



**DIVERSE**  
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION



# DIVERSE EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION PROFILE

## 2024

**Mutungo ,Kigo**



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# OUR STORY

In 2021 Nanyunja Gracie Brendah an Out Lesbian paraplegic and Loretta Stephania Nakandi a Non binary Activist came together to create “Diverse Empowerment Foundation” an organization that would create new and much needed INCLUSIVE programs to empower the non-included, marginalized and discriminated womxn of Uganda.

The need to change how LBQT womxn living with and without disabilities were treated while creating empowering projects that would have life changing and long term sustenance. To come up with proper and effective skills training programs at the core of business from startups, to savings and investments the marginalized womxn would always want for help and that’s where “Diverse Empowerment Foundation” grew from. specifically targeting LBQT womxn living with and without disabilities inline with their special welfare needs in such aspects as, capacity building and socio-economic empowerment.





# WELCOME MESSAGE



## RUBY LORETTA

Executive Director

At Diverse Empowerment Foundation we say, "Inclusion starts with us," and what we mean is that healing, growth, transformation, and activism start inside you and me and radiate out to make a difference in the world. ***When we are inspired, we inspire others!***

Each day we open our doors and greet our members, colleagues, and community with love and respect. We recommit to open-minded learning, constant improvement, and intentional evolution as individuals and as an organization. And, whether in the classroom, the garden, the theater, the kitchen, the dance floor, or anywhere else, we live by a set of values that informs the way we move in the world:

You have blessings to share and receive, and you are welcome to join us.

Come take a tour, and get involved! Bring your energy and resources and find out how you can make the world more inclusive, starting at Diverse Empowerment Foundation.



Yours, in service,  
RUBY LORETTA

# VISION & MISSION

## Vision

To embrace and celebrate the rich dimensions of diversity within each marginalized woman.

## Mission

To provide a safe space for marginalized women while empowering them with social economic skills as we build their confidence and mental wellbeing through awareness campaigns, skill training programs, rights advocacy, social integration and employment generation.







# MILESTONE



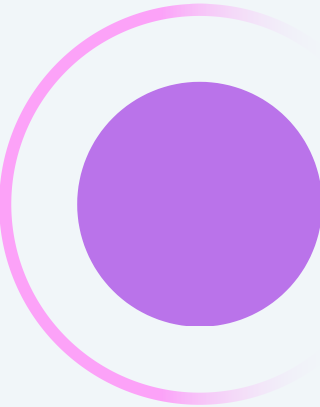
**2021** In our first project **Quchu Santas** we dropped gifts to over 120 LGBTQIA persons around the country in shelters and those who were struggling and gave homeless shelter LGBTQIA persons in Uganda a smile in the Christmas season by giving them good tidings of gifts as well as personal essentials from all over the world. The aim was to combat the isolation that comes with not having a home to go back to or extreme loneliness when the world is celebrating, and to remind recipients they are a part of a huge community that is a FAMILY that love and accepts us as we are.

**2022** The Participants from the first and Second Cohort of the Twekobe Project concluded with final sessions of Branding & Marketing where they were trained on essential elements of uplifting their own personal businesses through creative skills of branding and Marketing.

**2023** Carried out online mental dialogues where all LGBTQ+ persons got to interact with a clinical psychiatrist getting a clearer understanding on what MENTAL HEALTH is including self check and help tips.

Our Co-founder won the 2023 Winq Hivos International Activist Award of Free to be me .

We also reopened our economic empowerment center.



# CORE VALUES & PRINCIPLES

***WE UPHOLD THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES, AND  
CONSIDER THEM THE CORE OF OUR EXISTENCE;***

## **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

We respect and are inclusive of all marginalized womxn in their diversities across intersecting inequalities and disabilities.

## **EQUITY AND NON DISCRIMINATION**

We are passionate about making the world a better place for marginalized women. we believe in ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and is entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinctions of any kind

## **AUDACITY**

we are bold and courageous and unapologetic about empowering LBQT womxn to challenge any inequalities and oppressions that limit their voice, choice and safety.

- We are passionate about making the world a better place for marginalized women.
- We are inclusive of all marginalized women.
- We are brave, we are outspoken, we challenge and try new things.
- We are lovable, worthy and enough.



# OBJECTIVES




## **The organizations broad goals are;**

- To embrace and rise the confidence of LBQT womxn living with and without disabilities .
  - To create awareness relevant to the social issues and rights for all LBQT womxn.
  - To research and keep statistics on the issues of queer womxn living with disabilities.
  - To create employment opportunities by lobbying the private and public sectors and inspire the focus group womxn with better and articulate business ideas and plans.
  - To create a culture of volunteerism, to cultivate support for marginalized womxn.
- 





## WHO WE ARE



We provide advice, develop best practice and support our members through equipping them with skills and knowledge. We also create safe spaces like Ffena Kukyo which is an adaption to the African Traditional Society family gathering around bon fires. Ffena Kukyoto explores different issues like Sexual Reproductive Health through active interactive discussions. On the other hand we have Tyabula Tubone which ventures around music, dance and fun. This in turn mends issues such as mental health.

Kijani is our undertaking which encompasses urban farming, kitchen gardening, recycling amongst other environment safe guard strategies is meant to reconstruct the minds of our members for a better green planet. And the grand Twekobe project which is a skills training, Financial literacy and Digital marketing classes which deals with our rampant unemployability issues.

We are part of a fast-growing global feminist movement. Working collaboratively with womxn in the country, we are determined to build a world where marginalized gender equality prevails and where all marginalized womxn and girls realize their rights free from violence and discrimination.



***No man is an island and the journey of changing lives cannot be done alone. We work with individuals and Society in two ways:***

## **WITH INDIVIDUALS**

We listen to the LBQT womxn to understand their plight, which helps us draft programs to fight for their rights and improve their livelihood.

## **WITH SOCIETY**

Campaigning with the LBQT womxn to make the society more accommodative and have their voice heard.



## OUR PROJECTS



***We draft programs specifically targeting disabled and marginalized women in line with their special welfare needs in such aspects as, capacity building and socio-economic empowerment.***

### FFENNA KUKYOTO

Is an adaption to the African Traditional Society family gathering around bon fires. Ffena Kukyoto explores different issues like Sexual Reproductive Health through active engagement discussions.

### TYABULA TUBONE

ventures around music, dance and fun. This in turn deals with issues around mental health.





## **KIJANI**

our undertaking which encompasses urban farming, kitchen gardening, recycling amongst other environment safe guard strategies, is meant to reconstruct the minds of our members for a better green planet.

## **TWEKOBE**

Our skills training and financial literacy program, which equips our beneficiaries with sustainable long term skills and mentorship





# MEET THE TEAM



**RUBY**  
*Executive Director*



**GRACIE**  
*Advocacy Officer*



**BERBIE**  
*Programs Director*



**JEROME**  
*Communications Officer*





**Diana**  
*SRHR Officer*



**Aisha**  
*Administrator*



**Allan**  
*Finance*



**Shakur**  
*Welfare*



**Joseph**  
*Activism Coordinator*





**DIVERSE**  
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION



## OUR CONTACT



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