



AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY

The Audacity to Disrupt

CAPE TOWN 2023



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AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
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FUND



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network



THE AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY SOUTHERN AFRICA

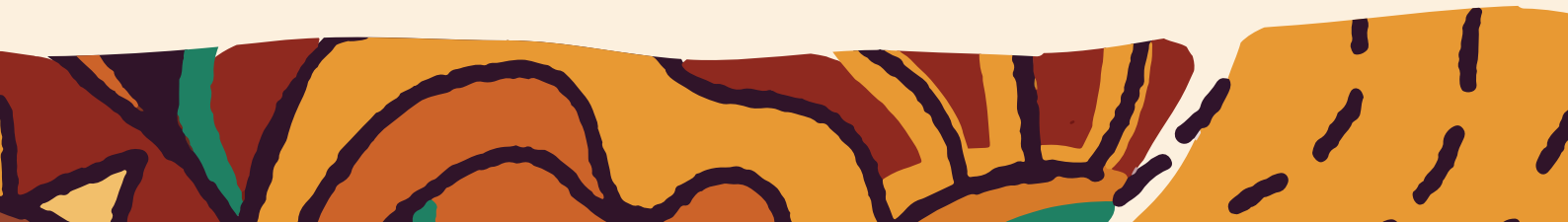
10 – 14 July 2023


Theme: African Feminist Alternatives
to the Financialisation of everyday life

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The African Women's Development and Communication Network's (FEMNET) Economic Justice and Rights programme is aimed at deepening knowledge, capacity and skills to engage and influence macroeconomic policies from a feminist perspective among a cohort of women leading and driving initiatives aimed at achieving economic justice. While many women's rights organisations in Africa have scaled-up prioritising advocacy for women's economic justice, a gap remains where many of these organisations have limited exposure, skills and tools to analyse and influence fiscal and wider macroeconomic policies and frameworks from either a gender or a feminist perspective. Evidence shows that there remains an insufficiency in contextualised information and knowledge based on feminist analysis of critical macroeconomic policy issues such as illicit financial flows, monetary policy, sovereign debt, tax and fiscal policy in the region, to inform strategies for advocacy for women's economic justice in Africa. As a result, efforts by women's movements and women's rights activists in the region largely focus on responding to the impacts that these macroeconomic policies and processes have on women – often seeking to remove the immediate hardships – with limited focus on understanding and challenging the fundamental structural and systemic causes of gender inequality.

The African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy (AFMA) is designed to respond to this gap by creating a structured learning platform for selected key women's rights organisations, activists, movement leaders, academics, journalists and diverse networks working towards achieving women's rights, economic justice and gender equality. The aim is to deepen their appreciation of how macroeconomic policies shape not only their lived realities but also those of the women whose lives they are working to transform, and how their efforts at the local level can influence and shape policies at the national, regional and global level.





AFMA supports AFMA cohorts to conduct research on macroeconomics that will inform their advocacy; as well as supporting advocacy initiatives by FEMNET members especially linking their efforts to not just respond to the impacts of but also influence these policies and frameworks to work for them.

2. THE GOAL AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF AFMA

The long-term goal of AFMA is to enhance the capacity of women's rights activists to influence macroeconomic policy processes, both nationally, regionally and at a continental level.

The strategic objectives are three-fold:

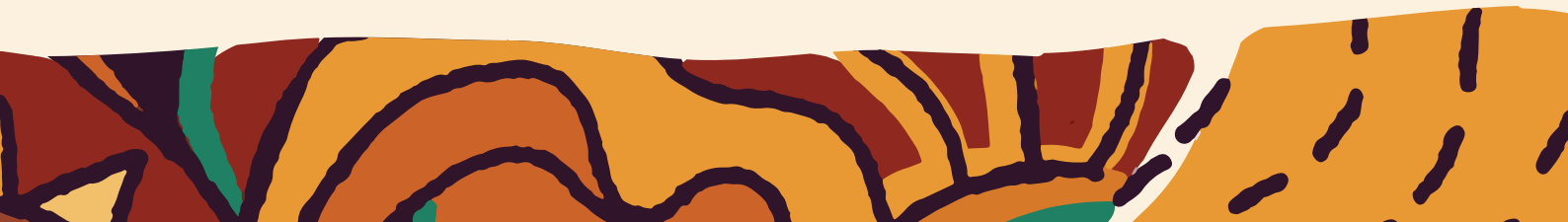
- a. Build a cohort of feminists with deeper knowledge and skills on macro-level economics which they can use to shape discourse and influence policy and practice;**
- b. Continuously contribute to the body of knowledge through research and production of policy papers, tools and other material resources; and**
- c. Support and coordinate effective advocacy campaigns by AFMA cohorts on women's economic justice, and facilitate effective exchange, networking and synergies in members' work and efforts.**


