

UKWELI AFRICA NEWSLETTER



Dear Reader.

We're finally here!

This is our very first newsletter, and writing this feels like opening a window to let you in on something we've been quietly building. Ukweli Africa has been months in the making. A dream that started with small ideas is now taking its first steps. While the platform itself is still young, the people behind Ukweli bring with them years of solid experience.



Our team lead, Godfrey Badebye, is a man who has walked in and out of many countries shooting hard-hitting documentaries. A two-paragraph bio cannot capture his entire journey, but Badebye is a seasoned cinematographer and media expert with over 13 years of experience. He has won several ACME awards, with the most recent being this year. He has worked with international outlets such as the BBC, telling stories that focus on real African voices. Have you watched, "Stealing from the Sick?, or Racism for Sale?, ask no more.

As co-founder and team lead of Ukweli Africa, Badebye brings his deep commitment to high-quality investigative journalism, and continues to advocate for greater mental health support in the newsroom. The team is in good hands with his leadership.

While we're excited to tell you about the projects we've been working on, it would not be right to jump into programs without first showing you some of the faces behind Ukweli.



MEET THE TEAM



Patience Ikuret Patience is a multi-talented video editor and joins the team as our head of production.



Kaddu Shem Shem is a professional video and graphics editor, TV producer, and production manager with a passion for storytelling and visual creativity. Shem has built a strong career in media, blending technical skill with artistic vision. He is also a digital influencer using his platform to engage and inspire.



Leticia Mmeeme Leticia is a professional journalist who specializes in writing. She joins the team as a reporter, writer, and digital communications officer.

SO, WHO ARE WE?

Ukweli Africa is a growing media enterprise based in East Africa, dedicated to reshaping narratives, amplifying Afrocentric stories, and advancing journalist safety, professionalism, and mental well-being.

We're building a space for meaningful storytelling, creating stories that challenge, expose, heal, and move communities forward.

LEARN MORE



Our focus areas include:





Research and Cross-border



Mental Health Advocacy for Journalists



Engagement





Capacity Building and Training

We value Credibility, Integrity, Teamwork, and Accountability

and we're proud to reflect these in every step we take.

Fun Fact:

The Swahili word "Ukweli" means "truth" and that is exactly what we're all about: telling true stories that matter to Africa and beyond!

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WHAT'S COOKING?

First, if you haven't already, I invite you to follow us on social media: Ukweli Investigative Journalism Initiative Africa. Yes, it's a mouthful, which is why we simply go by Ukweli Africa. You'll find us on almost every platform you can think of. We're on X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, TikTok, Instagram, and most importantly, YouTube, where we'll be releasing all our hard-hitting documentaries.

Here are the links to follow us:













This July, we've been quietly preparing something bold which we have agreed to call The Newsroom Series. From newsroom to field, we've been interviewing some of the most prominent journalists across the continent. You'll hear raw, honest stories from:



Bart Kakooza (Ugandan)



Penda Thiam (Senegalese)



John-Allan Namu (Kenyan)



Kassim Kayira (Ugandan)



Daniel Lutaaya (Ugandan)



Frank Walusimbi (Ugandan)



Abubaker Lubowa (Ugandan)

These Conversations offer a powerful glimpse into the heart of African journalism. They are a must-watch for every working journalist editor and for young reporters just stepping into the newsroom. Through these interviews, we uncover the deep gaps in mental health support and the emotional toll that many journalists carry long after the story is told. The trauma and horror they witness often linger, made worse by the absence of care or counselling. They also share, the best part of the newsroom, and you cannot afford to miss.

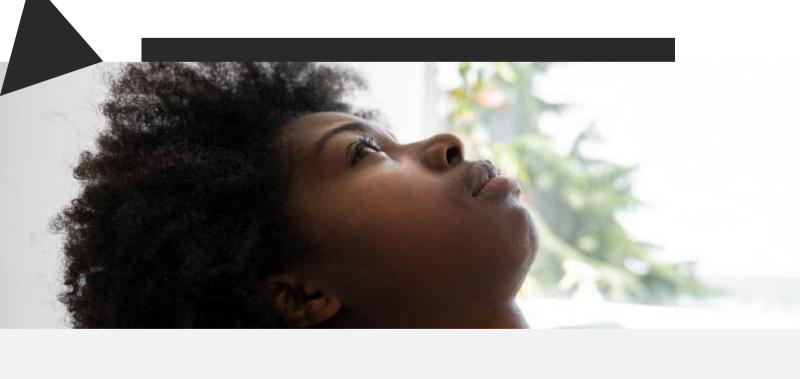
We encourage you to follow our pages for updates on the release dates. Each story is compelling in its own way, and none should be missed.



