







*Elizabeth*

Elizabeth Busiinge

Chairperson

# WELCOME MESSAGE

Hello World,

**It is yet another exciting year that we bid farewell. Filled with a lot of expectations, we set out to catalyze positive change among young people. We are grateful to our partners, staff members, young people and other likeminded actors who supported all the way. We invite you to come with us as we recap our journey through 2023.**





*Nalubega Sylvia*

Sylvia Nalubega

Director

# MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

**When we were starting 2023, it seemed like such a long time. We are only grateful to recount the achievements and opportunities 2023 presented to us with the countless support of our funding partners, young people in the community and supporting structures. Reaching over 300 young people is a thing we don't take for granted but continue to build upon to impact more young lives. We are happy to present our 2023 report and will appreciate receiving your feedback and support.**



# ABOUT US

Sanyu Centre for Arts and Rights is a creative and cultural organisation that empowers young people through arts and digital skills for better incomes, education, health and prevention of violence in Uganda. SARI operates in Kampala and Wakiso districts..

Our vision is it to transform young people through ART-IVISIM!

Our mission is to equip young people with knowledge and skills in creative arts and digital skills for better incomes, education, health and prevention of violence in Uganda.

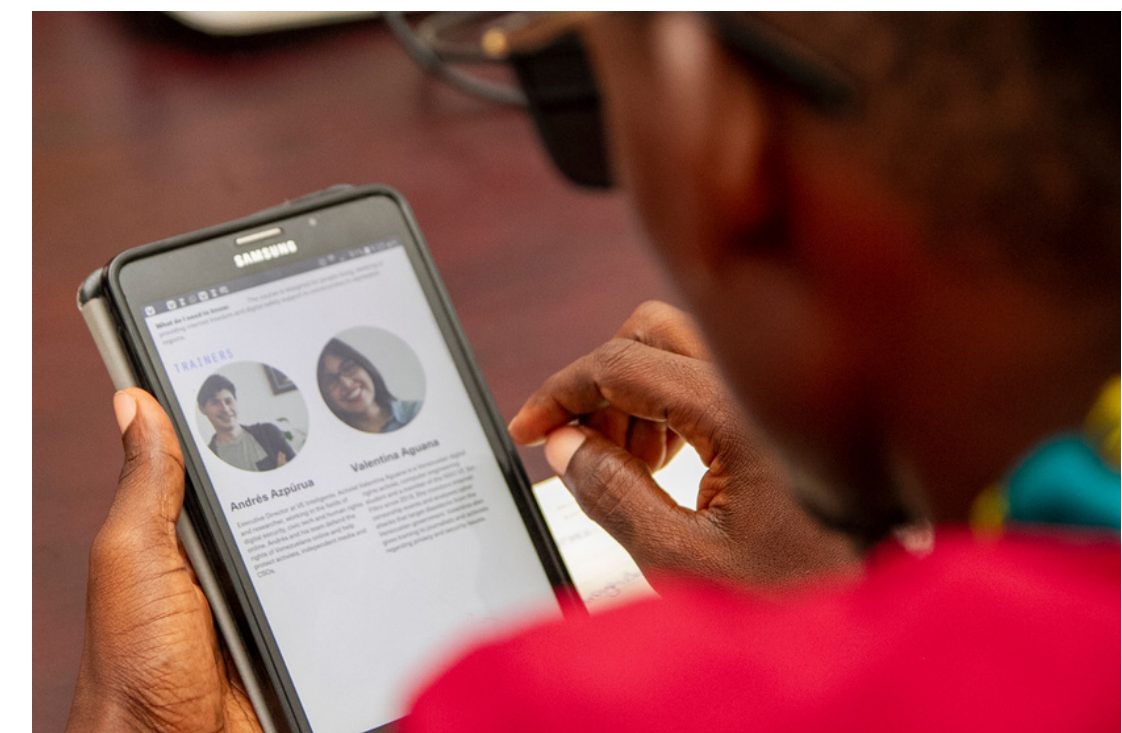
## Our programs



Arts, Design and Entrepreneurship



Visual and performing arts



Content creation



## Arts, Design and Entrepreneurship

Under this program, 208 participants (149 females and 59 males) in Kyebando and Kamwokya areas, Kampala districts and Wakiso and Kakiri town council/ sub county in Wakiso district have been equipped with skills including Fashion design, Photography, Book making, Performing arts Crafts making (shoes, decorations, basketry, string arts), Hairdressing, life skills such as entrepreneurship and finance management as well as intellectual property rights and tools. 10 groups were formed, 4 were formerly registered as community based organisations and opened group bank account with Finance Trust bank, 1 were registered as a SACCO, 36 participants got small loans from their VSLAs, 88 participants supported with startup kits and capital.

