the need for fair family and land laws;
- * strengthened UWONET's national level campaigns, by creating linkages with women's groups at local level;

- * contributed to the creation of a critical mass required to promote women's rights on land and in the family; and
- * consulted with grassroots men and women on issues of the family and land; and highlighted them in the national level campaign.

MPs from the target districts were involved in mobilising participants. Involving MPs in mobilisation was a strategy meant to strengthen collaboration between UWONET and parliamentary representatives. In addition, it was meant to acquaint MPs with UWONET's work as well as to enable them understand and articulate issues of concern to their constituents (especially women) in Parliament.

The workshops targeted grassroots men and women, local councillors and opinion leaders in the districts of Mukono, Ntungamo, Kabarole, Luweero and Mbale. 1276 women and 392 men were sensitised and consulted. The table below gives more details on the workshops:

District	Date	County	Women	Men	Total	Facilitators
Mukono	17 May	Buikwe South	350	-	350	Christine Mugerwa (FIDA-U) Lilian Mwadha (FIDA-U)
Ntungamo	17 June	Ruhaama	81	21	102	Hilda Turyahikayo
	18	Rushenyi	66	16	82	(NGO Forum –Ntungamo)
	19	Kajara	71	23	94	Gorretti Mayiga (FIDA-U)
Kabarole	07 Aug.	Burahya	79	27	106	Shiela Kawamara-Mishambi (UWONET)
	08	Bunyangabo	85	18	103	
	09	Fortportal Municipality	73	45	118	Margaret Ddumba (UMWA)
Luweero	14 Aug.	Nakaseke	80	20	100	Ruth Mukoyo (FIDA-U)
	15	Bamunanika	89	61	150	
	16	Katikamu North & South	53	32	85	Susan Muwanga (WILDAF-U)
Mbale	03 Dec.	Mbale Municipality, Bughoko North & South	85	25	110	Ruth Mukoyo (FIDA-U) Jackie Asimwe (UWONET)
	04	Bubulo East & West	62	36	98	
	05	Manjiya	102	68	170	
Total number of participants			1276	392	1668	

Issues from women's land rights sensitisation workshops:

The workshops focused on raising awareness on women's land rights – those rights already catered for in the 1998 Land Act and those not yet guaranteed by law. The link between women's land rights and poverty eradication and development in general was emphasised. The focus was on:

- * Limited ownership of land by women and its implications for development;
- * The gender bias in land inheritance that continues to favour men more than women;
- * Whether the consent clause (Section 40 of the Land Act) is enough to protect family land or if there is need for another supporting clause;
- * Existing cultures and traditions, the socialisation process and how these impact the delivery of justice to women in the LC structures, courts and clan system especially on issues of land; and
- * The fate of widows on matters of land upon the death of their husbands.



The DRB / Land Rights Workshops in Mbale (Dec. 2002) targeted different groups of people - the disabled, men and women

Issues Arising:

- ◆ Very few women own land. For example, out of the 350 women who participated in the sensitisation workshop in Mukono (Buikwe South) only 3 owned land.
- ◆ Even when the female spouse contributes (in monetary terms) to

buy land she does not sign the purchase agreement as an owner but only as a witness. It was observed that women thought they owned land with their husbands by signing as witnesses on the land transaction agreements.

- ◆ Men often assume ownership of land that belongs to their wives, especially if the couple resides on the land.
- ◆ If a woman owned land at her parent's home, she is likely to lose it to her male relatives, when she gets married. She ceases to own the land now that she "belongs" elsewhere.
- ◆ The most common land disputes (Mukono and Luweero) are those between land owners and tenants where land owners unfairly extract rent (busulu) from the tenants. The land owners usually demand for more than 1000 Ushs., the amount stipulated by law.
- ◆ Local council officials are often unfair to women with problems related to land.

UWONET also shared findings from the above workshop with ULA for use in advocacy at national level.

ENHANCING THE LAND ALLIANCE'S MISSION

The Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), of which UWONET is a member, prioritised the issue of co-ownership of land by spouses. The ULA carried out a project on the lobby and advocacy for the legislation for the co-ownership of land by spouses in 2002. In its contribution, UWONET:

- ◆ conducted a mini-study and shared findings on how the struggle for women's land rights should proceed. The study brought out views that guided the designing of advocacy strategies.
- ◆ together with other ULA members, deliberated on the proposed amendment to the 1998 Land Act with the Minister of Water, Lands and Environment and other Ministry officials. The ULA proposed that Section 40 of the Act be amended to include another section to presume co-ownership of land by parties from whom consent is required either as: joint tenants or tenants in common; or in progressive shares by spouses; or family land.

Notably, the proposals were also discussed with the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources. Civil society organisation's views on the Land Act Amendment Bill were also presented to the committee.

- ◆ sensitised the public on gender land rights, through radio talk shows organised by ULA. One of the radio talk shows focused on findings of a study UWONET carried out in Arua, Luweero, Mbarara and Mbale in the year 2000 – "Monitoring Land Reforms in Uganda: Experiences from the 1998 Land Act." Findings on aspects of women's poverty, land ownership rights and utilisation were discussed.
- ◆ under the ULA, participated in a consultation process for a pro-poor National Land Policy that reflects the needs of the poor in Uganda. Consultations were carried out in the districts of Wakiso, Kiboga, Kabale, Mbarara, Kibaale, Kasese, Apac and Moroto as well as at national level.

