



# GAN

NEWSLETTER  
**2020-21**





Hello fellow alumnae and friends of Gayaza. Welcome to your GAN online newsletter 20/21.

After what has been the most challenging of years, 2021 begun with hope. The Covid-19 Vaccination programme has begun; making any challenges more bearable. We are experiencing loss and resilience during the pandemic.

Many people have used the lockdown to do some gardening, bonding with their families and friends, reorganising homes, learning new skills and exercise.

Covid -19 tested our faith. it brought sadness, disrupted our lives, and took away the things we relied on. As we begin to ease on lockdown with renewed hope, I would like to encourage you to reflect on what God has taught us as we rebuild our lives. Let us be encouraged to learn from those who have run the race (Hebrews 11:38). A message from them encouraging us to keep going.

When I wrote the last Christmas message, I did not think that the world would change so much. As indicated then, we have used the internet and social media in a much bigger way than we had projected. This has allowed us to connect and ease part of the isolation lockdown brought. As we grappled with skills of online working and study, the tools helped us all to connect in ways we have not done before. We used Zoom to draw the Gayaza networks from all over the world. Bringing hundreds of supporters into our homes through the internet was a new phenomenon that we all adopted and will use for many years.

Thank you all for attending Miss Cutler's zoom wake, legacy meeting, and those who attended the cremation in person and online. We had hoped to hold a memorial service for Miss Cutler and all departed Gayaza staff and old girls this May. The impact of Covid-19 has still meant that we cannot plan that far out as government guidelines may change suddenly. With that said, we should be able to hold a service later this year in the UK. Please look out for information about this and please come forward if you would like to get involved in one way or another.

I would like to wish you, your family, and friends a happy Easter season.

Please join me in thanking the GAN board who give of their time relentlessly. They have contributed to this newsletter. We hope the detail makes your Easter break reading list and enlightens you on what has been an eventful year.



· HAPPY ·

*Easter*

Judith Banya

# EVENTS

## GAN offices in Kampala

Please join me in thanking **Mrs. Innocent N Ngobi**, the GAN representative in Uganda for offering office space to GAN and GOGA.

## Corby fire

The early days of lockdown saw the news of the Corby fire at Gayaza high school. We were all shocked to hear that Corby house burnt down on 6th March 2020. GAN donated an emergency gift of 20 pairs of bedsheets to cover part of the basic requirements. We are actively collecting help from concerned former students and friends of Gayaza. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the staff and students as they rebuild their lives after the fire.

## Bereavement

Miss Ann Cutler passed away on 13 May 2020. Her cremation was on 10 June in Aldershot. Former headmistress Miss Sheelagh Warren and a restricted number of family and old girls attended. We hosted a zoom vigil that evening. Many Gayaza girls, friends and relatives attended from all over the world. GAN joined forces with GOGA to hold a memorial service at St. Paul's Cathedral Namirembe was followed by a legacy meeting on 2 July 2021. This saw the launch of the caring club which we intend to run with GOGA. The caring club was set up to keep in touch with retired Gayaza staff members. We first contacted Mrs. Lukwago, former house matron at Gayaza Junior school. The club donated necessities for her wellbeing. Sadly Mrs. Lukwago passed away on 19 September 2020. Miss Maureen Plunkett, former teacher at Gayaza High School passed away on 28 July 2020. Her cremation was at North Devon crematorium on 29 August 2020. Miss Joyce Smith a former teacher at Gayaza High School passed away on 8 September 2020. Her funeral service was held on 22 September 2020. Many old girls passed away.



Ms. Ruth Lukwago



Miss Brenda Richard

We celebrated Miss Brenda Richard's 99th birthday on August 8, 2020. GAN sent a greeting card, cake, and flowers which I delivered with my mother, Alice Banya (nee Vasiloda Okech) an old girl and student of Miss Richards. We celebrated Miss Warren's 93rd birthday with a zoom party attended by many friends and old girls of Gayaza. Rosebud S Mubiru (nee Masaba) sung and played a piece on the piano. On August 16, Miss Hobday turned 82. We celebrated her birthday with a zoom tea party in December. She attended the party using the gift of a laptop from Gayaza girls. Josephine Zaake, an old girl gave a live performance.


