



YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK {YAN} ACTIVITY REPORT,
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY {IWD}
8th MARCH 2025.

On the 8th of march 2025, the youth advocacy network YAN has successfully undertaken an activity in our office which is the international women's day.

The chair person was Bailor Marah.

In the agenda the following items were observed.

Call to order and prayer by Fasalie B kamara YAN member.

Individual introductions was done by everybody.

Purpose of the program was done by Lamin mansaray YAN president, He said the international women day is a day to celebrate women's achievement and contributions of women around the world. This day is dedicated to promoting gender equality and equity, celebrating women's achievement in all areas of life, and raising awareness about the challenges that women still face in today's society. Let us honor and celebrate the strength, resilience, and diversity of women everywhere on this special day. He also said most of the women leave their home town for tertiary education and they suffered a lot for them to achieve their aim and objectives.

Brief history about international women's day IWD which was done by Fasalie B kamara he said the international women's day started in the 1900s as part of the fight for women's rights, better working conditions, and suffrage. It began with a protest in 1908 by 15,000 women workers in new York city. demanding wages and voting rights. This led to the first international women's day in 1909.

In 1909, Clara Zetkin, a German activist, proposed the idea of celebrating IWD every year to fight for women's rights. On March 19, 1911 the first IWD was celebrated among nations like Australia, Germany, Denmark, and Switzerland.

The date March 8th became significant in 1917 when Russian women protested for "Bread and peace," leading to the Russian Revolution and women gaining the right to vote. On the Julian calendar (used by Russians at the time), this fell on February 23, which corresponds to March 8th in the Gregorian calendar.

IWD was recognized by the United Nations in 1975, and today, it is globally reflected as a time to celebrate women's achievement and advocate for gender.

Group work and presentation: The president Lamin Mansaray introduced the gender work sheet to the audience and he explained how to use it and he also divided us into four groups. Abdulai Jalloh from KC said that for the group work let them allow the students to learn because most of the students don't know much about it.

During the group presentation we started with group one, the question is the challenges faced by women in Sierra Leone and possibly solutions to the problems

- 1 women don't have access to their late husband properties
- 2 women don't have access to Capital
- 3 they don't have consent for marriage only the decision comes from their parents
- 4 women also don't have access to make decisions for educational progress

Solutions to those problems above .

The government should make strong policies against people that are not allowing women to inherit their husband's properties.

The government should provide loans for women in low interest for them to have capital to start a business.

- 3 women should be right to make decisions for their marriage partners
- 4 let parents give a chance to every woman and girl for the educational progress.

And we move to group two

The presenter for group two was Karifala Koroma, he emphasized mostly on the gender work sheet balance and he continued with the expression of the statement they agreed with most was statement number nine (9) and the statement they disagreed with most was statement three (3). After that they talk about the challenges women face in Sierra Leone

1 FGM

2 Gender base violence

3 socio economic inequality

4 child marry

The solution from group two

1 more awareness raising and sensitization from advocates about the issues that are affecting women and girls.

2 Availability of Grant to our parents.

3 access education facility to all women in Sierra Leone

And then we move to group three (3)

Alusine samura was the present for group three, he emphasized about the challenges faced by women in Sierra Leone.

1 Domestic violence

2 Bias in leadership role.

3 Traditional discrimination

3 poor health care delivery facilities.

4 sexual harassment

And other present from group three by the name of Serah Kamara, she said emphasize about the statement they agreed with most was statement number nine (9) in the agenda work sheet and the statement they disagreed with is statement two (2)

After that we move to the last group which is group four (4)

The present for group four was Kadiatu, she also discussed mainly about the challenges women face

1 Gender discrimination

2 Gender violence

3 Sexual penetration/ harassment.

Possible solution from group four 4

1 government should set law about gender discrimination

2 education awareness

3 encouragement of girls

4 educate members/ parents about the after effects of child marriage. After when she concluded Jannah Mustapha continued with gender work sheet balance and he said the Statement they totally agreed with is statement five and the statement they disagreed with at the gender work sheet is statement one (1) after the group work and presentation ended successfully.

Statement

where in we started with the representative from KC Alusine samura, he said plenty thanks to YAN members for the collaborative efforts, and he also said let us maintain the good relationship with KC and he also said let us safe our money within our district instead of moving with it outside.

Statement from CFN by (Abdulai mufti Jalloh) he said the aim is to work and advocate for children especially women and girls and he emphasized about the bond between yan and he tells the youth girl to embrace the little opportunity.

Salome rising representative Mr sesay said they are very happy for the connection and good work YAN is doing and they are always available to give loans to women with a reasonable interest.

Social welfare, representative encourages everybody to work closely with the ministry and let them report any issues that are affecting them and let them inform the ministry.

YAN by the pro musa Jalloh. He gave gratitude to everyone, he told everyone to adhere to the message of the international women's day.

Amara Aruna tells everyone to encourage and give respect to women and girls not only today but they deserve respect at any time.

Vote of thanks was done by Feremusu S Marah, she thanked people for leaving their busy schedule to attend the program and she wished for us to celebrate many more years to come.

SUCSESSES

1: awareness about women's day, women were excited on that day some of women said they never knew that there is a specific day to celebrate women's achievement and some of the challenges women face in today's society, is only YAN have introduced this crucial day to them.

2 the youth advocacy network also built a bridge between women's within kabala and salon rising.

3 The youth advocacy network also connects and creates relationships between women's and the ministry of social welfare, and they promised that they are always open up to YAN in terms of any issues we want them to address especially concerning issues related to women's and girls. And they are highly delighted for YAN, because only few organizations can be able to do this.

CHALLENGE,

1: Some of the women leave around 2:00pm to go to the market to buy some food items for them to prepare food for their husbands because this is the month of ramadan (fast month)

Recommendations

1 the government should make policies against people that are not allowing women to inherit their husband's properties.

2 more awareness raising and sensitization about the challenges women and girls faces, equal access to resources and decisions making.

3 to allow women to free access to education tactility to all women in Sierra Leone.

4, the government should provide loans for women in low interest for them to have capital to start a business.

5 the government should provide free medical facilities to women and girls, especially pregnant women.

By Momorie Marah,

Acting Secretary general.