**Concept Note**

**Launch of The Kish System for Addressing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Institutions and Dissemination of the Baseline Survey Findings**

**Theme: *Ending Sexual harassment in Higher Education Institutions is a Responsibility for all***

**7th October 2020 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

# **Introduction**

Through funding from the Government of the Republic of Uganda, Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) commissioned several research studies aimed at addressing key gaps required to drive Uganda’s development agenda. One of the gaps the study team sought to address was sexual harassment within Higher Education in Education Institutions HEIs). Sexual harassment (SH), abuse and exploitation in Higher Education Institutions remains a problem that makes headlines on a weekly basis in the media (Dranzoa, 2018). Persistence of sexual harassment at HEIs in Uganda is attributed to structural, unequal gender-power relations; and unsafe campus environment (Makerere University, 2018). Makerere University has put in place policies and structures to address SH (Gender Policy 2009; Anti Sexual Harassment Policy 2019, and Gender Mainstreaming Directorate). Despite these provisions, SH persists unabated at the university. The baseline survey conducted at Makerere University points to inadequate and weak implementation of the policies and structures compounded by survivor’s ignorance about their rights, mechanisms for redress and policy procedures as well as inadequate expertise and commitment to implement the policies (Bantebya, et al, 2020; Makerere University, 2018). The existing policies and structures are reported not to be student and staff friendly who consequently are reluctant to use them (Bantebya, et al, 2020). The School of Women and Gender Studies, received a research grant from RIF to undertake an action oriented study code named “Whole **University Approach: Kicking Sexual Harassment out of Higher Education Institutions in Uganda” (KISH Project)**

**Key Components of the project**

The Key components include

1. **Online web based KISH system**for reporting, supporting and processing cases of sexual harassment (SH) in a confidential and safe space.
2. **KISH Student’s Clubs**for capacity building in life skills and knowledge about prevention and reporting systems for SH for undergraduate female students. Each club is managed by a trained Coach.
3. **Online SH course**covers and provides information on SH; policies and structures; sources of support and response mechanisms for staff and students.
4. **Men’s Hub**provides space for male staff and students to hold dialogues on positive masculinity and agents of change as a strategy for addressing SH within in HEIs.

# **Launch**

The project having undertaken a number of activities is now ready to launch the KISH online web based system for prevention and management of SH with in the University and disseminate the findings from the baseline survey conducted at Makerere University early this year.

The objectives of the launch are:

1. To disseminate the findings of the baseline survey on the status of SH within Makerere University
2. To launch the online debased system for reporting support and management of reported cases of sexual harassment

In accordance with the COVID-19 prevention guidelines set by the Government of Uganda on maintaining social distancing, the activity will be physical (for a small group of people)and virtually, a zoom link will be provided to all who would have registered for security purposes.

# **Participants**

Over 100 key stakeholders including, university officials, administrators, staff, students, stakeholders from relevant ministries (education, Prime minister’s office, Gender Labor and Social Development), civil society and the media are expected to attend the launch.

**KISH Research Team**

1. Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo PI
2. Dr. Florence MuhanguziKyoheirwe Co PI
3. Assoc. Prof. Julius Kikooma Co PI
4. Prof. Gilbert Maiga Co PI
5. Dr. Elizabeth Kyazike Co PI
6. Dr.Joab EzraAgaba KISH System Development Consultant

**For more information, Contact**

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