One of the highlights of the lockdown has been the African Women's series. We addressed the plight of many well qualified, professional, and able migrant women who find it difficult to find employment in the UK. A University degree in Africa Normally eases one's way through the employment market – however not in the UK. There are issues of language, culture, workplace politics, issues of ethnicity and gender that can conspire to affect women's employment prospects or keep them in jobs they are clearly overqualified for. GAN kicked it off in partnership with Karibu and held a zoom session teaching different styles of wearing headscarves. We hope to see women returning to offices in their formal attire with headscarves galore! Please read the detailed report newsletter.

# 1

## GAN/GOGA? (pending)

Many old girls are grasping the existence and differences between GAN and GOGA. We have had many enquiries about the two groups. Both serve Gayaza Junior and High Schools.

GAN is holding collaborative meetings with GOGA to see how the work we do impacts each organisation and Gayaza. We shall also form a framework under which to collaborate. We shall keep you posted. The Caring club, death announcements and celebrations are an area where both organisations have been mutually supportive. Both groups worked together to organise Miss Ann Cutler's service at St. Paul's Cathedral Namirembe on 12 June 2020. Other joint activities include the 80th birthday party for Miss Janice Hobday in London. Please join and support both groups.

A portrait of Harriet Kateregga Jones, a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a red top and a necklace with large red circular pendants. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

Harriet Kateregga Jones

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### The main objectives of GAN:

- Supporting African women in the UK through employment opportunities and social issues as well as their Mental Health well-being.
- Networking among people associated with and promoting the work of Gayaza High and / or Junior Schools.
- Providing opportunities for girls in Africa to access education.
- Promoting equality between men and women.
- GAN's main business is running the Scholarship Fund which was set up in 2005.
- Providing school fees for disadvantaged girls with outstanding intellectual ability such as orphans, girls from single parents' homes and those living in poverty.
- A level student fees at Gayaza High School is approximately £1100 a year.
- The most challenging aspect of GAN's work is securing regular funding for the scholarships.

## GAN's activities, Fundraising and Partnerships:

1999

Regents Park picnic with Miss J Cox (RIP), Miss S Warren, and many more.

2004

Fundraising Dinner December 2004, Uganda High Commission, London.

2005

Gayaza Girls Centenary Celebration Service, St John's Church, Waterloo.

2006

Gayaza Evening Service at St John's Waterloo Church – September.

2008

Valentine's Evening with Kisubi Old Boys Association, Saturday 16 February.

2011

Launch of the Nnabagereka Development Foundation, 28 July 2011.



Nabagereka Sylvia Nagginda of Buganda 2nd from the right side

2012

Miss Joan Cox's 100th birthday, 27 February 2012 was celebrated by many. Miss Joan Cox's death and funeral 8 May 2012 was attended by many of you. Celebrating Lives of Departed Gayaza Girls, Teachers and Staff on 27 October. There was a significant congregation at St John's Church in Waterloo

2017

A successful Alumni Gala 2017, a dinner and dance in partnership with Budo and Namasagali Old Students Associations. In November, GAN held the successful celebration of Miss Sheelagh Warren's birthday in Farnham.

2018

Alumni Gala 2018 was held in partnership with Namilyango, Mwiri and Namasagali. The Ugandan High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Julius Moto remains keen on the idea and asked to be invited again.

Miss Janice Hobday's Birthday celebrations held on 1st September in London. contributions from Gayaza Singers and GOGA in Uganda. ed a DVD at GHS Chapel and baked a birthday cake for Miss Hobday. These were air lifted for the occasion.

2019

Fundraising Dinner at Masala Zone, Bayswater November.

2020

Corby dormitory fire. Emergency package from GAN delivered to the school. Ongoing fundraising for building work in progress.

Miss Ann Cutler funeral and virtual wake on 10th June. Virtual service at Namirembe Cathedral on 12th June. Service organised as a collaboration between GAN and GOGA.



2020 - 2021


Due to COVID-19, GAN has been running a series of six-monthly. Workshops to support UK African women into employment. Series started in October 2019.



## 2

### SOCIAL MEDIA (pending info)

Our board members set up social networks to suit Gayaza girls and you do not have to necessarily have social media accounts to enjoy some of the pages celebrating staff members old and other Gayaza related activities that will be shared by Perpetua



Perpetua M. Kibalama George



## 3

### MEMBERSHIP (pending info)

We regarded all Gayaza girls, staff, and fiends as members regardless of subscription payments. However, GAN's work survives by subscriptions. The Board voluntarily give and contribute extensively of their time and finances. Commitment and affiliation. Please show your commitment by **paying an annual subscription of £30**. This commitment allows us to plan.

