

WEAVING FEMINIST FUTURES



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Acknowledgements

Femme Forte acknowledges with deep gratitude the unwavering support of our partners, funders, collaborators, and allies who have journeyed with us throughout the year. Your commitment to feminist principles, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls has been instrumental in advancing our mission and amplifying the voices of those often unheard.

We thank our dedicated staff, board members, and volunteers whose passion, resilience, and creativity continue to drive our work. Your efforts in shaping programs, facilitating learning, and fostering safe, transformative spaces for women and girls have made tangible impacts across communities.

We also extend our appreciation to the individuals and communities who have courageously shared their stories, experiences, and perspectives. Your trust and engagement strengthen our initiatives, reminding us that meaningful change is built through dialogue, collaboration, and lived realities.

Finally, we recognize the broader feminist movement across Uganda and Africa, whose collective advocacy, courage, and vision inspire our work daily. Together, we continue to build a world where women and girls in all their diversities can exercise their rights, lead with confidence, and thrive without barriers.

Meet The Team



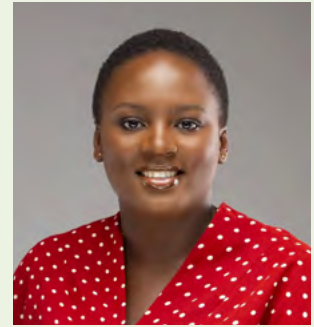
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Who We Are

Our Vision

A balanced society that provides equal opportunity to all men and women.

Our Mission

To foster effective resilience to break barriers and reach new heights for young women in Uganda.

Core Values

Our values are summarized as “SAFE”

S for Sisterhood and Partnership:

We care and are loyal to one another

We believe in community- can't do it alone

We love and uphold one another

We have each other's best interests at heart

A for Accountability

We have nothing to hide, what you see is what you get

We share our stories regularly, there is no room for surprises

We are open to counsel, rebuke and intentional growth

F for Feminist Leadership

We create safe environments for expression, self-care, participation and growth of leadership skills

We are aware of ourselves as part of a larger whole

We are relational and inspirational with an orientation towards transformation

We are aware and attentive to power dynamics and their varied meanings in context to culture and identities

E for Equity

We believe we are human first, then women thus equity is important to us

We practice impartiality and fairness toward social justice

The Heart of Our Organization



The Book Huddle

Every Tuesday, our team comes together for a dedicated session to engage with thoughtfully selected literature, exchange insights, and explore opportunities for personal and professional growth. This initiative reflects Femme Forte's commitment to fostering continuous learning, critical thinking, and reflective practice within the organization.

In 2025, our reading focus was "What We're Told Not to Talk About, But We're Going to Anyway" by Nimko Ali. The book offers critical insights into taboo topics affecting women and girls, unpacking societal norms, power dynamics, and the importance of speaking openly about issues often silenced. The team reflects on how these lessons resonate with our work, inform our feminist praxis, and shape the way we engage with communities, programs, and advocacy.



Breaking Bread, Building Bonds.

Lunch gatherings at Femme Forte go beyond mere nourishment; they provide an opportunity for meaningful connection and camaraderie. Our lunch breaks serve as dynamic hubs of interaction, where staff participate in “Share a Moment” sessions aimed at fostering deeper understanding and strengthening relationships among team members. These moments of sharing, regardless of the day’s mood, help break the ice and contribute to a supportive, inclusive, and collaborative workplace culture.



Blue Sky Fridays

Every Friday, our team comes together for reflection and planning, reviewing the past week and addressing challenges while preparing for the week ahead. These “Thinking Fridays” create a dedicated space for sharing ideas, brainstorming new possibilities, and exploring opportunities for collaboration and mutual support. The practice encourages creative thinking, collective problem-solving, and open dialogue, ensuring the team remains aligned and energized.



Cheers to Every Milestone

Celebration is central to our organizational culture. This approach emphasizes seeing, hearing, and valuing individuals beyond their roles or abilities, fostering a sense of belonging, gratitude, and mutual appreciation.

New Office Premises



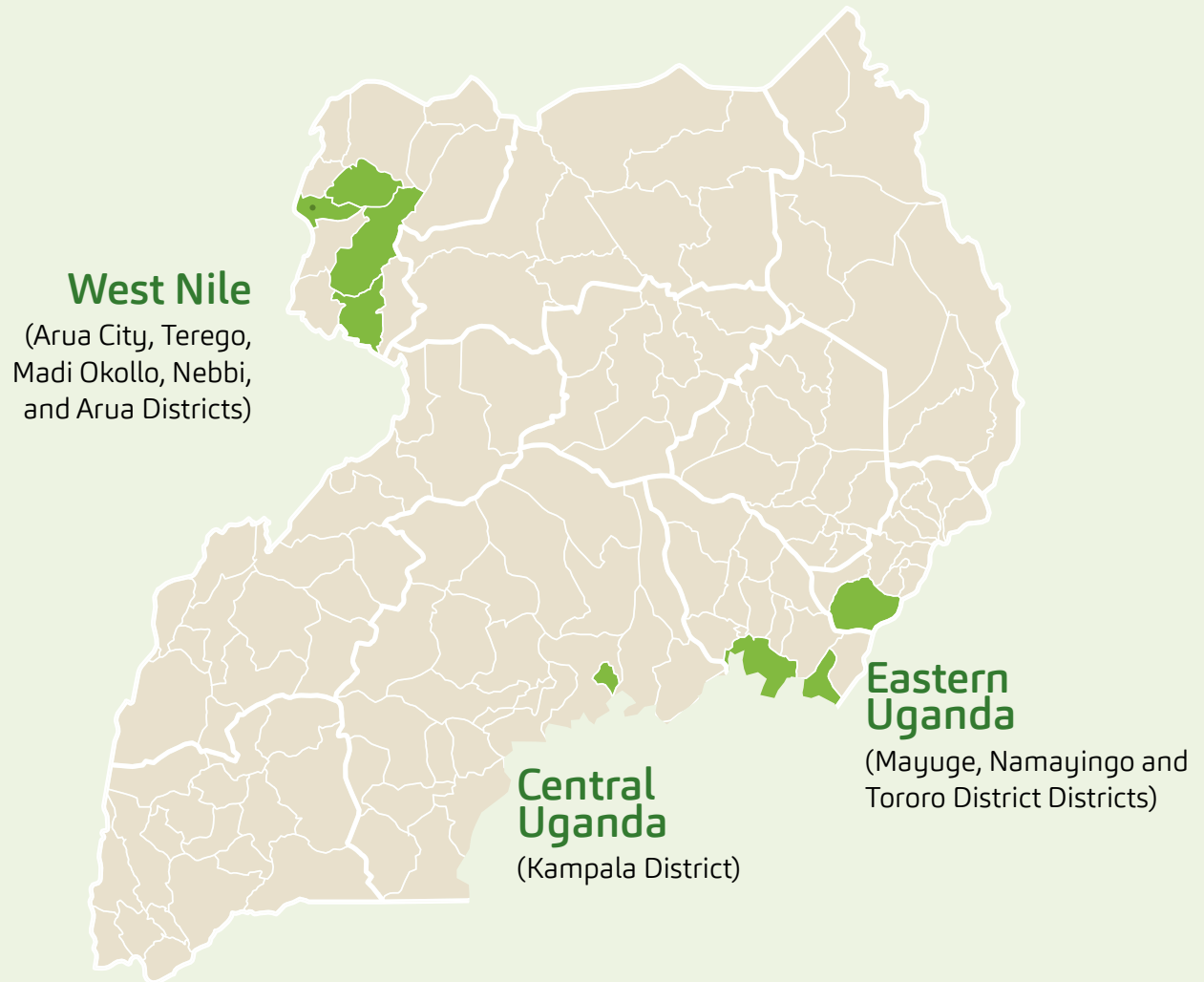
In 2025, we moved to new office premises along Nalya–Kamuli Road to accommodate the organization’s growth and expanding team. The new space is larger and more functional, providing a working environment that is both comfortable and flexible, and better suited to support the organization’s operational needs. Each staff member now has a well-organized area to work efficiently, while ample parking has made access easier for both staff and visitors.