Focus: Contribute to the achievement of gender equality through increasing women's access to power and decision-making processes

2.1 WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND DECISION-MAKING

ACCESS TO DECENTRALISED GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES

During the first two months of 2002, Ugandans elected political leaders at both the district and lower levels of the local government. This was a continuation of a series of elections - held to choose Local Council (LC) and Women Council (WC) leaders - that started way back in November 2001. With decentralisation, LC V and LC III have become very important because that is where vital decisions are made.

UWONET and ACFODE, under the NGO Election Monitoring Group (NEMGroup), monitored the elections from a gender perspective with an overall goal to promote democracy and good governance. Gender monitoring of elections is particularly important because the environment, circumstances as well as issues surrounding election related activities affect women in ways different from men. Although participation of women as voters and candidates in the electoral

process has progressed, laws governing elections, the administrative process and the existing socio-political environment - to a large extent - still favour their male counterparts.

Gender monitoring, among other things, enables the identification of factors that facilitate or hinder women's participation in the electoral process. Monitoring elections from the viewpoint of gender informs advocacy initiatives aimed at increasing the number and improving the quality of women politicians at different levels.

Methodology

Gender monitoring of LC and WC elections was done in a sample of 25 Districts. Each district had a district based gender monitor responsible for monitoring the pre and post election period, in addition to the polling day. This is because one cannot give an opinion of the elections based on what happens on the polling day alone; but also the process that leads to the election is crucial. Poll watchers were

also deployed to monitor election-day proceedings. The poll watchers completed 'Observation Forms for Poll Watchers' which were analysed for issues.

The NEMGroup report – "Local Council Elections 2001 to 2002" contains details on findings from gender monitoring of LC elections. The following are some of the gender issues and concerns identified during the process of monitoring the LC and WC elections:

Factors that Favoured Women's Participation

- ❖ As a result of leadership training from ACFODE and FOWODE - some women who run for LC and WC attributed their confidence to contest and speak in public as a result to the training they received from ACFODE and FOWODE.
- ❖ Support from spouses – most women candidates acknowledged the support they received from their husbands.
- ❖ Method of election – LC elections were by secret ballot unlike in the past where the system used was lining up behind candidates. This method favoured women's participation, it accorded them confidentiality in making their choice, which is usually violated by their male kin.
- ❖ The campaign meetings for LC III and V were scheduled for the afternoon (2:00 –4:00 pm). This time was favourable to most women, especially, in the rural areas. By that time, women have prepared the midday meal, come back from the garden, carried out some other household chores.
- ❖ The provision that 1/3 of each local council must be filled by women.

Factors that Hindered Women's Participation

- ❖ Men still take advantage of their wives. It was observed that most men, especially in the rural areas, believe that their wives should support the candidates whom they support. At some polling stations men were seen voting for their wives.
- ❖ The vulnerable groups of people (the physically handicapped, pregnant women, the elderly and the breast feeding mothers) were in most cases not facilitated to participate in the voting process. They were expected to queue in long lines with the rest of the people in order for them to vote.
- ❖ Women had a large electoral area to cover compared to their male counterparts. At LC III and V levels, women had to solicit for votes from 2 parishes and 2 sub – counties respectively, while

**Men still take advantage of their wives.
It was observed that most men, especially
in the rural areas, believe that their wives
should support the candidates whom they
support. At some polling stations men were
seen voting for their wives.**

the male councillors had to cover only one parish (LC III) and one sub – county (LC V). This posed a big challenge to women in terms of increased transportation costs as well as facilitation for campaign agents.

- ❖ The effect of presidential and parliamentary elections was still shadowing the elections. There was a misconception that women are supporters of the “movement.” In areas where the Reform Agenda / multi-partists are strong, most women who run against men at the LC level were not successful.
- ❖ The election procedure for LC1 was long and tedious. Nominations for candidates, campaigns and voting were held on the same day. The voters’ rolls were not in alphabetical order. The presiding officers would read out aloud each voters name and the voter would come forth to cast his /her vote. This long process was unfavourable to women whose productive and reproductive roles demand much of their time.
- ❖ Women did not have sufficient resources to spend on campaigns amidst a trend of “money politics.” In addition, the nomination fee was 50,000 for councillors and 200,000 for chairpersons at LC V level which women candidates did not find easy to raise.
- ❖ Most women neither contested for the position of chairperson nor directly elected councillor. These were left for men. The majority of women were not comfortable competing with men. They felt more comfortable competing for positions reserved for them – the women councils.
- ❖ Other factors such as lack of education, information and skills in organising campaigns as well as negative attitudes towards

women’s participation in politics and gender roles limited the number of women who were able and capable to run for office.

Recommendations

- (i) There is need for clarity on affirmative action at the local government level. It should be made clear by the electoral commission and stakeholders that one-third representation of women at the LC is a minimum and not a ceiling.
- (ii) Civic and voter education is essential to enlighten the voters about the importance of local governments. The methodology used during civic education should be one that reaches the grassroot men and women. The content of civic education should include a topic on the importance of women’s participation in the democratisation process.
- (iii) The Electoral Commission should lead by example and make an effort to have a balanced gender representation of electoral officials at the polling stations. Since it was noted that most presiding officers were men and the women were polling assistants.
- (iv) The electoral procedures should be gender sensitive. The vulnerable groups like the physically handicapped, pregnant women, the elderly and breast feeding mothers should queue in their own lines and be given special treatment to facilitate them to participate in voting.
- (v) The payment of high nomination fees by the candidates is also another barrier to women’s participation. These fees should be revised to cater for the women and poor men who would like to participate as candidates but may not afford that money.