## 4

### COVID -19 WORKSHOPS

#### UK African Women's Employment Series

In May 2020 GAN made a successful application to the National Lottery Community Fund to address issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown, and its social and economic impact on African women in the UK.

African communities have been significantly affected by COVID-19. Factors put forward for this high impact include poverty, deprivation, high density living, morbidity due to diabetes, high blood pressure, age, obesity poor physical fitness. However, many community members who have lost their lives had few of the factors above. Black communities tend to access health care late, which contributes to the high

levels of morbidity and mortality. African women are often the main income earners in families; however, many were furloughed and saw incomes drop to 80%. Those on zero hours contracts are currently on benefits. Many have contracted COVID-19 and laid off sick for weeks, with or without sick pay.

GAN wanted to open women's eyes to social and income opportunities presented by the pandemic and lockdown, to inspire African women to re-think and re-skill making best use of their cultural competence and African language skills. Motivational speakers were identified and approached to address women and signpost them to training and services that would improve their social and economic status. The 2-hour Saturday afternoon Zoom sessions included a range of topics

## COVID Health

### How to manage anxiety and depression, nutrition, exercise - 24 October 2020

Gayaza Alumna and GP Dr Phoebe Abe tackled health promotion, keeping fit to fight covid, exercise, immune boosters like lemon, garlic, ginger, and vitamins. Women were encouraged to recognise their risks such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. She talked through basic COVID symptoms, and how to safely nurse loved ones suffering from COVID. Alice Alesi former member of staff and Gayaza Alumna gave a very informative talk about the importance of coaching, mental health, and wellbeing.



**GAN UK AFRICAN WOMEN'S SERIES**

**JOIN RENOWNED GP DR. PHOEBE ABE FOR A CONSULTATION ON COVID HEALTH**

**Diet | Exercise | Mental health**  
Advice about maintaining your wellbeing  
**YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

**TIME: 5-7PM UK  
24 OCT 2020**

**Meeting ID: 956 3839 0263  
Passcode: 913770**

**Dr. Phoebe Abe**  
Speaker

**Malachy Ujam**  
Head of Clinical Safety  
Surrey NHS Foundation Trust

**Alice Alesi**  
Executive Coach, CoWRRIE Coaching & Consulting  
DBA (Doctor of Business Administration)  
Research Associate

**UK Charity Reg No. 111 9 085 & Company Reg No. 530 3 977**  
Website: [www.ganuk.org](http://www.ganuk.org) Email: [info@ganuk.org](mailto:info@ganuk.org)  
BANK: HSBC SORT CODE: 40 11 58 AC. No: 30549703

## Employment

### Promoting Wellbeing, Resilience, Financial Security and Employment - 21 November 2020

Councillor Maureen Mwangale informed us of what local Councils can do for women. Margaret Magezi (Department of Works and Pensions) advised the session about new benefits available that women might be missing out on. Irene Serukenya Kamya addressed employment law and touched on immigration.



**GAN UK AFRICAN WOMEN'S SERIES**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS | BENEFITS | UNIVERSAL CREDIT | CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU | HMRC**

**PLEASE JOIN UK COUNCILLOR MAUREEN MWAGALE AND THE TEAM**

**MAUREEN MWAGALE**  
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

**MARGARET MAGEZI**  
EMPLOYMENT CAREER ADVISOR  
LIFE COACH

**IRENE SERUKENYA KAMYA**  
CONSULTANT SOLUTIONS & SOLUTIONS  
TEAM MANAGER/STAFF COMPLIANCE  
OFFICER LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND  
TROPICAL MEDICINE

**TIME: 5-7PM UK  
21 NOVEMBER 2020**

**Meeting ID: 955 2770 6367  
Passcode: 015655**

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## The New Job Market

### 12 December 2020

To add to COVID and the lockdown, Brexit is sure to bring with it economic challenges, so self-employment becomes a serious consideration. At the 12 December session Stella Sebuwufu addressed women's financial literacy. Bridget Busulwa runs her own business and shared how to begin and succeed in self-employment. Richard Mubiru who works for the Ministry of Defence, was keen to attract black women into the army and raised women's awareness to opportunities available entry criteria, perks etc. He made it clear that not all jobs involved combat, an area which deters many women from joining.



