Hello and welcome to the 6th edition of our biannual newsletter! As we wrap up another challenging but good year, we’d like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has continued support and show interest in our work.

Some of our highlights in this second half of 2023 include; the success of our Power Of Pride Digital Safety and Security Training which targeted womxn based in Eastern and Western Uganda, and, an informative discourse at the #MozFest2023 dubbed “confronting the margins”.

We hope that you enjoy this read, and also, invite you to share your feedback, opinions or suggestions with us. We would love to hear from you. To close, enjoy a blissful holiday season and a prosperous new year. See you in 2024!

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Power of Pride Virtual Digital Security Training and refresher session.
- HER Internet’s Press Release on Non Consensual Circulation of Intimate Images.
- Mozilla Festival #MozFest2023: Confronting the Margins.
- Digital Security Expo #DigiSecExpo2023
- 16 Days of Activism 2023: Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.
Pan African Youth Ambassador for Internet Governance Fellowship 2023.

Sanyu Mulungi, our Administrator was granted an opportunity to take part in the Pan African Youth Ambassador fellowship in July. Her passion for the transformative power of the internet, its potential to bridge the digital divide and drive socio-economic progress within women of underserved communities was a guiding force behind her application to the programme. She had an opportunity to learn about the evolving challenges and opportunities posed by the internet, including issues with online security and safety, data privacy, digital inclusion and governance of the emerging technologies.

Pan Africa ILGA 2023–2025 Newly Elected Board.

In August, Kettie Kahume, our Deputy Executive Director and Finance Lead was elected to the board of the Pan African ILGA 2023–2025. She has been recognized for her accounting expertise and dedication to human rights advocacy. It is an honor, as an organization, to have one of our own representing us on the board of such a prestigious association. We send our congratulations to her!
Capacity Building Workshop on Legal Frameworks and Advocacy Strategies for CSOs and Media Organizations.

On account of the frequent unpredictable changes within Uganda’s legal framework, Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) hosted a capacity building workshop on legal frameworks and advocacy strategies for Civil Society and media organizations in July. This initiative was supported by Internews to promote civic awareness, enable structurally silenced groups to utilize available advocacy approaches as well as encourage positive reforms within the legal framework to contribute to a strong and resilient enabling environment for CSOs.

Power of Pride Virtual Digital Security Training and Post Assessment.

With support from Power of Pride, we hosted a two day virtual training in August for 20 women based in Eastern and Western Uganda. This training aimed at providing participants with basic digital security knowledge and skills to protect themselves from cyberattacks and enable them safeguard their privacy and anonymity. This was followed by a refresher session to gauge how participants integrated this knowledge in their daily lives.
Mozilla Festival
#MozFest2023: Confronting the Margins.

In September, Mozilla Foundation hosted its first ever regional Mozilla Festival #MozFest2023 in Kenya under the theme, “The Collective Power of the People.” It brought together artists, activists, technologists, designers, students, researchers and movements across Eastern and Southern Africa. Executive Director, Sandra Kwiririza joined other panelists at the event to discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence and technology in deepening and shaping the lived realities of structurally silenced communities. Watch the video here: https://www.youtube.com/live/PnGIBelsAVk?si=v7QPQs_mOu7gxt4z

Press Release on Non Consensual Circulation of Intimate Images.

This year, NCII was rampant on Ugandan social media especially on Twitter and TikTok which also moved to porn sites. This form of online violence against womxn has been normalized and escalated over time, which prompted us to share a press release in September to call action against this abuse online. To read more; https://www.herinternet.org/press-release-her-internet-call-to-action-on-non-consensual-sharing-of-intimate-images/
Advocacy Engagement on Cryptocurrency and Regulation in Uganda.

On 27th October 2023, HER Internet took part in an advocacy engagement hosted by Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) on Strengthening Digital Rights Protection Including The Potential Impacts Of Cryptocurrencies On Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) In Uganda. Read more in this policy brief released by CIPESA which delves deeper into the subject concerning its importance and why it should be regulated by law via link; https://t.co/m3r2jq9fk2

Digital Security Expo #DigiSecExpo2023.

In October, we attended the Digital Security Expo #DigiSecExpo2023 hosted by Defenders Protection Initiative under the theme, “Protecting the future of technology: Innovations and regulatory adherence.” This event brought together 15 innovators, regulators, Civil Society Organizations, policy makers, and IT experts to network, share expertise and showcase their products and services to enhance a safe digital space.
**Human Rights Convention 2023.**

The 5th edition of the Human Rights Convention was held in November in Kampala under the theme, “Migration and the Quest for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies Rights Convention.” This year’s Convention came at a special time as we celebrated Chapter Four Uganda’s 10th Anniversary. The Convention was a space for an honest reflection on important human rights concerns with over 200 participants from the civil society, media, academia, government ministries, agencies and departments, and development partners in attendance.

**16 Days of Activism 2023: Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.**

This year’s 16 days of activism focused on the theme, “Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls”. Through our social media platforms, we spent the 16 days raising awareness about common forms of online violence targeting womxn that have increased and evolved in the recent past, how we can support victims of online violence, and, various ways governments, internet intermediaries, and the general public can contribute to the fight against online violence.
16 Days of Activism Cross Movement Dialogue.

In light of the 16 Days of Activism event hosted by CREA in Mombasa on November 30th, our Programs Director, Diana Karungi joined Dr Kathomi, Clementine Nyirankundo and Eva Komba in a cross-movement dialogue “Visible/Invisible” concerning Gender Based Violence (GBV) in relation to structurally excluded womxn and communities across East Africa. This conversation highlighted available and emerging interventions to the challenges of accessibility, inclusion and leadership in efforts to champion the elimination of GBV amongst structurally excluded womxn and communities across movements in the region.