As a result, there has been increased savings mobilisation by groups on average five million shillings (1,363 USD). 15 participants (13 females and 2 males) set businesses in fashion and design, 1 group (13 members- 12 females and 1 male) started book making and bakery, 1 group (15 females) started enterprise in basketry, 7 female participants started hair dressing, 8 female participants started craft/crochet shoe making., 6 participants started enterprise in making flower vases and beads from paper, 1 female participant started enterprise in making leather bags, wallets and belts, 2 male participants started enterprise in making laptop bags and designing diaries, 1 female participant started a photography business, 2 performing arts groups (45 members) increased their gigs with availability of costumes and instruments.

SARI implemented the program through three projects- Young and Empowered Project (YEP) supported by CRVPF, Arts for Girls Initiative (AGI) supported by Jambo Foundation and Valuing Creatives Preserving Culture supported by Trust Indigenous Culture and Health.



## Campaigns

SARI held the My Write is My Right campaign supported by the African Women's Development Fund to advance the right to education for teenage mothers. Series of activities included holding advocacy forums at Wakiso district where over 45 people participated community forums for theatre where over 500 people participated and a short film reaching over 1000 people. The network of girls and youth groups participated in the 4 forums for theatre where at least 200 community members religious leaders, village leaders, parents, teachers, members of civil society including Girls Not Brides Network Uganda, SYRADO Uganda, National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders, AIDE Uganda, WESDO, media houses (Break through television). Through the campaigns, 14 girls got a change to go back to vocational school.

Moreover, the My Pen, My Book My Rights campaign in Kakiri sub county supported by We are Purposeful focused on advocating for inclusive SRHR services that enabled girls to stay in school and have supportive structures in education.



**Members during advocacy forum at Wakiso district**



## Mitigating Internet shutdowns for content creators and activists

SARI was supported by Small Media Foundation and Advocacy Assembly to implement a project to train content creators and activists in circumvention tools in mitigating internet shutdowns. The project therefore aimed at mitigating internet shutdowns while reducing the negative impacts thereof. A coalition of 30 content creators, influencers and activists were equipped with knowledge and skills in circumvention tools on internet shutdowns and digital security. After the 3 training sessions, participants formed five groups to create content in mitigating internet shutdowns.



**Participants discussing during the physical training session in circumvention tools in mitigating internet shutdowns, Wakiso district, Uganda**



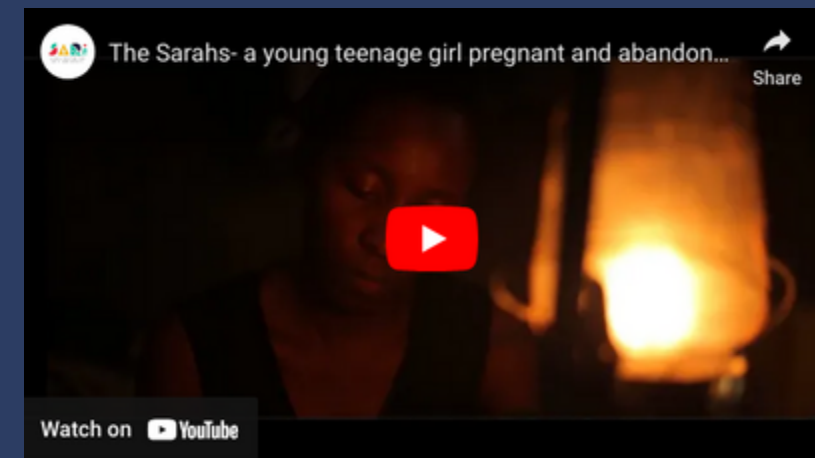
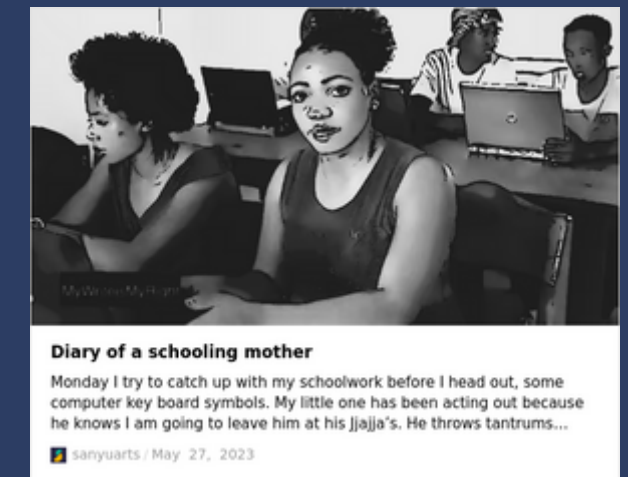
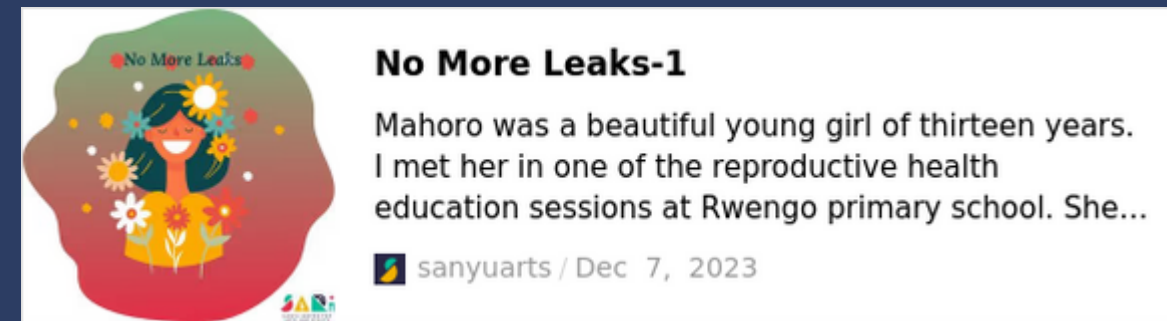
## Content creation