The office also includes spaces that promote staff wellness and professional development. A designated workout area encourages physical activity, and a reading room offers a quiet environment for reflection and research. Communal areas, including a lounge, support team interaction, informal discussions, and shared lunches, reflecting and strengthening the organization’s culture. Surrounding the office, small gardens provide a serene setting for hosting events such as equip circles, combining nature and learning to create engaging and nurturing experiences for the team and participants.



The Femme Forte Handprint

Where We Work



Our Program Domains of Change

Our 2025 - 2030 Strategic Plan expands its work through:

- **Domain of Change 1: Transformative Feminist Leadership**
- **Domain of Change 2: Body Rights, Integrity, Autonomy and Choice**
- **Domain of Change 3: Young African Feminist Knowledge**
- **Institutional Resilience Priority: Femme Forte Institutional Development, Resilience and Sustainability (FIDS)**



Voices from the Movement

Jane's Journey: Becoming the Leader She Once Admired

Jane (name changed), a teenage student in an urban community in Kampala, once measured confidence and success through proximity to power. Like many girls around her, she admired school prefects, particularly boys in leadership, and believed that being noticed by them was a mark of importance. In her school environment, this dynamic was normalized, with relationships between girls and male student leaders often seen as aspirational rather than risky.

Her perspective began to shift when she attended Femme Forte's SELF Academy and became part of the school health club. Through sessions grounded in self-reflection, confidence-building, and access to age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), she started to question these norms. Activities like the "river of life" and future-visualization exercises helped her critically reflect on her choices, her environment, and the kind of life she wanted to lead.

Jane realized that what she had been seeking in others, like confidence, visibility, and influence, were qualities she could build within herself.

With this shift, she began using her voice more intentionally. She took on leadership roles within her class and the school health club, advocating for girls' empowerment and access to SRHR information. Most significantly, she made the decision to run for school leadership and successfully became a prefect. At the time of writing this piece, Jane had gone as far as contesting for Head Prefect, with a clear vision to support and empower other girls.

She now actively challenges harmful beliefs among her peers, encouraging girls to prioritize their goals, build confidence, and avoid risky relationships. Her journey reflects a powerful shift from seeking validation to becoming a source of leadership and change.

Claiming Knowledge, Claiming Power: Amina's Story

Amina (name changed), a 27-year-old Muslim woman, initially faced significant barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health information and services. In her community, discussing such topics is often considered taboo, and women often remain silent about issues concerning their bodies and rights. Even Amina herself had internalized some of the beliefs surrounding SRHR, until she joined Femme Forte's equip circles.

Through the program, Amina found a safe space to explore and discuss topics that had long been off-limits in her faith and community. She gained practical knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, menstruation management, gender-based violence, and available support services. The equip circles used interactive methods like group discussions, scenario analysis, and personal experiences, allowing participants to learn from each other as well as facilitators. One particularly memorable session examined how different generations view family planning and reproductive health, sparking rich conversations about community expectations, women's autonomy, and informed decision-making.

Amina has since become a resource and mentor in her community, hosting women in her home to continue these conversations safely and referring peers to trusted health services. She has gained confidence, self-worth, and leadership skills, and she hopes other women in her group will continue to build agency and challenge societal expectations. Amina's story illustrates the transformative power of knowledge, safe spaces, and peer support in empowering women to make informed decisions about their lives, bodies, and futures.



Domain Of Change 1 **Transformative Feminist Leadership**

This domain aims to cultivate inclusive and transformative feminist leadership, empowering young women, girls, and women across diverse backgrounds to lead with agency, vision, and equity.

1 The Local Leadership Labs (LLL) Project

Local Leadership Labs (LLL) is an initiative by CIVICUS Global Alliance aimed at addressing the political, technical, and behavioral barriers that prevent governments, donors, and other stakeholders from fully supporting local civil society groups as key actors in development. The initiative fosters radically inclusive spaces where local civil society organizations can collaborate with other key actors and decisionmakers to develop context-specific policies and solutions. Additionally, LLL promotes trans-local spaces for crosspollination, reflection, and strategizing, bringing together like-minded efforts and multi-stakeholder initiatives to accelerate systemic change toward locally-led development.



The Brave Village Co-Design Workshop



Our team participated in a three-day co-design process organized by CIVICUS Global Alliance. Through sessions on systems thinking, causal layered analysis,

stakeholder mapping, and issue identification, we deepened our understanding of the bigger picture, the connections between complex issues, and how to design change grounded in local realities. These tools strengthened our ability to identify root causes, power dynamics, and opportunities for collaboration, reinforcing the work Femme Forte does to ensure development is not only locally led in name, but also in practice for our constituencies.

The AfricaXchange Conference 2025

Our Programs Assistant, Hannah Stacey Baluka, attended the AfricaXchange 2025 conference in Nairobi. The convening brought together changemakers from across Africa to co-create solutions, build partnerships, and drive action for a stronger, locally-led philanthropic ecosystem. AfricaXchange emphasized action-driven collaboration, meaningful connections, and cross-sector learning, centering African leadership in addressing pressing challenges in climate, health, education, and impact finance.

The “Art as Social Commentary” Exhibition

Our team attended Jimmy Spire Ssentongo’s exhibition, Art as Social Commentary in Ugandan Civil Society, at the Makerere Art Gallery. Through satire, caricature, and bold visual storytelling, the exhibition challenged audiences to reflect on injustice, corruption, and the state of civil society in Uganda.

Beyond the exhibition, our team engaged in a conversation with Spire about bridging the gap between traditional and non-traditional civil society actors, exploring local and alternative funding models, and leveraging socially conscious art to inspire action and shift public discourse.

Webinar on Advancing Locally-Led Development: Insights from Southeast Africa’s Local Leadership Lab

Our team contributed to a knowledge exchange on locally led development in Southeast Africa, with our Programs Assistant, Hope Kengoro as a panelist.

We shared examples from Uganda, including our work with grassroots groups like market women, who, through leadership, financial literacy, and collective organizing, are building resilience, pooling resources, and influencing decisions that affect their livelihoods. Our research, *The State of Civil Society in Uganda*,

highlighted challenges such as compliance burdens, transparency gaps, and shrinking civic space, informing strategies that empower communities to lead development initiatives.

Convening Power: Equip Circles on Shifting Power

We convened two strategic feminist spaces, or Equip Circles, under the themes “Shifting Power: Elevating Local Voices in Development; Fostering Radical Inclusion & Empowerment” and “Co-Creation for Change: Communities Leading for Their Future.”

These spaces brought together traditional and non-traditional civil society actors to examine participation, equity, and representation, while co-creating strategies for community-led change. By centering care, shared leadership, and lived experience, the convenings strengthened collective feminist leadership and reinforced movement solidarity.



2 Roundtable Dialogue on Amplifying Women's Voices and Safety in Uganda's Political Season.

The roundtable focused on addressing the persistent barriers that women face in politics, ranging from political violence and online harassment to financial exclusion and media bias. These challenges are especially pronounced for young women, rural women, women with disabilities, and other marginalized voices.

Our team contributed to discussions that emphasized solidarity, shared strategy, and practical approaches for creating a political environment where women can participate fully, safely, and meaningfully. The dialogue was particularly timely given the proximity of Uganda's 2026 presidential elections, highlighting the urgent need to support women's political participation and ensure that their voices are amplified and protected.

3 Webinar on Amplifying African Women's Voices in Climate Action

Our Chief Steward, Penelope Sanyu served as a panelist in a webinar organized by Women's Link Worldwide ahead of the African Climate Summit 2. The discussion spotlighted African women's experiences and explored strategies to address the intersectional impacts of climate change, including gender-based violence and access to health services, emphasizing women's leadership in shaping climate responses.

