



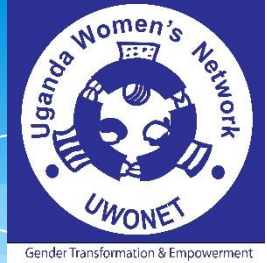
Gender Transformation & Empowerment

“HOW DO WE LEVERAGE ON THE EXISTING PLATFORMS AND EXPERTISE TO BUILD A STRONG, VIBRANT AND SELF-SUSTAINING WOMEN’S LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENT?”

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**The 3rd National Women’s Land Rights Conference
10th – 11th August 2021**

STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION



- ❖ Social Movements: What are they?
- ❖ Defining the Women's Movement
- ❖ Where it all began
- ❖ Progress of the Women's Movement and factors that contributed to its growth
- ❖ Challenges Along the Way
- ❖ Lessons to take the Women's Land Rights Movement further
- ❖ Why we should remain committed to the WLRM agenda
- ❖ What makes social movements to succeed or fail?
- ❖ Alternatives for women's livelihoods
- ❖ Conclusion and References

"How do we leverage on the existing platforms to build a strong, vibrant but self-sustaining Women's Land Rights Movement?"

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: WHAT ARE THEY?



What is a Social Movement?

- ❖ A persistent and organized effort involving the mobilization of large numbers of people to work together to either bring about what they believe to be beneficial to social change or resist or reverse what they believe to be harmful to social change (https://rowman.com/webdocs/SP_CH2.pdf)
- ❖ Movements are bound and driven by a common belief, vision and goal

Some renown Social Movements

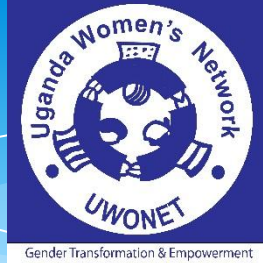
- ❖ The Civil Rights Movement: United States of America
- ❖ The Me Too Movement against sexual violence
- ❖ “Black Lives Matter” – against racism and police brutality towards African Americans
- ❖ Mahatma Ghandi: led a successful movement based on non-violent resistance against British rule in India
- ❖ The Anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa – led by Nelson Mandlea, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo
- ❖ The Mau Mau Uprising: a Kenyan political movement opposed to British rule
- ❖ The Ugandan movement to “Save Apaa Land” in Amuru

Movements are fluid and exist in public interest in the formal, informal, public and private circles

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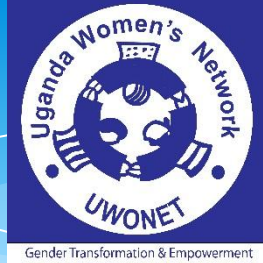
WHO IS THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT?



- ❖ Anyone who believes in the dignity of women and girls
- ❖ All Persons that support Women's Rights and Gender Equity.
- ❖ The Women's Movement stands for:
 - Equality and equity between women and men
 - Justice, Freedom and Respect
 - Inclusiveness and participation of women at all levels
 - Speaking out against injustice and oppression
 - Defending women's rights

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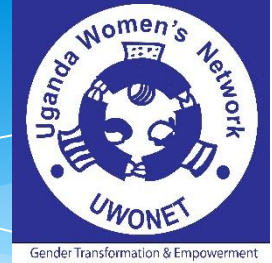
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

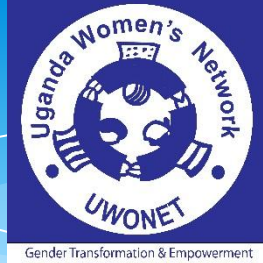
- It started 114 years ago with the founding of the first girls' school and 105 years when the Mothers' Union was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Sarah Mukasa and Naome Binaisa.
- In 1926, Mothers' Union expanded to 88 branches and influenced the formation of the Catholic and Muslim women's associations
- This gave women the consciousness to work together for emancipation
- Mothers' Union became a mother to others: Uganda Women's League (UWL) in 1946, Uganda National Council of Women (UCW), Young Women's Christian Association in 1952.
- In 1966 UCW was renamed the National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU)
- UCW influenced the nomination of women to the Legislative Council (LEGCO) in the 1950s and 1960s.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...



