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HER INTERNET

BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Highlights

HOLAAfrica Diagloue

Report Launch On Bridging The Digital Divide For LGBTI Communities Worldwide: Exploring "Accessing Connection".

HER Internet Launches Research Report On Navigating Algorithms In Relation To Structurally Silenced Communities In Uganda.



Dear reader,

We have passed the midpoint of 2024, and, are thrilled to share some significant developments and events from the first half of the year with you. Your unwavering support and engagement have driven our success, from the official launch of “RIPPLES” comic book in commemoration of the International Women’s Day to the release of our latest research report and participation in a Pan-African Feminist Visioning retreat. It has been an eventful and productive six months’ period.

Structurally silenced communities continue to face significant barriers to accessing digital resources. According to our recent research report titled “Navigating Algorithms: The Case of Structurally Silenced Communities in Uganda”, only 40% of these communities have reliable internet access which severely limits their ability to organize, advocate, and access essential information. This digital divide exacerbates their social and economic marginalization. This underscores the importance of our initiatives to bridge the digital divide and empower marginalized voices.

We recommend investing in infrastructure development, programs on digital literacy, safety and security, as well as, subsidized access to ensure reliable internet connectivity and empower marginalized communities in Uganda.

Thank you for being a part of our journey, and happy reading!



HOLAAFRICA DIALOGUE.

On Friday 9th February 2024, in collaboration with HOLAAfrica, we co-created a space for 20 womxn to discuss the importance of bodily autonomy and how to navigate pleasure, safety, queer joy, and consent while healing individually and collectively. The space was facilitated by Siphumeze Khundayi on behalf of HOLAAfrica who provided insights and tools for personal and collective healing.

UNVEILING “RIPPLES”: HER INTERNET’S TRIBUTE ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2024.

In our commitment to raise awareness about the impact of online and offline harm in womxn’s lives, HER Internet launched the “RIPPLES” comic book on 7th March 2024 in commemoration of the International Women’s Day in Kampala with support from Numun Fund. This publication, stemming from a focus group session held in August 2023, sheds lights on the interconnected challenges faced by womxn in navigating both online and offline spaces. Through compelling storytelling and captivating illustrations, it explores the ripple effects of online harassment and how they result into violence offline, while highlighting womxn’s resilience and strength in overcoming such adversity. To delve into RIPPLES, click here; <https://rb.gy/csza3g>



HER INTERNET LAUNCHES RESEARCH REPORT ON NAVIGATING ALGORITHMS IN RELATION TO STRUCTURALLY SILENCED COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA.



On 4th April 2024, HER Internet with support from Mozilla Foundation, launched the research report titled “Navigating Algorithms: The Case of Structurally Silenced Communities in Uganda.” Held in Kampala, the event brought together stakeholders from civil society organizations, activists, and researchers to unpack the findings of this report which offers insights into what informs organizing and community building for structurally silenced communities in Uganda and examines the influence of algorithms on these actions. To read and download the research report; <https://shorturl.at/hjY14>

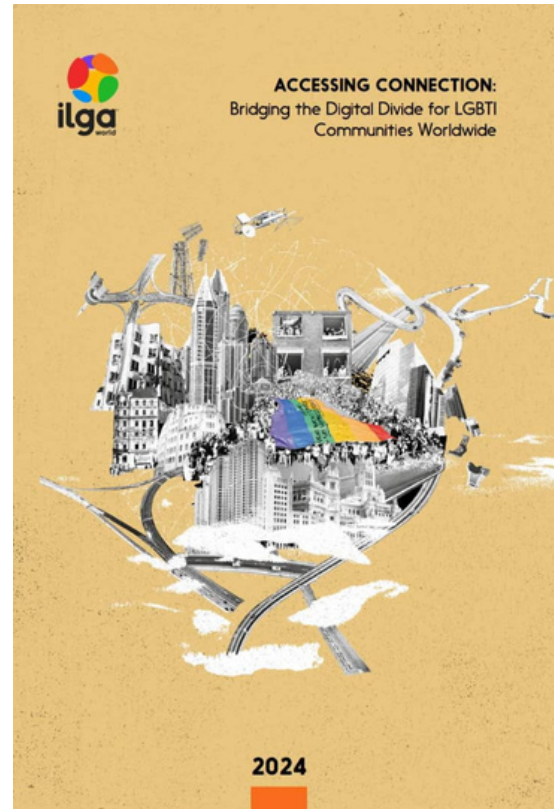
EMPOWERING WOMXN THROUGH DIGITAL SAFETY: HER INTERNET HOLDS ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING (COHORT 3).