4 The East African Philanthropy Conference

We participated in the East African Philanthropy Network conference in Kigali, Rwanda, themed "Agile Philanthropy: Adapting to Economic, Social, and Political Shifts." We actively engaged in the masterclasses, Co-Creation Labs on building resilient institutions, and discussions on ecosystem readiness, the value of domestic capital, and key challenges within the philanthropic space, contributing to dialogue while learning from regional peers and strengthening our networks.

Our Chief Steward co-led a candid conversation on the future of resourcing

in the region, addressing gaps exposed by international funder exits. The discussion focused on reimagining a funding system rooted in self-reliance, local giving, and solidarity, highlighting the potential for local resources to complement global support.

We also hosted a Healing Village (Wellness Space) booth, providing attendees with a calm space to unwind, engage with art, and experience our Her Wellness products, which was well-received by participants.



5 Annual Philanthropy Symposium 2025

We attended the Annual Philanthropy Symposium, organized by CivLegacy in collaboration with the National NGO Forum to examine the evolving landscape of philanthropy in Uganda. Discussions underscored the interplay between traditional, informal giving practices and modern, structured approaches, shaped by community values, Ubuntu, and religious institutions. The symposium highlighted strategies for mobilizing resources, strengthening accountability to supporters, and balancing volunteer engagement with capacity-building, providing insights that inform Femme Forte's approach to fostering sustainable, locally grounded philanthropic practices.

6 The Inaugural Leader’s Gala and Ball

Our team attended the inaugural Leadership Gala & Ball, organized by CivSource Africa and CivLegacy Foundation under the theme “Crowned in Purpose, Rooted in Service.” The event was a call to action for leaders across generations to embrace intentional, empathetic leadership rooted in service and community impact, a reminder that true leadership is measured by service, impact, and care rather than titles.



7 Feminist Accountability in Action

Since its founding, the Uganda Feminist Accountability Working Group (FAWG) has served as a space for truth-telling, care, and courage, addressing the silent backlash against feminist progress in Uganda. Femme Forte joined a FAWG convening examining whether current approaches advance or dilute feminist struggles. The convening reinforced that sustaining feminist progress depends not only on strategy but also on solidarity, care, and courage.

8 Critical Consciousness Pop-Up

Our Programs Assistant, Hope Kengoro, represented the team at the Critical Consciousness Pop-Up, a convening rooted in anti-imperialist feminist solidarity and revolutionary hope. The space invited feminists, activists, and thinkers to

reflect on the continuing impacts of imperialism on womanhood, and to explore how solidarity, collective care, and accountability can serve as acts of resistance. The discussions emphasized reclaiming power, knowledge, and political home, and building movements grounded in compassion rather than hierarchy.

9 Women Leaders' Summit on Civic Engagement

Our Programs Assistant, Hannah Stacey Baluka represented the team at the Women Leaders' Summit on Women's Civic Engagement. The summit, themed "Empowering Women: Navigating Progress and Transformative Shifts," brought together women leaders to share experiences and address challenges in civic participation. Key discussions focused on promoting inclusive leadership, addressing systemic barriers, and advancing gender equality through collective action and policy reform. The summit concluded with actionable recommendations to strengthen women's civic leadership and foster a more inclusive society.



Domain Of Change 2 **Body Rights, Integrity, Autonomy And Choice**

This domain focuses on ensuring that women and girls have equitable access to information, services, and the ability to make informed decisions about their own bodies, promoting bodily autonomy, health, and empowerment.

1 The Stand Up for SRHR Project

Femme Forte, in partnership with Oxfam in Uganda, is implementing the Stand Up for SRHR (Stand Up) Project, a multi-year initiative aimed at increasing the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 10–29, including those facing intersecting vulnerabilities.

The project addresses systemic gender inequality and human rights challenges, including teenage pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, child, early and forced marriages, harmful social norms, and limited access to comprehensive SRHR information and services. It also strengthens the capacity of women's rights organizations (WROs) and youth-led organizations (YLOs) to advocate effectively for SRHR.

The Peer Educator Training Manual (Ages 10 to 14)

We developed a peer educator training manual tailored for adolescents aged 10–14, responding to the need for age-appropriate SRHR information aligned with Uganda's national sexuality education guidelines. The manual covers topics such as body changes, menstruation, relationships, growth, and future planning, equipping young adolescents with foundational knowledge and life skills.

The Sexuality Education Framework Round Table

Oxfam in Uganda, alongside Femme Forte and other implementing partners, hosted a roundtable discussion with key government stakeholders on Uganda's Sexuality Education Framework. The discussion aimed to seek clarity and guidance on addressing challenges faced during the implementation of the Stand-Up project, particularly regarding sexuality education in schools and communities where the project is implemented.

The 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)

Femme Forte was represented at the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York by our Chief Steward, Penelope Sanyu, and Head of Programs, Jacqueline Nampijja. The engagement created a platform to contribute to global conversations on gender equality and the

advancement of women’s rights.

The broader team also engaged virtually in a side event organized by Oxfam, titled “SRHR and Social-Cultural Norms: Dispelling Myths and Taking Action, Experiences from Uganda.” Jacqueline Nampijja served as a panelist, contributing insights on key Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) issues. Her presentation highlighted the role of male involvement in improving the utilization of SRHR services, the importance of functional referral pathways, and the effectiveness of peer-to-peer education models in expanding access to information and services for young people, particularly in refugee contexts such as Imvepi Settlement.

The discussion also emphasized the importance of localization and sustainability in SRHR programming, reinforcing the need for community-driven approaches in advancing access and outcomes for marginalized populations.



Oxfam Canada’s Monitoring Visit for Stand Up Partners

Femme Forte, together with Oxfam Canada and other Stand Up partners, conducted a monitoring visit to project areas in Eastern Uganda to assess implementation progress, strengthen partnerships with district leadership, and reaffirm our commitment to advancing SRHR at community level.

The team engaged with schools implementing Stand Up Peer Educator Health Clubs, where students demonstrated their learning through skits and poetry on issues such as early marriage and drug abuse, illustrating the role of peer education in building awareness, confidence, and positive behavioral change. Notably, Kandege Primary School, the only school on Lolwe island with an active peer educator club, recorded the only first-grade pass in the Primary Leaving Examinations, which local leadership partly attributed to the discipline and life skills fostered through the program.

Engagements with district authorities, community-based peer educators, and RHU-led outreach initiatives provided insight into grassroots implementation and community-led efforts to expand access to SRHR information and services. These learnings continue to inform adaptive programming and strengthen the project's impact.



Community Insights: A Visit to Namayingo's Gold Mining Areas

Femme Forte, alongside Stand Up partners, conducted a field visit to gold mining communities in Namayingo District to assess the intersection of livelihoods and SRHR-related challenges.

While mining has contributed to increased employment and improved incomes, it has also intensified social, environmental, and health vulnerabilities, including

overcrowding, poor sanitation, limited access to clean water and healthcare, gender-based violence, child labour, teenage pregnancies, and school dropouts. Additional concerns included unsafe working conditions, lack of protective equipment, and the environmental impact of chemical use.

Engagements with community members highlighted the need for targeted interventions, including health outreach, menstrual health support, and sustained dialogue on healthcare access and parenting. These insights continue to inform context-responsive programming under the Stand Up project.

The Uganda National Conference on Health, Human Rights, and Development

At the Uganda National Conference on Health, Human Rights, and Development, we contributed insights from our community consultations in Mayuge District.

Our presentation focused on addressing social determinants and bridging gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with recommendations grounded in community experiences. Key priorities included strengthening community-led approaches through peer educators and participatory platforms; advancing legal and financing solutions, including SGBV-responsive budgeting; promoting youth leadership in SRHR decision-making; and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration to improve referral pathways and expand access to youth-friendly service

2 The Women Gaining Ground Project

Women Gaining Ground (WGG) is a Global South-led consortium comprising Akili Dada, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP), and CREA as the lead organization. The initiative focuses on strengthening feminist leadership, movement building, and advocacy among young women, girls, and women with disabilities (WWDs), drawing on deep expertise in working with marginalized communities.

