

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

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



FEMNET Executive Director-Memory Kachambwa alongside participants at the Weavers' Forum held in Windhoek-Namibia from 5th to 8th August 2026. Photo Courtesy- FEMNET

Threading the Future: Woven Visions of African Feminist Political Economy

Welcome to the August edition of our monthly newsletter, where we celebrate a month of profound reflection, solidarity, and transformative visioning across the continent. This August, our journey took us to Namibia for the inspiring Weaver's Forum, a groundbreaking gathering where African feminists came together to stitch a bold, new economic imagination. Guided by thought, needle, and thread, participants unraveled the complex political economy of African textiles—exposing the systemic myths surrounding the second-hand clothing trade and highlighting the vital labor of women in global value chains. As you dive into this issue, we invite you to explore the insights, stories, and collective power cultivated during this transformative forum, as we continue to dismantle oppressive economic models and weave an equitable, pan-African future for all women and girls.

WHAT'S COOKING AT THE SECRETARIAT?

Reimagining African Economies Through a Feminist Lens



The loom was set. The first thread was pulled—and the weaving began. From 5–8 August 2026 in Windhoek, Namibia, FEMNET, Nawi and Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA) convened the inaugural Weavers Forum, the first Pan-African conference to bring together Pan-African feminist political economists, scholars, researchers, practitioners and activists to collectively examine Africa's political economy through a feminist lens.

The conference created a dedicated space for feminist thought leadership, knowledge exchange and critical dialogue on the economic, political and social forces shaping the continent. More than a gathering, the Forum created space to pull at the loose threads of mainstream economics, centre care, knowledge, community and collective wellbeing, and reconnect across generations.



Through rich conversations, creative expression, intergenerational exchange and moments of reflection, participants began weaving a new African feminist economic imagination—one rooted in justice, solidarity, decolonial thinking and the belief that what sustains life must count. The first weave is now part of our collective fabric; and as a biennial gathering, this is only the beginning.

[Click the link to read more!](#)



Photos in view: Participants at the Weavers' Forum held in Windhoek-Namibia from 5th to 8th August 2026. Photo Courtesy- FEMNET

The Africa Family Law Network Convening

The Africa Family Law Network (AFLN) successfully hosted a convening in Nairobi, Kenya, from August 4th to 6th, 2026. The convening brought together diverse stakeholders—including human rights defenders, legal practitioners, judicial and government representatives, UN agencies, and women's rights organizations—to consolidate gains achieved in family law reform across the continent and develop a coordinated, multi-sectoral strategy to counter the backlash at national and regional levels.

Over the three-day period, participants mapped family law reform achievements, challenges, and gaps on Day 1, and contextualized "family values"-based anti-rights narratives alongside the Draft African Charter on Family, Sovereignty, and Values on Day 2. Finally, Day 3 centered intersectionality, culminating in multi-sectoral frameworks for advocacy, strategic litigation, movement building, and media engagement, as well as an updated mapping of reforms, an action-based roadmap, and enhanced participant capacities to counter disinformation.

[Click link to read more](#)



*Photo taken during the Africa Family Law Network Convening held in Nairobi, Kenya from 4th to 6th August 2026.
Photo Courtesy-AFLN*

#AfricanFeministStories

UN Tax Convention & Global Tax Justice: Building with African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy (AFMA) Webinar Series

As part of the Building with African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy (AFMA) Webinar Series, FEMNET, in collaboration with the Tax Justice Network Africa, convened a timely conversation on the UN Tax Convention and Global Tax Justice on 27 August 2026. The webinar explored the shifting global tax architecture and what a more inclusive and equitable international tax system could mean for Africa.

Discussions unpacked Africa's negotiating power in global tax processes, corporate tax avoidance, illicit financial flows and domestic resource mobilisation, while highlighting the importance of gender-responsive taxation in addressing the unequal economic realities experienced by women. The conversation reinforced a critical message: tax justice is not only about revenue—it is about power, redistribution and gender equality.

The Building with AFMA Webinar Series continues with upcoming conversations that connect feminist perspectives to critical macroeconomic issues. The next webinar will focus on Feminist Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM)—exploring how African countries can mobilise resources in ways that advance gender equality and feminist economic justice.

Sign up for the upcoming webinar and follow FEMNET on social media to stay informed about the next conversations in the Building with AFMA series.

LIVE WEBINAR

FEMINIST DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION (DRM)

Building with AFMA Webinar Series #2

Thursday, 8th October 2026
14:30 PM – 16:00 PM EAT

Register: <https://bit.ly/4xSjaLT>

Naomi Majale
Speaker

#Femonomics

AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY
The Audacity to Disrupt

LIVE WEBINAR

MOBILISATION DES RESSOURCES NATIONALES (MRN) DANS UNE PERSPECTIVE FÉMINISTE

Construire avec la série de webinaires AFMA #2

Thursday, 8th October 2026
14:30 PM – 16:00 PM EAT

Register: <https://bit.ly/4xSjaLT>

Naomi Majale
Conférencière

#Femonomics

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The Audacity to Disrupt

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Spotlight: Between War & Peace A Podcast Collaboration with African Futures Lab



Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Department collaborated with African Futures Lab on Episode 5: Between War & Peace, an episode of the Unfinished Freedom podcast. Peace requires more than the absence of war. It requires confronting the systems of violence that continue to shape Black women's lives, bodies and freedoms.

The episode examines sexual and gender-based violence as a tool of colonial governance and control, tracing how these histories continue to influence conflict, security and humanitarian systems today. It explores how these structures undermine bodily autonomy and reinforce racial and gender inequalities.

