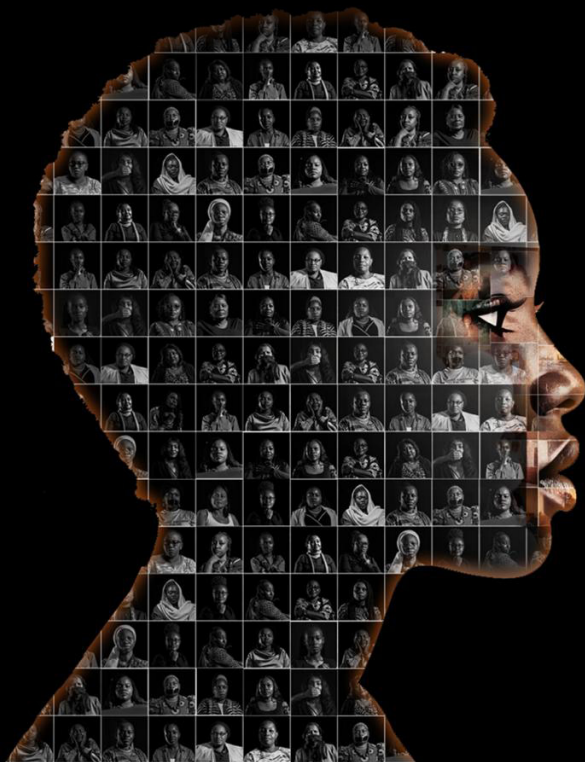


**16** DAYS OF  
ACTIVISM AGAINST  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network



**UNMUTED**

**Artivism Against  
Gender-Based  
Violence**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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was developed by Maureen Anyango, Susan Nyabena, Lilian Ndinda, and  
Maureen Wanjiku. We acknowledge with appreciation all participants  
whose voices, images, and reflections shaped this campaign.

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UNMUTED is a feminist visual and storytelling movement that confronts silence, challenges stigma, and exposes the evolving forms of violence facing women and girls across Africa.

This campaign uses conceptual photography, storytelling videos, and personal narratives to show how violence moves across online and offline worlds how it shapes autonomy, identity, safety, and the ability of women to reclaim their voices, power, and dignity.

UNMUTED asks one central question:

**What happens when African women refuse silence in their bodies, in their stories, and in their digital lives?**

Every image, every line of poetry, and every story in this exhibition is an act of taking back space.

UNMUTED transforms pain into visibility, survival into leadership, and silence into resistance.

How the campaign was created  
UNMUTED was built through an intentional blend of **conceptual photography, storytelling, and videos.**

We used portraiture to capture presence and emotion, allowing each woman to reclaim how she is seen. Storytelling sessions offered space to reflect on silence, digital harm, autonomy, and resistance shaping the themes of this campaign.

Through Poems and visual symbolism, the videos brought these experiences to life, transforming voice into motion and narrative into power.

This scrapbook holds the outcome of that collective creative process a feminist archive of visibility, truth, and courageous expression.



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# I Will SPEAK #Unmuted



## Dear Fems,

This year, we speak with clarity and conviction against the weaponization of women bodies, the violent femicide and all forms of violence against women and girls in all their diversities. Violence is not only happening in our homes, communities, and institutions it is expanding into our digital spaces, shaping how women navigate the world both online and offline.

Across Africa, women and girls are disproportionately impacted by multiple crises from broken financial systems of debt, authoritarian governments, natural disasters, health crises and displacement. Women and girls continue to face silencing, shaming, surveillance, and violations of bodily autonomy. Yet, they also continue to resist. They continue to organize. They continue to rise.

**UNMUTED** calls us to confront these intersecting harms with renewed urgency, feminist analysis, collective power, and care. This campaign honours that courage and resilience while demanding accountability from racialized capitalist and oppressive systems of dominance and extraction. It calls on member States, digital platforms, policymakers, and institutions that perpetuate harmful practices to STOP Violence against women and girls. Through bold visuals, concept photography, and feminist storytelling, UNMUTED is both a call to action and a reminder that:

**Our voices are not optional. Our bodies are not battlegrounds. Our rights are non-negotiable.**

I invite our members, partners, and allies across the continent to join us throughout the 16 to 365 Days to share your collective voices, messages, activate your networks, spark conversation, challenge harmful norms, and invest in the solutions that women and girls are calling for. Together, let us stay loud. Let us stay courageous. Let us stay UNMUTED.

## Feminist Solidarity and Power

**Memory Kachambwa**

*Executive Director, FEMNET*





# Digitally Unmuted

This is a lesson learned, where the apocalypse is a private event: a simultaneous occurrence of multiple, interacting crises that are more severe than the sum of their parts.