QUESTIONING THE MODE OF ELECTING WOMEN TO PARLIAMENT

During the 2001 parliamentary elections, gender monitors (UWONET and ACFODE) identified the mode of electing woman district representatives in Parliament to be problematic. The electoral colleges that elect them were found to be majority male and easy to manipulate. In addition, the Electoral Commission did not give the elections the seriousness it gave to other elections and this led to many flaws.

public dialogue in November 2002 on the theme **"Past Experience, The Babihuga Case and the Future: Is there Need to Change the Method of Electing Women Representatives?"** The discussions generated meaningful debate and the following were key recommendations proposed by the participants:



As a follow up, UWONET and Forum for Promoting Democratic Constitutionalism in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung organised a



 Hon. Betty Amongi making a presentation at the dialogue



 Margaret Oguli-Ouma, the Director Legal Affairs NRM Secretariat making a contribution



 Winnie Babihuga participating in the discussion

 Dr. Kintu Nyago of Forum for promoting Democratic Constitutionalism giving his remarks

Issues Regarding Election of Women Representatives

The same seriousness should be attached to the election of women district representatives as to all other elections. The principle of free and fair elections should be upheld for all elections and in particular the principle of one person one vote.

In order to strengthen the election of women representatives, the issues of the voters' register should be urgently addressed. At present, the voters' register of the Electoral College is hand written. This leaves a lot of room for abuse of the system. The proposal is that the voters' register be typed as is the requirements for other elections.

Many people do not understand the need for affirmative action for women in politics. There is therefore an urgent need to understand what affirmative action is and why we have it in Uganda.

There is a need to make affirmative action more affirmative. Questions such as: does the present manner in which women access politics need change, review, or /and strengthening?; does it create a burden to women?

Issues for Further Reflection

The mode of electing women representatives needs to change. The proposed changes include adult suffrage or election by the special interest group that the women represent, i.e. women. This matter needs further reflection especially looking at the pros and cons of each mode of election.

The affirmative action seat should have a term limit (suggestion of two terms) in order to encourage as many women as can to go through the system. This is to create a critical mass of women who have been to parliament and who have the experience to stand for open seats. Other participants vehemently opposed this view and thus it needs further reflection and discussion by stakeholders.

One of the ways to make all elections in Uganda free and fair is to officially open up political space to allow people of all political shades to contest for elected office without fear of violence or intimidation. However, the issue of open political space should not be restricted to elective office.

Issues regarding election of women representatives, general election issues and those for further reflection were compiled and a leaflet

published and circulated widely to decision-makers including Members of Parliament for consideration.

3.1 MEMBER'S PAGE

Organisation	Contact Persons	Mission
Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA) P. O. Box 7263, Kampala Tel: +256 41 543996, 531042/3	Margaret Sentamu - Coordinator Jane Kyomuhendo - Chairperson	To promote interactive communication that enhances the visibility and status of women and other marginalized groups in order to realize equal gender relations.
Association of Uganda Women Medical Doctors (AUWMD) P. O. Box 10035, Kampala Tel: +256 41 251333	Dr. Catherine Odenyo - Coordinator Dr. Sarah Kiguli - President	To build a strong professional Association of Uganda Women Medical Doctors whose growing expertise will contribute to the improvement of the quality of life and disadvantaged groups, especially women, children adolescents, and the elderly, through advocacy, promotion of health rights, and provision of health services.
Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) P.O Box 7176, Kampala Tel: +256 41 540241/2	Patricia Munabi - Center Director Hon. Kabakumba - Chairperson	To promote gender equality in all decision-making through advocacy, training research and publishing.
Action for Development (ACFODE) P. O. Box 16729, Kampala Tel: +256 41- 531812	Grace Mukasa - Executive Director Maude Mugisha - Chairperson	To strive for gender equality and equity in Uganda. It works through a great sense of voluntarism and participative engagement within its ranks, spearheading efforts towards women's empowerment. ACFODE does this through advocacy and networking to create an enabling environment and at another level by increasing the capacities of women in local communities to manage their own activities and staff for their rights.
Women Engineers, Technicians and Scientists of Uganda (WETSU) P. O. Box 4125, Kampala	Susan Azuba - Project Coordinator Christine Muvawala - Chairperson	

Center for Economic Empowerment of Women in Africa (CEEWA-U) P. O. Box 9063, Kampala Tel: +256 41-253790, 253791	Angela Nakafeero - Coordinator Edith Mwanje - Chairperson	To promote economic empowerment of women in the development process through advocacy, training, research and documentation
National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU) P. O. Box 1663, Kampala Tel:+256 41-445293, 258463	Peace Kyamureku – Secretary General Janet Kyemba - President	NAWOU is to promote a coordinated network of member organisations for efficient use of resources in order to improve the status and living conditions of women in Uganda. It carries out its mission through training, lobbying, advocacy, information and research dissemination, assisting women CBOs in identifying markets for their products and runs a micro-credit program
The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA – U) P. O. Box 2157, Kampala Tel: +256 41- 530848	Mary Kusambiza - Executive Director Norah Matovu - Chairperson	To empower vulnerable groups, especially women and children, to achieve social justice by working for equality and equity under the law
Department of Gender & Women Studies - MUK P. O. Box 7062, Kampala Tel:+256 41-531484, 531572	Dr Grace Bantebya - Head of Department Dr. Consolanta Kabonesa - Deputy Head	It is a multidisciplinary academic unit at the forefront of academic initiatives to address gender and development issues from an African perspective.
Uganda Women Finance Trust (UWFT) P. O. Box 6972, Kampala Tel:+256 41-255146, 341275 341275	Harriet Mulyanti - Ag. General Manager Ida Wanendeya - Chairperson	It is to economically empower low-income women in Uganda. The Truett does so by providing an integrated package of savings trust facilities, credit services and awareness creation.