FEMNET also envisions a set of outputs from AFMA:

- a. A movement of women activists with in-depth knowledge and feminist analysis skills on gender and macroeconomics.**
- b. Research papers, blogs, op-eds and modules on gender and macroeconomics targeted at specific topics.**
- c. Follow up action plans and strategies on campaigns that target and influence broader macroeconomic policy spaces and outcomes.**

2.1 Target Participants

The forthcoming AFMA seeks to work with a cohort of at least 25 African feminists and women's rights activists and movement leaders. They will be drawn from a range of sub-regions, organisations, movements and formations that are pushing for the advancement of women's rights and AFMA seeks to deepen their knowledge, capacity and skills to influence macroeconomic processes, policies and frameworks through their advocacy programmes and initiatives. The participants will be drawn





primarily from Women's Rights Organisations and civil society across the Southern Africa region working in various sectors such as agriculture, informal trade, natural resource extraction, sexual reproductive rights, violence against women, economic justice, trade unions, women with disability, young women among others.

3. AFMA SOUTHERN AFRICA THEME: FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES TO THE FINANCIALISATION OF EVERYDAY LIFE

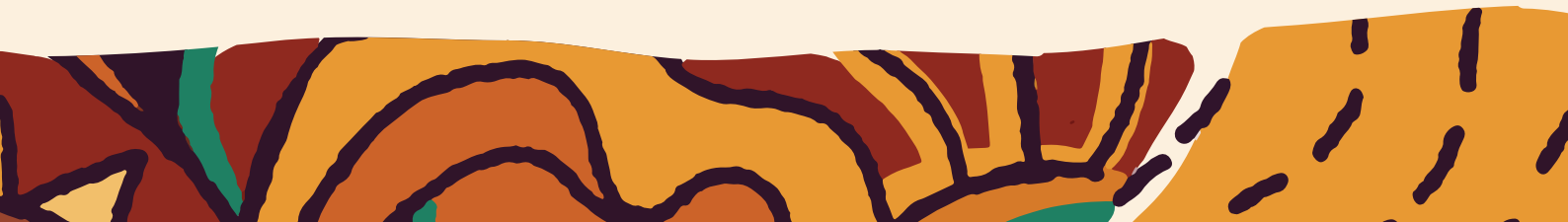
“The global financial architecture was never designed for us. It was designed when we were still colonies... we were not seen, we were not heard, we were not felt.”


Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

The forthcoming AFMA returns to Southern Africa, after the inaugural AFMA in 2017 under the guiding theme: *‘Gender and Macroeconomics focusing on Illicit Financial Flows’*. Since then, we have witnessed a rise in illicit financial flows (IFF) in the context of an unyielding entrenchment of major financial interests within a global financial architecture wherein Africa remains subscribed on subordinate terms.

The economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, of which the devastating economic impacts are still unfolding, has shown how the unstable global financial system has facilitated an exponential rise in debt costs, currency swings, balance of payment issues and unstable capital flows – all of which point to the many ways that the international financial architecture is structured on terms that are both unfair and structurally unfit for the advancement of wider social provisioning. Women make up over half of SADC's poor population, demonstrating the need for macroeconomic policies that reflects on their structural conditions and realities from their perspective. As such, this forthcoming AFMA Southern Africa takes on a wider lens, returning to a critical exploration of the failures of the prevailing international financial architecture to structurally advance women's rights on the continent. This AFMA will reflect on the global economic context, both pre- and 'post-' Covid-19, providing participants the space to situate their realities within changes in continental and global macro-level economic policy changes.

In the same vein as the 2008 global financial crisis (GFC), the current economic crisis stemming from the pandemic has uncovered how the neoliberal turn in