The debris left behind, for me to decipher what part of me remained to defend. Some things I could not even comprehend. During the turbulence, some saw my “no,” or “maybe not,” and said yes, as if autonomy were not mine, or my right to defend.

I silently explored the fragility of healing with rare sensitivity. I tread a narrow path between heartbreak and the chance for redemption, a survivor's crucifixion that I endure with stubborn resilience.

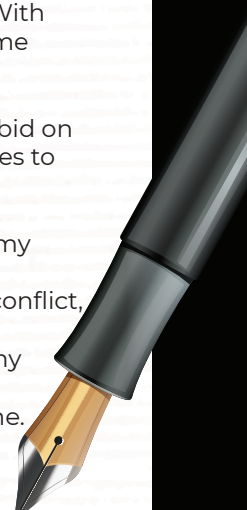
As I stood in opposition, I glimpsed the line where love and hate entwine, the breath of peace met with a fault-line sign. Through adaptability, silence became a vast, turbulent grind.

With every hurt, a tale of strength, of breaking the silence, and going the length. Where my shadows play, and my voice trembled. With laughter and tears, I weaved the day, a beacon of strength, come what may. Making peace with all the women I once was.

My right to dignity and respect was a private affair, a personal bid on myself that I declared. No one ever emphasizes the work it takes to structure, rebuild, and repair.

From this lens, I cannot help but see my struggle, my silence, my suffering, my oppression, and my recklessness. We don't talk enough about peace, not the peace of war and conflict, but the peace that implies making space for silence and ease. This is a meditation on claiming and becoming: insisting on my rights to choose, to speak, to be seen, and to define my own boundaries in a world that too often tries to decide them for me.

Anonymous





## BREAKING SILENCE

Silence was never safety if it was a burden women were forced to carry. Across generations, silence has been used to hide violence, protect perpetrators, and maintain unequal power. UNMUTED challenges that silence and honours the courage it takes to name harm, to leave, to resist, to rebuild. Here, breaking silence is liberation every portrait a refusal to disappear.



## DIGITAL VIOLENCE

Digital harm is real harm immediate, borderless, and deeply personal. From doxing and deepfakes to extortion and surveillance, technology has amplified old forms of control.

Digital violence distorts identity, invades privacy, and reshapes daily life. UNMUTED insists that digital safety is bodily safety, emotional safety, and political safety.





### BODILY AUTONOMY

When images, narratives, or choices are stolen, autonomy is attacked. Digital violence often targets the body symbolically through manipulation, rumors, or exposure. This theme connects online harm to the broader fight for consent, privacy, dignity, and the right to choose. Autonomy is non-negotiable whether the violence comes through a screen or through lived experience.



### RESILIENCE

Resilience is not enduring violence it is transforming life beyond it. UNMUTED reframes resilience as rebuilding identity, reclaiming worth, and finding community after harm. It is the courage to rise, to resist erasure, and to create space for others to heal. The visuals show resilience as movement, clarity, and the quiet power of being witnessed.



## INTERSECTIONALITY

No woman experiences violence in only one way.

Age, disability, geography, identity, and class shape both vulnerability and strength.

This theme exposes layered experiences from inaccessible systems to cultural silencing, digital targeting, or social exclusion.

Intersectionality ensures no story is lost, and no voice is left outside the frame.



## JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Justice delayed is violence repeated.

Across Africa, survivors face unresponsive systems and outdated laws that do not recognise digital harm.

This theme demands survivor-centered processes, stronger legislation, and accountability from platforms, states, and institutions.

UNMUTED exposes failures and calls for an end to impunity.

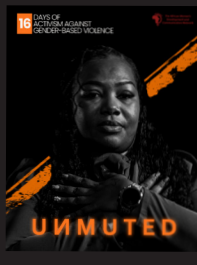
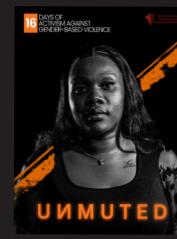




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## Quotes

“People see one part of me. Violence saw all of me. So my resistance must include all of me too.”

“My body is not a debate. My choices are not a public forum. Autonomy is mine everywhere.”

“What happened to me online didn't stay online it followed me into my home, my work, my body. That's why I had to speak.”





## Quotes

“Justice is more than a process it is protection, truth, and accountability. Without it, impunity thrives and harm continues. We stand for systems that listen, act, and deliver justice that restores dignity and honours those affected.”

“Digital violence is not abstract it is control, manipulation, intrusion, and coercion woven into daily life. It thrives in silence, anonymity, and unchecked power. Today, We confront it with clarity and resistance naming the harm, breaking the silence, and reclaiming our digital spaces with autonomy and courage.”

“My disability was never the barrier the system was. Once I understood that, I stopped trying to fit into structures that were never built for me and started reshaping them so no woman or girl with a disability is ever unseen, unheard, or denied care again.”





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