



The Pan-African Feminists Retreat:

Concept Note & Agenda

12th – 14th October 2021, Nairobi, Kenya

*Theme: Rekindling the Pan-
African Feminism Spirit: An
Inclusive, Just, Sustainable &
Transformative Society Post-
COVID-19*



AFRICAN WOMEN REMAIN
RESILIENT AND COMMITTED
TO AN EQUAL AND JUST
WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Registration



The retreat is open to all feminists, gender and women's rights activists. Here's the registration link.

<https://bit.ly/3iyR43S>



1. Introduction

The Pan-African Feminists Retreat is a two-day brave, creative, autonomous, and intersectional space for all those identifying themselves as feminists from all walks of life and who engage at different levels within the feminist movement. The space is designed to reaffirm our commitment to dismantling patriarchy in all its manifestations in Africa, to remind us of our duty to defend and respect the rights of all women, without qualifications and to protect the legacy of our feminist ancestors who made numerous sacrifices for us to exercise greater autonomy. The Retreat is part of the 'programing conference' a triennial convening, led by the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET). Due to COVID-19 pandemic which has laid bare structural inequalities embedded in our societies, the 2021 Pan-African Feminists Retreat will be conducted in a hybrid format, (mostly virtual with limited in-person convenings in Nairobi and watch parties across the continent). This concept note outlines how FEMNET envisions the retreat experience.

Where: Hybrid: In-person (Nairobi) and Virtual **When:** 12-14 October 2021

Scale: 100 people to attend in-person and majority to connect virtually

To build a feminist movement in Africa we need to join forces

-Usu Ndeanasia Mallya

2. Why the Pan-African Feminists Retreat? Why Now?

The year 2020 has been uniquely different at individual and institutional level. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused too many losses: loss of life, loss of good health, loss of livelihood, loss of stability, loss of community, loss of funding, loss of hope and sense of purpose, and many more. What the pandemic has not



taken from us, is our resilience and conviction to an equal and just world for everyone. In fact, the pandemic has reaffirmed the resilience of African women.

The Pan-African Feminists Retreat therefore aims to be a space where:

1. African feminists, gender and women's rights activists in all their diversities will connect, reflect, and rekindle their resolve to advance women's and girls' rights especially now in light of the pandemic so that gender justice is foundational to a just and inclusive recovery.
2. The art, culture, intellect, organizing, politics, leadership, and ideologies of African feminists, gender and women's rights activists will be showcased for cross-learning and cross-sharing.
3. African feminists, gender and women's rights activists nurture collaboration among themselves and strengthen the feminist's movement in Africa and globally especially during these times of physical distancing, travel bans and virtual engagement.

*I live the life of
a feminist in
my home, and
in my religious,
social and
political
spaces.*

**- Musimbi
Kanyoro**

*To me feminism
means women's
universal freedom
from oppression
of the mind, soul,
thought, body,
sexuality and
spirit.*

**- Solome
Nakaweesi-
Kimbugwe**

3. Expected Outcomes:

1. An energized, grounded, and connected community of feminists, gender and women's rights activists collectively shaping COVID-19 recovery actions with renewed zeal to dismantle patriarchy in local, national, regional, and global spaces.
2. Enhanced feminist and gender analysis thought leadership, shared learning and cross-exchange of knowledge, ideas, and skills.



4. Brief Outline: The Experience...

The Retreat is grounded on the *Charter of feminist principles for African feminists*, which recognizes that “As Feminists, who come from/work/live in Africa, we claim the right and the space to be **Feminist** and **African**... we insist that it is a profound insult to claim that feminism was imported into Africa from the West. We reclaim and assert the long and rich tradition of African women’s resistance to patriarchy in Africa. We henceforth claim the right to theorize for ourselves, write for ourselves, strategize for ourselves and speak for ourselves as African feminists”.

I am a feminist because I am a woman living in a world where if I am not vigilant, I will be erased, exploited or dehumanised.

