

## About NWS

We strive to: Disrupt the White Savior Complex (WSC) in international development, aid, and missions by

- Identifying the WSC when it is perpetuated on social media or on the ground
- Holding those with structural power and privilege accountable for harms (through legal and social means)
- Inviting deeper learning through critical feedback and personal self-reflection
- Catalyzing wider conversations that challenge dominant narratives

We [also] strive to: Amplify the voices of those who are transforming their own communities by

- Using our platform to highlight Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) who enact social change in their communities (especially post-colonial and over-exploited settings)
- Creating space for BIPOC healing from harm perpetuated by the WSC
- Harnessing resources (financial and otherwise) and transferring control to BIPOC and communities affected by neocolonialism

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DEMONSTRATION ONLY



## No White Saviors (NWS)

### Description:

No White Saviors is an advocacy campaign led by a majority female, majority African team of professionals based in Kampala, Uganda. Our collective experience in the development & aid sectors has led us to a deep commitment to seeing things change in a more equitable & anti-racist direction.

### Stakeholder(s):

#### African Women

#### White People :

*WE NEVER SAID “NO WHITE PEOPLE” — We just know you shouldn’t be the hero of the story*

#### No White Saviors Team

#### Alaso Olivia :

*As a Ugandan Social Worker born and raised in Jinja, Olivia has a passion for helping vulnerable populations and supporting community-driven initiatives. After years of working with various NGOs and seeing harm caused by western do-gooders, she has imagined a better way forward. Olivia is a Mum to Lebron James Jr. and to a husband who really enjoys basketball. Family, history, and identity are all very important to her and a main source of her motivation.*

#### Kelsey Nielsen :

*When we refer to Kelsey as the “white savior in recovery” on the team, we are not kidding. It’s important to realize that this is an ongoing process. Her main role is holding herself and fellow white people accountable in a real way. Kelsey received both her bachelor’s and master’s in Social Work from Temple University in Philadelphia.*

#### Lubega Wendy :

*A human rights activist and advocate by profession with a degree in ethics and human rights. A 27-year-old Ugandan, she is very passionate about social change that is justice driven with the human person as a focal point.*

#### Sharon Nyanjura :

*When you run an NGO as a Ugandan, you see so many of the double standards that exist. Sharon has grown up around the white savior complex and, over time, has become increasingly vocal about the issues with it. As a Mum of two, completing her Masters abroad, running an NGO and a business in Uganda, she has very limited time but remains in support of the work NWS is doing. Sharon was very much a part of the early conversations and forming of NWS.*

## Vision

More equity, less racism

## Mission

To disrupt traditional power structures between the Western world and the African continent.

## Values

**Accountability**

**Honesty:** Radical honesty

**Humility**

**Boldness**

**Anti-Oppression**

**Justice**

**Liberation:** Collective liberation

**Voices:** Centering BIPOC voices

**Self-Reflection:** Ongoing self-reflection

## 1. Advocacy

*Hold the most severe perpetrators of white saviorism accountable in a court of law.*

### Stakeholder(s)

#### Ugandans

We believe the biggest hindrance to accessing justice for most Ugandans has been access to legal representation. It is one thing to talk about or theorize justice. It's another to take action and make it happen. This is why No White Saviors has dedicated the greater part of its activism to making sure that the most severe perpetrators of white saviorism be held accountable in a court of law. There are three primary cases we've been advocating for: healthcare, sex trafficking, and human trafficking / inter-country adoption.

### 1.1. Healthcare

*Spread awareness about the crimes committed and pay legal fees for mothers who lost children.*

#### Stakeholder(s):

##### Renee Bach :

*Renee Bach is the first and the largest case we have brought forward to the global community as well as to the Ugandan courts. Bach came to Uganda as an American missionary with only a High School diploma and no formal medical training.*

##### Serving His Children :

*She and her NGO, Serving His Children, proceeded to compromise the lives of 100s of Ugandan children. The families who came to Bach for help assumed she was a qualified medical professional and that her facility was registered. We were able to not only spread awareness about the crimes committed by Bach and SHC but also sponsored a significant portion of the legal fees for two of the mothers who lost their children.*

### 1.2. Sex Trafficking

*Raise awareness and fundraise for a safe shelter for survivors.*

NWS has been able to raise awareness about the case as well as fundraise for a safe shelter where some of the survivors were able to transition into.