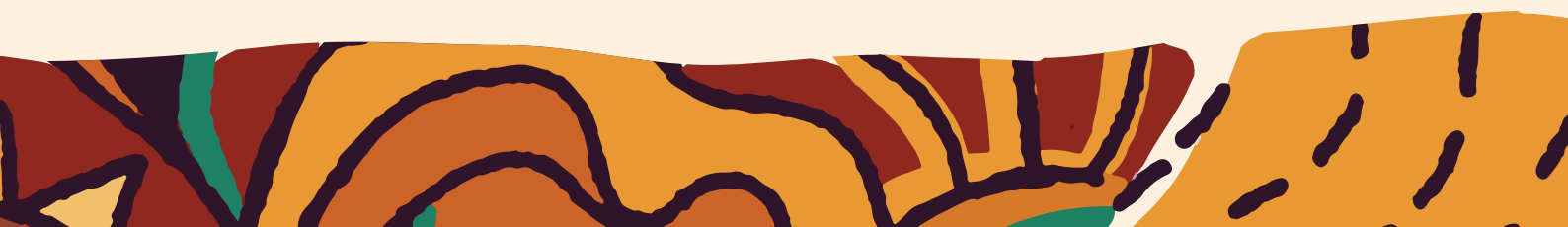
development from the 1970s onwards has simultaneously drastically lowered living standards, while also undermining social protection systems and eroding public investments. This neoliberal economic model introduced a wave of policies that saw the retreat of the state and an increased reliance on the private sector under the assumption that the efficiency of markets would automatically lead to better social outcomes. This disproportionate reliance on the financial sector has resulted in income increasingly transferring from the real economy that traditionally produces goods and services, towards the financial sector. A key illustration of this is that over the past 40 years the total volume of trade in foreign currency exchange markets, a particular type of financial trading, is estimated to be about 100 times larger than the total volume of global trade in goods and services.¹ In Africa, financial flows have also been increasingly dominated by private interests; for example, the Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Senegal, and Zambia owed more than 50 per cent of their debt to commercial creditors in most of 2020.


Women's rights organisations and feminist economics scholars have long countered the international financial architecture's exclusive concern with the advancement of financial and commodity markets, which overlooks the numerous adverse impacts on women and girls. This speaks to an ongoing struggle for economic justice, advanced by feminist activists, against an increasing replacement of public provisions by market-based, individualised entitlements for those who can afford them, creating an economy that directly commodifies daily life – from privatised healthcare to privatised utilities such as water. And unlike any crisis before, the Covid-19 pandemic has reaffirmed more concretely what feminist activists have long been pointing out: that the crucial role of care work, and social reproduction more broadly, has been severely undermined under an economic system that prioritises profit over life and that it is predominantly women who have subsidised the role of state in the context of a global financial order that directly invisibilises care work, unless in instances where it can be commodified for the benefit of private interests.

Some of the sub-themes to be explored in the programme:

- Introduction to feminist political economy as a critical framework for understanding some of the post-Covid-19 realities, with a focus on economic trends in Southern Africa;
- Debates on the evolving trajectory of financialised capitalism in SSA, and contemporary manifestations of private sector influence through de-risking and blended finance mechanisms;
- Sovereign debt and the role of international financial institutions;
- Financing for development, and the role of the state.

1 Hopkins and Bergisser, 2020





Participants will gain a strong understanding of the prevailing state of play, shared by a number of African feminist scholars and activists who hold extensive knowledge and experience in advocating for economic justice in sub-Saharan Africa. They will also be exposed to debates on the evolving trajectory of finance capitalism; contemporary manifestations of private sector influence such as de-risking and blended finance mechanisms; feminist policy recommendations to governance structures; historical trajectories of neoliberal economic policies with a specific focus on its nature in sub-Saharan Africa; feminist approaches to sovereign debt issues; unpacking the role of key actors such as international finance institutions.





4. About FEMNET

FEMNET is a membership-based Pan-African Network founded in 1988, and now has an over 500 membership of women's rights and civil society organizations and individuals spanning 43 countries in Africa.

FEMNET aims to strengthen the voice, role and contribution of African women's rights organisations and individual activists to shape macroeconomic policies that have an impact on their lives. The network facilitates information and knowledge-sharing and the exchange of ideas among African women's NGOs and individual activists to strengthen women's capacity to participate effectively in the development processes at different levels in Africa.

In its 31 years of existence, FEMNET has made significant achievements that aligns with the objectives of AFMA. For example, in 2007, FEMNET worked with other partners to advocate for the inculcation of gender in macroeconomic policies. This resulted in mobilization at the national level to create Gender Aware Action Groups at the district and community levels. FEMNET has also undertaken studies in five countries (Egypt, Mali, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia) to assess the extent to which gender had been successfully integrated in the macroeconomic policies, highlighting the experiences in those countries.

In 2015, FEMNET was instrumental in lobbying and advocating for women's voice in the SDGs and has continued with the Global Campaign on What Women Want for the SDGs and the regional AU 2063 Agenda. FEMNET convened and mobilized African feminists and women's rights advocates around the Financing for Development (FfD) process and co-convened the Women's Forum at the FfD in 2015.

FEMNET partnered with UN Women's Regional Office to undertake a mapping study on Macroeconomic frameworks from an African development context and in December 2015 co-convened a Regional Technical Experts round table discussion on Gender and Macroeconomic Policies in Africa with a view to analysing progress made to mainstream gender in macroeconomic policies and frameworks in Africa. This meeting identified key strategies, implementable actions and requisite partnerships and resources that would catalyse the discussions for the development of a gender-responsive alternative macroeconomic framework as well as promote its adoption by African governments.