4.1 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

WOMEN'S DAY (March 08)

The theme for the 2002 Women's Day celebrations was **"Break the Silence: Stop Violence Against Women."** The theme was chosen after the Uganda Participatory Poverty Project identified violence against women as a major factor perpetuating poverty. In addition to this, a June 2000 UN meeting held in New York had recognised violence against women as a critical area where governments needed to put up strategies to address the issue.

UWONET commemorated the Day with a series of activities. These included an awareness raising radio programme, participated in a march from the Constitutional Square to Kololo Airstrip – the venue for the national celebrations, an exhibition of UWONET's publications and a newspaper supplement urging government to reform and enact laws to protect women against all forms of gender-based violence.

The Day was however celebrated with less enthusiasm. Planning at national level started late and the Day was allocated an extra lean budget. UWONET calls on government to commemorate women's day in a more meaningful way. Women's Day should be a Day to assess progress and forge a way forward to improve women's welfare and status in society.

GENDER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR UWOPA

The Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) – at a workshop held in March 2002 to enhance their skills in engendering legislation – came up with the following legislative and non-legislative priorities for the span of the 7th Parliament:

- * pressure Government to present the DRB to Parliament for debate;
- * lobby fellow MPs to support the land co-ownership clause;
- * advocate for the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission;
- * ensure that gains made in the area of women's empowerment under the movement system of government are not lost during and after the period of political transition;
- * ensure that the Constitutional Review Commission consults grassroots women and other marginalised groups on the question of whether or not affirmative action should continue;
- * ensure that gender issues are integrated in all government budgets, policies, sectors and programmes at all levels;
- * ensure that legislation is put in place to engender the education sector to enhance women's empowerment; and
- * emphasise the need for peaceful resolution of conflicts so as to save women and children who are the most vulnerable during armed conflict.

COPAW LOBBIES THE EALA

The Coalition for Political Accountability to Women (COPAW) held a lobbying meeting with the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) members in January 2002. COPAW initiated the dialogue to promote effective participation of civil society and particularly the involvement of women in implementing the East African Community (EAC) Treaty. The meeting was organised by UWONET, a member of COPAW, and funded by DFID. COPAW presented a statement of concerns highlighting issues that members of the EALA should take on during their term of office. COPAW called for:

- regular involvement and consultations with CSOs since they represent a different constituency whose interests need to be addressed;
- strategies that will enhance women's involvement in the implementation of the EAC Treaty;
- information sharing to narrow the information gap that usually incapacitates CSOs from meaningfully participating in various processes; and
- gender mainstreaming in all organs of the EAC in appointments and elections.

THE ALPI CONFERENCE

UWONET together with USAID-Uganda and Christian Reform World Relief Committee (CRWRC) organised and co-hosted the African Liaison Program Initiative (ALPI) East and Southern Africa

Sub-regional Conference. The ALPI is a tripartite effort among African NGOs, US PVOs and USAID aimed at strengthening relationships for sustainable development in Africa through dialogue and information exchange. The Conference theme was 'Governance in African Development Relationships'; and was attended by delegates from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, Eritrea, Nigeria, Ethiopia, USA and representatives of USAID in various countries.

They discussed how transparent, accountable and participatory the interactions at each level are and how this is demonstrated by progress towards sustainable development. Discussions also focused on key challenges faced by organisations in the area of governance and how demand for good governance, coming from other organisations or stakeholders, is addressed. The sub-regional conference was held in February 2002.

THIRD COUNTRY STATUS REPORT ON CEDAW

The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon. Bakoko Bakoru presented the Third Country Status Report on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to the UN Committee on the CEDAW in August 2002.

Members of the 23-expert Committee commended the Uganda Government for the positive steps made towards compliance with

the Convention. They however expressed concern about the mismatch between the Constitution - on one hand - that prohibits laws, cultures, customs or traditions that infringe upon the dignity, welfare or interests of women and – on the other - the still existing pieces of discriminatory legislations which the Government has yet to repeal. The Committee members also emphasised that harmonisation of the legal sphere with the advancement of women on the ground was not possible without corresponding effective social policies. The UN Committee urged the Government to develop concrete interventions in order to ensure compliance with the CEDAW.

NGOs had as well submitted an alternative report to the Committee. The NGO alternative report raised issues that were otherwise not raised or minimised by the official government report. Annet Ttendo (FIDA-U), Patricia Munabi (FOWODE) and Jackie Asiimwe-Mwesige (UWONET) were in New York during the time the Minister presented the Official Report; and lobbied the Committee on the issues raised in the Alternative Report. Isis – Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) spearheaded the NGO initiative.

NOVIB PARTNERS' PLATFORM MEETING

The Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB) partners met to reflect on their work and the challenges facing them. At the meeting a lot of issues were discussed. These included: the NOVIB AIDS policy document; linking AIDS with poverty, gender and sexuality; mainstreaming

HIV/ AIDS issues in partners' policies and programmes; bridging the information / digital gap as an effective solution to poverty eradication; and the challenges and opportunities of addressing impact as a collective effort for both donors and partners.

UWONET together with other NOVIB partners attended the meeting. Also present were Shamshad Rehmatullah and Conny Hoitink from NOVIB headquarters. NOVIB has partners involved in diverse areas such as basic social services, gender, micro-finance and human rights. The meeting was held from 23rd to 24th May 2002 and was convened by Uganda Land Alliance.