**GAN UK AFRICAN WOMEN'S SERIES**

**NEW JOBS MARKET 2021**

**Self employment | Social services**  
**NHS | Army jobs | Home office jobs**

**TIME: 5-7PM UK  
12 DEC 2020**

**Meeting ID: 762 232 5303**

**Stella Sebuwufu**  
Ultrasound Sonographer

**Bridget Busulwa**  
Entrepreneur

**Home Office  
Ministry of Defence**

**Richard Mubiru**  
Security and Defence

We shall not livestream this event due to privacy and data protection policy

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## Finance

### Banking, grants, savings, life insurance – 23 January 2021 (pend?)

This session was led by former Headmistress Mrs. Victoria Kisarale. She gave a talk on African women in leadership. Stella Sebuwufu spoke about the importance of living within our means and saving for retirement. Sarah Ikhinmwini focused on the pros and cons of life insurance. She inspired women to be smart decision makers and plan accordingly.

GAN UK AFRICAN WOMEN'S SERIES  
**FINANCE**  
Banking services | Loans | Grants | savings  
Life insurance | Financial literacy

Stella Sebuwufu  
Ultrasound Sonographer

Sarah Ikhinmwini  
Team leader and Insurance Consultant at Precise Protect

05:00 PM UK | 8:00 PM EAT  
**23 JANUARY 2021** ZOOM Meeting ID: 961 357 6877

WE SHALL NOT LIVESTREAM ONTO FACEBOOK DUE TO PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION POLICY

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COMMUNITY FUND

## Legal Services

### Employment Rights, Immigration, Family Crisis, Mediation – 20 February 2021 (pend?)

Focusing on Brexit, Irene Kamya spoke the new points-based system, skilled worker status, employers strategic planning post Brexit and other immigration categories. Joy Kyakwita spoke on a social worker standpoint. She encouraged people not to fear deportation during lockdown but to access care for their children and themselves if they needed it whether they are legally in the UK or not. Irene Kamya

GAN UK AFRICAN WOMEN'S SERIES  
**LEGAL SERVICES**  
Brexit - How this affects you

- Employment rights
- Immigration
- Family crises
- Family mediation services

Irene Serukenya Kamya  
Consultant Solicitor - Dias Solicitors;  
Staff Immigration and Compliance  
Officer - London School of Hygiene and  
Tropical Medicine

Joy Kyakwita  
Social Worker and  
Immigration Lawyer

Victoria Kweidhusa  
Trainee Solicitor and Immigration  
Law Caseworker;  
Atlantic Solicitors

05:00 PM UK | 8:00 PM EAT  
**20 FEB 2021** ZOOM Meeting ID: 935 1393 2214

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COMMUNITY FUND

As an Organisation GAN broadened its reach and horizons with the African Series, which we hope to have an opportunity to run once more. The total number of beneficiaries was over 1000 women, those who attended sessions and followed up on the signposting. Those women who did not attend, but who subsequently heard of options and opportunities from women who attended and approached GAN for further information. There were over 25 GAN volunteers who helped run the series, including speakers, facilitators, and those supporting the initiative with hosting, advertising and administration. New volunteers improved the skills base of the Board previously unfamiliar with running zoom sessions, marketing, developing partnerships and reaching out to the UK's African women beyond Gayaza Alumnae.



# Gayaza High School

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Email: [admin@gayazahs.sc.ug](mailto:admin@gayazahs.sc.ug) Website: [www.gayazahs.sc.ug](http://www.gayazahs.sc.ug)

25 August, 2020

## Gayaza Alumni Network.

% Judith Banya,  
+44 7957 118984.

Dear GAN,

### APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT TOWARDS GAYAZA HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

Warm greetings from Gayaza High School!

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to acknowledge receipt of your generous contribution of **UGX 1,000,000** as support to staff during these rather hard COVID-19 times. We truly appreciate your immeasurable kindness, love and support to Gayaza High School.

This will support and enable us sail through this period as we pray for normalcy to be restored.

We shall always be grateful for that heart of gold.

God bless you and Never Give Up!

Kizito Robinah Katongole  
**HEAD TEACHER**



**NEVER GIVE UP!**





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