#### Stakeholder(s):

##### Bery Glaser :

*For 11 years, young girls in Kalangala (a set of Islands in Lake Victoria) were taken in by a German man named Bery Glaser. While claiming to be rescuing vulnerable girls, Glaser was sexually abusing & exploiting them the entire time.*

### 1.3. Human Trafficking / Adoption

*Keep families together.*

Human Trafficking / Inter-Country Adoption — So long as inter-country adoption is a profit driven industry, we do not believe we will see the necessary shift in putting resources toward keeping families together. To date, NWS has done a great deal of writing and advocacy about the fraud in adoptions from Uganda. We have as well

been able to investigate and sponsor the legal representation for a biological mother who has had her child trafficked through a fraudulent international adoption.

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## 2. Education

*Deconstruct education previously received and replace it with truth.*

We understand that the education we are provided can either liberate or enslave us. We are deeply committed to providing a deconstruction of the education we have previously received and replacing it with the truth. Topics such as history, identity, culture, politics, colonization, foreign affairs, etc. are rarely taught fully or accurately. In order to change the narrative and create the new normal, we need to first reconcile who we actually are and what we've actually survived as a people. We educate through social media, interviews, writing articles, giving lectures, panel discussions, as well as organizing other events. We believe if we want to see real change, we need to be educating African people as well as foreign nationals. Those who hold power must be able to recognize when they are causing harm and learn how they can do better. African people need to have their experiences validated and their rights fully actualized. Without proper education, this cannot be possible.

### 2.1. Summer Series

*Bring together practitioners and activists.*

In July of 2019, we held our inaugural No White Saviors Summer Series in Kampala, Uganda, bringing together practitioners and activists from all over East Africa and the world. The weekend was packed with meaningful discussions about the harmful manifestations of the White Savior Complex in East Africa, as well as the path forward for taking action towards justice that centers African leadership. Additionally, we challenged the internalized colonialism within ourselves and built relationships to grow our network of African liberation. Please join us next summer, and watch this space as we plan more community events!

**Stakeholder(s):**

**East Africa**

### 2.2. Consulting & Speaking

*Offer consulting and speaking services.*

As we identify and confront the problematic norms in international development, we have received countless requests for individualized support on changing these dynamics. Whether you are a non-profit, NGO, university, church, or individual, we can offer consulting services to review your social media, written work, organizational structure, and/or on-the-ground operations. We invite those who are truly committed to fostering African power, voice, and dignity to reach out to us in order to inquire about hiring us as consultants. We are also available on a limited basis for speaking engagements on our work, the landscape of the WSC in East Africa, and other particular topics. Please contact us if you are interested in hiring us for a speaking engagement or consulting.

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Non-Profits**

**NGO**

**Universities**

**Churches**

**Individuals**

### 2.3. Online Presence

*Provide education on the White Savior Complex and African perspectives on liberation.*

Thus far, our most visible presence has been on our Instagram account @nowhitesaviors. We use this platform to reach our 200k+ followers with education on the White Savior Complex and the variety of African perspectives on liberation. Through this platform, we catalyze much-needed conversations, prompt reflection and accountability, deliver important resources and often-ignored viewpoints, highlight our partners who are doing work on the ground, and raise support for grassroots African initiatives. Although we've been attacked for our boldness, we will continue to produce quality educational content that is accessible to people all over the world.