Advancing Disability Justice in Feminist Practice

Through participation in the Disability, Sexuality and Rights Online Institute (DSROI) hosted by CREA, Femme Forte strengthened its application of Disability Justice as a framework within its programming. The engagement deepened

understanding of intersectionality, collective access, and the importance of centering the leadership of those most impacted. It also informed strategies for integrating accessibility, representation, and inclusive policy advocacy across feminist and LGBTQIA spaces.

The Kimeeza 1st Edition: Navigating the Politics of Inclusion

We convened the first edition of the Kimeeza dialogue series under the theme “Navigating the Politics of Inclusion,” creating a critical space to interrogate the complexities, tensions, and evolving interpretations of inclusion within Uganda’s socio-political landscape. The convening centered on who is included, who remains excluded, and how power dynamics shape access, representation, and participation across civic and social spaces.

The dialogue brought together a diverse group of participants, including feminist leaders, activists, alumni of the Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute (FLMBarI), students, and policy analysts. Through panel discussions, and interactive engagements, participants examined structural barriers, shared lived experiences of exclusion, and interrogated the implications of policy and practice on marginalized communities.

A keynote address by Prof. Josephine Ahikire, [“In the Eye of the Storm: The Feminist Encounter, Resilience and Control in Contemporary Uganda,”](#) grounded the convening in a critical reflection on the current feminist landscape. Her address explored the tensions between resistance and control, highlighting how feminist movements continue to navigate shrinking civic space, political pressures, and co-optation, while sustaining resilience and collective agency. The keynote set the tone for deeper engagement on the contradictions and possibilities within feminist organizing and inclusion work.

Discussions throughout the convening emphasized the need for intentional, intersectional approaches that move beyond tokenistic inclusion to center the realities of women, queer persons, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups. The space also surfaced critical questions on power, accountability, and the risks of diluted inclusion frameworks that fail to challenge structural inequities.

Beyond dialogue, the Kimeeza functioned as a platform for movement-building, learning, and solidarity, strengthening connections between emerging and established actors committed to social justice. The insights and reflections

generated continue to inform Femme Forte’s advocacy priorities and contribute to its broader efforts to advance transformative, community-driven feminist organizing.



End of Project Convening in Lusaka, Zambia

We were represented by the programs team at the WGG End of Project Convening in Lusaka, which brought together implementing partners from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Bangladesh, and India. The convening provided an important space to reflect on shared successes, exchange lessons, and discuss strategies to ensure the sustainability and impact of feminist leadership and advocacy work across the consortium.



CREA Reconference 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal

Our Programs Catalyst, Hajjarah Namutebi, represented the team at the CREA Reconference, a global feminist space designed to challenge existing beliefs, imagine alternative futures, and collectively navigate feelings of anger, frustration, and hope. Participants explored the intersections of AI and technology, climate change, conflict, and migration with gender and sexuality through art, plenary discussions, teach-ins, and interactive sessions. The convening emphasized rethinking, reworking, and reclaiming narratives and experiences of pleasure, supporting the development of feminist strategies that are creative, intersectional, and transformative.

3 The Litigating Reproductive Justice in Africa (LIRA) Project

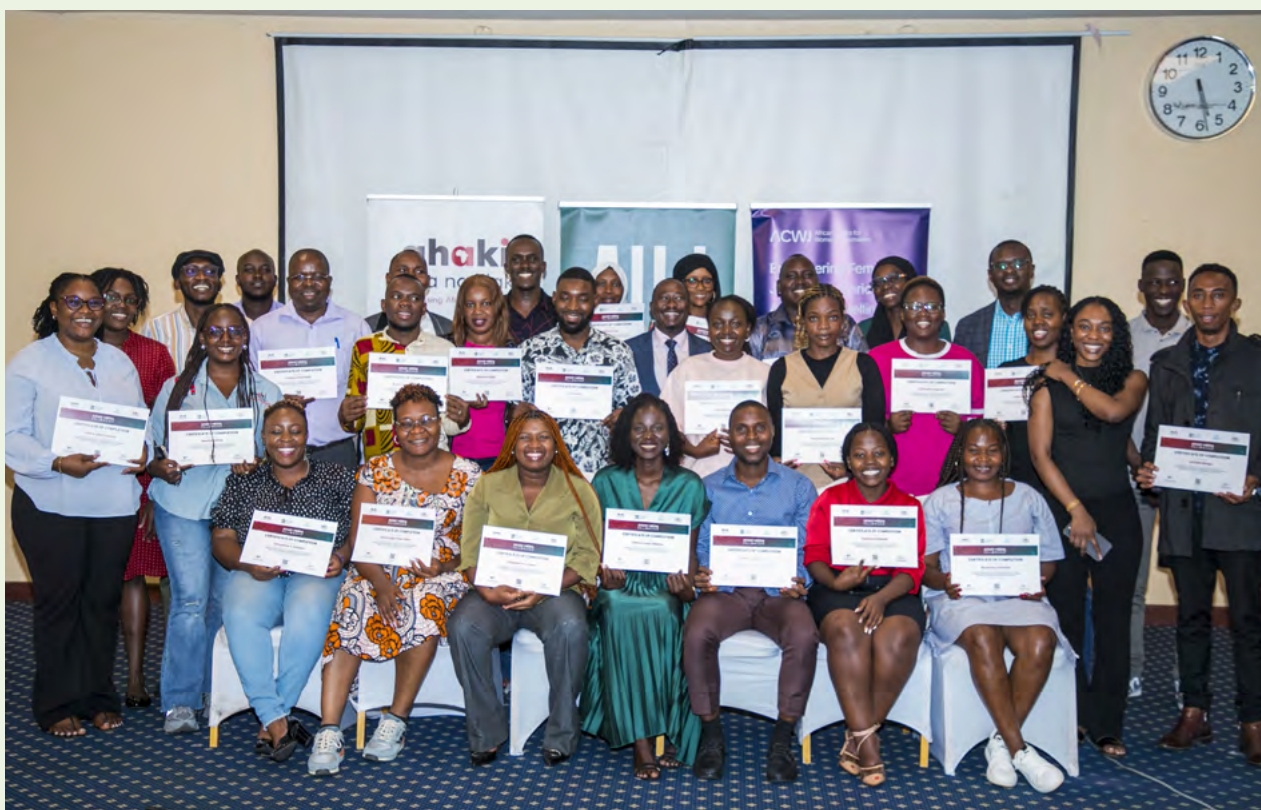
Supported by Afya na Haki, the LIRA Project aims to establish, strengthen, and sustain a regional network advancing reproductive justice litigation to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across Africa. The initiative promotes a shift from reproductive choice to reproductive justice, leveraging national, sub-regional, and regional litigation fora to advance SRHR in selected countries across East, West, and Southern Africa.

The Ahaki Media Fellowship

Femme Forte participated in the Ahaki Media Fellowship, represented by our Communications Officer, Samantha Agasha. The fellowship, themed “Investigating and Reporting the Impact of Global Policies and Politics on Reproductive Justice in Africa,” brought together media and advocacy fellows from across the continent to deepen understanding of the reproductive justice framework.

Participants examined the influence of global policies, including the Global Gag Rule and the Geneva Consensus Declaration, on access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in Africa. The fellowship provided space to sharpen strategic communication, rethink the use of language, imagery, and digital tools, and strengthen advocacy approaches that challenge injustice and amplify African feminist voices.

Through this engagement, Femme Forte contributed to continental conversations on reproductive justice while enhancing internal capacities to document, communicate, and advance SRHR advocacy across the region.



LIRA Partner Strategic Convening

Ahaki facilitated refresher training on key elements of SRHR strategic impact litigation, including the development of litigation agendas, legal rapid response plans, capacity enhancement strategies, and adherence to reporting and policy requirements. Key takeaways emphasized the importance of advancing comprehensive reproductive rights, enhanced partner collaboration, mandatory reporting, and the ongoing identification of cases suitable for litigation. This convening reinforced Femme Forte's commitment to advancing reproductive justice through strategic, coordinated legal action across the region.