SARI created a short film, “The Sarahs” about girls education and intersectionality of SRHR issues. The film was disseminated on different platforms reaching over 450 people. SARI also produced a short film about use of performing arts in advocacy and a short film on creative entrepreneurs.

SARI created five blogs; “The Sarahs, Diary of a working mother, No More leaks” which reached over 700 people through our website and the different social platforms.

SARI published the My Write is My Right position paper on girl child education on website and other socials reaching over 200 people. SARI’s key messages on the different socials reaching over 200 people.

## Links to the content





## Collaborations



Joanna (picture on the screen) at Mastercard Foundation show case in November 2023 at Serena hotel

SARI was happy to have one of our participants- Joanna Nabagesera share her journey of entrepreneurship at the Mastercard Foundation show case supported by Children's Rights Violence Fund. Joanna was able to show case her products in fashion and design as well as share her plans of expansion.

SARI participated in the 6th National Girls summit organised by Girls Not Brides Uganda under the theme of society free from marriage. Over 200 actors participated in the campaign to add voice on protecting girls and children from sexual violence.

SARI participated in the Annual General Meeting and workshops organised by the National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders. Through the meetings, SARI got more knowledge in the legal environment in the country and how best to work round it.



# DORAH THE ARTISAN

Dorah is a young artisan with a promising enterprise in arts and crafts. Sanyu Centre for Arts and Rights (Uganda) in partnership with Trust Indigenous Culture and Health /Braid Fund conducted an initiative Valuing Creatives Preserving Culture to build the business acumen of young artists like Dorah to develop and expand their enterprises. Through training and capital support, Dorah has honed her skills in making different products including flower vases and necklaces out of recycled paper (an initiative also contributing to a clean planet), floral arrangements and custom made bead work. Furthermore, through the capital support, Dorah has expanded her product line to include African bags to diversify her income. Dorah has managed to transfer her work from home to setting up a business. We are happy for Dorah and look forward to seeing this young artisan bud into inspiration and to many young creatives to grow in the creative businesses.



**Dorah in her business holding one of her prized flower vases made out of recycled paper**





*KISA KYA MARIA ARTS AND CRAFTS WOMEN GROUP , UGANDA*

This group of women weavers in Kasengeje village was supported to access more raw materials to make different decorative baskets and in greater numbers. Through the trainings in entrepreneurship, they have improved capacity in the management of their group enterprise through better records keeping and increased marketing of their products.



## **Up coming projects in 2024**

**Youth Arts and Enterprenuership Project** which is supported by Australian High Commission, DAP to enable young crafts, digital and fashion creatives in business.

**Circumvention tools for mitigating internet shut downs** supported by Small Media Foundation to enable a coalition of content creators, influencers and activists to create content on mitigating internet shutdowns.

**Youth in Creative Business** supported by Children's Rights Violence Prevention Fund create decent employment opportunities for young people in creative and digital sector.

**Sewing project for girls** supported by World Mercy Fund to provide teenage mothers with sewing machines to set up businesses.