Furthermore, in 2016, FEMNET commissioned research on Engendering the Illicit Financial Flows Discourse and is an active member of the 'Stop the Bleeding Campaign' aimed at curbing Illicit Financial Flows and 'Inequality Campaign' focusing on reducing inequalities. FEMNET collaborated with Christian Aid, AWID and Gender & Development Network (GADN) Women's Economic Justice Group to produce a policy brief titled *Breaking Down the Barriers: Macroeconomic Policies that Promote Women's Economic Equality*. This paper influenced some of the recommendations on unpaid care work made in UN High Level Report on Women's Economic Empowerment during the 2016 -71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). FEMNET has over the last three years taken its role as a thought leader working on the intersection of macroeconomic policy and women's rights embedded in Pan African Feminist narratives. AFMA continues to be the continents premier space for women's rights advocates to engage on these issues.




PROGRAMME

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION OBJECTIVE	FACILITATOR
Sunday, 9 July 2023			
All day	Arrivals and check-in		
Monday, 10 July 2023			
8:30 - 9:00	Registration		
9:00 - 9:30	Opening remarks	<i>Official opening of the programme.</i>	FEMNET
9:30 - 10:30	Introductions	<i>Getting to know everyone in the room.</i>	FEMNET
10:30 - 10:45	Tea break		
10:45 - 12:00	African Feminisms	<i>Understanding the relevance of an African feminist lens to macroeconomics, historicising women's struggles in the global economy.</i>	Lebohang Pheko
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break		
13:00 - 14:00	African feminisms	<i>Understanding the relevance of an African feminist lens to macroeconomics, historicising women's struggles in the global economy.</i>	Lebohang Pheko
14:00 - 15:30	Introduction to feminist economics	<i>Unpacking the core tenets of feminist (macro) economics.</i>	Lebohang Pheko
15:30 - 15:45	Tea break		
15:45 - 17:00	Introduction to feminist economics	<i>Unpacking the core tenets of feminist (macro) economics.</i>	Lebohang Pheko



Tuesday, 11 July 2023

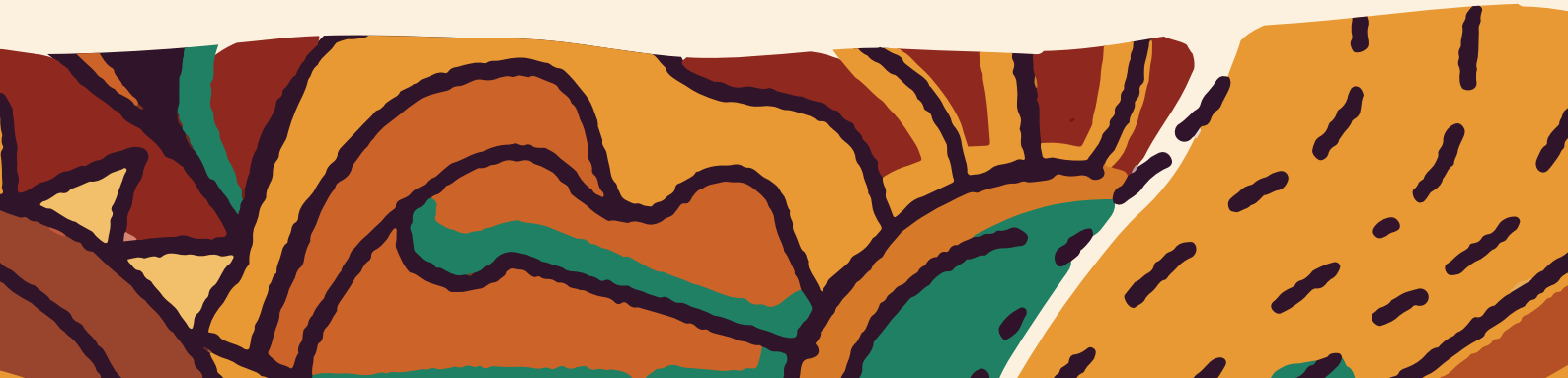
8:30 - 9:00	Registration		
9:00 - 9:30	Day 1 recap	<i>Brief review of what was covered on Monday.</i>	
9:30 - 10:30	Feminist political economics and the care economy	<i>Going deeper into feminist economics.</i>	Dr Odile Mackett
10:30 - 10:45	Tea Break		
10:45 - 12:00	Feminist political economics and the care economy	<i>Going deeper into feminist economics.</i>	Dr Odile Mackett
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch break		
13:00 - 14:30	Going deeper into social reproduction	<i>Unpacking the crisis of social reproduction, linking it with broader macroeconomic structures and changes.</i>	Dr Basani Baloyi
14:30 - 14:45	Tea break		
15:00 - 17:00	Going deeper into social reproduction	<i>Unpacking the crisis of social reproduction, linking it with broader macroeconomic structures and changes.</i>	Dr Basani Baloyi
19:00	Dinner		





