



JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION NETWORK (FEMNET)



Photo taken during the Regional Convening on Knowledge Generation, Exchange and Documentation to Advance Efforts to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) held from 20th-24th July 2025 Kigali, Rwanda (Picture taken by Maureen Wanjiku FEMNET)

Fueling the Feminist Fire: The July Dispatch!

Greetings!

Can you believe we are already riding the waves in July? This month has been a beautiful whirlwind of collective power, radical joy, and transformative energy! A standout moment was our gathering at the African Feminist Macroeconomics Academy (AFMA) in Kigali, where we explored new possibilities for shaping economic systems through an African feminist lens. Together, we reflected on the limitations of conventional economic approaches and imagined alternatives that place care, dignity, equity, and the well-being of our communities at the centre. It was a powerful expression of sisterhood, shared learning, and collective imagination—and a beautiful reminder of what becomes possible when we come together to learn, connect, and dream forward.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SECRETARIAT?

Reimagining African Economies Through a Feminist Lens

The African Feminist Macroeconomics Academy (AFMA) in Kigali brought together African feminist activists, economists, researchers and movement leaders to deepen conversations on the intersections of macroeconomic policy, gender justice and climate change. The Academy created space to examine how economic and financial systems shape the lives and livelihoods of African communities, particularly women.

Through panel discussions, interactive sessions, and cross-movement dialogues, participants explored pathways towards more equitable and sustainable economies. Key conversations centered on unpaid care work, debt, illicit financial flows, public services and economic sovereignty, while creating opportunities to share knowledge and strengthen collective strategies for influencing economic policy at national, regional and global levels.

AFMA reaffirmed the importance of placing care, dignity, livelihoods, and collective well-being at the heart of economic decision-making. The insights emerging from Kigali will continue to inform feminist efforts to advance gender-responsive economic policies and champion economic systems that work for people, communities and the planet.



Photo taken during African Feminist Macroeconomics Academy (AFMA) held from 20th-24th July 2025 Kigali, Rwanda (Picture taken by Michelle Anzaya FEMNET)

Knowledge in Action: Advancing Collective Efforts to End Violence Against Women and Girls

As part of the ACT Programme, FEMNET convened women's rights leaders, activists, researchers, communicators, and movement builders from across East and Southern Africa for the Regional Convening on Knowledge Generation, Exchange and Documentation to Advance Efforts to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) in Kigali, Rwanda.

The convening served as a collaborative platform for participants to exchange experiences, document promising practices, and co-create practical knowledge products that strengthen feminist advocacy, sustainable movement resourcing, and collective responses to anti-rights narratives. Through dialogue, peer learning, and cross-border collaboration, participants transformed lived experiences into actionable resources that will continue to inform advocacy, influence policy, and strengthen Women's Rights Organizations and feminist movements across the region.

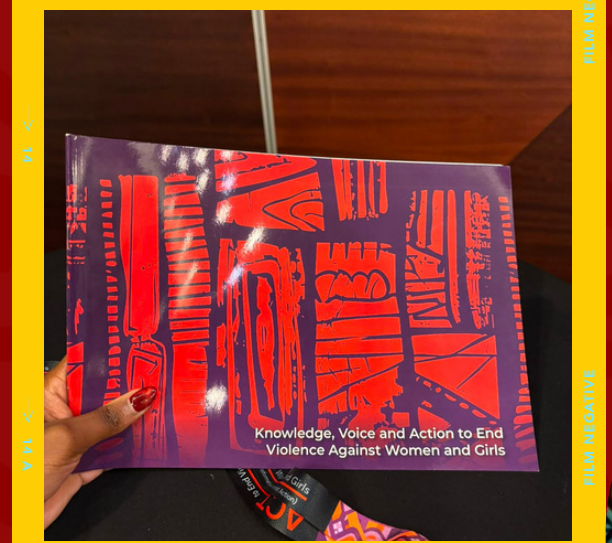


Photo taken during the Regional Convening on Knowledge Generation, Exchange and Documentation to Advance Efforts to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) held from 20th-24th July 2025 Kigali, Rwanda (Picture taken by Maureen Wanjiku FEMNET)

Strengthening Youth Leadership for Economic Justice and Rights

On 30 June – 1 July 2026, FEMNET partnered with UN Women to convene the Economic Justice and Rights (EJR) Training for youth leaders and grassroots civil society organizations across the Generation Equality ecosystem. The two-day convening created a collaborative learning space to strengthen participants' understanding of feminist economic justice while building practical skills for advocacy, communications and resource mobilization.

