



STATEMENT

International Women's Day - Climate and gender justice: Empowering women and girls to pursue justice in an environment that serves their needs

8 March 2022

Avocats Sans Frontières would like to join the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day.

In Uganda, ASF is committed to advancing access to gender justice and equality for women and girls with the project **From Access to Equality (FATE): Empowering women to access justice in Uganda**.

This year, International Women's day will be celebrated through the theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". It highlights the need to recognise the linkage between climate change, women's rights and gender inequality. It is essential to continue to examine the opportunities, as well as the constraints, to empower women and girls to have a voice and be equal players in decision-making related to climate change, access to justice and gender equality. Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach.

Gender equality and access to gender justice are central elements of climate justice. Women and girls are, and will continue to be, more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. Climate change is increasingly being recognized as an aggravator of all types of Gender-Based Violence, specifically, Violence Against Women and Girls. From our areas of implementation in Karamoja, Bunyoro, Busoga and Acholi Regions women and girls are the most impacted by climate change, but are excluded from the decision-making that most affects their lives. Climate justice is not possible without women's meaningful participation in decision making processes and platforms, and an intentional focus on gender equality and access to justice for women and girls.

As a goal, ASF is contributing towards: "Women and girls being empowered to pursue justice in an environment that serves their needs" with two specific objectives: "Women are in a position to demand justice", and "decision makers mobilise to make women and girls' rights effective". To achieve those goals, ASF is implementing a series of activities which include: Community of Practice in all regions of operation, women economic empowerment initiatives through mini-grants, provision of adapted legal aid services to the most vulnerable women, community legal awareness sensitisation and training of community-based mediators who buffer the efforts of legal aid service providers.



Osprey Oreille Lake ***"climate justice requires us to invest in systemic change that centers care for land, women, frontline communities and community -led solutions"***