



Activity Report: Kabuga Yego Center

Activity Title: Youth Dialogue on Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Date: 20th December 2025

Venue: Kabuga Yego Center

Organization: Equality Advocates

Project: EmpowerYouth Project

Background and Purpose

On 24th December 2025, Equality Advocates visited Kabuga Yego Center to engage young people in discussions on Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). This activity was conducted under the EmpowerYouth Project, which aims to empower youth by providing information and education on gender and SRHR. The dialogue sought to create a safe space for young people to share experiences, learn about their rights, and access accurate SRHR information.

Objectives

- To increase youth knowledge on gender equality, gender equity, and gender-based violence
- To discuss power dynamics in youth romantic relationships
- To provide accurate information on available SRHR services in Rwanda
- To create a safe space for youth to share challenges related to gender and SRHR

Participants

- Number of participants: **43**
- Age range: **17 - 24**
- Gender composition: **25 Female, 18 Male**

Activity Description / Methodology

We visited Kabuga Yego Center as part of our project EmpowerYouth, a project whose aim is to educate youth on Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). It is a project that is implemented in collaboration with youth centers in Kigali city and Rulindo district. This visit at Kabuga youth center led to a dialogue with youth, some of them are teenage mothers who are doing vocational studies at youth center

including tailoring and hair dressing, others were boys who do modern dancing, others were youth, girls & boys mixed, who study ICT, the dialogue focused on gender-based violence and we were so surprised by how a bigger number of boys were supporting violence, most of them were saying that you are married or staying with your girlfriend and you get food, and she refuses to cook, she is abusing you and you can beat, it is justifiable. It was surprising to us to see young men full of abuse in their hearts. Also, the girls were so hungry for having men, getting married or having a man in their lives, we discussed with them, let them know it is okay to desire companionship but must know that a man is not a necessity in a woman's life, that a woman can be successful without a man and that they need financial dependency before a man. We also discussed on SRHR issues especially on contraceptives available, where to access them, and how to do so. We also talked about the use of a condom especially its specialty of protecting users from HIV/AIDS and HPV infections. We also talked about the ministerial order on safe abortion in Rwanda, on categories who are allowed to access safe abortion, where to access safe abortion, and how to do so, also reminded them that there is no evidence asked from a woman or a girl who is seeking safe abortion.

Key Outcomes

- Increased awareness of gender equality, GBV, and power dynamics
- Improved knowledge on SRHR services and where to access them
- Youth felt safe to openly share personal experiences and challenges
- Myths and misinformation around SRHR were addressed

Support Provided

After the dialogue, menstrual sanitary pads were provided to Kabuga yego center so that the girls who can't afford them can ask for them.

Challenges

- No significant challenges encountered

Lessons Learned

- Youth-friendly, confidential SRHR services are critical
- Girls need to be taught that a man isn't a necessity but just a partner
- Boys and young men at the center must be engaged more on gender equality as their mindset is still down, they believe in gender-based violence and it is sad, more engagement and abuse is needed
- More condoms are needed at Kabuga yego center
- More contraceptives are needed at Kabuga yego center

Recommendations / Next Steps

- Conduct follow-up dialogues focused on teenage mothers and reporting GBV
- Strengthen referrals to youth-friendly SRHR services

- Continue community engagement to address harmful gender norms especially related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Conclusion

The visit to Kabuga Yego Center provided an important platform for youth to learn, share, and reflect on gender and SRHR issues. The dialogue reinforced the need for continuous youth empowerment, safe spaces, and access to accurate SRHR information and services.