



Concept Note

PROJECT DISSEMINATION: WHOLE UNIVERSITY APPROACH: KICKING SEXUAL HARASSMENT OUT OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN UGANDA (KISH)

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

December 5, 2024 09:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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 in 2020 pointed 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 Mak-RIF to undertake an action oriented project 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.

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Dissemination Workshop

The KISH project team has been implementing the project at Makerere University since December 2020, to take action on this front. To this end, a dissemination workshop is being organized on Thursday, December 5, 2024 to take stock of the project milestones and discuss strategies for kicking sexual harassment out of higher education institutions in Uganda. The workshop is centered around the project's four-year activities that have raised awareness of the opportunities and difficulties in addressing and responding to sexual harassment (SH) in higher education institutions in Uganda (HEIs).

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. To disseminate results, achievements, and best practices from the KISH project interventions towards addressing sexual harassment within Makerere University.
2. To promote collaboration and dialogue among university administrators, staff and students on strategies to combat sexual harassment in higher education institutions of learning (HEIs)
3. To share and discuss actionable recommendation for addressing sexual harassment in higher education institutions of learning (HEIs) in Uganda.

Participants

The dissemination meeting will be held virtually on Zoom. Over 60 key stakeholders including, university officials, administrators, staff, students and media are expected to attend the meeting.

Conclusion

The dissemination workshop on kicking sexual harassment out of higher education institutions in Uganda is an important step towards creating safer learning environments for students, faculty, and staff. By bringing together different stakeholders, this meeting aims to create awareness and develop actionable recommendations for addressing this pressing issue.

KISH Research Team

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|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo | PI |
| 2. Dr. Florence Muhanguzi Kyoheirwe | Co PI |
| 3. Assoc. Prof. Julius Kikooma | Co PI |
| 4. Dr. Joab Ezra Agaba | Co PI |

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Program

PROJECT DISSEMINATION: WHOLE UNIVERSITY APPROACH: KICKING SEXUAL HARASSMENT OUT OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN UGANDA (KISH)

Moderator: Prof. Julius Kikooma

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
8.30 - 9.00 AM	Participants join the workshop Online	Project Administrator
9.00 - 9.10 AM	Welcome remarks and Project brief	Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo, PI
9:10 – 9:20 AM	Remarks by Mak-RIF Chairperson	Professor Fred Masagazi-Masaazi
9:20 - 9.40 AM	Presentation of the Project Findings	Dr. Florence Kyoheirwe Muhanguzi, Co PI
9:40 - 10.00 AM	Presentation of the Online application system	Dr. Joab Ezra Agaba, KISH Systems Developer/Co-pI
10:00-10:30 AM	Panel Discussion <i>“Challenges and Opportunities of Addressing SH at Makerere University”</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Euzobia Baine Mugisha, Director Gender Mainstreaming Directorate 2. Prof. Maria Kizito Kasule, Male Staff Representative 3. HE Serunjogi N Joy Eve, 90th Vice President, Students Guild 4. Mr Amany Aklam, Men’s Hub Mentee/Trainer 5. Ms Edronah Atuhwerire, KISH Club Mentee 	Prof. Julius Kikooma, Co-PI
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Questions and Answers Session	Research Team
10.45 - 10.52 AM	Closing Remarks by the Principal CHUSS	Assoc. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala
10.52 AM	Departure	All

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