The training explored key themes including feminist financing, macroeconomic realities, care economies, access to productive resources, climate justice and gender-transformative economies. Through interactive discussions and practical learning labs, participants examined how economic justice intersects with broader gender equality priorities and identified actionable strategies to advance change within their communities.

As a strategic partner, FEMNET played a central role in shaping and facilitating the learning experience by leading technical sessions on gender-transformative economies, advocacy, grants management and strategic communications. Through interactive simulations and knowledge-sharing, FEMNET colleagues equipped participants with practical tools to strengthen advocacy efforts, communicate more effectively, mobilize resources and translate feminist economic justice commitments into meaningful action.

The training reinforced the importance of investing in youth leadership and grassroots movements as critical drivers of systemic change. By fostering collaboration, practical learning and cross-movement exchange, the convening strengthened participants' capacity to advance economic justice and contribute to more inclusive, equitable and gender-transformative economies across Africa.



Photo taken during the Economic Justice and Rights (EJR) Training for youth leaders and grassroots civil society organizations held from 30th -1st July 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya (Picture taken by Dianarose Odhiambo FEMNET)

FEMNET Joins AWLN Ghana to Commemorate Pan-African Women's Day 2026

FEMNET joined the African Women's Leadership Network (AWLN) Ghana Chapter in commemorating Pan-African Women's Day 2026 through a high-level virtual summit held under the theme, "CSW@70: What Has Changed for African Women and Girls?" The convening brought together distinguished women leaders, advocates, and experts from across the continent to reflect on seven decades of progress for African women and girls, examine persistent challenges, and chart pathways toward a more just, inclusive, and equitable future.

Representing FEMNET, Executive Director Memory Kachambwa delivered a keynote address highlighting the significant milestones achieved through African feminist movements in advancing gender equality, women's rights, and leadership across the continent. While celebrating these gains, she underscored the urgent need to safeguard hard-won progress and accelerate collective action to address the systemic barriers that continue to hinder the full realization of women's and girls' rights.

In addition to participating in the commemorative webinar, FEMNET marked Pan-African Women's Day 2026 by publishing a statement that honoured the legacy of African women while calling for renewed commitment to advancing social and economic justice. The statement reaffirmed FEMNET's commitment to amplifying African feminist voices and championing policies and actions that place women's rights, dignity, and leadership at the centre of Africa's development agenda.

Read Statement Here: [Honouring the Legacy of African Women, Advancing the Future We Deserve](#)



AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN) GHANA CHAPTER

AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY 2026 *Virtual* SUMMIT

THEME:
CSW @70:
WHAT HAS CHANGED FOR AFRICAN WOMEN AND GIRLS?



MS. MEMORY KACHAMBWA
Keynote Speaker

Ms Memory Kachambwa is the Executive Director of FEMNET and a distinguished Pan-African feminist and women's rights leader with over 20 years of experience designing and implementing programmes that advance the rights of women and girls across Africa and globally.

She has led transformative advocacy on climate justice, economic justice, the care economy, trade, tax justice, and natural resource governance, while strengthening feminist movements and influencing policy engagement at regional and global levels.

Ms Kachambwa played a key role in establishing FEMNET's Economic Justice and Rights Programme and co-designing the African Feminist Climate Justice Academy and the African Feminist Macro-Economic Academy (AFMA).

She serves on several global and regional advisory bodies and is a co-leader of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights. A globally recognized keynote speaker, strategist, researcher, and life coach, she has received numerous international honours, including being named among Apolitical's Top 100 Women in Gender Policy and receiving the 2025 Power Together Award.



FRIDAY
31 JULY
2026



TIME
10:00 AM
PROMPT



VIRTUAL
SUMMIT



SCAN TO
REGISTER

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www.awlinghana.org

@awln_ghana



AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN) GHANA CHAPTER

AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY 2026 *Virtual* SUMMIT

THEME:
CSW @70:
WHAT HAS CHANGED FOR AFRICAN WOMEN AND GIRLS?