A NEW ACFODE IS BORN

The challenge of rejuvenating commitment and repositioning Action For Development (ACFODE) for gender advocacy gave rise to a new ACFODE. The new ACFODE was born after a process that changed its programme focus, organisational structure and culture. The new ACFODE was launched in Kiboga in May 2002. ACFODE now focuses on advocacy for:

- gender sensitive education policies and institutions;
- women and girls' legal and human rights;
- gender sensitive economic policies and micro-finance institutions / services;
- women's access to effective participation, retention and strategic positioning in leadership and decision-making positions; and
- gender sensitive budgeting in national and local processes.

WOMEN'S WORLDS CONGRESS

The Department of Women and Gender Studies of Makerere University hosted the 8th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Women's Worlds 2002. Uganda became the first African country to host the prestigious Congress.

"Gendered Worlds: Gains and Challenges" was an appropriate

theme for the first Women's Worlds Congress in the new millennium, reflecting past trends as well as new perspectives on gender. The theme provided an opportunity for a broad reflection on the state of advancement of women and gender equality plus equity as well as interdisciplinary scholarship, taking stock of achievements, opportunities and challenges at local, national and international levels.



The Congress focused on feminist research and scholarship as well as development practice. The inclusion of development practice was in recognition of the significant role that civil society organisations / non government organisations and development partners play in advancing women's empowerment and promoting gender equity in developing countries. A total of 1957 registered participants from 95 countries attended the Congress.

Participants take a look at UWONET documents during the Women's World Congress Exhibition organised by the Department of Gender and Women studies (MUK) in July 2002

RENDERING SUPPORT TO WOMEN LIVING UNDER SHARIA LAW

Amina Lawal was sentenced to death by stoning by a Regional Court in Katsina State, Nigeria for having a child outside marriage. Women and Human Rights groups in Nigeria highlighted Amina's plight and called for support from all over the world.

On 03 September 2002, women activists and human rights organisations from Uganda met His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria to Uganda - Sam Edem – after a one kilometre peaceful demonstration to the Nigerian High Commission. Civil society organisations represented by over 40 activists requested the Ambassador to receive, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Nigeria, a three- paged petition.

The Petition urged the Nigerian President to commute the death sentence and drop the criminal charges against Amina or at the very least to ensure the right to a fair trial. The Petition emphasised the need to ensure that women and other vulnerable groups are not discriminated against before the law on grounds of religion, sex or social status.

The Petition was handed over to the Ambassador by Jackie Asimwe – the Coordinator of UWONET. Present at the ceremony included: Hon. Miria Matembe - the Ugandan Minister of Ethics and Integrity; Hon. Loice Bwambale - member of Uganda's legislature and Chairperson of UWOPA; heads of participating organisations; activists; and the media. In his response, the Ambassador reaffirmed that the



The UWONET Coordinator, Jackie Asimwe, hands over the petition to H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria to Uganda - Sam Edem. Looking on is Hon. Loice Bwambale, Chairperson of the Uganda Women's Parliamentarians Association in September 2002

government of Nigeria was handling the case positively, and that it would do everything possible to see to it that the human rights of Amina and her child are respected.



Women's rights activists marching to the Nigerian High Commission to present a petition urging the Nigerian President to commute the death sentence against Amina Lawal in September 2002

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

The annual campaign on 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence was celebrated under the theme **"Say NO to a culture that says YES to violence against women."** UWONET, with support from the African Women's Development Fund, produced car stickers bearing the campaign theme. The purpose of the car stickers was to raise awareness about the prevalent culture of violence against women and to denounce it. The campaign particularly targeted members of the legislative arm of government who are yet to enact the Domestic Violence Act. The car stickers were sent to 307 MPs, 70 women leaders at local government level as well as national women and human rights organisations.



Participants listening attentively to presentations made at the vigil to commemorate the 16 days of activism against gender violence in December 2002



The Chairperson of UWONET - Christine Mugerwa - delivering her opening speech at the vigil to commemorate the 16 days of activism against gender violence in December 2002

UWONET and FIDA-U also held a vigil in December 2002 to remember all women who had died because of domestic violence throughout the year. The vigil was very well attended. It brought together members of the public, the media, church leaders, local politicians and opinion leaders as well as women and human rights NGOs.

HIGHLIGHTING THE PLIGHT OF WORKING MOTHERS

Following attempts by Owino Market Managers to stop working mothers from bringing children to the market, UWONET started a process to build awareness about the plight of working mothers and their children. Although the attempt by the Market Managers aimed at protecting the children from the various risks children are exposed to, it could adversely impact on working mothers, thus denying them an opportunity to earn a living and to provide for their children. It is with this in mind that there is need to find a solution that is in the interest of both the mothers (who have a right to work regardless of their reproductive roles) and children (who have a right to a conducive environment for their growth and development). It is the obligation of the State to facilitate the enjoyment of these rights. Pressure should therefore be put on Government (at both national and the relevant decentralisation levels) to put in place appropriate legislation, policies and guidelines for management of markets that put the special needs of women into consideration.

Talks were initiated with the Association of women working in Owino Market, Kampala City Council and Kampala Central Division. UWONET envisages a wider advocacy effort involving building awareness of policy makers, employers, the public and the family regarding sharing childcare responsibilities and influencing the State to introduce a policy / law for establishing work place / community based subsidized child care services.

UWONET CALLS FOR PRESS FREEDOM

UWONET strongly condemned government's closure of the Monitor Newspaper and expressed general concern about the fragile state of press freedom in Uganda. The closure of the Monitor was an example of acts, by government that, work against building and strengthening democracy and good governance.