**Fistula Free Girls and Young Women** campaign supported by AmplifyChange to increase SRHR services for fistula victim survivors in Wakiso district.

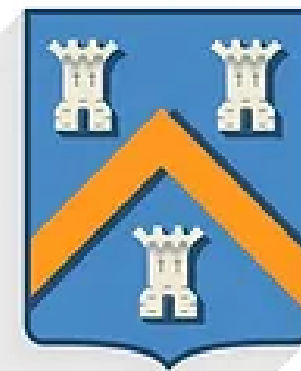


# THANK YOU OUR PARTNERS



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

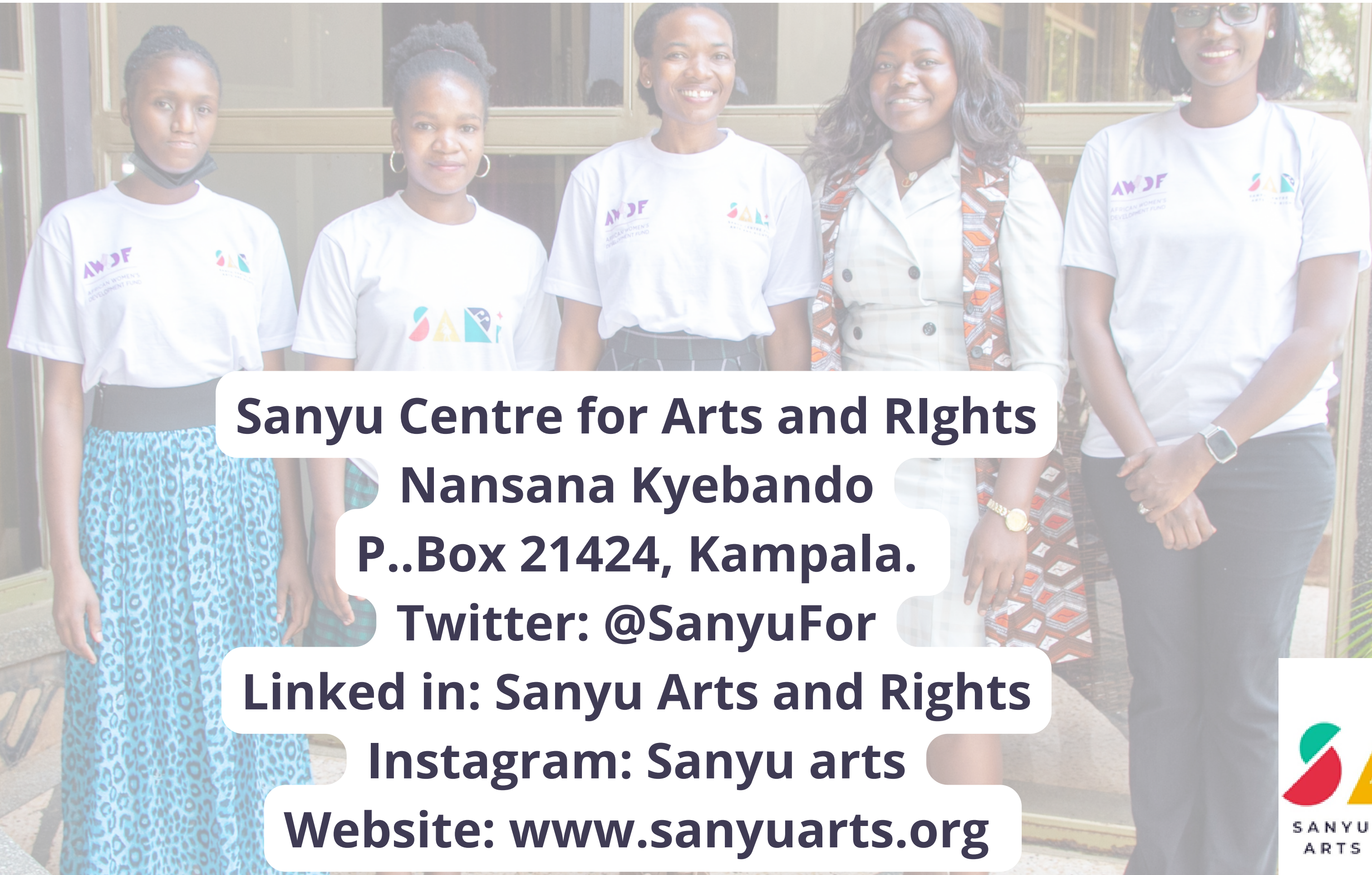


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# WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU



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ARTS AND RIGHTS**