HOST	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	MODERATOR	SUMMIT CHAIR	
 DR. CHARITY BINKA CHAIRPERSON AWLN GHANA	 MS. MEMORY KACHAMBWA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEV & COMM NETWORK (FEMNET)	 DR. REJOICE W. FOLI AWLN GHANA FINANCIAL INCLUSION PILLAR LEAD	 MRS. JOANA OPARE AWLN GHANA PEACE AND SECURITY PILLAR LEAD	
PANELISTS				
 MAD EMMA KALITA CHAIRPERSON AWLN MALAWI	 DR. AFUA ANSRE UN WOMEN FOCAL PERSON GHANA	 MS. NANA YAA SERWAA SARPONG MEDIA PRACTITIONER & COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT	 MS. CHIONISO MICHELLE MURIINDA AWLN GLOBAL YOUTH COORDINATOR	 MS. SANDRINE AHOUANYE YOUTH CAUCUS CHAIR, AWLN BENIN



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The Difference She Makes: From Recognition to Real Change

We are proud to be part of Phase 2 of the Difference She Makes campaign, which commenced in June 2026 and will culminate in August 2026. The campaign continues to celebrate and amplify the stories, experiences and contributions of women who are driving change while creating space for deeper conversations on the systems and structures that shape women's participation and leadership.

As part of this phase, FEMNET collaborated with Difference She Makes to host a thought-provoking dialogue titled "Who Carries the Weight? Care, Career, and the Architecture of Legal Workplaces." The conversation moved beyond individual experiences to examine institutional realities, exploring what it takes to build workplaces and systems where caregivers can enter, remain, progress and lead without penalty.

The dialogue highlighted the importance of reimagining workplace policies, care systems, and institutional cultures to advance gender justice. Through this engagement, FEMNET continues to champion feminist solutions that recognize care as a shared responsibility and advocate for environments where women's leadership, ambitions and contributions are fully valued.

As the campaign draws to a close in August, FEMNET celebrates the difference women make every day and reaffirms its commitment to advancing feminist leadership, equality and justice for women and girls across Africa.



Campaign Social Media Cards

Webinar Series we have been engaged in

Framing a Feminist UN Tax Convention

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TAX JUSTICE **Latindadd** **act:onaid** **The African Women's Development and Communication Network**

WEBINAR

FRAMING A FEMINIST UN TAX CONVENTION: FAIRLY ALLOCATING TAXING RIGHTS

Ahead of the 5th session of negotiations for a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, take part in a discussion for feminist civil society. The webinar will set the stage of what is needed for a Feminist UN Tax Convention and analyse how to deliver a fair allocation of taxing rights.

Time: 4pm-5pm EAT
Date: Thursday, July 16
Presentations by: Grace Namugambe (FEMNET) and Zandile Ndebele (Tax Justice Network Africa)
Interpretation: English, French, Spanish
Register through the link attached

Accelerating SDG 7: Advancing an Inclusive and Just Green Energy Transition for Kenya

Green Transition

WORKING GROUP DIALOGUE

THEME
 ACCELERATING SDG 7- ADVANCING AN INCLUSIVE AND JUST GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION FOR KENYA

25th July 2026

03:30 PM - 04:30 PM

Virtual (Zoom)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6633YgNRhCE1AdY-BV6Pw>

CLEAN COOKING **RENEWABLE ENERGY** **ENERGY ACCESS** **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** **ENERGY JUSTICE**

Funded by the European Union

Time to Deliver for African Women: Shaping the Water Agenda for UNWC 2026

Time to Deliver for African Women: shaping the water agenda for UNWC 2026

Africa Women Day webinar, building momentum towards the UN Water Conference

Thursday 30 July 2026 **Format: Virtual**
09:00 GMT **10:00 WAT** **11:00 SAST** **12:00 EAT**

Register now: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6633YgNRhCE1AdY-BV6Pw>

WaterAid **African Women's Development and Communication Network** **WACI HEALTH**

Elizabeth Jingon Mruutu, 29, nurse, in front of a new toilet block, carrying eight-month-old Akumani, with his mother Shweli Akumani, 25, Lushanga Dispensary Hanang District, Tanzania, August 2024