UWONET appreciates that Uganda is faced with a grave security situation that calls for every person to work towards and support a peaceful resolution of the conflict. UWONET certainly does not condon inaccurate reporting but was concerned about the manner in which the government went about its grievance with the Monitor. UWONET believes that other more democratic means could have been used.

UWONET urged government to respect, protect and uphold the right to seek, receive and impart information, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, all of which Uganda is signatory.

THE ISSUES PAPER

UWONET prepared an "Issues Paper on Outstanding Areas of Priority to Gender Equality." The Issues Paper presents the position of Civil Society Organisations in collaboration with

the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with regard to the process aimed at achieving gender equality. The Paper outlines the achievements, the challenges and the expectations of the efforts directed towards gender equality. It was designed to form the basis for discussion between the President and advocates for gender equality. The objectives of the paper are to:

- provide information to the executive arm of government on the current status and direction of the gender equality process;
- consolidate and enhance the political support as well as the good will of the executive; and in particular,
- remind the President of his commitment to improve the lives

of the marginalised groups including women, as stated in his 2001 campaign manifesto

The Paper therefore discusses and brings to the attention of the President and other stakeholders some outstanding issues that need to be addressed. These include: the long overdue Domestic Relations Bill, the law on sexual offenses; the issue of women's land rights that was not addressed by the 1998 Land Act; and affirmative action for women in politics and decision-making which is under threat. The Paper also highlights the Equal Opportunities Commission - the only commission not yet in place among those provided for in the 1995 constitution -; and the prevalent incidence of violence against women. These issues were identified as crucial to the process of achieving gender equality.

the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with regard to the process aimed at achieving gender equality. The Paper outlines the achievements, the challenges and the expectations of the efforts directed towards gender equality. It was designed to form the basis for discussion between the President and advocates for gender equality. The objectives of the paper are to:

- provide information to the executive arm of government on the current status and direction of the gender equality process;
- consolidate and enhance the political support as well as the good will of the executive; and in particular,
- remind the President of his commitment to improve the lives

of the marginalised groups including women, as stated in his 2001 campaign manifesto

The Paper therefore discusses and brings to the attention of the President and other stakeholders some outstanding issues that need to be addressed. These include: the long overdue Domestic Relations Bill, the law on sexual offenses; the issue of women's land rights that was not addressed by the 1998 Land Act; and affirmative action for women in politics and decision-making which is under threat. The Paper also highlights the Equal Opportunities Commission - the only commission not yet in place among those provided for in the 1995 constitution -; and the prevalent incidence of violence against women. These issues were identified as crucial to the process of achieving gender equality.

'THANK YOU'

to Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi and former Chairpersons of UWONET



Ms. Lydia Rugasira was Chairperson of UWONET



Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi was Coordinator of UWONET until June 2002

The first Chairperson of UWONET, Ms. Maude Mugisha not in picture.



Ms. Judy Kamanyi was Chairperson of UWONET

Cross section of guests who attended the ceremony



Ms. Gorreti Mayiga was Chairperson of UWONET

Cross section of guests who attended the ceremony



Focus: Contribute to building a core group of public policy analysts, lobbyists and advocates and a committed, dynamic and gender sensitive membership.

5. 1 FOLLOW UP TRAINING ON LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

UWONET members, partners and staff were engaged in a one week lobbying and advocacy training workshop. This was a follow up workshop to further enhance the knowledge and skills acquired by participants during the first workshop held in November last year. The training programme was designed based on the needs assessment carried out before the first training and on the recommendations made by participants during evaluation of the first workshop. The emphasis therefore was put on areas where participants expressed need for further training. Participants:

- ◆ shared experiences in application of skills acquired in the first training;
- ◆ acquired additional knowledge and skills;
- ◆ attained skills in training of trainers;
- ◆ explored ways of working with the media in promoting advocacy for women's rights; and
- ◆ enhanced skills in working with other organisations and strengthened linkages with them.



2nd Advocacy Training Workshop on 29th July, 2002 at Hotel Africana

The workshop targeted the same participants who attended the first workshop. These were 8 participants from Arua, Kabarole, Kalangala, Mpigi, Ntungamo and Tororo. The other 25 participants were from organisations operating at national level.



2nd Advocacy Training Workshop on 29th July 2002 at Hotel Africana

Feedback from the participants

A feedback from participants indicated that the training had created some positive impact on how their organisations carried out advocacy activities and programmes. The knowledge and skills acquired enhanced capacity in lobbying and advocacy at both organisational and individual levels. Participants also highlighted the challenges they faced during application of the skills they acquired. Below is feedback from some participants:

Kalangala District Women Task Force on Land

The organisation is lobbying for land for the grassroots women to enable them get involved in the growing of palm oil trees. Kalangala district is made up of a number of islands and is one of the poorest

districts in Uganda. For a long time the district has been insignificant - until the recent palm oil project that has attracted a number of powerful players into the district. It is with this regard that women have come up to advocate for access to and control of land so that they can participate and benefit from the palm oil tree growing. Most land in Kalangala is public land, under the broad umbrella of the district land board. From the first workshop, women's skills in lobbying and advocacy were enhanced. This helped them lobby various categories of people, who include the District Chairperson, the Chief Administrative Officer, the District Agricultural Officer and the executive of the District Land Board. The participant was able to train members of the group in lobbying and advocacy skills and more women have been mobilised to grow palm oil trees for the project.

