

## Contributors

**Lamyâ Achary** (PhD) is a sociologist, human rights researcher, Pan-African feminist, and board member of the African Women's Development Fund. A Fellow at the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights at the Harvard Kennedy School and a Visiting Fellow Affiliate of the Center for African Studies at Harvard University, Achary's research focuses on LGBTQI+ rights, gender, and authoritarianism across North Africa. Grounded in decolonial feminist theory, their work examines the intersections of sexuality, power, and state violence; it centres the knowledge, resistance, and lived realities of communities historically excluded from institutional frameworks.

**Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi** is a Feminist, Policy Advocate, Leadership Coach, Philanthropist, and author of several publications. She served as the Director of Akina Mama wa Afrika where she established the African Women's Leadership Institute. Later, she co-founded the African Women's Development Fund in 2000 and served as its first CEO from 2001-2010. As First Lady of Ekiti State, Nigeria, Bisi used her platform to influence legal and policy frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls. She also serves on several boards that advance women's rights. She is co-founder of Amandla Institute for Policy and Leadership Advancement.

**Naima Agouzoul** is a Moroccan engineering student, an artist, a feminist, and a human rights activist. She is a Campaign Coordinator at Amnesty International Morocco where she leads youth discussions and projects on gender equality, peacebuilding, and social justice. Through her voice and art, she uses creativity as a form of activism to promote awareness around human rights and feminism. Naima is passionate about building safe, inclusive spaces, both physically as a future engineer and socially as an advocate for peace and equality.

**Maame A. Amoa-Marfo** is a writer and founding and organising member of the Young Feminist Collective. She is an MPhil student at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, and an independent researcher.

**Hope Chigudu** is a mysterious woman of many trades with decades of experience in movement-building, leadership development, and organisational transformation. Her work centres on health, well-being, and collective care, as expressed in her book *Strategies for Building Organizations with a Soul*. As a coach and facilitator, she guides transitions, nurtures human possibilities, dismantles oppressive structures, and creates futures of love, justice, and liberation. Raised by farmers, healers, dancers, and storytellers, she carries the rhythm of resilience and joy into her practice. She co-founded the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network. Laughter remains her revolutionary strategy.

**Ennie Chipembere** is a feminist leadership, career, and life coach who integrates holistic wellness into her coaching programmes. She is an expert in learning and development, organisational growth, and strategy. With over two decades of experience, Ennie has supported women leaders, activists, and human rights defenders in more than 35 countries across Africa and globally. Her work is grounded in a commitment to justice, dignity, and feminist principles. Having worked in complex humanitarian, social justice, and movement-building spaces, she understands the pressures that marginalised people navigate. She has guided individuals, organisations, and networks through leadership transitions and long-term strategy processes in diverse contexts.

**vangile gantscho** is a poet, healer, teaching artist, and co-founder of impepho press. she is the editor of *New Coin Poetry Journal* and the author of *red cotton* (2018) and *Undressing in Front of the Window* (2015). she holds an MA in creative writing from Rhodes University and has taught at several tertiary institutions in South Africa and the USA. her work has appeared in various publications including *New Daughters of Africa* (2019). gantscho has performed

her work on three continents and curated literary events across the globe, both in-person and online. she is dedicated to initiatives that encourage black feminine visibility and healing, such as *smallgirl rising connecting the Divine Black Feminine*, an international poetry healing initiative.

**Jessica Horn** is an (East) African ideamonger, futurist, strategist, and writer. An innovator by inclination, she pioneered the African Women's Development Fund's Futures initiative, and in 2021 became the first African woman to lead the Ford Foundation in East Africa. Trained in women's health rights, Jessica served on the Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health. Her interest in embodiment is carried forth through her work as co-director of *the temple of her skin*, a documentary initiative around African women's tattooing journeys. Jessica's writing has been published in academic, movement, and global media platforms. She is author of *African Feminist Praxis: Cartographies of Liberatory Worldmaking* (Sage, 2025). Jessica has served on several governance boards.

**Ayesha Imam** is a co-founder of the African Feminist Forum. Feminist since her teens, she also co-founded Women in Nigeria (the first Nigerian feminist organisation) and BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights (which won awards for the defence of women's rights in Sharia). Beyond Nigeria, Ayesha's activism extends to international solidarity networks such as Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML). She has worked in various universities in Africa, Europe, and North America. Her publications span activist, policy, and academic scholarship. They include "The Devil is in the Details" (2016); "Women in Search of Citizenship" (2013); "Engendering African Social Sciences" (1999, 2004); "Strategies of Resistance: Challenging the Cultural Disempowerment of Women" (2011); and "Ba Sa Jin Mu—They Don't Listen to Us: Women and Informal Peace Building in North-Eastern Nigeria" (2022).