- UCW was instrumental in pushing for women's adult suffrage as pre-independence political party leaders negotiated for the country's independence.
- The influence of the Women's Movement led to the establishment of the Ministry for Women in Development, Culture and Youth in 1988 which has become today's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; a critical National Machinery for the advancement of women and promotion of gender equality.
- 1971 military coup by General Idi Amin led to the banning of all women's groups
- YWCA defied the order and continued operating alongside the Muslim women's associations
- Influence from the 1975 – 1985 UN conferences led to the proliferation of Ugandan women's associations. There was formation of professional ones at national, regional and grass roots (FOWODE, NAWOU, WIPC, MAMAfm, FAWE)

PROGRESS MADE



Since the 1970s, the Women's Movement has kept the momentum and also impacted many areas as seen below;

1. Igniting Women's Influence in the Public leadership, nationally and internationally

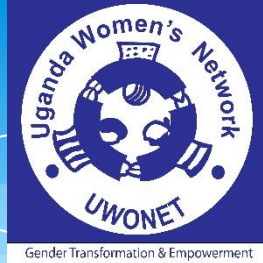
- Emergence of individual women in positions of responsibility in public affairs
- Affirmative action is a direct result of the influence of the Women's Movement

LEADERSHIP



"How do we leverage on the existing platforms to build a strong, vibrant but self-sustaining Women's Land Rights Movement?"

PROGRESS MADE



Headliners of the Women's Movement



Joyce Mpanga, Minister of Women in Development



Sarah Ndyendwoha Ntiro, Uganda Educator, Activist

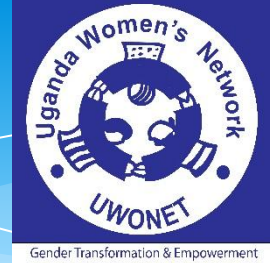


Rhoda Nakibuuka Nsibirwa Kalema also known as Uganda's "Mother of Parliament"



Frances Akello, one of the First African Women to serve in the Uganda LEGCO

PROGRESS MADE

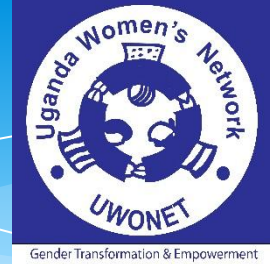


2. The Women's Movement made possible, Policy, Programmes and Legislation for Women and Girls in Uganda

- ❖ The 1995 Constitution of Uganda – reaffirmed equality between women and men. It is recognized as one of the most gender sensitive constitution in the region.
- ❖ The Women's Movement was at the fore of mainstreaming gender into land policy these policies but more needs to be done for realization of women's land rights.
Land policy: Land Act 1998 (shifted women's land rights discourse and advocacy), the National Gender Policy 1997 (on mainstreaming gender into national development), the National Land Use Policy 2006 and the National Land Policy Implementation Action Plan.
- ❖ The Women's Movement spearheaded legal reform for gender-responsive laws; The Domestic Violence Act 2010, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act, The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, The Succession Amendment Bill, The Sexual Offences Bill, The Marriage and Divorce Bill, The Employment Amendment Bill
- ❖ Advocacy for domestication of regional and international conventions e.g. The Beijing Platform for Action on Human Rights, The CEDAW, The Maputo Protocol
- ❖ The recent signing of the IGAD Regional Women's Land Rights' Agenda 2021.

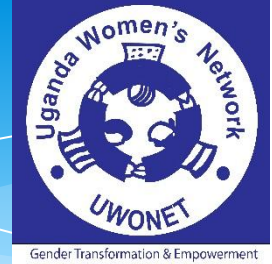


FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED PROGRESS OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT



1. The Women of Uganda shared a common problem which they recognized needed a joint effort to address. This facilitated a common agenda for the Women's Movement
2. The common vision of the WROs has furthered networking and social movement building to reflect and have a common agenda as women
3. The enabling environment created by policy and legal Frameworks and the support from existing Government
4. Use of evidence based advocacy; research and documentation on different topics which has provided evidence
5. The presence of women in leadership at all levels and in all sectors gave voice to women's concerns
6. Continuous capacity building of various groups at the national and subnational levels to enhance knowledge and practical skills on different aspects
7. Resource mobilization through partnerships to address women's concerns
8. Mentorship of young people especially young women leaders to take up the mantle

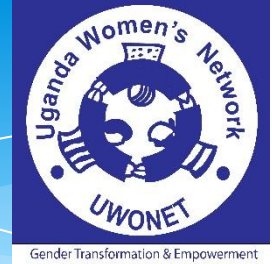
CHALLENGES ALONG THE WAY



Despite the efforts of the women's mobilizing and organizing, there are still challenges that continue to affect organizing for women's land rights especially.

- ❖ The apparent pushback on the advancement of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) is a huge impediment to the progress of the women land rights agenda.
- ❖ Weak enforcement and implementation of law and policy – many laws remain unimplemented. Some are outrightly regressive, for instance, the Public Order Management Act 2011.
- ❖ The narrowing political space for women. Since the country changed to multi-party politics, the space for women's political participation has been narrowing hence becoming an impediment to advancing the women's land rights agenda. This has entrenched division.
- ❖ Similarly, the strained relationship between government and civil society relations - creates suspicion, which hinders the well intended Movement's mandate and activities to advance the Women's Land Rights Agenda.

