she commended the Government of Uganda for the progress and achievements made to address SRHR/HIV and SGBV. She also acknowledged the need to do much so as to secure sexual and reproductive health for all, and to ensure women and girls are able to live a life free of violence. “This means we need to step up our efforts, be critical about our strategies, and collaborate to have the highest impact on the lives of girls and boys, women and men.”

ddressed the issue of COVID-19 having devastated communities and economies however it also provided an opportunity to address the urgent need for universal health coverage in Uganda. “If achieved, there will be affordable, high-quality services leading to better health for everyone including children and women. Ugandans will be more educated and productive to the economy and families will be protected from poverty-causing health costs.”

This achievement is important because men are key players in attaining gender equality” Said Nancy Apio, the Gender coordinator.  “It is not just a women’s conversation and it helps men to attain positive masculinity and break the male dominance and associated violence” she added.

 mobilising men in communities to become role models and the same champions later pushed to have this day gazetted. We have also been carrying out capacity building for men and women on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

aims to share experiences, evidence and insights to seek directions on how men and boys can creatively contribute to gender equality, within a broader vision of social justice.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a fundamental human rights violation and a serious public health concern that affects women, men and young people in all their diversity. Rooted in gender inequalities and power imbalances between men and women, an estimated one in three women are affected by violence in their lifetime. Social norms that emphasize dominant notions of masculinity, pressure men and boys into ways of behaviour are a cause and consequence of SGBV. These ‘masculinities’ are equally harmful to those who do not conform to these norms, and a root cause of homophobia and transphobia.

Chaired by Anjali Sen, Regional Director of the IPPF South Asia Region, the session stimulated discussion about the implications for building on current best practice in engaging men and boys in preventing and stopping SGBV, promoting women’s and girls’ voice and agency, and improving the health and well-being of men in all their diversity.