**Nancy Kachingwe** is a co-founder of South Feminist Futures, an association set up in 2020 as a space for South-South feminist learning, knowledge sharing, and collective visioning across thematic, linguistic, and geographical barriers. She has worked in international and regional NGOs on a range of development policy issues including trade and globalisation, regional integration, land rights,

climate justice, and social movements – with a particular focus on influencing policy from a feminist political economy perspective.

**Alice Karekezi** is a scholar activist who has worked for over 30 years in post-conflict settings and reconstruction. Her main concern has been with decolonising international norm constructions. She co-founded the University of Rwanda Centre for Conflict Management (CCM) and spearheaded a coalition against gender-based violence that led the call for the labelling of incitement of rape as a crime of genocide in the 1998 landmark conviction of Jean-Paul Akayesu. Karekezi has examined homegrown reconciliatory practices, chiefly Gacaca and Gir’inka, Women, Peace and Security, Transitional Justice and Reconciliation; Civil-Military Cooperation; and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Karekezi has lectured at several institutions around the world.

**Jackline Kemigisa** is a journalist, podcaster, researcher, and student. As an independent researcher, she theorises and co-creates political thought and practice for queer and sex worker organisations in Eastern Africa. Her Black indigenous political thinking and practice also extends to the Black Planetary Future Conversation group hosted by the Centre for Art, Design, and Social Research. As a thinker, she also contributes to the Northern Council for Global Cooperation’s *Alternatives to Development Program* that pursues decentring Western ways of being, knowing, and doing in international development systems and practices. Kemigisa is a co-host of the Wulira History podcast. Her latest research report maps anti-Blackness in Eastern Africa.

**Demere Kitunga** is a feminist activist, publisher, creative writer, and translator. As a feminist mentor, she organises storytelling spaces and events. Demere has been active in publishing and readership promotion for over 40 years, 20 of them dedicated to feminist storytelling. She has written and translated over a dozen children’s stories, poetry, and feminist writings. She has also curated several book and multimedia exhibitions, events, and public talks. Demere is a co-founder of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, the Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Support Initiative, E&D Vision Publishing, and Soma

(home to Soma Book Café). Her most recent creation is Uhenga Collective – an informal open forum for excavating silenced feminist stories.

**Larissa Kojoué** holds a PhD in Political Science from Sciences Po Bordeaux and the University of Yaoundé II-Soa. She is a researcher with Human Rights Watch and a Pan-African queer feminist activist with a deep commitment to human rights, social justice, and African literature. Her research spans various projects on citizenship, gender and sexuality, HIV/AIDS, development aid, and teaching. Larissa has taught political sociology at both University Lumière Lyon II in France and the University of Buea in Cameroon. She is involved in grassroots activism for building social justice movements for women and sexual minorities in West and Central Africa.

**Maame A. Kyerewaa-Marfo** is a writer, founding and organising member of the Young Feminist Collective, and a communications specialist. She is the Senior Communications Officer at The Young Feminist fund (FRIDA).

**Wunpini F. Mohammed** is a Ghanaian feminist activist-scholar. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Cornell University. She is the author of *Media, Culture, and Decolonization: Re-righting the Subaltern Histories of Ghana* (Rutgers University Press, 2025) and co-editor of *African Women in Digital Spaces: Redefining Social Movements on the Continent and in the Diaspora* (2023).

**Sarah Mukasa** is a Pan-African feminist activist with over 20 years of senior leadership experience in the global not-for-profit sector where she steered philanthropic support for intersectional gender justice organising. She is a founder member of the African Feminist Forum and the Uganda Feminist Forum.

**Theoma K. Obibi** is a feminist leader dedicated to safeguarding against sexual exploitation and ending violence against women and girls. She has advanced women's rights and gender justice across Nigeria and West Africa for over 25

years. Iheoma is the Executive Director of Alliances for Africa where she has led landmark advocacy using the Maputo Protocol. Her approach to sexual rights prioritises survivor rights while engaging policy and accountability systems. She sits on the Steering Committees of the African Feminist Forum, the Nigerian Feminist Forum, and the National Assembly Gender Technical Group.

**Solumfeechi Odinkalu** is a medical student at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS). She is completing an intercalated MSc in Women's Health at University College London (UCL) with a concentration on obstetrics and gynaecology and reproductive health. Her interests include advancing reproductive justice and addressing gender and ethnic inequities within healthcare systems. Through her feminist scholarship and medical training, she is committed to conversations that centre African women's voices, experiences, and autonomy within clinical practice and health policy.