Wednesday, 12 July 2023

8:30 - 9:00	Registration		
9:00 - 9:30	Day 2 recap	<i>Brief review of what was covered on Tuesday</i>	
9:30 - 11:00	Introduction to Neoliberalism	<i>Neoliberalism, macro-economic policy and African development. Overview of what neoliberalism is as well as a feminist analysis of its impacts.</i>	Dr Basani Baloyi
11:00 - 11:30	Tea break		
11:30 - 13:00	Introduction to Neoliberalism	<i>Neoliberalism, macro-economic policy and African development. Overview of what neoliberalism is as well as a feminist analysis of its impacts.</i>	Dr Basani Baloyi
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break		
14:00 - 15:30	Privatisation and Financialisation	<i>Key concepts, mapping key actors, literature review</i>	Sophie Efange
15:30 - 15:45	Tea break		
15:45 - 17:30	Maputo Protocol and Economic Justice	<i>Introducing key concepts</i>	Prof Fareda Banda



Thursday, 13 July 2023

8:30 - 9:00	Registration		
9:00 - 9:30	Day 3 recap	<i>Short recap of Wednesday</i>	
9.30 - 11.30	Maputo Protocol and Economic Justice	<i>Taking stock of the 20th anniversary of the Maputo Protocol.</i>	Prof Fareda Banda
11:30 - 12:00	Tea break		
12:00 - 13:00	Debt, austerity and financialisation	<i>Mapping the links between regressive fiscal policy, financialisation and debt in Africa.</i>	Busi Sibeko
13:00-14:00	Lunch break		
14:00-15:30	Debt, austerity and financialisation	<i>Mapping the links between regressive fiscal policy, financialisation and debt in Africa.</i>	Busi Sibeko
15:30 - 15:45	Lunch break		
15:45 - 16:45	Imagining feminist alternatives	<i>Unpacking alternatives and charting new possibilities.</i>	Sophie Efange
16:45 - 18:00	Closing	<i>Closing remarks and provision of certificates.</i>	

Friday, 14 July 2023

All day	Check out		
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PARTICIPANTS



Afia Simpande is a resilient and passionate African feminist with progressive work experience in community development through the promotion of the rights and wellbeing of women, girls and children. She is a holder of bachelor's degree in business administration with economics and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public health.

Afia has worked with both national and international non-governmental organizations including; PLAN international, Environment Africa Zambia and Athena network. Her area of focus has been around issues of sexual reproductive health and rights , Malnutrition, Gender equality and diversity inclusion(GEDI),Child protection and safeguarding and HIV/AIDS.

She is currently the country focal point of the Athena Network on the #Shelearns research project which aims to ensure that adolescent girls and young women in all of their diversity are included at decision making tables, shaping of policies, research and advocacy that affects their lives in the African region. At Athena, she is a team leader of 50 AGYW representing various minority groups including; AGYW living with HIV/AIDS, Young mothers and AGYW living with disabilities.

Afia aspires to contribute to the global sustainable goals of gender equality, decent work and economic growth. When women are capacitated to take care of their financial needs, many families around Africa and the world at large will be saved from many disasters including hunger and disease. Afia believes that if women are empowered with the right knowledge,resources and skills there are able to contribute to ensuring positive lasting changes for generations to come for the world at large



I am **Karabo**, twice-graduated from Wits University, holding both BA Law and LLB degrees. Politics and law comprise the biggest parts of my academic and professional interests, and upon completing my BA in 2019, I was awarded 'Best Undergraduate Student in Political Sciences' by the Ebrahim Foundation. Last year, I submitted my LLM topic outline for a dissertation in International Economics Law as part of my pursuit to jump-start a career public interest law and social justice. My enthusiasm for human rights research is not just scholastic or abstract – or even just sentimental. In my time working in a medical practice, the bandwidth of my casework revealed the reality of healthcare inequality, where being legally or permanently disabled is imminent occurrence for many. Furthermore, while participating in community work (first as a volunteer and eventually as a fieldworker), I was awakened to how the crippling state of joblessness in South Africa's urban townships necessitates the 'enterprising spirit' of informal businesses as they are being tested by a corrupt public tendering regime – the subject of my former LLM thesis topic.

My goal for African women's economic justice is simple: to achieve gender parity in all spheres of our political economy in the hopes that women will self-actualise without trading-off on safety and dignity. The anatomy of many post-colonial states typically has bifurcated social formations with a thriving colonial bourgeoisie class and an inundated, and corrupt, non-capitalist sphere. Women are rendered invisible under both social formations. What a difference it would make, if by fundamentalising human rights, one could centralise the role of an independent state in the ordering of high collateral projects in the Global South.



