16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

2018-2023

Come Together Widow and Orphans Organization works to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among the children of widows, as well as any other form of violence targeted at widows and their children

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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
INTRODUCTION

Over the past five years, our 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaigns have made significant strides in addressing and combating violence against women and girls. Each year, from November 25 to December 10, we have dedicated ourselves to advocating for survivors' rights, challenging harmful cultural practices, and promoting systemic change. In 2023, under the theme "Let's Unite! Invest to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls," we focused on economic empowerment, educational support, and advocacy against gender-based violence across various counties. In 2022, our efforts included important engagements in Homa Bay, Kilifi, and Samburu, emphasizing legal and economic empowerment for women and celebrating our collective achievements. The 30th anniversary in 2021 saw us raise awareness through diverse activities and a poignant book launch, while in 2020, despite the pandemic, we adapted by broadcasting crucial messages on Citizen TV. Our 2019 campaign highlighted the launch of the Namanga Widows Association and the critical need for community support, and in 2018, we tackled issues such as widow abuse and discrimination, fostering a culture of openness and justice. Through each campaign, our unwavering commitment has been to create a safer, more inclusive world for survivors, supported by a network of dedicated partners and community members**.**

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2023



16 Days of Activism-Samburu County

In 2023, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, which ran from November 25 to December 10, was marked by impactful and widespread efforts under the theme "Let's Unite! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls." This year's campaign emphasized the importance of collective action and the involvement of all community members, including men and boys, in addressing and eliminating violence against women and children. We were fortunate to receive significant support from key partners, including Nisiri Ventures, FIDA-Kenya, and others, whose contributions were



16 Days of Activism- Narok County

instrumental in driving our mission forward. Our campaign activities spanned several counties, each with a focus on addressing specific issues related to gender-based violence.

The event was carried out in different Counties including Narok County, our efforts concentrated on tackling economic vulnerability among widows, a major factor that increases their risk of violence. We promoted access to various government funds such as the National Government Affirmative Action Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, Uwezo Fund, and Hustler Fund. These resources were highlighted as crucial tools for empowering widows and enhancing their resilience against violence and discrimination. In Samburu County, we supported the Samburu Girls Foundation through a food drive and provided essential aid for education and other basic needs. This initiative aimed to improve the lives of vulnerable girls, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources and opportunities for their growth and development. In Nairobi County, Our Founder Dianah Kamande HSC ran in Honour of Widows and their Children, there should be no Gender-Based Violence Against Widows and their Children. As a Board Director at the Anti-FGM Board-Kenya, our founder ran on behalf of our girls across the country because Female Genital Mutilation is one form of GBV and the worst form of Human Rights Violations.



16 Days of Activism- Nairobi County

Throughout the campaign, we reinforced the need for unity and active participation from all sectors of the community. By fostering collaboration and engagement, we sought to create a supportive environment that empowers survivors and works toward the eradication of gender-based violence. The 2023 campaign underscored our dedication to raising awareness, supporting survivors, and promoting systemic change, and we are grateful for the support and involvement of our partners and all those who joined us in this essential effort.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2022



16 Days of Activism- Kilifi County

In 2022, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign was marked by a series of impactful events and engagements, each reflecting our commitment to ending violence against women and girls. The theme for the year was "UNITE! Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls," which underscored the importance of supporting women's rights activists and resisting any rollback on women's rights. Our campaign activities began with a significant event in Homa Bay County, where we paid a courtesy call to the County Commissioner. We briefed him on our organization's mission and the focus of our advocacy, particularly concerning the rights of widows and widowers. The discussion highlighted the need for continued partnership to address the issues faced by widows and enhance their well-being, reinforcing our commitment to supporting this vulnerable group.

In Kilifi County, specifically in Mariakani, our efforts concentrated on legal and economic empowerment. We engaged with local communities to discuss the importance of legal rights and economic opportunities for women, particularly widows. This initiative aimed to provide



Goat giving ceremony in Samburu County during 16 Days of Activism

essential support and resources to help them overcome barriers to economic stability and legal protection.

The campaign concluded in Samburu County, where we marked the end of the 16 Days of Activism with a goat-giving ceremony. This event was symbolic of our support and solidarity with the local community, celebrating the collective effort to address and combat gender-based

violence. Throughout the campaign, our focus remained on uniting voices to end violence, advocating for policy changes, and engaging men and boys in the fight against violence. We reaffirmed our commitment to championing the rights of widows and their children, ensuring their dignity and safety in society.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2021



Book launch event "SCARS OF HONOUR" During the 16 Days of Activism- Nairobi County

In 2021, we marked the 30th anniversary of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign with a series of impactful events designed to raise awareness and foster action. This year's campaign featured a diverse range of activities, including the launch of our book "SCARS OF HONOUR," which highlighted personal stories and advocated for the rights of survivors. Our efforts spanned multiple counties, including Samburu, Homa Bay, and Narok, where we focused on critical issues such as domestic violence and the rights of widows. In Homa Bay, we conducted events to discuss and address these concerns, emphasizing the urgent need for continued support and vigilance. In Narok, we engaged with communities to advocate for the protection of widows and to address the broader issue of domestic violence.