**Mary Rusimbi** is a pioneering Tanzanian feminist, educator, policy analyst, and movement builder in her country and across Africa. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Dar-es-Salaam, alongside a Master's in Community Education and a Certificate in Gender and Development from the University of Sussex. Mary has worked extensively on education reform, poverty reduction, and gender-responsive budgeting, integrating a feminist perspective into macro-economic planning, public finance, and economic policy analysis. She co-founded and led the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) and the Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFT-T), and she contributed to shaping the Feminist Manifesto for Africa. She is the Founder of the Nendiwe Wellness & Coaching Centre.

**Liyema Somnono** is a South African human rights activist, legal scholar, and paralegal dedicated to advancing gender justice and transforming HIV prevention for marginalised communities. She has worked extensively with the Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Task Force (SWEAT), using legal empowerment and rights-based advocacy to challenge violence, stigma, and

discrimination against sex workers. Through Young Sex Workers in Africa (YOSWA), she fosters regional solidarity and feminist organising by amplifying the voices and leadership of young sex workers in sexual and reproductive health and rights across the continent.

**Fatou Sow** is a Senegalese retired professor of Sociology and Feminist Studies from the Cheikh Anta Diop University and the University Paris Diderot. Trained in Senegal and France, she first dedicated her work to major development issues such as state formation, educational challenges arising from migration, urbanisation, and resource management, before turning to Women's Studies and the analysis of gender relations in African societies. She has been active in several African and international feminist networks, including Women Living Under Muslim Laws and DAWN. Her research focuses on feminist scholarship, fundamentalisms, and women's health and sexuality in sub-Saharan Africa. She has edited key publications, including *Notre corps, notre santé*; *La recherche féministe francophone: langue, identités et enjeux*; and *Genre et fondamentalismes*.

**Jaimee A. Swift** (PhD) is the founder and executive director of Black Women Radicals, a Black feminist advocacy organisation dedicated to uplifting and centring the power of Black feminist activism in Africa and the African Diaspora.

**Sylvia Tamale** is a leading African feminist and scholar. In 2022, she retired from Makerere University's School of Law where she worked for 36 years and was the first female Dean of Law in the country. She has been a visiting Professor in several academic institutions globally and served on several international human rights boards. Her numerous publications include the award-winning book, *Decolonization and Afro-Feminism* (Daraja Press, 2020). She holds two Honorary Doctorates of Law from the University of Pretoria and Rhodes University.

**Coumba Tourè** is a storyteller, a writer, and a publisher of children's books through [kuumbati.com](http://kuumbati.com). Art is central to her activism and healing practices. She has more than 30 years of experience leading and implementing social justice programmes worldwide. She is a Senior Advisor to philanthropies and social change movements. Coumba is a skilled facilitator, organiser, and the founder of the Invisible Giants Foundation, which celebrates and documents stories of women working for positive change. She leads a collective of artists through Falia.

**Wana Udobang** is a writer, poet, and performer with three spoken word poetry albums: *Dirty Laundry*, *In Memory of Forgetting*, and *Transcendence*. She facilitates "The Comfort Food Storytelling Workshop" which uses food memories to inspire new stories. Wana has been awarded numerous fellowships for her storytelling including the Ama Ata Aidoo Fellowship at Northwestern University and the Camargo Foundation Fellowship.

**Brenda Wambui** is a policy, research, and advocacy professional with over 13 years of experience across Africa, Asia, and Europe, working at the intersections of feminism, governance, digital media, and technology. Her work leverages technology and digital media for advocacy and reform, advancing equity and justice for women and girls, LGBTQI+ people, African youth, and marginalised global communities. She is building *Ushiriki*, a policy lab for addressing Global South research-advocacy gaps on emergent frontier issues.

**Muthoni Wanyeki** (PhD) is a Canadian/Kenyan political scientist based in Nairobi, whose research interests centre the notion of "African solutions for African problems." She has worked for over three decades to advance African democracy, human rights (including women's rights), peace, and security. She has also written extensively on related matters for primarily African audiences. She is now pursuing creative writing.

**Shamillah Wilson** is a South African feminist, personal wellbeing coach, and process architect. She supports individual leaders and organisations globally to have courageous conversations, navigate complexity, and deepen their decolonial intersectional practice. She is passionate about supporting organisations to create more accountable and caring ecosystems. As a member of the African Feminist Forum, she is committed to practice and movement building in Africa and across the globe.