Uganda Women Writers' Association (FEMRITE)

Initially, FEMRITE was not involved in lobbying and advocacy. But as a result of the training, it re-designed its programme to include advocacy. So far FEMRITE is working on a project of how to make women writers more visible. The organisation has started a project in western Uganda where they have collected stories highlighting issues about women. These issues are being identified in a very creative way; where by women tell their own stories and they are documented with a purpose of publishing them. So far the project is being carried out in Kisoro, Mbarara and Kabale. The major challenge for the organisation is that there is so much to do, and yet they do not know how to go about it. There are so many people that need to be involved, hence the need to enhance



2nd Advocacy Training Workshop on 29th July 2002 at Hotel Africana

the organisation's mobilisation skills.

Uganda Gender Resource Centre (UGRC)

UGRC spear-headed an advocacy process that contributed proposals to the National Women's Council Amendment Bill. UGRC worked with a number of women's organisations. A memorandum was presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Social Services. The Amendment Bill, which was eventually tabled to Parliament, included some of the issues advocated for. A former Member of Parliament made the NGOs presentation before the Committee because it was felt that her former colleagues would not easily intimidate her. In starting the campaign, the participant reported that she was particularly scared. She felt that she was not known and people would not join her campaign as they would not recognise her name. One of the lessons learnt was to interact with members of parliament at every possible occasion and know them by name. It is also important to

consult with the people you are advocating for; so that they do not contradict what you are saying.

Pan African Women's Liberation Organisation (PAWLO)

The participant was disappointed because her letter and articles – with regards to a story of the Nigerian woman who was to be stoned to death for adultery under the Sharia Law - were not published. She realised how difficult it was to get an article in the print media. The electronic media is much more receptive and when invited they normally turn up and give the necessary coverage. The participant reported that she needed to build more capacity on how to make use of the print media.



2nd Advocacy Training Workshop on 29th July 2002 at Hotel Africana

Focus: Contribute to the strengthening of linkages and networking between UWONET and development partners in pursuance of peace, gender equity and reduction of poverty.

6.1 DOCUMENTING WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES IN ARMED CONFLICT

UWONET started implementing a project to document women's experiences in the Arua armed conflict. The Project, which had been planned for earlier, was delayed due to dividing Arua into two districts (Arua and Yumbe) as well as the presidential, parliamentary and local council campaigns and elections which took place in 2001 – 2002. The project is being implemented in partnership with Arua Women's Network (AWON) to facilitate the strengthening of AWON as well as build the advocacy capacity of women and rights activists in the District. The project will be completed in 2003.

Why UWONET is carrying out the project:

- Provide women survivors of armed conflict with an opportunity to share their experiences and have them recorded;
- Provide information on the impact of armed conflict on communities and especially women as a basis for advocacy for peace initiatives;

- Raise awareness on the nature and extent of violence against women in armed conflict as a deterrent to future women's rights violations in similar situations



Members of Arua Women's Network participate in group discussions during the documentation skills acquisition workshop in Arua in December 2002



Vat Kamatsiko of UWONET facilitating a session during the documentation skills acquisition workshop in December 2002

- Contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of women in Arua in documenting social injustices as well as advocacy so as to facilitate positive social change,
- Provide relevant information to relief, resettlement and rehabilitation agencies and government to enable them better address the needs of people, especially women, during and after conflict.

What has so far been done:

- ◆ A pre-visit was undertaken to: introduce the project to AWON and the district officials; assess the situation on the ground in relation to the Project; and make necessary arrangements to start mobilising participants.
- ◆ Questionnaires as well as focus group and interview guides were designed and pre-tested. These were designed in close consultation

with Isis-WICCE, which has been carrying out similar work in Luweero and Gulu.

- ◆ Interviewers were identified and trained. Also trained were the AWON Executive Committee, the project steering committee and other partners.
- ◆ Communities in the area where the project is taking place were sensitised to, among other things, generate positive responsiveness to the project. Areas where the project is taking place are: Ayivu County (Manibe sub-county), Terego County (Odupi sub-county), Koboko County (Kaluba sub-county) and Arua Municipality (Oli Division).
- ◆ A literature review was done. This covered a range of areas such as: the genesis of armed conflict in the West Nile region; experiences of women in armed conflict – the broader perspective; and effects of war and armed conflict on women.



Group work during the documentation skills acquisition workshop in Arua in December 2002

Focus: Contribute to people's appreciation and attainment of gender equality and poverty reduction in Uganda.

7.1 INFORMATION SHARING AND NETWORKING

THE UWONET RESOURCE CENTRE

The UWONET Resource Centre was opened last year, to among other things, improve storage, retrieval, dissemination and use of information by UWONET members and the general public. For most of the year, the Resource Centre has been undergoing improvement and a Resource Centre Manager was employed to do this. The Resource Centre, in the year 2002, received books from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the World Bank and from other organisations and institutions. The Centre subscribes to the Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation and receives weekly Uganda Gazettes. The

Resource Centre is open to the public and is used by a cross section of readers.

THE NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE

An advocacy newsletter, UWONET News, is published twice a year. UWONET also produces an Update every two months, which keeps stakeholders informed of what has happened and what is going to happen. Both the Newsletter and Update are distributed widely to decision-makers and leaders at different levels as well as to other organisations.