– Siphokazi Mthathi

Identifying as both feminist and African is an act of resistance that provokes both patriarchal and imperialist reflexes in most of the systems and institutions we encounter in the course of our lives and careers.

– Amina Mama

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<i>Time (EAT)</i>	<i>Session Name</i>	<i>Descriptions</i>
0930 – 1030	Registration	Registration of In-person participants Band performing
1030 – 1130	Introduction	Introduction FEMNET Secretariat and in-person participants
1130 – 1200	Health Break	Refreshments / Band performing
1200 – 1215	Opening Ceremony	Welcome the online and in-person participants to the brave African feminist Retreat
1215 – 1230	Documentary	FEMNET Her Story documentary: A celebration of African women's achievement since the last programing conference
1230 – 1245	Spoken Word	Celebrating African Women's Resilience
1245 – 1315	Opening Remarks	Welcoming participants to the brave African Feminist Retreat – Guest of Honor
1315 – 1415	<i>Health Break & Lunch for in-person participants</i>	

DAY 1

12th October 2021

Looking Back: The Resilience of African Women

<i>Time(EAT)</i>	<i>Session Name</i>	<i>Descriptions</i>
1415 – 1430	Poll	African Women Covid-19 Realities
1430 - 1500	Plenary/ Panel 1: The State of Africa	FEMNET's Strategy 2020-2029: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ending violence against women & girls▪ Advancing sexual & reproductive health & rights▪ Transformative women's leadership▪ Economic justice and rights▪ Climate justice & natural resource governance
1500-1530	Regional Caucus	7 simultaneous sessions for the African sub-regions (Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern, Central, Girls & Young Women and Diaspora)
1530-1600	Feminist Reconnection	African Feminist Sisterhood Refueling– Poetry, pictures, music
1600-1630	End of Day one – official session	Documentary/African Feminist Playlist



Time (EAT)	Session Name	Descriptions
0930-1000	Reflections	In-person participants
1000-1100	Feedback from Regional Caucus	In-person participants
1100-1120	<i>Health Break</i>	
1120-1130	Welcome	Welcome to day 2 in person participants joined by online participants
1130-1215	Plenary/Panel 2: Dreams and aspirations of African GYW and persons with disabilities	This session will cover diverse voices and aspirations of African Girls and Young Women
1215-1300	Plenary/Panel 3: Imagining a Just, dignified, Feminist Africa recovery	The session is designed to focus on <i>“Harnessing our collective Power and Voice to demand an African feminist COVID-19 recovery”</i>
1300-1400	<i>Health Break & Lunch for in-person participants</i>	
1400-1500	Plenary/Panel 4: Maputo at 18: What Now?	This session will involve a thought-provoking analysis and exploration of what various actors need to stop doing for us to move the needle and ensure women and girls in the continent ‘experience the protocol’

DAY 2

13th October 2021

Looking Back: The Resilience of African Women

<i>Time (EAT)</i>	<i>Session Name</i>	<i>Descriptions</i>
1500-1515	<i>Tea Break</i>	Video screening- Just Recovery
1515-1600	Plenary/Panel 5: Resourcing Women's Movements.	Transformative Resourcing for the Women's Movement: Tapping into More, Long-Term and Responsive Resources
1600-1615	Poll	Evaluation
1615-1630	<i>Band performing</i>	
1630-1730	Award ceremony	Award ceremony for the 2021 African Journalists Gender Equality Awards
1730-1745	Closing Ceremony	Appreciation and Invitation to the next programing conference in 2024.

DAY 3

14th October 2021

General Assembly

The General Assembly is open to paid up registered FEMNET members. The General Assembly will be held on **October 14, 2021** from **1130-1700 EAT** and will provide the opportunity to receive reports on FEMNET's state of affairs during the period (2017 – 2021) and elect Board of Directors to provide leadership for the Network for the period 2021 - 2024.



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**Co-funded by
the European Union**