The “Let’s Talk Contraception” Equip Circles

We convened two Equip Circles to discuss contraceptive access and justice, creating spaces for collective learning, reflection, and advocacy. Participants explored accountability gaps, government and civil society roles, and the potential of legal redress to advance contraceptive rights, particularly for adolescents and marginalized groups. Medical experts addressed misconceptions around contraception and fibroids, while the discussion highlighted the range of available contraceptive options, emphasizing informed choice, accessibility, and empowerment.

The Reproductive Justice Litigation Baraza

Our Programs Catalyst, Hajjarah Namutebi, together with our Founder, Penelope Sanyu represented the team at the Reproductive Justice Litigation Baraza, focused on “Incarceration and SRHR in Africa: Defining Pathways to Reproductive Justice.” The convening brought together lawyers, activists, policy advocates, and human rights defenders to examine the intersection of incarceration and SRHR, and to develop regionally grounded litigation strategies.

As an implementing partner of the LIRA project, Femme Forte participated to learn from regional peers, understand emerging strategies in reproductive justice litigation, and observe coordinated approaches to addressing regressive policies. The event provided valuable insights into how advocacy and legal action can be structured across Africa to advance reproductive justice, informing Femme Forte's ongoing work in SRHR and strategic litigation.



4 The Men's Shabaka Project

The Men's Shabaka is a male-involvement initiative by the Maverick Portfolio, designed to address persistent gender inequalities and advance gender-transformative solutions. Its overarching goal is to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) outcomes for women and girls.

The program takes a multifaceted approach, intentionally engaging men and boys through dynamic events and activities. These efforts aim to challenge traditional notions of masculinity, foster positive influence and allyship, and ultimately support the empowerment and well-being of women and girls.

As the project reached its final phase, implementing partners participated in a series of intensive trainings and reflective sessions. These sessions offered Femme Forte a chance to consolidate key learnings, explore effective strategies for engaging men and boys, and understand approaches to fostering positive masculinity and allyship.

The African Political Advocacy Spaces and Processes Training

Our Project Assistant, Angella Nsala-satta participated in a session focused on Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and advocacy opportunities, particularly around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Key takeaways on consultation, transparency, capacity building, and equitable representation are informing how Femme Forte engages with regional bodies to strengthen our advocacy approach.

Workshop on Implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The team participated in a multi-stakeholder workshop on advancing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). We gained insights into effective, context-sensitive approaches, emphasizing Global South perspectives and sustainable models. These lessons are shaping our strategies for community-led sexuality education initiatives.

The Public Debate on The Role of Men in Advancing Gender Justice in Uganda

Our programs team attended a debate exploring men's engagement in promoting gender justice. Observing diverse perspectives on allyship and masculinities provided valuable lessons for Femme Forte's male-involvement initiatives and strategies to foster gender-transformative approaches in our programming.

Workshop on Framing Family Narratives

Our team joined a workshop focused on using storytelling and family narratives as tools for social transformation. The session reinforced the importance of emotional resilience, collective reflection, and community-building in feminist activism, insights that are informing our participatory approaches with communities.

Training Session on the African Human Rights System

Our programs team participated in a session on the African Human Rights System, covering key treaties and institutions. The discussions highlighted mechanisms for CSO advocacy and accountability, as well as gaps in state compliance. These learnings are strengthening Femme Forte's capacity to leverage regional human rights frameworks in our programs.

The All-Families Campaign Launch

Our team attended the launch of the All-Families Campaign, exploring inclusive definitions of family. We gained insights into advocacy strategies that challenge exclusionary norms and support diverse family structures. These lessons are guiding Femme Forte's ongoing work on inclusive community engagement.

CEBA Learning and Exchange Session

Our programs team attended a session on SRHR budget transparency and accountability. The discussion on budget cycles, civic tech, and youth-affirmative strategies provided practical lessons for integrating evidence-based advocacy and multi-sectoral collaboration into our programs.

The Launch of the WHO Family Planning Digital Content Repository

The team joined the launch of the WHO Family Planning Digital Toolkit and Content Repository, learning strategies to counter SRHR misinformation online. The session reinforced best practices in digital communication, culturally relevant messaging, and accessible content, insights that are being applied in Femme Forte's digital advocacy and community education initiatives.

5 The Distribution of Eco Jua Smart Bags

Femme Forte, in partnership with the Smart Girls Foundation, conducted a needs assessment and distribution of Eco Jua Smart Bags in Eastern Uganda as part of the Cewas Female Health & Hygiene Accelerator Transformation Project. The team visited Buchumba Primary School (Namayingo District) and Kityerere Primary School (Mayuge District) to understand the menstrual health challenges faced by girls.

A total of 20 Eco Jua Smart Bags were distributed, each containing reusable pads, a solar panel for evening studies, and a menstrual health booklet. The distribution was accompanied by interactive sessions to address stigma and equip girls with the knowledge and skills to manage their cycles confidently. These activities directly support girls' school attendance, promote menstrual health education, and contribute to breaking barriers to gender equality in education.



6 Press Briefing on the Menstrual Health Crisis

We hosted a [press briefing](#) for the Women's Movement in Uganda, highlighting menstrual health as a critical human rights issue affecting education, dignity, and gender equality. The session discussed policy reforms, access to sanitary products, and the importance of comprehensive sexuality education. Findings from audits and studies were shared, underlining the urgent need for attention to absenteeism caused by lack of menstrual health resources.



7 The Strategic Dialogue on Women’s and Girls’ Rights

Our team participated in a Uganda Women’s Network (UWONET) led dialogue evaluating progress in women’s health and education. Discussions highlighted disparities in reproductive health services, maternal care, and mental health support, and emphasized the need for gender-sensitive policies, transparent resource allocation, and multi-sectoral collaboration. The team gathered insights to strengthen Femme Forte’s advocacy strategies and community engagement approaches.

8 Discussion on the Marriage Bill Analysis (2024) with the Legal and Gender Committees of Parliament.



Femme Forte Uganda, alongside other civil society organizations, participated in a parliamentary session to review and analyze the Marriage Bill 2024. The session focused on ensuring that the proposed legislation aligns with gender equality, women’s rights, and feminist principles.

Discussions highlighted gaps in the bill, including the lack of clear provisions for

equitable property distribution after divorce or widowhood, limited recognition of customary and religious marriages, and weak protections against domestic violence, including marital rape. Participants also raised concerns about economic disparities, such as unpaid care work, and enforcement challenges.

Femme Forte contributed to shaping recommendations for a more inclusive and gender-responsive law, including drafting a joint CSO position paper, engaging lawmakers, and promoting community awareness campaigns to educate women on their rights. This engagement reflects our commitment to advancing legal frameworks that protect and empower women and girls in Uganda.

9 Training on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Our Programs Assistant, Hellen Sakisa attended a one-day training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), which brought together stakeholders from the development and humanitarian sectors to enhance understanding, coordination, and commitment to safeguarding communities from sexual exploitation and abuse. The session covered the six core PSEA principles, emphasizing zero tolerance, reporting, accountability, and institutional responsibility. Participants also explored how power imbalances contribute to exploitation and undermine consent, particularly in humanitarian contexts, and reviewed Uganda's PSEA Country Action Plan with a focus on strategic priorities and localized responses.

10 2026–2030 National Women's Manifesto Launch

Our team attended the launch of the 2026–2030 National Women's Manifesto. The event brought together women's rights organizations, civil society actors, policymakers, and activists to reaffirm their commitment to gender equality and strategize for inclusive development. The Manifesto serves as a collective advocacy tool reflecting the shared priorities of Ugandan women, aiming to influence electoral processes, policymaking, and national development through a feminist, rights-based lens. It highlights key areas such as human capital development, livelihood and climate justice, gender-based violence, and digital inclusion, while also addressing cross-cutting issues like women's leadership, the gendered impacts of corruption, and holistic peace and security.