NSA Reflection Webinar on the AfDB Ministerial Forum on Critical Minerals

NSA Reflection Webinar on the AfDB Ministerial Forum on Critical Minerals

From Political Commitments to African Prosperity: Civil Society Perspectives on Critical Minerals Beneficiation and Value Chains

24 July 2026 **11AM WAT 12PM SAT 13PM EAT** **2 Hours** **Zoom Register**

Date **Time** **Duration** **Register**

<https://shorturl.at/FUQEG>

ACSEA **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung** **PACIA** **ari** **The African Women's Development and Communication Network** **CSO**

Where We have Been This Month





African Feminist Academy for Climate Justice Cohort 4: Shaping the Future with Girls and Young Women

The African Feminist Academy for Climate Justice Cohort 4 (2026) is a three-day immersive learning space designed for and with girls and young women to demystify climate processes, decode climate language, and build the confidence to engage in global and African climate justice conversations.

Through interactive sessions inspired by COP-style spaces, participants will explore climate negotiations, Bonn processes, just transition debates, climate finance, loss and damage, and feminist advocacy strategies equipping a new generation of young feminist climate leaders to influence decisions that shape their futures.

The Academy will also create space to interrogate evidence from FEMNET's Climate Justice Meta Study, connecting knowledge, lived experiences, and feminist movements to strengthen African women and girls' voices in climate policy spaces.

Because girls and young women are not just affected by the climate crisis—they are powerful actors in shaping climate solutions.

The Africa Family Law Network (AFLN) Inaugural Annual Conference (2026)

The Africa Family Law Network (AFLN) Inaugural Annual Conference (2026) is a landmark two-and-a-half-day convening designed for legal experts, human rights defenders, and feminist advocates to map family law reform landscapes, evaluate regional progress, and build unified strategies against the rising anti-rights backlash in Africa.

Through expert presentations, plenary sessions, and participatory exercises, participants will explore family protection bills, contextualize family-value based narratives, and analyze the threats posed by regressive frameworks like the Draft African Charter on Family, Sovereignty, and Values equipping a multi-sectoral movement to drive effective advocacy, strategic litigation, and media engagement.

The conference will also create space to interrogate findings from Equality Now's Gender Inequality in Family Laws in Africa Report and country-specific action plans, connecting rigorous research, lived experiences, and cross-sectoral solidarity to defend human rights standards across the continent.



Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCCD XIV)

The Fourteenth Conference of Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XIV) therefore introduces a more demanding framing: moving beyond strengthening African climate leadership toward strengthening African agency in shaping the rules, institutions, norms, implementation architectures, and political bargains that define global climate governance.

The outcomes of the Sixty-Fourth Sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), held in Bonn in June 2026, underscored both progress and persistent gaps across key areas of the climate agenda. Discussions advanced technical work on adaptation, transparency, Article 6, just transition, and preparations for COP31, while longstanding challenges remain regarding climate finance, implementation support, loss and damage, and the delivery of commitments under the first Global Stocktake (GST1). These developments reinforce the need for stronger implementation, enhanced international cooperation, and more effective support for developing countries.

[Read here for more details on how to register](#)

African Girls' and Young Women's-Led Dignity Kit Drive

The African Girls and Young Women's-Led Dignity Kit Drive is a Pan-African communication, advocacy, and resource mobilization campaign that seeks to mobilize collective solidarity with adolescent girls and young women affected by armed conflict, forced displacement, and humanitarian crises across Africa. While the campaign aims to raise resources for dignity kits, its purpose extends far beyond humanitarian assistance. It positions dignity as a fundamental human right, bodily autonomy as a political right, and reparative solidarity as an African feminist response to structural violence experienced by girls and young women. Supporting the Dignity Kit Drive is not an act of charity. It is an act of reparative solidarity led by African girls and young women.

6th GYW Festival: Reimagining Reparations Through the Voices of Girls and Young Women

The 6th Girls and Young Women (GYW) Festival brings together girls and young women to explore reparations as a pathway towards justice, healing, dignity and transformation. This year's festival creates space for young feminist voices to reflect on the historical and ongoing injustices that shape their lives, communities and futures and to imagine what meaningful repair can look like. For FEMNET, the GYW Festival is an important space for intergenerational feminist solidarity and movement-building, affirming that girls and young women are not simply beneficiaries of change—they are leaders, knowledge holders and powerful agents of transformation. The 6th Festival invites us to listen, learn and act alongside young women as they reimagine a future rooted in justice, equity, healing and collective power.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAF-Africa): Investing in Women's Rights Organisations and Networks in Africa

UAF-Africa has launched a major targeted call for proposals aimed at strengthening African Women Human Rights Defenders (AWHRDs), women-led organizations (WROs), and feminist networks operating in complex, multi-crisis contexts across Africa. The grant focuses on advancing democracy, gender justice, human rights, and inclusive civic participation.

