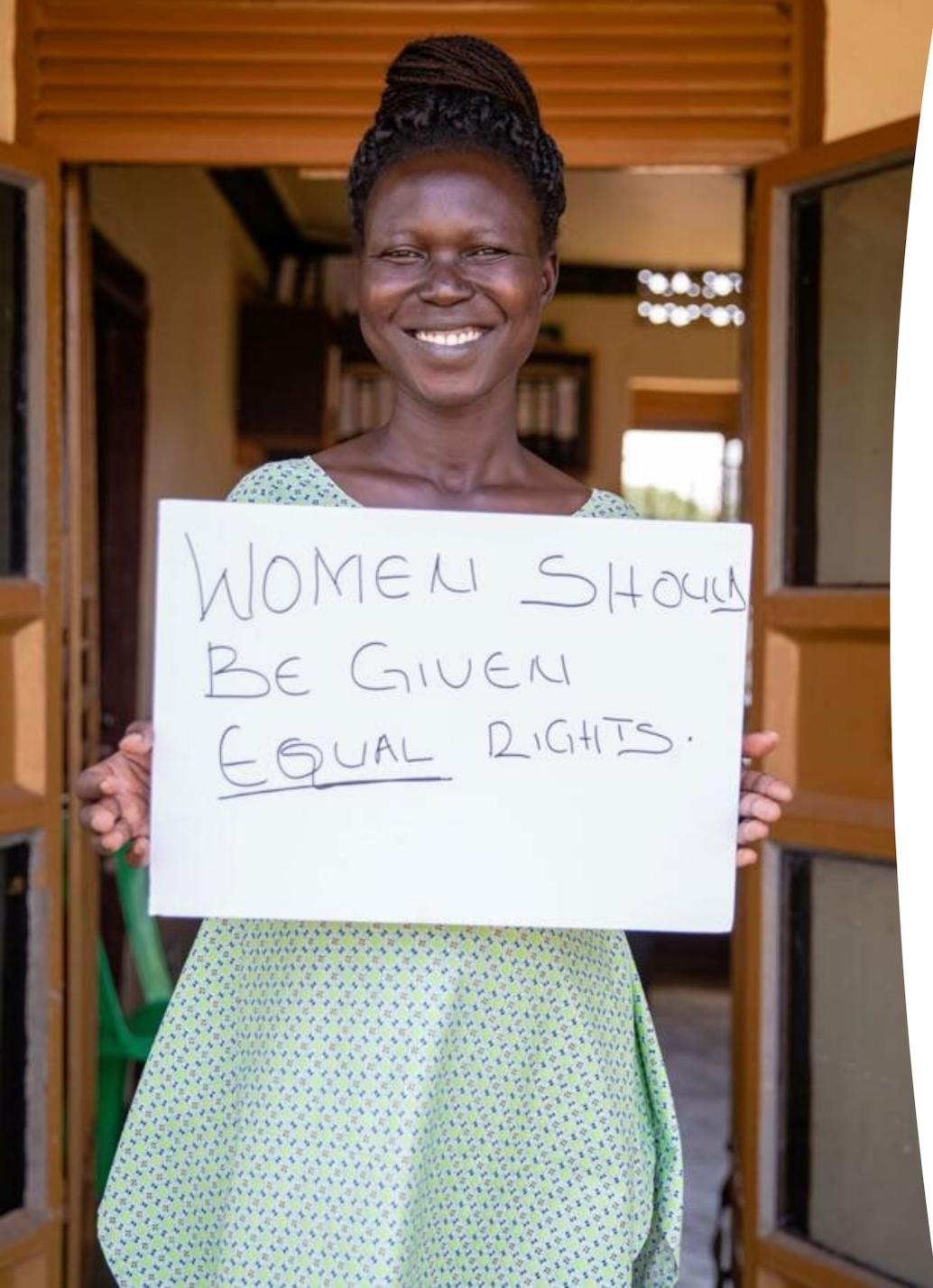


BY JOSHUA
MIRONDO, YOUTH
WRITER, TRANSITION
EARTH

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN UGANDA

- Women's rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls worldwide.
- They formed the basis for the women's rights movement in the 19th century and the feminist movements during the 20th and 21st centuries.
- In some countries, these rights are institutionalized or supported by law, local custom, and behavior, whereas in others, they are ignored and suppressed.
- They differ from broader notions of human rights through claims of an inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women and girls, in favor of men and boys.





Women's rights in Uganda.

- legislation designed to protect women's rights.
- These laws make it more likely for women to have the physical health and wellbeing to hold jobs and begin to address the social barriers to women's economic participation.
- Laws prohibiting violence against women: The 2009 Persons Act (anti-trafficking), 2010 Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2010 Domestic Violence Act and additional 2011 domestic violence regulations and the sexual offences bill.
- The Equal Opportunities Commission Act of 2007: This law gives the Ugandan state power to punish discrimination against sex, while also permitting the state to implement "affirmative action in favor of groups marginalized on the basis of gender for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist."

Climate change and women's rights.

- Gender and climate change are not usually given priority or allocated a budget in most of the reviewed policies.
- The majority of the reviewed policies and plans fail to comprehensively address gendered power dynamics that exist at different levels and the structural constraints that underpin women's vulnerability to climate change
- The land tenure systems established in Uganda are still the same even though the country has a thorough land policy (2013) by which women and men are granted equal rights to own (and co-own) land, numbers show that as much as 61.3 % of women do not possess ownership of land (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2011) and are only given access to it through their male counterparts and other male family members.
- Climate change increases gender inequality, reduces women's ability to be financially independent, and has an overall negative impact on the social and political rights of women.
- Due to gender roles, particularly in the developing countries, women are often dependent on the natural environment for subsistence and income and when there is a change in climate it affects women more than men.

Pandemic Climate Change and Women's rights

- Stay-at-home restrictions and other measures restricting the movement of people contributed to an increase in gender-based violence these
- Services needed by victims are being deprioritized, including shelters, health care services, police and justice sector services.
- There are reports of shelters for gender-based violence survivors being closed or transformed into homeless shelters due to lack of funds to sustain the shelter some of which asked for negative COVID 19 results in order to be hosted
- Teenage pregnancies
- Child marriages
- Negative impact on SRHR



Solutions or Remedies

- ▶ Easy access to family planning services for girls and young women.
- ▶ Promotion of saving initiatives such as SACCO's in order to reduce poverty levels.
- ▶ Provide equal opportunities and do away with the gender stereotypes and norms.
- ▶ Supporting the young women to eradicate poverty through the new initiative of 'Emyooga' to embrace partnerships which will lead to personal development.



Call to action

- ▶ Provide equal support to women both in rural and urban areas.
- ▶ Equip girls with adaptive skills to deal with climate change.
- ▶ Empowerment initiatives for women
- ▶ Review n changing of policies that retard advancing of women's rights
- ▶ Frameworks linking SRHR to climate change



Thank you

Follow transition earth on



@transitionearth



Transition Earth



transition-earth.org