

Capacity Building on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (RVSM) symposium

SEPTEMBER 10

Makerere University Senate Telepresence Center

Tuesday 10th Sept 2024 starting at 9 am - 2pm

Invite only

U.S. Speakers

Supported by Michigan State University (MSU) Alliance for African Partnership (AAP), and the Office of Civil Rights Title IX, this initiative is implemented by MSU experts, Makerere University and Michigan Fellows Africa Initiative (MFAI) Uganda. The symposium is the inaugural event in a series of engagements that seek to enhance safer institutions for all, improve on-campus support for victims and survivors, institutional trust and commitment towards safer and secure higher education institutions in Uganda and the United States.



Laura Rugless, (She, Her, Hers) Michigan State University Vice President for Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance & Title IX Coordinator. Laura has extensive experience and expertise in higher education and public/state equal opportunity, HR, employment law, Title IX, and other civil rights compliance administration. She led the civil rights offices and Title IX programs for four Division I institutions (Michigan State University, Cornell University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech) She has directed and conducted faculty, staff, and student civil rights (including sexual misconduct) investigations and resolutions processes.



Kelly Schweda, (she,her,hers) Executive Director at Prevention, Outreach and Education Department Office for Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance. Kelly has held several senior leadership portfolios as the Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Prevention Program (SARV) Coordinator at MSU, the Sexual Assault Program and Support Services Coordinator at AWARE Inc Jackson, MI and the Foster Care and Independent Living Supervisor: Genesee and Jackson Counties. In her current role at MSU, Kelly has created organizational structure for Prevention, Outreach and Education Department including branches that focus on Undergraduate student programs, faculty/staff/graduate student initiatives and Climate and Response Unit.

Uganda Speakers



Dr. Euzobia Mugisha Baine is the Director of the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate, Makerere University and on a joint appointment as a Lecturer in the East African School for Higher Education Studies and Development, College of Education & External Studies, Makerere University. Euzobia is a gender, education and development specialist/practitioner and an academic with research interests in social justice; public policy; gender equality, equity & mainstreaming; social identities; higher education leadership, management, organizational culture & quality assurance. She holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom.



Dorcus Asimwe (She, her, hers) is the Programs Manager at Michigan Fellows Africa Initiative (MFAI) Uganda. Dorcus holds a University of Iceland, School of Humanities Post Graduate Diploma in International Gender Equality Studies and Training. She is a gender specialist, an emerging scholar and practitioner with interests in gender equality & mainstreaming, social justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In her current role at MFAI, she heads the DEI council within the five countries of South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania, and oversees projects and programs' implementation and management.

Partners are purposeful in addressing the persistent challenge of RVSM within higher education institutions to enhance campus safety, increase support for RVSM victims and survivors, and response to emerging RVSM cases. The main topics include; Comparative policy formulation on RVSM and Gender-based Violence and Abuse at higher education institutions, RVSM work in progress at MSU as a benchmark for Makerere University and MFAI, prevention, response, and survivor-centered support.