

Media information

Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol, Public Relation, Mag. Iris Reichkenderl
Innsbruck on April 20, 2016

Tyrol women Landesrätin met director of a Kenyan development project **Sisterhood as a bridge between Europe and Africa**



Sophie Elisabeth Kibuywa and woman Landesrätin Christine Baur (Photo Land Tirol, Pidner)

"Although the living conditions are very different, yet some parallels can be drawn," notes Ms. Landesrätin **Christine Baur** after meeting Ms. Sophie Elisabeth Kibuywa from the Western Kenyan district of Bungoma. At the meeting Kibuywa reported on the development project that DESECE (Development Education Services for Community Empowerment) organization undertakes, which she heads as a director. The NGO is supported by "Brother and sister in need" of the Diocese of Innsbruck. DESECE puts a special focus on women who bear the brunt of the workload in Kibuywa's home area, especially in agriculture.

"Although women are the main interior providers, male offspring are desirable in some ethnic groups. Violence against women happens again and again", says Kibuywa. A solution she sees is to give women more access to resources, to bring them in active management positions and also raise awareness to men on gender equality. Because "poverty comes from the oppression of women", Kibuywa is convinced. The project of DESECE reached so far 4,500 women and include, besides consultations, workshops and training also lobbying and advocacy for gender justice. The Tyrol government has financed an event hall, which hosts the training of DESECE.

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"Some experiences are experiences which are comparable to women in Tyrol," says Landesrätin Baur. The recently published Tyrolean Equality Report 2016 which noted, that sex is still a decisive factor in the lives of people in Tyrol.

Quota for women in Kenya

"In some areas Kenya is more advanced," Kibuywa can report: The right to equality was established in the new constitution of Kenya in 2010. This resulted in a women's quota in parliament, gender mainstreaming in the administration and a gender-oriented state budget. Till all is implemented although it is still a long way, but Sophie Elisabeth Kibuywa with her organization has already achieved quite some change in the minds of the targeted population.