

AfriChild's involvement in the National Child Rights Convention and Learning Event

The National child rights convention and learning event was a two-day occasion convened from June 13th to 14th 2016 at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi by the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) together with the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) and AfriChild; Center for the study of the African child.

Officiated by the First lady and Minister For Education; Hon Janet Museveni, the event drew participants from several entities including the Central and local government representatives, local and international NGOs, Children representatives, the academia, research institutions, Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children, Cultural and Religious leaders, Media houses and entertainment industry, Ministry of Education, KCCA, Private Sector Foundation Uganda, representatives of CSOs involved in child protection, among others. These came together to deliberate on “*collectively ending violence against children*”, the theme of the event.

Some of the eye catching episodes during the event included the plenary parallel sessions for children with the first lady which indicated their full participation in issues that affect them, dialogue sessions with Legislators on the role of legislators in preventing violence against children. Similarly the role of KCCA, cultural and religious leaders in preventing violence against children was reflected on. The Media and entertainment industry representatives present appreciated their role in making communities safer for children with disabilities. Other highlights included presentation of scientific information and its effect on child development. Correspondingly, Study reports and proven approaches on violence against children were exposed as well as research findings indicating the magnitude of violence against children were disseminated to stake holders by the AfriChild Centre. In addition to this, the National Parenting Guidelines were launched by the First lady.



Information dissemination during the learning event

There was a lot to learn in terms of the challenges faced by children and how various stake holders can join hands to ensure upgraded wellbeing of children. AfriChild Centre used this occasion to disseminate publications, study approaches and study findings for different studies on Social Ecology of non-violent households; Community based child protection mechanisms in a fishing community in central Uganda; Tying loose ends and promoting exchange of information between the National Strategic Program Plan of Interventions for Orphans and other Vulnerable children and the child justice system. Study findings were used to create awareness of the magnitude of the problem of violence against children, provide empirical evidence for policy, programming and advocacy for ending violence against children.



Peer leaders explaining to plenary qualitative study approaches used to collect information from children living outside the household