11 Meeting on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Our team also participated in the validation meeting for the 10th Alternative Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The session brought together women's rights organizations, civil society actors, and advocacy groups to review findings from 2020–2024, ensure data accuracy, identify gaps, and propose actionable recommendations. This meeting reinforced collaboration among civil society and government actors, strengthening accountability and advancing the protection of women's rights in Uganda.

12 The People and Organisations Working for Equity and Rights (P.O.W.E.R) Project

The Inception Meeting

Our team attended the inception meeting for the P.O.W.E.R program as implementing partners. The meeting served as the formal project kick-off, providing a platform to align on objectives, clarify roles and responsibilities, and review work plans. It included strategic discussions, collaborative planning sessions, and capacity-building activities to ensure effective implementation. The meeting also offered opportunities for networking and strengthening partnerships, fostering a shared understanding and commitment to delivering rights-based, participatory, and impactful programming across Uganda.

13 Human Rights Are Universal Rights Festival

Our team participated in the Human Rights Are Universal Arts Festival, joining artists, activists, and communities to celebrate creative expressions of freedom, equality, and dignity. The festival used art, performances, and workshops to champion human rights, social justice, civic engagement, environmental rights, and the fight against discrimination. Our participation reinforced the power of creativity as a tool for advocacy and collective action in advancing human rights.

A woman in a traditional Rwandan/Burundian dress (mushanana) is speaking into a microphone in a gallery. She is wearing a long, patterned dress with a dark top and a light-colored skirt. She is standing in a gallery with other people and artwork. The background is a gallery with a red patterned carpet and white walls. There are several framed artworks on the walls, including a large one on the left showing a woman in a white dress. The lighting is warm and focused on the speaker.

Domain Of Change 3 Young African Feminist Knowledge

This domain focuses on creating, curating, and sharing knowledge that amplifies the voices, experiences, and insights of young African feminists, fostering learning, collaboration, and the growth of feminist movements across the continent.

A mushanana is a traditional dress worn by women in Rwanda and Burundi. It consists of a long skirt, a bustier, and a stole. Mushanana is now only worn for formal and ceremonial occasions such as weddings, church services or funerals, and by traditional dancers in both Rwanda and Burundi

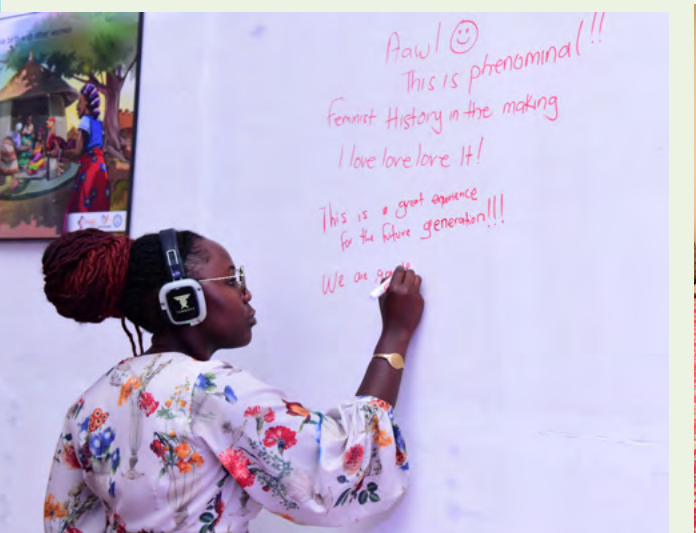
The Launch of the Femme Forte Virtual Museum

We proudly launched the [Virtual Museum of African Feminist Icons](#), a living, interactive archive celebrating feminist histories, voices, and futures across the continent. The museum is designed as a dynamic, continuously evolving platform that documents the contributions of women and gender activists in Uganda and beyond, highlighting achievements in academia, politics and governance, media and journalism, creative arts, and more. While the museum is still growing, it provides a structured, virtual tour experience that allows users to explore different thematic sections, and understand the intersectional nature of feminist movements in Africa.

The launch combined the unveiling of the digital platform with a curated physical experience that traced the past, present, and future of feminist activism. Attendees were invited to navigate feminist histories through immersive storytelling, reflecting on struggles, victories, and ongoing challenges. The event emphasized the museum as a space for all; youth, scholars, activists, and the general public to engage, contribute, and ensure that the archive reflects the diversity of voices shaping African feminist movements.

As a multifaceted initiative, the museum functions as an archival resource, an educational platform, and a tool for advocacy, inspiring reflection, dialogue, and action. We call upon the public to contribute their stories, to ensure the museum remains inclusive, participatory, and reflective of the full spectrum of African feminist activism. This initiative reinforces the power of digital tools in preserving legacies, amplifying voices, and inspiring future leaders.







KAMPALA

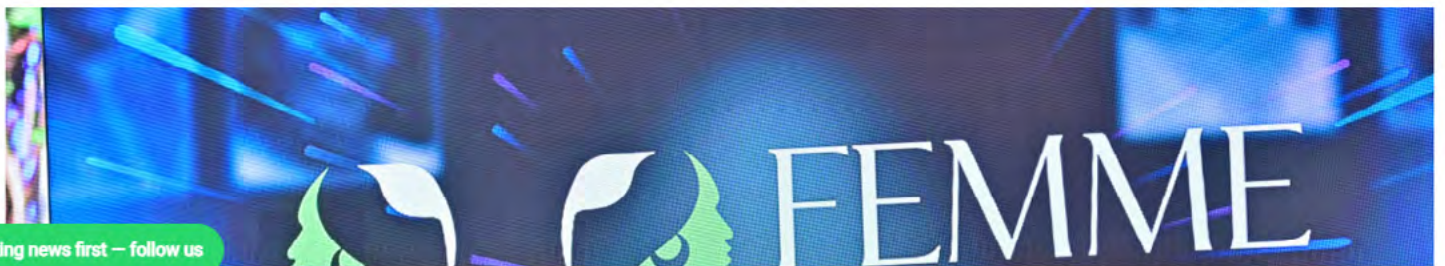
AGABUUTIKIDDE OKUKUZA OLUNAKU LW'ABAKYALA

AMAWULIRE MIU BUFUNZE

Olunaku lw'abakyala lukuziddwa mu nsi yonna Pulezzidenti Museveni n'alaga ebikoleddwa okubasitula.

Femme Forte Uganda launches virtual museum to honor African feminists

By Kenneth Kazibwe | Saturday, March 8, 2025



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Femme Forte Uganda launches a Virtual Museum to honour African feminists

By Our Reporter on March 11, 2025



Femme Forte Institutional Development, Resilience And Sustainability

1 Staff and Board Retreat

We kicked off the year attending the annual staff and board retreat, a dedicated space for reflection, strategic planning, and validation of Femme Forte’s 2024 achievements. The retreat provided an opportunity to review organizational priorities, assess programmatic progress, and collectively contribute to the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. Staff and board members shared insights and ideas that strengthened alignment, fostered ownership, and reinforced commitment to Femme Forte’s feminist mission. Beyond strategic discussions, the retreat also facilitated team cohesion, networking, and collaboration, creating a renewed sense of purpose for delivering participatory, rights-based, and impactful programming.



2 Digital Training on Artificial Intelligence

The team participated in a training session on Artificial Intelligence (AI), where we explored various AI applications relevant to daily operations, program implementation, and digital advocacy. The session emphasized practical integration of AI tools to enhance efficiency, support feminist storytelling, and manage organizational tasks effectively, while also considering ethical implications and innovation within Femme Forte's work.

3 The Ikon Awards

Our team attended the prestigious Ikon Awards, celebrating African creative talent. The event provided opportunities to network with influential figures in the arts and media sectors, potentially opening avenues for feminist storytelling and creative collaborations. Attending the awards helped the team reflect on integrating arts and culture into feminist advocacy, highlighting how creative platforms can amplify African women's voices.