Drawing on research and lived experience, *Between War & Peace* also centres the work and voices of African feminists, survivors and communities who are demanding accountability, reclaiming autonomy and creating pathways towards justice and lasting peace.

By examining the historical roots of sexual and gender-based violence, the conversation challenges us to look beyond individual incidents and confront the structures that sustain harm, protect perpetrators and deny survivors justice.



Listen to Episode 5: Between War & Peace, produced in collaboration with FEMNET:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2045783/episodes/19497190>



Membership Engagement 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.

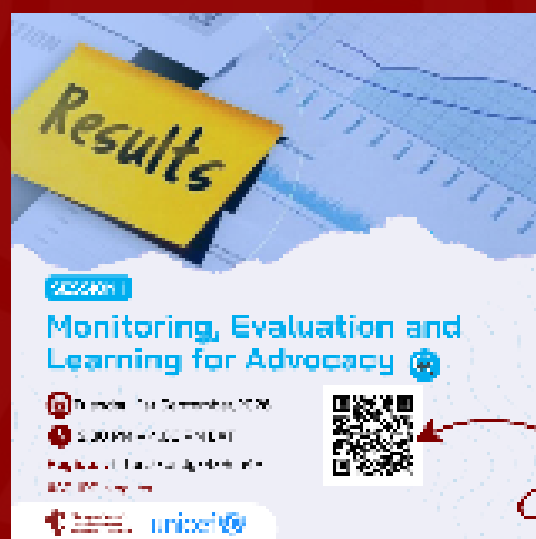
Strengthening Feminist Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) and Evidence Use for Advocacy

As part of FEMNET's ongoing partnership with UNICEF, we are strengthening the capacities of Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and girl-led organizations across East and Southern Africa to better track, document and communicate the impact of their advocacy.

The two-part virtual capacity-strengthening series responds to gaps identified through FEMNET's 2025 Regional Capacity Strengthening Assessment, which found that organizations continue to face challenges in tracking results, capturing outcomes and documenting advocacy impact

1st Session: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Advocacy

On 1 September 2026, FEMNET held the first session of the series, focusing on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) for Advocacy. The session introduced participants to foundational MEL concepts and practical approaches for tracking advocacy results, measuring change, and documenting outcomes. It also explored Feminist MEL principles, with particular attention to how lived experiences, qualitative change and power dynamics can be better captured and reflected in advocacy monitoring and learning.





2nd Session: Research, Evidence Generation and Utilization for Advocacy

Building on the first session, Session 2 will shift the focus from tracking change to generating and using evidence to strengthen advocacy and influence decision-making.

Participants will explore research and data collection, evidence of generation and analysis, as well as practical and user-friendly approaches to data management and disaggregation. The session will also examine how organizations can use evidence more effectively to strengthen advocacy strategies and influence policy processes.



29th September 2026



2:30 - 4:00 pm EAT



<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/sots7LgTTcmWVEHPi-jyVQ>

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

Equality Fund – CONNECT Grants 2026

- Deadline: September 16, 2026 (17:00 EDT)
- Grant Size: CAD \$500,000 to CAD \$1,000,000 per year (for up to 2 years)
- Overview: Designed specifically for feminist actors and allied social justice movements—with priority given to lead organizations based in the Global South. It funds movement-building, strategic collaborations, and collective capacity to push back against anti-rights movements.
- Application Link: [Equality Fund CONNECT Grants](#)

Mama Cash – Spark Fund Grants

- Deadline: September 20, 2026 (23:59 CEST)
- Grant Size: €5,000 to €12,000 (up to 2 years)
- Overview: Provides flexible funding for feminist groups, self-led organizations, and young or unregistered collectives led by women, girls, or trans/intersex individuals. It prioritizes small grassroots groups facing barriers to traditional funding.
- Application Link: [Mama Cash Spark Fund Portal](#)

WomenLift Health – 2027 Eastern & Southern Africa Leadership Journeys

- Eastern Africa Deadline: September 17, 2026
- Southern Africa Deadline: September 18, 2026
- Overview: A fully funded, 12-month institutional leadership and movement-building development program designed for mid- to senior-career women leaders working in health across Eastern and Southern Africa.
- Application Link: [WomenLift Health Leadership Programs](#)



Pro-Tip: Align your narrative strictly with each funder's core focus—whether collective movement-building, self-led grassroots activism, or institutional leadership. Highlights of lived-experience leadership, cross-movement solidarity, and clear long-term impact will always set your application apart. Start early and secure any necessary partner or institutional buy-in right away.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JOY OHAEGBU - Founder and Director, GENCARE Ghana

Joy Ohaegbu is a gender equality and climate justice advocate and the Founder & Director of GENCARE Ghana who is passionate about creating spaces where young people, especially women and girls, can speak up, participate in decision-making and contribute to building more equal and sustainable communities.

Through her work, Joy engages in gender equality, safeguarding, climate action and youth empowerment, connecting the issues that affect women and girls with the wider social and environmental challenges in our communities. She believes that meaningful change happens when young people are given the opportunity, knowledge and platforms to lead.

As a member of FEMNET, Joy Ohaegbu looks forward to learning from other African women and youth advocates, sharing her experiences and strengthening connections across the continent and she is excited to contribute her voice, energy and commitment to advancing gender justice and building a more inclusive Africa.



*JOY OHAEGBU - Founder and Director, GENCARE Ghana
Photo Courtesy: Joy Ohaegbu*



“My passion comes from my accountability to the women who came before me, to the women who surround me, and to the women who will come after me. When you understand that your liberation is bound up with the liberation of others, you cannot afford to sit quietly or accept the crumbs of equity.”

Amina Mama (Nigerian-British feminist scholar, author, and former Chair in Gender Studies at the African Gender Institute)



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