I am **Hailey Andriafanomezana**, an intersectional feminist.

I am the Grants Officer of Alternatives Madagascar, which is a youth organization that aims to empower young vulnerable people. My position allows me to actively help in the concretization of projects that help vulnerable people and women around Madagascar by seeking grants.

Also, I am a political scientist from the Law and Political Science Faculty (FDSP) at the University of Antananarivo. To get my four-year degree in Political science, my research paper focused on the influence of representations and actors on the shaping of a project that focuses on young single mums in Antananarivo (Madagascar). That research paper is an introduction to a larger area of research which wants to understand the reasons behind the orientation of public action towards women empowerment. Indeed, it is hard to believe that it is rooted in feminism.

Furthermore, I firmly believe that women's liberation is the first step in the path for a fairer society. I'm convinced that to reach that goal, raising awareness on the actual configuration of our society is the most important. I highly value research and want to use feminist political economy to analyze African society, such as Madagascar.

Finally, I want to participate in the construction of a society where women have full power over their life.



Chilufya Nchito is a Zambian development professional interested in gender equality and women's rights. She has a degree in Development studies, a Master's in Development and Globalisation and is currently pursuing a Degree in Law. As a Black African feminist, she is passionate about amplifying the voices of African feminists, allowing African women to tell their own stories, and creating spaces for them. Currently she is the coordinator of the House of African Feminisms project under the Goethe-Institut.

Her dream for African women's economic liberation and justice is that the ordinary everyday African woman on the streets of Lusaka or Lilongwe will have access to sufficient information about personal finance and money management. That she will have a voice to speak about unequal labor relations and the will and the support to fight if her voice is not enough. That women will partner together to fight an ever changing and growing capitalist society that has the odds stacked against them. That governments will work more earnestly to mainstream gender policies and that women in places of authority in government, private spaces and civil society will be allies and not used or allowed to be used as puppets and fronts by the patriarchy.



Chipasha Mwansa is an experienced Public Health Researcher and Management Consultant with over nine (9) years of experience in the Social Development sector, and a demonstrated history of working in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Malaria, and HIV/AIDS programming.

I am a passionate Pan African Feminist and women's rights activist who has volunteered as well as worked in Feminist movements and Organizations in the last 10 years to the present day. I believe that bringing together young women to dialogue, debate, and amplify youth, especially women and gender-expansive voices on National, Regional, and Global commitments made by governments enhances their ability to speak for themselves and helps hold decision-makers accountable as far as the plight of girls, women, and gender-expansive persons go.

I hold an undergraduate degree in Adult Education in Sociology from the University of Zambia and a Post-graduate master's in public health from the University of Lusaka.

I am currently working at Akina Mama wa Afrika as Project Liaison on an Intersectional SRHR project being implemented across five (5) countries.



Dilia Wanela is a young youth advocate woman from Mozambique, currently working with a women league of UP Maputo as Admin Assistant. Dilia is currently volunteering with Kulanguta Association a locally-based organization, whose goal is focused on gender issues among them is women empowerment on economic freedom, to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriages in practicing societies within Mozambique.

She has also volunteered with a Mozambican-based youth NGO, Youth Guigus Mozambique, which through entertainment, educates about women, widows and children's rights and enforcement procedures. The aim is to popularize both national and international laws on rights and responsibilities of women, widows and children.

Dilia is passionate about women and girl-children empowerment hence her contributions to the achievement of the organizations' goals. She has also interned with the Maputo Municipality Parliamentarian Commission, and this is where she was employed at Legal Department and got the passion to start her advocacy on women and children's rights.

Dilia would like to use her skills and knowledge to contribute to the betterment of the African continent. And with the goal of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Dilia is present on digital/ online platforms like Whatsapp and Facebook where she shares some inspirations on women economic freedom, youth opportunities, educational, training and other capacity-building opportunities that are available to Mozambicans and Africans.

Dilia aspires to be an Economist (after her graduation), working with international organizations on projects that are for the betterment of young women, her community and the African continent.



Elizabeth Chimwemwe Chatuwa is a feminist, a strong gender activist and volunteer as girl guide from Malawi. She is a global member for African Women Leaders network (AWLN) and she is Vice Chair for AWLN Malawi Chapter. The Network builds on African women's leadership to increase women's participation in decision-making through peer learning and mentoring, enhanced solidarity, Finance and Women's Entrepreneurship, advocacy and capacity-building. Elizabeth serves a Board of director at Malawi Girl Guides Association of Malawi responsible for Training by nurturing the girls to become responsible citizen of Malawi.