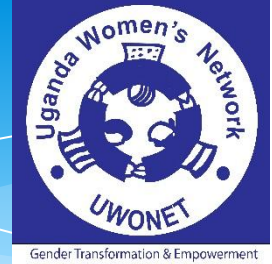
WHY WE SHOULD REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AGENDA



- ❖ Because of the intersectionality of Women Land Rights and women's well being.
 - Stronger women's land rights and productive assets are linked to improved living conditions, better nutrition, food sovereignty, improved health and education outcomes, higher earning and individual savings, better access to credit, social services & better protection from gender violence. (<https://www.landesia.org/resources/>)
- ❖ Women's land rights and property rights remain a challenge across the globe with land being a key resource in agricultural production with 50% out 69% of the population employed by agriculture being women (UBOS, 2012) yet still in Uganda women only own 28% (UBOS, 2013).
- ❖ Women are increasingly becoming bread winners, income earners and landowners. So, there is need for deliberate efforts to educate women about their land rights, build public knowledge about women land rights and build capacity of women to register their legal and equitable interests in land.
- ❖ Secure land rights for women off sets powerful, continued ripple effects that go a long way towards realizing gender equality and a range of critical SDGs and human rights. They also lead to greater incentives to invest in the land, which creates economic opportunities and leads to more sustainable farming practices

"How do we leverage on the existing platforms to build a strong, vibrant but self-sustaining Women's Land Rights Movement?"

WHAT SHOULD THE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN UGANDA BE AWARE OF FOR ITS SUCCESS?



❖ Define the change needed

To succeed there is need to make an affirmative case and define exactly the change that the WLRM wants to achieve. It is not enough to point out what the negatives and challenges to women's land rights, but the Movement must communicate a clear idea and plan of what it wants.

❖ Shift the spectrum of the WLRM's allies

Success will depend on mapping who is a passive, neutral and active supporter. Successful movements rally on the support of their passive and neutral supporters and gradually win over their opponents

❖ Identify the pillars of power

While its important to rally support from up and down the spectrum of support, it is crucial to identify the institutions that have power to implement the change and win them over. These can include cultural institutions, the media, government agencies, or other organizations. Little is likely to change without institutional support.

❖ Seeking to attract and not to overpower

Non-alienation of detractors is key. This involves how to mobilize numbers needed to influence a pillar of power to further mobilize people from the neutral or passive to being allies.

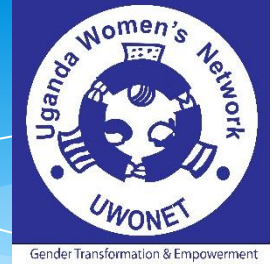
❖ Building a plan to survive after victory

Successful movements have sufficient capacity to sustain positive change after victory. Important to note, is not confuse the movement for change with the values that the movement seeks to represent.

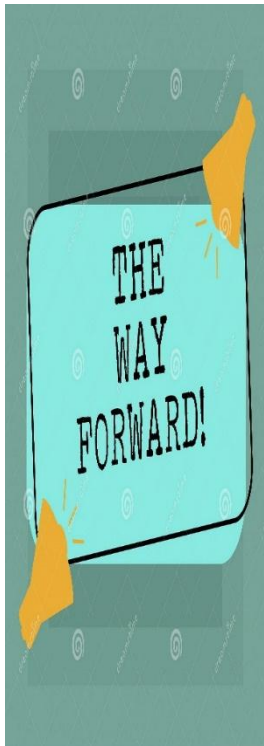


"How do we leverage on the existing platforms to build a strong, vibrant but self-sustaining Women's Land Rights Movement?"

HOW TO REJUVINATE THE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

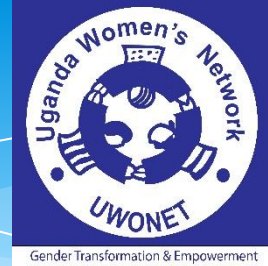


"Social Movements are at once the symptoms and the instruments of progress. Ignore them and statesmanship is irrelevant, fail to use them and it is weak" Walter Lippman