National Networking

UWONET participated in several activities organised by other organisations. Below is a table highlighting some of the activities UWONET participated in:

ACTIVITY	CONVENING ORGANISATION	BENEFIT TO UWONET
Fourth Conference of the African National Human Rights Institutions (14 –16 August 2002)	The Uganda Human Rights Commission	Delegates from 22 African Countries resolved to promote a rights based approach to development
Launch of a Gender Equality Forum (07 August 2002)	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD)	The Forum brings together different stakeholders to promote gender aware development policies, plans and programmes at all levels. UWONET is a member of the Forum.
Workshop to Review the National Gender Policy (NGP) (19-20 June 2002)	MGLSD	The effectiveness of the NGP was appraised and recommendations made to address the challenges to effective implementation.
Consultative Workshop on the Common Market for Eastern and South -ern Africa (COMESA) Regional Gender Policy (26 April 2002)	The Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry	Contributed to formulating a policy that will enable COMESA mainstream gender in all its operations.
Workshop on Gender, Women's Rights and the Law (24 April 2002)	Law and Advocacy for Women - Uganda	Shared information on best practices and challenges faced by organisations.
Consultative Workshop on the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) (17 – 19 March 2002)	MGLSD	Contributed to defining the functions, roles, powers and scope of the proposed EOC.
Seminar on the Beijing Platform for Action (16 August 2002)	The Parliament of Uganda and the European Union	UWONET presented an anecdotal performance paper critiquing Uganda's performance as per the Platform For Action on equal opportunities, domestic labour and relations, war and conflict.
Sub-regional Conference on Gender Budgeting (June 2002)	Forum for Women in Democracy	The need for budgeting with a gender perspective was emphasised and strategies to strengthen gender budgeting in the sub-region laid.

Regional and International Networking

Washington Week and Interaction Forum 2002

The African Liaison Program Initiative Week took place from May 27 – June 05, 2002 in Washington DC. The purpose of the Washington Week is to link African development policy and practice by bringing development stakeholders with field experience to Washington DC to inform and influence policy makers responsible for policy formulation towards Africa. Participants met among themselves early in the Week to harmonise policy and practice issues and priorities from the region and strategise together on how best to prepare for sessions throughout the Week during which they presented their views and experiences and engaged US based stakeholders on African development issues. Judy Kamanyi, the Chairperson of UWONET attended the Week.

Conference on Working with the Human Rights Institutional Framework

Mazingira Institute organised a regional workshop to build competence in working with the human rights institutional framework in a globalizing world. The Workshop covered four themes, namely: description and explanation of the human rights institutional framework; compliance with obligations under the human rights institutional framework; description and explanation of Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights and institutional framework; and working with the ESC Rights institutional framework. The Workshop provided essential know-how of substance and procedures of the

human rights institutional framework in general, and the ESC rights institutional framework in particular, and working with these frameworks from domestic to the international level. Ways and means of actualising the potential of the human rights institutional framework, as an ethical driver for fostering equity and democracy and for combating the cultural hegemony of globalisation were explored. The Workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 20 – 22 September 2002 and drew participants from Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan.

Regional Conference on Gender and Constitutionalism

Kituo Cha Katiba and Faculty of Law, Makerere University organised a regional conference on Gender and Constitutionalism from 22 to 25 August in Arusha, Tanzania. The goal was to widen the capacity of gender activists and sympathisers to appreciate gender equality as a critical framework and ideological tool for development, good governance, progressive constitutionalism and social change. Dr. Rose Shayo (Tanzania), Ms. Jayne Michuki (Kenya) and Dr. Connie Kabonesa (Uganda) presented findings of researches into the situation of gender and constitutionalism in the three East African Countries. The three researches formed the basis for discussions at the Conference. The Conference brought together participants from multiple disciplines, including academicians, policy makers, gender activists, representatives of NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Uganda Women's Network Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ended 31st December, 2003

SOURCE OF FUNDS	SCHD	2002 ACTUAL U.SHS.	2002 BUDGET USHS.
Donations and Grants	I	367,559,881	388,289,600
Other Income	II	1,922,584	-
Membership Fees		1,100,000	1,100,000
		370,582,465	389,389,600
Less			
EXPENDITURE ON PROGRAMMES			
Promoting Women's participation in politics		112,728,900	112,865,600
African Liaison Program Initiative (ALPI)		37,113,800	35,434,000
Women and Land Rights Campaign		23,768,000	21,056,000
DRP Campaign		22,566,600	26,758,400
Capacity Building in Advocacy		19,477,500	12,800,000
Documentation of Women Experiences in Armed conflict		13,708,300	11,200,000
Documentation for Information sharing		13,418,500	15,840,000
Net Working		10,372,700	4,000,000

SOURCE OF FUNDS	SCHD	2002 ACTUAL U.SHS.	2002 BUDGET USHS.
Resource Centre Management		5,927,500	5,760,000
Program Planning and Evaluation		5,694,380	24,000,000
Support to Internship program		4,160,000	5,600,000
Women's Annual Networking Day		4,126,500	10,556,800
Directory of Professional Uganda Women		2,691,800	19,200,000
Organisation Management		1,617,900	4,000,000
Mapping Exercise		-	8,400,000
		277,372,380	317,460,800
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			
Salaries and Allowances	III	110,383,625	107,520,000
Office Running Costs	IV	33,644,160	34,560,000
10% Employer's Contribution to NSSF		9,978,000	-
Audit Fees		2,000,000	2,000,000
		156,005,785	144,080,000
PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATION			
Purchase of Motor Vehicle	V	21,500,000	21,500,800
TOTAL CASH EXPENDITURE		454,878,165	483,041,600
NET CASH DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	Note 6	(84,295,700)	(93,652,000)



Cartoon adopted from the Monitor Newspaper of Saturday August 24, 2002



UGANDA NATIONAL NGO FORUM

Meritorious Award

Presented to

**Uganda Women's Network
(UWONET)**

*in Recognition and Appreciation
of your outstanding contribution
to the Foundation of
Uganda National NGO Forum
and the Advancement of its Mission*

"Increasing Choices for the Poor"

CHAIRPERSON

NATIONAL COORDINATOR

8th August 2002