She is also a deputy board Chair for Young Women rise (YOWORI). YOWORI exists to alleviate human suffering and social injustices of the ordinary people especially young women and girls by providing renewed hope to the hopeless and voice to the voiceless for the social-economic and educational development. Elizabeth is also a National Coordinator for WeCare Youth Organization. WeCare Provides an equal chance of access to education for vulnerable students of all levels, empowering girls and young mothers through the collaborative support group programs as well as providing financial support to the guardians of the vulnerable girls.

Elizabeth is currently employed at NBS Bank in Malawi as an ICT Alternate channels Manager. Her role involves facilitating convenient financial services through digital banking products and promoting financial inclusion, specifically targeting the underserved population in Malawi.

Elizabeth's Aspiration and goals for African women's economic liberation and justice is to add attain knowledge on feminist and macroeconomic skill and ply then in Malawi and contribute and influence in the economic sphere.



Lisa Rumbidzai Simango is an emerging highly motivated Zimbabwean young female leader, researcher and advocate championing gender justice, socio-economic justice and human rights for sustainable development. Lisa is passionate about women participation in national resources governance and realization of their economic independence. Currently, Lisa is a programs officer at Economic Justice for Women Project (EJWP) and a gender research insights specialist at International Strategic Accelerator for Women (iSAW). Lisa has been implementing projects that thrive to establish agency amongst women in the informal economy. The various projects have been centred on building women's knowledge on socio-economic rights, to strengthen their ability to actively participate in policy and governance. As a gender research specialist at iSAW, she writes about the barriers women face around the globe and suggesting ways to mitigate them. She is keen to always have a record of integrity in her career and involve herself in multi-disciplinary discourses shaping the development of Zimbabwe and Africa. Lisa's aspirations for African women include strengthening women's voice, access and participation in public resource governance. She advocates for African women's socio-economic rights, political freedom, safety and the elimination of challenges women experience, to harness their full potential in advancing their socioeconomic growth. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Science Degree Honors in Political Science and Master of Science in International Relations from the University of Zimbabwe (2016-2021). Lisa is an alumni of Tag a Life International Organization (Leadership Economic Mentorship Hub-2020) and Transparency International Zimbabwe- The School of Integrity (2022).



Leone Nezi is a Legal Researcher and Disability Rights Activist focusing on sexual and reproductive health rights and the intersection it has with aspects of women's rights on the basis of resource allocation, policy formulation and implementation. She is currently involved in research and advocacy initiatives seeking to address economic justice by focusing on intersectional discrimination experienced by pre-lingual and post-lingual Deaf women in respect of contextual, institutional, structural and systematic factors. She aspires to see women economically empowered and included in all stages of macroeconomics policy development as part of economic justice.



Namakando Simamuna is a Demographer with 10 years' experience in health systems strengthening (leadership and governance), advocacy, Programme Implementation and health policy development and Evaluation in Zambia and the Sub-Saharan Africa region. She is currently the Policy, Partnerships and Projects technical advisor at Marie Stopes Zambia – Leading on the formation of effective partnerships within the development arena, developing and leading advocacy strategies including but not limited to reproductive and maternal health, Family Planning, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, health financing, monitoring project performance and giving technical assistance on adherence to government policy.

Prior to joining Marie Stopes Zambia, she worked with regional and global advocacy organisations including Centre for Reproductive Health and Education, the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Regional office (IPPF), the Graca Machel trust and the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, designing and implementing youth focused advocacy initiatives.

Namakando is a Women Deliver young leader and an African Union Youth Volunteer Corps alumni, with training in developing pan African orientation, mainstreaming African Union Policies, enhancing personal and professional leadership. She has a passionate interest in the promotion and protection of women's rights and the intersectionality of gender, rights and development. Furthermore, she has additional professional training in Policy research and analysis.

Namakando graduated from the University of Zambia (MA Population Studies and BA Economics). Her goal for African women's economic liberation and justice is the achievement of health equity through elimination of existing laws and regulations that hinder provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health services; and gender responsive budgeting.



Netsai Emmanuelle Zuze is a programmer and advocate based in Harare, - Zimbabwe. Netsai began her work as a programmes assistant where she quickly rose to working as programmes manager for a small Non-government organisation that focuses on the digital independence and menstruation hygiene of young women and girls and the sexual minority from disadvantaged backgrounds and the rural areas. During her years of working with women and the sexual minorities, she developed a passion for advocacy and leadership, which led her to pursue different professional leadership development seminars and fellowships including the Community Solutions Program, a program funded by the U.S

After her attendance of the CSP, Netsai has managed to add on to her portfolio as advocacy to her work as she is working entirely on making sure that the sexual minority who identify as women in the rural areas and disadvantaged backgrounds have access to education and political participation.