In Samburu County, our campaign culminated with a significant food drive among widows. This event aimed to provide essential support to those in need, ensuring they had access to vital resources and assistance. The food drive was a testament to our commitment to addressing both immediate needs and long-term issues faced by widows in the community. Throughout the campaign, we highlighted the importance of rejecting harmful practices and supporting victims of gender-based violence. We were supported by numerous sponsors and partners, including prominent organizations and individuals, who played a crucial role in making these activities possible. The central message of our campaign was to continue advocating for a world free from violence and to support survivors with empathy and actionable solutions. We reinforced that the fight against gender-based violence extends beyond the campaign period, urging communities to remain engaged and proactive in creating a safer, more supportive environment for everyone.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2020



16 Days of Activism- Virtual Meeting

In 2020, we continued our crucial work during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, despite the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign, which runs annually from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, Human Rights Day, is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness and promoting action against gender-based violence. This year, due to the pandemic, we adapted our approach and broadcast our key events on Citizen TV. This platform allowed us to reach a broader audience with our message on the prevention of gender-based violence among women and children. Throughout the campaign, we emphasized the rejection of harmful cultural and traditional practices inflicted upon widows and their children, firmly standing against such practices as forms of gender-based violence.

The theme for the 2020 campaign, "Orange the World," served to highlight the resilience and strength of survivors while calling for ongoing support and action to eradicate violence. We recognized and celebrated the tireless work of activists and supporters who continued their efforts even amidst the pandemic's constraints. Our campaign reinforced the importance of collective action in saying "No" to gender-based violence and supporting survivors. Through our innovative approach and unwavering commitment, we aimed to create a world where women and girls can live free from violence and discrimination, despite the obstacles presented by the global health crisis.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2019



Namanga Widows Association Launch during 16 Days of Activism- Kajiado County

In 2019, we marked this important campaign with significant events and initiatives aimed at addressing and combating violence against women and girls. One of the standout moments occurred in Kajiado County, where we proudly launched the Namanga Widows Association. This event was a key highlight of our campaign, focusing on the plight of widows and advocating for their rights. The launch emphasized the critical need to support widows and challenge harmful cultural practices that affect their lives. During the campaign, we reached out to the community for support, encouraging donations to help advance our mission. Our

organization, dedicated to improving the lives of widows and orphans, actively sought contributions to sustain our initiatives.



16 Days of Activism- Kajiado County

Our founder shared her journey and purpose, reflecting on her experiences and the continued need for advocacy on behalf of widows. This personal account was complemented by a media appearance, where we highlighted our founder's forthcoming book. This media coverage helped to underscore our ongoing commitment to addressing gender-based violence and supporting survivors. The 2019 campaign successfully engaged communities, reinforced our dedication to ending gender-based violence, and underscored our commitment to improving the lives of widows and orphans across Kenya. Through these efforts, we continued to advocate for a world where everyone is supported and protected from violence.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2018



16 Days of Activism- Kiambu County

In 2018, we undertook a powerful and impactful campaign for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, dedicated to addressing and challenging the various forms of violence and abuse faced by widows. This annual campaign, which runs from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, Human Rights Day, centered on advocating against harmful traditional and cultural practices. Our 2018 campaign focused on critical issues such as widow abuse, discrimination, disinheritance, and harmful practices like widow cleansing. These abuses, often perpetrated by close relatives and deeply rooted in cultural traditions, demand urgent attention and action. The theme for the year, "Hear Me Too," highlighted the necessity of listening to and amplifying the voices of survivors of gender-based violence and widow abuse.

Significant activities were conducted in counties including Korogocho, where we concentrated our efforts on addressing the neglect faced by marginalized communities and supporting widows who have been overlooked. Our campaign emphasized that widowhood should not be stigmatized; rather, we advocate for the acceptance and support of widows, recognizing their

rights and addressing the injustices they endure. We called for a break from the culture of silence surrounding gender-based violence, advocating for visibility and action to support survivors. Our message was clear: everyone must hear and support victims, fostering a culture of openness and justice. Through our efforts, we aimed to promote a more inclusive and supportive environment for widows and to challenge the harmful practices that affect them.