4 Mental Health Equip Circle

We hosted a dynamic and reflective session centered on mental health from a holistic feminist perspective. The circle brought together a diverse group of participants, providing a safe and inclusive space for dialogue, sharing experiences, and exploring strategies for emotional well-being. Through guided discussions and interactive activities, participants were able to reflect on their personal and collective resilience, gain practical tools for managing stress, and strengthen their capacity for self-care and community care. The session highlighted the importance of mental health as a foundational element of feminist activism, emphasizing how supportive spaces can foster connection, learning, and empowerment. Feedback from attendees underscored the session's relevance, the quality of facilitation, and the value of creating spaces where lived experiences and shared struggles are acknowledged and affirmed.



I give myself
permission to
slow down &
Breathe

5 Risk Management and Assessment Training

Our Programs Assistant, Hannah Stacey Baluka attended a three-day training on risk management and assessment. Participants learned methodologies for risk identification, assessment frameworks, and mitigation strategies, with practical guidance on anticipating potential challenges, minimizing impact, and ensuring smooth project implementation while safeguarding organizational objectives.

The lessons from the sessions strengthened the team's capacity to identify, assess, and mitigate risks across organizational projects and operations.

6 Advanced Short Course on Women's Rights in Africa

Our Programs Assistant, Hope Kengoro participated in the Advanced Short Course on Women's Rights in Africa, organized by the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. The course focused on the African human rights system, including the Maputo Protocol, and explored legal frameworks, strategic litigation, and advocacy approaches to promote gender justice. Key lessons included the importance of intersectional perspectives, leveraging regional mechanisms like the ACHPR, and using human rights instruments to hold states accountable for violations affecting women.

7 SRHR Narratives and The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR Mechanism) Systems Training

Our Programs Assistant, Hope Kengoro also attended a three-day workshop focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) narrative change and effective engagement with ACHPR mechanisms. The training covered Uganda's SRHR challenges, the rise of anti-rights actors, feminist framing, risk mitigation, and wellness in activism. Participants gained tools to challenge regressive SRHR narratives, strengthen feminist advocacy, and coordinate regional actions to advance rights-based approaches.

8 Leading with the Heart Leadership Summit

Our team attended the Leading with Heart Leadership Summit, hosted by CIV Source Africa. The summit brought together alumni of leadership programs to reflect on empathetic leadership, community service, and network-building. The sessions emphasized the importance of integrity, empathy, and giving back, while also exploring creative and cultural approaches to leadership through art. The Summit attendees also visited Masaka School for the Deaf, contributing resources and support to enhance education and inclusivity.

9 Equal Employment and Workplace Rights Reflection Session

Our Office Administrator, Angella Nsalasatta attended a focused session on Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) and broader employment rights. The session deepened understanding of inclusive, non-discriminatory employment practices, labor compliance, and the ethical responsibilities of employers. Discussions explored EEO principles, real-life scenarios, and feminist approaches to workplace fairness, emphasizing gaps in current practices and ways Femme Forte can model equitable policies that protect marginalized staff and foster a culture of respect, dignity, and equal opportunity.

10 Meeting with Nile Girls Forum

Our Senior Management Team met with the Nile Girls Forum team to explore potential collaboration and learn from each other's experiences. Discussions focused on target communities, program focus areas, and districts of operation, identifying synergies that could amplify impact, strengthen national feminist initiatives, and enhance collective advocacy strategies.

11 Digital Safety and Security Training

Our Programs Catalyst, Hajjarah Namutebi attended a three-day digital safety and security training. The sessions enhanced knowledge on online security, privacy protection, digital rights, and practical strategies to safeguard both personal and organizational data. The training reinforced the importance of digital resilience for activists and organizations in the digital space.

12 Team In-house Retreat

The team participated in an in-house retreat at the Femme Forte offices, creating a dedicated space for reflection, planning, and team-building. Staff engaged in discussions on organizational priorities, program progress, and upcoming initiatives, while also participating in activities that strengthened collaboration, communication, and cohesion. The retreat fostered shared purpose, strengthened internal alignment, and reinforced the team's commitment to Femme Forte's feminist mission.



13 Feminist Healing Festival

Our team attended the Feminist Healing Festival, hosted by Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA). The festival offered a nurturing space for women and gender-diverse participants to reflect, connect, and engage in collective healing. Sessions focused on rest, wellness, creativity, games, and community care, providing opportunities for holistic self-care.



14 Femme Forte 8th Anniversary

On July 18, we celebrated Femme Forte's 8th anniversary; a milestone marking years of bold ideas, collective care, and radical imagination in action. Over the years, we have nurtured feminist leadership, advanced rights-based advocacy, and built spaces for dialogue, creativity, and resilience. This anniversary was a moment to reflect on the journeys of the communities, partners, and activists who have shaped our work and to honour the collective effort that drives change.



15 Leadership Transition

In August, Femme Forte underwent a leadership transition with the handover from outgoing Chief Steward, Ms. Penelope Sanyu, to the incoming Chief Steward, Ms. Mackenzie Adams.

As part of the transition process, the team engaged in one-on-one meetings with both leaders. The discussion with Ms. Penelope focused on preparing for a smooth handover, clarifying expectations, and ensuring continuity in organizational priorities. A follow-up session with Ms. Mackenzie provided an opportunity to review departmental updates, share insights, and align on

ongoing and upcoming initiatives.

This leadership transition reinforced our commitment to clarity, continuity, and collaboration. It ensured that the team remained well-supported under the new leadership while maintaining momentum in advancing Femme Forte's feminist mission and strategic objectives.





2025 Femme Forte Publications

Our publications offer analysis, learnings, and resources for activists, scholars, and the public alike. Explore our 2025 archives here: <https://www.femmeforteug.org/publications>

Substantive Equality for Women in Distribution of Matrimonial Property: Uganda's Contribution Based Approach

This publication explores the potential for a contribution-based approach to the division of matrimonial property by drawing on Uganda's approach.

2024 Annual Report

In 2024, our collective commitment to advancing equality found expression in remarkable ways. From hosting transformative conversations to amplifying the voices of the marginalized, we deepened our roots as a movement that centers justice, care, and systemic change.

Re-Igniting Collective Mobilization for Social Change on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression in Uganda

How can litigation work as a response to the LGBTQ movement's current context, particularly the legislative and political developments that directly affect private life for LGBTQ people?

In the Eye of the Storm: The Feminist Encounter, Resilience and Control in Contemporary Uganda

The keynote speech delivered by Prof. Josephine Ahikire at The Kimeeza! 1st Edition, hosted by co-conveners: Femme Forte Uganda and CREA, under the theme: Reimagining Inclusion, Power, and the Future of Organizing.

IZUBA: The Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights Training Manual for 10 to 14 Year Olds

This training manual aims to enhance efforts by the Stand-Up For SRHR project to address key gender inequality and human rights issues, and the limited capacity of women's rights organizations and youth-led organizations to effectively advocate for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights [SRHR] in their communities.

Reproductive Justice and Feminist Litigation in Africa: A Ugandan-Centered Perspective on Strategic Legal Advocacy and Transformative Change

This paper examines the evolution of reproductive justice and feminist litigation in Africa, with particular focus on Uganda as a case study for understanding strategic legal advocacy and transformative change.

"Ageism" as a Lens for Critiquing Power, Gatekeeping and Feminist Representation in Uganda

Ageism is an often-overlooked dynamic within Uganda's feminist spaces, even though it shapes how power, leadership, and representation are negotiated across generations.

Silencing the African Woman's Body: Protest, Disinformation and Criminalisation

In this publication, we examine the arrest, detention, and prosecution of three Ugandan women who protested naked in September 2024, using their case as a lens to explore the criminalisation of naked protest, rights-based resistance, and gendered disinformation.

A Paper Discussing Action Points Highlighted During the 'Reclaiming the Frame' Webinar

Reclaiming the Frame: Conversations on Decolonization in East Africa, is a six-part dialogue series co-hosted by CivLegacy Foundation and Peace Direct, to nurture a space where East African voices chart their own terms of change in the peace, humanitarian, and development nexus.