1. **Funding Amount:** USD 35,000 to USD 200,000 (depending on the specific funding window, ranging from Strategic Action to Collective Power and Alliance grants).
2. **Eligible Applicants:** Women's rights organizations, women-led organizations, feminist associations, networks, and alliances across Africa.
3. **Deadline:** August 12, 2026.
4. **Link to Apply:** [UAF-Africa Call for Proposals](#)

Women-Led Business Grant 2026

This global funding initiative offers substantial non-dilutive grant capital specifically for women-led and women-owned entities. It is designed to help female founders scale their operations, build capacity, invest in technology, and maximize community impact without giving up equity or ownership. The opportunity also features leadership coaching and access to a global peer network.

- **Funding Amount:** USD 25,000 to USD 750,000.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Innovative businesses, social enterprises, or organizations founded, owned, or structurally led by women.
- **Deadline:** August 20, 2026.
- **Link to Apply:** [Women-Led Business Grant Details](#)

Cowles Charitable Trust Grant

The Cowles Charitable Trust provides general and project-based support across a wide layout of sectors, prioritizing organizations driving equality of opportunity, education, and social justice programs. Women-led and youth-focused grassroots initiatives seeking operational or program-specific funding are eligible to apply.

- **Funding Amount:** Varies/Unspecified.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Nonprofit and community organizations.
- **Deadline:** September 1, 2026.
- **Link to Apply:** [Cowles Charitable Trust via Instrument](#)



Pro-Tip for Fast-Approaching Deadlines: For networks like UAF-Africa, emphasize your collective leadership structure, how your project centers structurally excluded groups, and how you are actively mapping out feminist alternatives in your local community.



Women 's Academy For Leadership and Political Excellence (WALPE)

Picture a council chamber in rural Zimbabwe. For decades, it's been a room built for men's voices, echoing with men's decisions. Then one day, a woman walks in not as a visitor, not as someone's assistant, but as the councillor. She clears her throat. The room adjusts. That's us. That's **WALPE**. We're the Women's Academy for Leadership and Political Excellence, and if our name sounds a little formal, our mission definitely isn't. We exist to make that council chamber moment ordinary so ordinary nobody blinks anymore. From Harare to the provinces, we've spent years chasing one stubborn idea: that leadership has no gender, only guts, and women have plenty of both.

We don't do quiet, timid empowerment. We train councillors who've never held a microphone before their first campaign. We coach student leaders who become the first woman ever to run their university's SRC. We whisper "you could be President one day" to girls who've never heard a grown-up say that to them and mean it. Over 15,000 women later, we're still whispering it and, increasingly, we don't have to whisper anymore, because they're saying it themselves.

Here's what nobody tells you about training women for leadership: it's not really about teaching them to speak up. Most of them were always loud enough. It's about clearing the room of everything fear, violence, "who does she think she is" that was built to make them smaller. Strip that away, and watch what happens. Vongaishe became the first female SRC President at Chinhoyi University. Anna went from our training room to Mayor of Epworth. Nappy is a ward councillor now with Parliament in her sights for 2028. None of them needed us to give them ambition. They just needed the door unlocked. We're proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with FEMNET and everyone else in this network doing the unglamorous, unstoppable work of moving women from the margins to the front of the room. Because a world with more women in power isn't a nice-to-have. It's just what a functioning world looks like.

When she rises, we all rise. Come rise with us.



Women's Academy For Leadership and Political Excellence



“When you disrupt the existing conditions and refuse to accept anything less than what you know you are worth, you start making those who oppress you so uncomfortable that they will try anything to discredit you.”

Malebo Sephodi (South African feminist writer and researcher, from her book 'Miss Behave')



***Are you a FEMNET Member?
Become a FEMNET Member Now***

Questions or comments? Email us at m.anzaya@femnet.or.ke