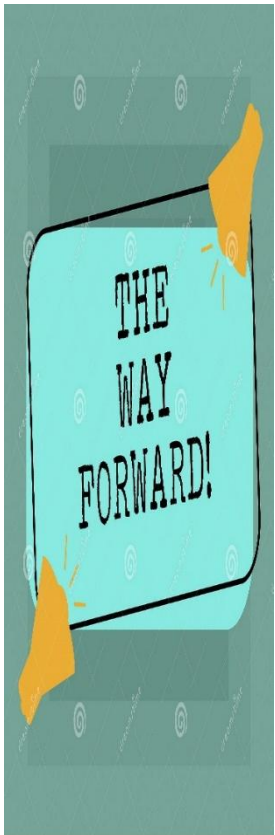


- ❖ By strengthening, mobilizing, organizing and co-ordinating to move the WLRM's forward – enhance women's leadership, strengthen and institutions for effective land advocacy and governance to mobilize and coordinate the women's organizing
- ❖ Popularise the Women's land rights agenda - the National Women's Manifesto 2021-2026 which highlights land and property rights as a critical catalyst for women's empowerment. Now we have the IGAD Regional Women's Land Rights' Agenda 2021
- ❖ By building the consciousness, voice and agency of differently organized indigenous groups to support of the women's land rights agenda; church groups, burial support groups, savings, groups, farmer groups, business women, e.t.c.
- ❖ Relatedly, there is need to ensure continued participation of funding agencies in local advocacy for women's land rights, so as to engage government to get its commitment on formulation and enforcement of gender policies

HOW TO REJUVINATE THE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

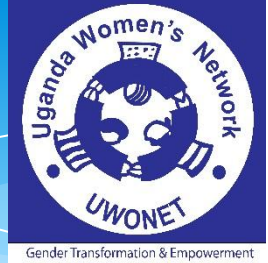


- ❖ Let us reshape narratives on male engagement for women's land rights and equity to deal with perceptions and attitudes that affect land justice
- ❖ Mobilise resources particularly in consortia with other land rights actors to fund programming for women's land rights – to enable bigger coverage and consolidate voice of all advocates
- ❖ Continuous mentorship of young women and men who will take up leadership in advocating for women's rights in Uganda.
- ❖ Enhance the relationship between national and district legislators and members of the WLRM to find common ground and foster support for the land rights agenda
- ❖ Increase political mobilization of women to claim women's space in Politics, Leadership and decision making



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THE WLRM SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND ALTERNATIVES FOR WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS



- ❖ Being a land owner, or depending on land alone is no longer a guarantee to economic freedom. The WLRM should turn cast land as a springboard for women's empowerment
- ❖ Women land owners and users should harness the benefits of practices such as value addition, use of technology so that owning land becomes more meaningful
- ❖ It is only if women are part of the bigger development agenda and target, that we shall we attain any development goal.

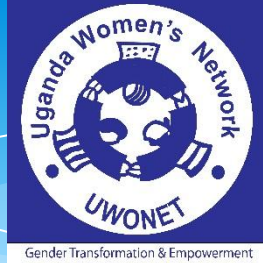
Some of these alternatives include:

- ❖ Human Capital Development
- ❖ Increasing women's access to Government wealth creation programmes
- ❖ Creation of more women centred credit facilities
- ❖ Support to micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which is where most female entrepreneurs engage
- ❖ Explore agricultural alternatives for none land based agriculture



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CONCLUSION



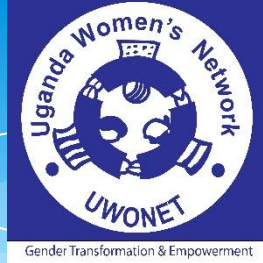
Gender Transformation & Empowerment

- ❖ Considering what social movements are, it is imperative to join the Women Land Rights Movement to further women's rights and gender equity, justice, freedom, respect, inclusiveness and participation of women at all levels, speaking out against injustice and oppression, and defending women's rights.
- ❖ Remain committed the Women Land Rights Agenda because of the intersectionality of Women Land Rights and women's well being
- ❖ Although the Women Land Rights Movement should push for the acquisition of land titles for women, it should only be considered as a spring board. Focus should move beyond acquisition of land titles to value addition to agriculture, and technology benefits such as saving costs so that owning land makes more meaning
- ❖ For the situation of women to change, there has to be continuous engagement of government, and policy makers for enactment, amendment and enforcement of laws and policies.
- ❖ There is need for the Women's Land Rights Movement to constantly borrow from the successes and failures of other social movements to further their agenda and build a strong movement.



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REFERENCE LIST

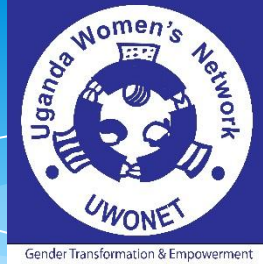


- https://rowman.com/webdocs/SP_CH2.pdf
- <https://www.landesa.org/resources/>
- <https://www.google.com/amp/s/hbr.org/amp/2017/01/how-protests-become-successful-social-movements>

United Women Can!

For God and My Country

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