



2025 REPORT: FIREFLY WAMU E.V.



We look back on a committed and successful 2025!

Firefly Wamu e.V. is committed to the educational and vocational training of young people in Uganda, as well as to political education work with school pupils in Germany. Our aim is not only to address global justice, but to actively help shape it. We address the issue of giving and taking: providing support to reduce, rather than reinforce, power imbalances. That is why we continually reflect on our position as a donor and strive for project work on an equal footing. To this end, we draw on both local knowledge and existing structures in Uganda, as well as professional advice and further training in Germany.

Who is *Firefly Wamu e.V.* in Germany?

We are a small, predominantly Cologne-based association based in Cologne's Südstadt district. Founded and run by former pupils of Humboldt Gymnasium, the school represents, in a sense, the birthplace of Firefly Wamu e.V. Through our collaboration with the Uganda Working Group at Humboldt Gymnasium in Cologne, we are constantly gaining new and committed members. On the German side, the association is responsible for securing the project's funding and for political education work with pupils at Humboldt Gymnasium. This includes workshops, project weeks and information events on topics such as global justice, colonial history and fair partnerships.

Change in the Executive Committee

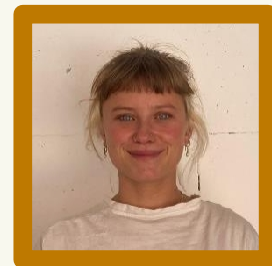
In 2025, there was a change in the association's board. Matthieu Tiltmann and Florinda Gith took up their positions as new board members, whilst Maria Monerjan assumed her role as the new treasurer. We would like to thank the previous board for their work and look forward to the fresh impetus and ideas that the new team will bring to the association's work.



Maria Monerjan



Florinda Gith
Matthieu Tiltmann



Anna Reisinger

Funding

We would like to thank all our donors for their trust and long-standing support! Our main donors, Humboldt-Gymnasium and KG-Ponyhof, enabled us to carry out many fantastic projects in 2025 and to plan for the future with confidence. We look forward to what we will achieve together in 2026!

Practical implementation and project work in Uganda

In 2025, we supported eleven young people on their academic journey, three of whom have now successfully graduated. The pupils, aged between 10 and 18, attend primary schools, secondary schools and vocational training institutions. Our local project partner, Cosmos Mohamed Ahmed, has been organising school visits and coordinating medical care for over three years. He is in close contact with the students' families and supports us with his experience and knowledge in finding sustainable solutions to the challenges that arise. The association pays Cosmos a fair salary and also wishes to support him in his professional development in the field of social work in the future. Cosmos is not only vital to the implementation of the project in Uganda; he is also involved in planning the association's future and makes a significant contribution to the association's transparent cost overview.



Pupils



Andrew and Cosmos

Renovation

In year 2025, carried out major renovation work on our project residence in Uganda. This house provides accommodation for the pupils during the school holidays, as well as in the event of illness or special care requirements. In addition, our project partner, Cosmos Mohamed Ahmed, lives and works in this house and coordinates the on-site project work from there. The renovation work carried out included the repair of the house, the refurbishment of the kitchen, the purchase



Kitchen building

Report December 2025

Firefly Wamu e.V.

new beds and the refurbishment of the building's exterior wall. These measures have significantly improved the young people's living conditions and contribute in the long term to greater stability, safety and reliable care.



**Kibanga
Primary**



**Sserwanga
Secondary**



Schools: Continuity, Change and Graduations

This year, too, we were delighted to celebrate the successful graduation of several pupils. Joel, Aulati, Ibra and Matthia successfully completed their seventh year of primary school and are now moving on to the secondary school in Masaka on the mainland, which is already familiar to the project. Three further pupils – George, Jerald and Kabuye – completed their training in mechatronics, whilst another finished his training in electromechanics. We are supporting these former pupils with a one-off start-up grant of €250 to help them get started in their careers. They are currently working on a palm oil plantation as



Graduation photo of pupils from Kibanga Primary School

mechatronics engineers, in a car workshop in Masaka, and in a small electronics shop they have set up themselves.

Next year, *Firefly Wamu e.V.* will be supporting nine pupils at various schools, including primary schools, secondary schools and vocational colleges. Particularly as pupils are moving to new schools, we take care to take their career interests into account, so that they can achieve independence in the future even without the financial support of *Firefly Wamu e.V.*

Humboldt Gymnasium

The Uganda Working Group was established as part of the association's long-standing collaboration with Humboldt Gymnasium. It regularly organises information events, fundraising campaigns and political education projects. In October 2025, the working group, together with the association, ran a workshop during the project week on the topic of 'Racism within us, in Germany and in global dynamics'. The aim was to raise awareness of racist structures among pupils in Years 5 to 9, encourage them to reflect on their own stereotypes and, at the same time, foster a critical perspective on global interconnections. In addition to theoretical input, the programme included an external anti-racism workshop, a museum visit, insights into the association's work and a creative workshop session.

By helping to organise the project week and providing insights into our association and our work, we were able to build a bridge between global engagement and local self-reflection. The pupils learnt about the association's work in Uganda without falling into classic 'white saviour' narratives. Instead, the school's fundraising activities were also critically examined to ensure that support does not reproduce simplified or stereotypical images of African countries. Furthermore, the tasks of the Uganda Working Group were presented and the pupils were invited to get further involved.

Report by the pupils of Humboldt Gymnasium

The core of the project week was the professionally facilitated anti-racism workshop. Here, the pupils were able to learn, in an age-appropriate manner, where racism comes from and how it still influences our structures and our thinking to this day. They explored

how racism manifests itself today, to understand the realities of life for those affected, and to reflect on their own identity and social position in this context. The external

workshop leader emphasised the positive dynamic of the group:

“I found the pupils’ commitment and openness particularly enriching.”

A further impetus for this shift in perspective came from the museum tour on the theme

“Colonialism, cultural appropriation and interpretive authority”. The pupils learnt that museums, too, can play a part in the creation of stereotypes and recorded their new thoughts and information in a booklet they had made themselves.

At the end of the project week, the pupils were able to channel their new insights during a workshop phase and express them through creative works such as linocuts and information posters, thereby making their newly adopted stance a permanent and visible feature of the school. Overall, we can say that the pupils not only acquired knowledge about racism but also actively worked on developing their own anti-racist attitudes. They are now better able to identify and name prejudices in their everyday lives more quickly.



Artistic conclusion to the project week



FIREFLY WAMU e.V.

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