With support from Tor project Team, HER Internet conducted a one-day physical Online Safety and Security Training (Cohort 3) on 30th April 2024 at our office premises in Wakiso. The training convened a diverse group of 20 womxn and the aim was to equip them with essential knowledge on circumvention techniques and how to navigate the internet safely and privately. The focus was on mitigating cyber threats and employing circumvention techniques to foster a safer online environment amidst the pervasive influence of AI and algorithms. To read more about this training; <https://rb.gy/d2epha>

REPORT LAUNCH ON ACCESSING CONNECTION: BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR LGBTI COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE.

On Thursday 22nd February 2024, HER Internet took part in the virtual launch of the report “Accessing Connection: Bridging the Digital Divide for LGBTI Communities Worldwide” published and released by ILGA World. This report delves into uncharted territory by unravelling the complex interplay between disparities in digital access and the unique experiences of individuals and communities of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics. Based on both desk research and first-hand accounts of activists from every region of the world, it further sheds light on what needs to change towards meaningful digital inclusion for all. Read more here; https://ilga.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Accessing_connection_bridging_LGBTI_digital_divide.pdf



REJUVENATE AND REGENERATE RETREAT.

The HER Internet team joined Just Associates (JASS) for a Rejuvenate and Regenerate retreat which was held from 26th to 28th February. This programme aimed at offering participants with space for self-care, conversation, healing and rejuvenation in addition to intimate wellbeing sessions to support the enhancement of their leadership physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and relationally both at individual and organizational levels.



DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE DIGITAL ERA.

On Wednesday 6th March 2024, the Executive Director at HER Internet, Sandra Kwikiriza joined ICT stakeholders in both the public and private sectors at an expert review engagement on the ICT Intellectual Property (IP) guidelines to ensure the enhancement, management, and protection of Intellectual Property for ICT innovations. The event which was organized by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance entailed discussions such as; an overview of the proposed ICT IP Guidelines, addressing challenges, brainstorming strategies to leverage opportunities as well as next steps to overcome obstacles in implementing the IP Guidelines.



THE DATA BASICS TRAINING BOOT CAMP.

In April 2024, staff at HER Internet participated in a Data Bootcamp hosted by Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) in collaboration with Data4Change. The two-week program offered a valuable opportunity to our team to enhance our understanding of data and develop essential data analysis skills through modules on introduction to data basics, development of a data story, vetting sources, data cleaning, verification and visualization. To wrap it up, the team was awarded certificates upon completion.

PAN-AFRICAN FEMINIST VISIONING RETREAT ON DIGITAL ECONOMIES AND THE FUTURE OF WORK.

Hosted by the Nawi- Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective, we attended and participated in a Pan-African Feminist Visioning Retreat on Digital Economies And The Future Of Work which took place in Kampala, Uganda from 17th and 18th April 2024. This event brought together feminist economists, thinkers and activists, labor and workers' rights groups, unions, lawyers, artists, and academics from various countries and sectors in the African continent who are currently working on issues at the intersection of labor and technology to commune and articulate a new vision of the gig economy and feminist digital justice from a Pan-African feminist perspective.

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON DAILY LIFE.