This August we will begin rolling out this content across all our platforms. Please stay

tuned. This is journalism like you have never seen before.

And to our readers, we also have a lineup of deeply reported longform stories, rich in voice, detail, and context.



WE CARE ABOUT JOURNALISTS' MENTAL HEALTH

At Ukweli Africa, storytelling is just the beginning. We know the emotional toll journalism can take. The trauma, pressure, and exposure to violence and conflict often go unseen. That's why mental health support is a core part of our mission.

We're planning a special training focused on mental health and safety in the newsroom. This training will be invite-only, and we'll be reaching out through our mailing list. If you haven't signed up yet, now is the time.



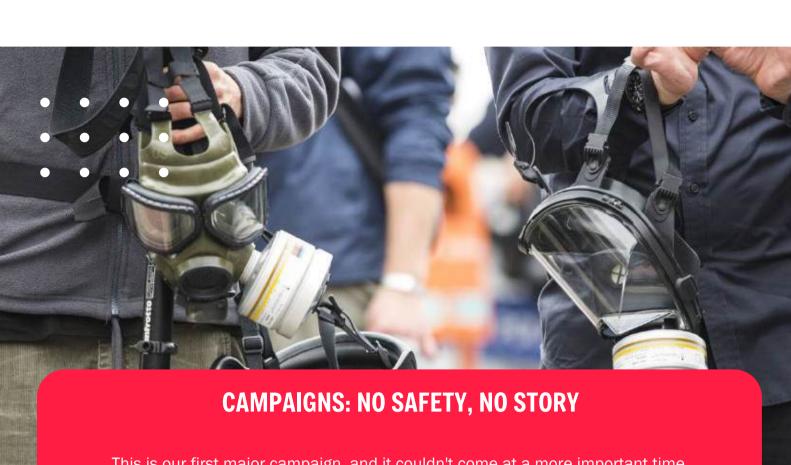


We Care About Journalist Safety



Your safety matters. We offer hands-on training and provide safety kits for journalists working in the field. Whether you're covering protests, elections, or investigations, protection should never be optional.

Through our safety sessions, we help journalists assess risk, protect themselves, and respond when things go wrong. We believe every journalist deserves access to these tools, no matter where they are.



This is our first major campaign, and it couldn't come at a more important time.

Uganda is heading into an election season, and too many reporters lack the training or resources they need to stay safe.

We want to change that. Our goal is to travel across regions, reaching local journalists with basic protection knowledge, legal awareness, and survival strategies. Uganda's elections often feel like a battleground. Journalists should never go in unprepared.



We're always open to collaboration. If you work in journalism, advocacy, mental health, or media development, let's talk. We're especially interested in partnerships that support safety training, newsroom wellbeing, or data-driven storytelling.

We also support research and offer media production services. If our values align, we'd love to work with you.

WE ARE GROWING ONE INTERVIEW AT A TIME

Lately, we've been in the field moving from one interview to the next, listening to journalists speak about their work, their struggles, and their dreams. It's been intense, but necessary.

We're still young, but each step forward adds purpose to what we're building. The stories we're collecting aren't just news. They're lived experiences, and they matter.

SUPPORT OUR JOURNEY

Ukweli Africa is growing, but we can't do this alone. Your support helps us train journalists, produce powerful stories, and push for safer newsrooms across the region.

If you believe in truth, justice, and the safety of those who bring you the news, consider donating to our cause. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference.

Together, we can build a stronger, safer media for Africa.

Support us today. Help keep the story alive.



STOP BY AND SAY HELLO

You'll find us in **Ntinda**, **along Kigoowa Road**. If you're curious about our work or would like to collaborate, come through. Let's sit down, share ideas, and build together.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. It's only the beginning.

Stay connected. Stay curious. Stay with Ukweli.

Don't forget to follow us on all our social media platforms and subscribe to receive our August newsletter, coming in just four weeks.







