



**School of Women and Gender Studies
College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS)
Makerere University**

PUBLIC DEBATE

**Gender Parity NOW
Reclaiming Uganda Women's voice on Representation**

Uganda has, over the last over two decades been implementing the affirmative action (AA) policy particularly in the areas of political leadership and education. With regard to political leadership AA has contributed to the increase in the *numerical presence of women in Parliament and the Local Councils*. Female representation grew from less than 1% in the early post- independence era to 35% in the current 9th parliament and to 44% at LC level. This is no mean achievement. However, affirmative action in the form of separate reserved seats has contributed to constructing a narrative that has emptied the women's political representation of the substantive issue of a right and it has become to be only but a privilege. Current debates about imposing term limits or even scraping the seat completely point to an urgent need to change the narrative to emphasize the question of women's citizenship and their right to representation and political participation. Following on to the National Directives of Uganda's Constitution as well as the African Charter on Democracy and political governance, there is need to elevate the narrative to gender parity or 50/50 across the board. The time is now, for the women to be in charge of the terms of the narrative and to thereby place a strong voice into the public domain on the issue.

The school of Women and Gender studies has organized this public debate to provide a forum for interaction of diverse actors – civil society, academia, politicians, government and private sector, with a purpose of elevating the narrative on gender parity to constitute a strong voice in the public domain.

All are welcome!

Date and time: June 17 2015, 2-6pm

Venue: Metropole Hotel - Kampala

Moderator: Dr. Tabitha Mulyampiti: School of Women and Gender Studies

Panelists:

Associate Prof. Josephine Ahikire – Dean, School of Women and gender Studies

Hon. Betty Amongi- Chairperson Uganda Women Parliamentarians Association (UWOPA)

Mr. Arthur Larok – **Country Director**, Action Aid International Uganda

Ms. Zaminah Malole– Member, Equal opportunities Commission (EOC)

Dr. Aramanzan Madanda– Development Consultant

Hon. Irene Ovonji-Odida– Chief Executive Officer, FIDA

Hon. Sheila Kawamara Mishambi- Member, UWONET

50/50 by 2020!