### 3. Action

*Show examples and support those who are “getting it right”.*

#### Stakeholder(s)

##### **Kusimama Africa :**

*One of the most critical ways we take action is through our Kusimama Partnerships. Under our Ugandan-based NGO, Kusimama Africa, we are working alongside Ugandan-led organizations to help them grow and access the resources they need to serve their community... Kusimama Africa is a Ugandan registered organization that was birthed from the @nowwhitesaviors Instagram account out of the need to further our message about decolonization of the education system and the development aid sector on the ground here in Uganda and Africa at large. As an organization, it is sectioned into three sectors, which include education, advocacy and action.*

##### **Kusimama Partnerships :**

*Our partners are shifting the landscape of African development and aid, allowing African communities to reclaim their own power and voice. Please check out our five current partners profiled here, and then join the thousands of NWS supporters around the world who are donating to this critical on-the-ground work. Let's practice what we preach and disrupt white saviorism by replacing it with African community power!*

##### **Ugandan-Led Organizations**

While we spend much of our time holding accountable those who are “getting it wrong”, we find it equally as important to show examples and support those who are “getting it right”. There are many Ugandan / African –led community projects that deserve more support and recognition for the critical work they are doing for vulnerable communities. Generally, we’ve seen these individuals overshadowed by foreigners who often, unintentionally, fall into the role of the white savior.

#### 3.1. Family Support

*Navigate family challenges.*

Their main activity is providing wraparound services for families who believe that institutionalizing their children is the only way out of poverty, allowing these children to remain in their homes. Families receive business training, financial support through a start-up grant, and parenting classes, as well as ongoing social support.

#### Stakeholder(s):

##### **Zion Family Support :**

*Zion Family Support is a Ugandan-led and run organization that navigates the challenges that families have in an honorable, empathetic, compassionate, and understanding way.*

##### **Juliet Birungi :**

*ZFS was founded by Juliet Birungi, a mother of four with over five years of experience working with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), who knows that families who stay together are better able to thrive together.*

##### **Joshua Bryant :**

*She works alongside Joshua Bryant, who knows firsthand the impact that institutionalized care has independent of intent, as he was sent to one such institution at age 7. He is using his experience to come alongside families who are making the same decision his family did years ago.*

### 3.2. Havening

*Provide a home and safe haven for young women survivors of sex trafficking, sexual assault, and other sexual abuse.*

Additional support services include trauma therapy sessions, creating beautiful bracelets and Ugandan crafts, and hearing and sharing their stories.

#### **Stakeholder(s):**

##### **Lily of the Valley :**

*Lily of the Valley provides a home and safe haven for young women survivors of sex trafficking, sexual assault, and other sexual abuse.*

##### **Lily of the Valley Women :**

*Housed in Uganda, the women live together as they heal and support one another. Empowerment leads them in the direction of living a happy, full, and successful life as they also help their families as well. The women of Lily of the Valley create handmade Ugandan jewellery and crafts which also provides financial support for the women in the house.*

### 3.3. Arts & Mentorships

*Empower young people through creative arts and mentorships.*

#### **Stakeholder(s):**

##### **Faces Up :**

*Faces up is a Ugandan registered organization that aims to empower young people through creative arts and mentorship to become more creative, confident, critical thinkers and compassionate.*

##### **Young Ugandans**

##### **Ugandan Children :**

*Additionally, they inclusively empower children to take a drivers' seat in bettering their lives through turning their amazing artworks into products that are sold to enable them raise their own school fees.*

### 3.4. Education

*Improve the educational system in the Lamwo District of northern Uganda.*

#### **Stakeholder(s):**

##### **Emmanuel Children's Educational**

##### **Outreach :**

*Emmanuel Children's Educational Outreach exists to create a brighter future for the families of Lamwo District in northern Uganda.*

##### **Lamwo District Families**

##### **Charles Olweny :**

*Founded by Charles Olweny to create stability, safety, and security for his people, Emmanuel Children's Educational Outreach seeks to improve the local educational system to create sustainable change that will lead to more opportunities and less conflict.*

### 3.5. Malnutrition

*Educate and sensitize rural communities on the dangers of malnutrition.*

**Stakeholder(s):**

**CHEE Uganda :**

*CHEE Uganda is a community-based organization operating in Eastern Uganda especially in the district of Namutamba, CHEE Uganda educates and sensitizes the rural communities on the dangers of malnutrition through community outreach.*

**Eastern Uganda**

**Farmers in Eastern Uganda :**

*It also empowers the communities by giving out free seeds to farmers and sharing skills on how to farm.*

## Administrative Information

**Start Date:**

**End Date:**

**Publication Date:** 2020-07-24

**Source:** <https://nowwhitesaviors.org/>

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