A Feminist Reflection on Mwanga Mastullah Ashah & IWILAP V. Attorney General Constitutional Petition NO. __ OF 2024

This feminist legal opinion situates the IWILAP petition within a long-standing constitutional omission and examines how State inaction perpetuates structural violence, religious marginalization, and violations of women's rights to dignity, equality, and effective legal remedies

An Analysis of Nandago Mariam V. Attorney General & Others, Using a Feminist Lens

Through a feminist legal lens grounded in reproductive justice principles, this case exemplifies how intersecting systems of oppression, gender-based violence, criminalization of reproductive healthcare, and state violence converge to violate the fundamental rights of women and girls in Uganda.

Digital Safety and Wellbeing Toolkit

A practical guide designed as part of Femme Forte's 16 days of Activism campaign, to equip activists, advocates, and organizations with the knowledge and tools to strengthen their digital safety, security, and wellbeing.

A 19-Year-Old's Struggle for Reproductive Autonomy - Feminist Legal Opinion

This feminist legal opinion analyzes a case from Katakwi district involving a 19-year-old girl who sought abortion services from a traditional herbalist, resulting in life-threatening complications requiring emergency medical intervention.

Blog Articles

Explore our 2025 archives here: <https://www.femmeforteug.org/our-news>

- The Global Gag Rule: A Death Sentence for Bodily Autonomy and SRHR
- Stop Begging for Our Lives: The Cost of Donor-Controlled SRHR in Uganda and the Feminist Path to Autonomy
- The Delicate Dance Between Uganda's Civil Society and Technology Ahead of the 2026 Elections
- Profits, Power, and Possibilities: A Feminist Call to Rethink Investment in Uganda
- The Feminist Internet We Deserve: Reimagining Digital Spaces for Women and Girls
- Will Uganda's Young People Reclaim the Democratic Promise?
- Uganda's Silence is Violence: A Feminist Call for Revolutionary Sexuality Education
- Analysis of the "Crack the Whip on Abortion Merchants" Editorial from the Daily Monitor, Through the Lens of Femme Forte Uganda's Feminist Vision

The Hall of Femme Podcast

As a movement-building organization, we are committed to connecting the many isolated strands of the feminist movement in Uganda. To amplify these voices, we host “The Hall of Femme”, an audio-visual podcast that creates a brave and inclusive space for feminists to speak openly about the issues they might otherwise hesitate to share.

The podcast goes beyond storytelling: it is a platform for learning, reflection, and practical feminist praxis. Through conversations, personal experiences, and shared insights, listeners gain tools, inspiration, and strategies to advance gender equality and strengthen collective feminist action. Each episode highlights the diversity of feminist voices, bridging gaps between communities, movements, and individuals.

To watch/listen to all previous episodes, visit: <https://www.femmeforteug.org/podcast>

Amplifying Feminist Voices: A Conversation with Safina Virani

In this episode, we sat down with Safina Virani, a trailblazing feminist whose impactful work is celebrated in our Virtual Museum of African Feminist Icons. Safina shared her feminist journey and highlighted the importance of preserving and amplifying women’s stories.

For Every Feminist Trying to Hang in There

In this special episode, we held space for each other and had an honest conversation about surviving and imagining new worlds together.

Positive Masculinity: Irũngũ Houghton on Power, Vulnerability & Becoming

In this powerful episode, Irũngũ Houghton, Executive Director of Amnesty International Kenya joined us to unpack what toxic masculinity looks like, and how it shapes the lives of boys and men.

Breaking Barriers: Legal Conversations on Abortion Rights and Reproductive Justice

In this episode, Femme Forte’s Esther Awor and UWONET’s Turiho Danita Karungi unpacked the legal realities, frontline experiences, and systemic barriers shaping access to abortion and reproductive rights in Uganda.

Decolonization and Afro-Feminism in Conversation

Sarah Mukasa and Jackline Kemigisa sat down to unpack Decolonization and Afro-Feminism by Prof. Sylvia Tamale, a radical text that challenges us to rethink knowledge, power, and liberation from African feminist perspectives.

Unpacking Violence Against Women Online: 16 Days of Activism Episode

This conversation was part of Femme Forte's 16 Days of Activism 2025 campaign, under the global theme: "UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls." It highlighted the urgent need to make digital spaces safer, amplify women's voices, and support community-driven solutions to online harm.

Beyond the Table: Claiming Space in Uganda's Civil Society

In this episode, civil society actors discussed closed doors, power imbalances, and the strategies grassroots groups can use to make their voices heard and influence decisions that shape their communities.



Challenges in Pursuit of Impact

The NGO sector continues to face significant financial pressures, with limited and unpredictable donor funding affecting both programmatic and operational stability. Delays in project fund disbursements often stall planned activities, disrupt timelines, and force teams to reallocate scarce resources, creating tension between immediate needs and long-term strategic goals. Reliance on short-term or project-specific funding further constrains our ability to invest in staff development, institutional capacity, and sustainable infrastructure, limiting organizational growth and resilience.

Simultaneously, the civic space in which we operate is increasingly constrained. Heightened scrutiny, bureaucratic hurdles, and legal uncertainties make it more challenging to conduct advocacy, engage communities, and implement programs that advance feminist agendas. Social and political opposition to issues such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) has intensified, exposing both staff and rights holders to reputational, legal, and personal risks. These pressures are compounded by a competitive NGO landscape, where limited resources and overlapping mandates can strain collaboration and divert focus from mission-driven work.

In this environment, sustaining staff motivation and well-being also remains a challenge. The cumulative effect of funding volatility, delays, and heightened risk can contribute to burnout, making it essential to balance urgent program delivery with holistic staff support.

While these challenges are significant, they underscore the importance of strategic planning, adaptive management, and building networks of solidarity to maintain impact and continuity in the face of adversity.

Letter from the Chief Steward



Dear Femme Forte,

What a year of becoming. 2025 asked us to hold steady while the ground shifted beneath us, politically, economically, and within the very movements we call home. And hold steady we did. Not by standing still, but by learning, once again, that resilience is something we build together, deliberately, long before the storms arrive.

This year reminded us that change is not an interruption of the work. Change is the work. Every conversation we convened, every young feminist we walked alongside, every partnership we deepened was an act of preparing ourselves, and each other, for a future that refuses to be predictable. We chose to meet that uncertainty with intention rather than improvisation, grounding ourselves in the values and relationships that have always carried this movement forward.

Because care, to endure, must be built to last. A movement held together only by the brilliance of a few will always be fragile. But a movement rooted in shared practice, shared leadership, and shared stewardship can bend without breaking. In 2025, we invested in the quiet, essential work of that kind of endurance, so that Femme Forte can keep showing up long after any one of us has passed the baton.

To our partners, our sisters, our community: thank you for trusting us with your hopes this year, and for walking this road alongside us. As we step into 2026, I carry forward a deepened conviction that our strongest response to a changing world is a movement built to change with it. Grounded, generous, and unafraid.

Join Us in Making a Difference!

Volunteer: If you have a passion for helping others and want to participate in our initiatives, we welcome you to join our team of dedicated volunteers. Whether it's organizing events, supporting those in need, or sharing your skills, your time and effort will be greatly appreciated.

Donate: Your generous donations enable us to carry out our projects successfully. Your contribution, no matter the amount, will directly impact the communities we serve.

Donate here: <https://eversend.page.link/femmeforte>

Share our Work: By sharing our mission and initiatives with your networks, you can raise awareness and encourage others to get involved. Your voice has the power to inspire change.

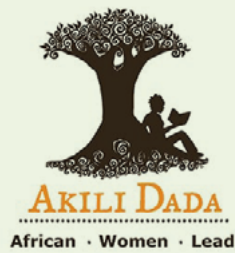
To learn more about Femme Forte Uganda and how you can contribute, please visit our website at www.femmeforteug.org/.

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to contact us at:

Telephone: +256 393 224 051

Email: info@femmeforteug.org

Partners & Friends





Gender Transformation & Empowerment