At a recent BaQueer Twogere podcast hosted and organized by Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG), our Executive Director, Sandra Kwikiriza along with a panel of experts contributed to a discussion which delved into the profound current and emerging impact of Artificial intelligence (AI) on our daily real lives, and, how it continues to revolutionize various aspects of life from healthcare to education, finance, transportation, and beyond. To listen to the conversation, click; [**http://surl.li/sykhv**](http://surl.li/sykhv)



ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WE LEAD PROGRAM.

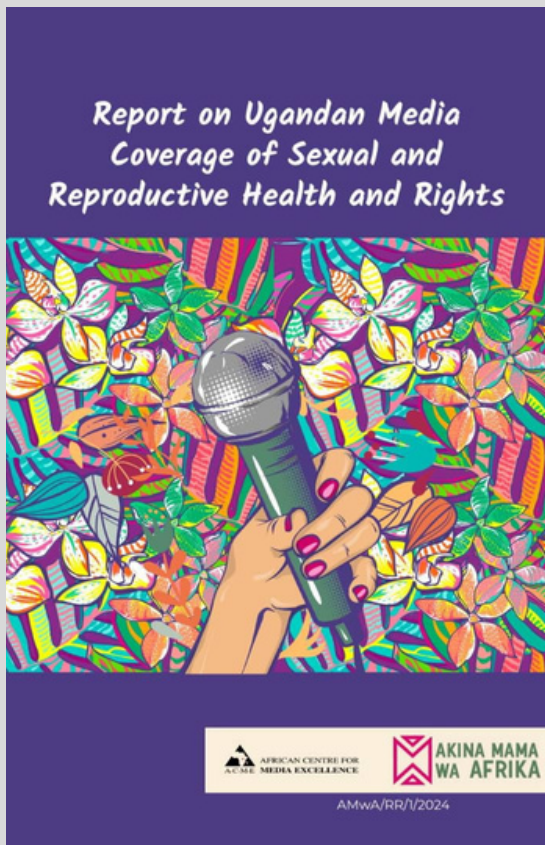
Uganda Key Populations Consortium (UKPC) under We Lead program partnered with HER Internet to conduct a two-days physical Online Security and Safety Training under the theme ***“you have a right to exist safely in digital spaces”***. The event brought together 20 representatives from LBQ womxn led organizations based in different regions of the country with the aim to empower them with digital safety and security skills and knowledge to enhance their advocacy efforts online amidst the restrictive legal environment.



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON COUNTERING BACKLASH AMIDST FEMINIST ORGANIZING AND SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE.

Our Programs Director at HER Internet, Diana Karungi participated in a training workshop on Feminists Organizing Online and Shrinking Civic Space hosted by Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) in Kampala under the Countering Backlash Program which took place on Thursday 23rd May 2024. The purpose of this event was to facilitate discussions and knowledge-sharing in regards to the prevailing erosion of gender equality agendas with a particular focus on online feminist organizing and the shrinking civic space, documentation of policies, events, and incidents related to online backlash as well as enhancing awareness and comprehension of the contemporary forms of backlash which will contribute to the WOUGNET 's ongoing research which aims to bolster local initiatives to counter backlash in Uganda's public, civic and digital spaces.

EXHIBITION OF UNDERREPORTED SRHR STORIES.



To mark International Day of Action for Women's Health, Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) held an Exhibition of Underreported SRHR Stories on Tuesday 28th May 2024 in Kampala. This event was one of the strategies harnessed by AMwA to build and strengthen a community of allies within the SRHR movement, Media and Arts to work together to improve societal norms and attitudes for intersectional Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) within the media sector in Uganda. The photo and storytelling exhibition event put a spotlight on visual and written stories on trivialized SRHR issues, and, amplified efforts to increase societal awareness and respect for intersectional SRHR for womxn, girls and gender-expansive persons at national and regional levels. Get a copy of the recent Report on Ugandan Media Coverage of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at; https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gdd-nfUi8pYd5nlTB46_HAJWOc5zC4EG/view

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