Most women, young girls and sexual minority work in the informal sector, which often means they have less legal protection, lower pay, and fewer opportunities for advancement. Netsai's aspirations and goals include working towards women having access to economic resources and opportunities, as it not only benefits them individually but also has positive ripple effects for their families, communities, and the wider economy.

Netsai is advocating for policies that promote gender equality in the workplace, supporting women's entrepreneurship and business development, and providing access to education and training to help women acquire the skills they need to succeed. She's also a board chair of a small organisation called Trans Intersex Rising in Zimbabwe where she is actively involved in the activities and growth of the trans movement. She serves on several advisory boards for technology start-ups and is a mentor to young women interested in pursuing careers in STEM



Pamela Mwale (She/Her) is a highly interactive and conscientious Gender Justice activist and mental health and well being advocate with over a year's experience working towards advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and promoting women's security and bodily autonomy and integrity. She is extremely passionate about Gender Equality and Social Justice and aims to enhance the well being of all those she works with. Demonstrating a profound dedication to making a positive impact, her practice background is also centered around hospital social work and community and youth development. She pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science specialising in Social Work at the University of Malawi and currently works as the Gender and Social Justice Lead at For Equality.

Pamela believes that Gender Equality cannot be achieved without the presence of feminist well being economies. The fight for economic justice in Malawi and across the African continent provides a platform for women and girls' contributions to society and the overall economy to be seen, heard and valued through spotlighting African women's excellence and amplifying their collective voices.



Rutendo Chilengi is a Program Partnership, and Resource Mobilization Expert with more than 9 (nine) years long experience in International Development cooperation and local NGOs work in both post-conflict and non-conflict zones, with international expatriate experience serving in: Ethiopia, Tanzania, Ghana and currently in Zambia, with the World Bank Group as a Partnerships, Resource Mobilization and Policy Consultant, on the voice and Accountability project that a lobbies at supporting the **‘keeping girls in school’ and social cash transfer for women empowerment** community enhancing public service programs.

My recent policy analysis works with the African Union Commission Directorate of, Women, Youth and Gender (WYDG) accorded me the opportunity to support the office of the deputy chairperson on the program analysis of the **African women’s decade roadmap –African women finance and economic inclusion (AW-FEI) study and report** the project.

As an international policy analyst, I hold that, by aligning National and Continental aspirations and goals such as Agenda 2023 AND 2063 with the pursuit of African women’s economic liberation and justice, we can contribute to creating a more equitable and inclusive society where women have equal opportunities to thrive economically. By Promoting Gender-Inclusive Policies Advocate for policies that address gender disparities, promote women’s economic empowerment, advocate for financial inclusion strategies that ensure women have access to affordable and appropriate financial services, and Addressing Gender Pay Gap advocate for equal pay for equal work and challenge discriminatory practices that contribute to the gender pay gap, supporting initiatives that promote fair and equitable wages, benefits, and career advancement opportunities for women.



Sphehleh Hadebe is an economist with expertise in budget and policy analysis. With 3 years of experience in the field, he has made significant contributions to the understanding of economic phenomena and the development of policy frameworks. Sphehleh currently holds the position of Budget Analyst at the National Treasury of South Africa, where he is part of a team of analysts and economists who analyse complex economic issues and provide evidence-based recommendations. In this role, he actively engages with policymakers, national departments and political leaders to shape economic policies and promote sustainable growth.

Sphehleh holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics and a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics and Econometrics both from the University of Johannesburg. He has received

numerous awards for his academic achievements, including the First Years Top Achievers award and the UJenius award for being part of the top 1% of academically achieving students at the University of Johannesburg. Apart from his academic pursuits, Sphehleh has also served as a professional development officer and treasury in the Golden Key International Honour Society UJ Chapter.

In addition to his professional commitments, Sphehleh is passionate about gender equality which involves ensuring that women have equal access to opportunities and decision-making power in the economy, ensuring that women are economically empowered and that women have improved access to finance and capital.



Gamuchirai Gono is a communications specialist with a passion for advancing the rights of women and girls in rural and marginalised communities. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Media Studies and a Master of Science Degree in International Relations from Midlands State University.

In her current portfolio as Communications Assistant with Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT), a non-profit making organisation based in Murewa Zimbabwe; she has experience in strategic communications, social media, and advocacy on social justice issues. She has worked with the Former AU Goodwill Ambassador on Ending Child Marriage in various regional and international convenings by leading digital communications, documenting key resolutions and contributing to the drafting of outcome statements, moderating panel discussions and rapporteuring at regional advocacy platforms including the African Union (AU) Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriage, SADC People's Summit, and Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC). She is a member of the GIMAC Young Women's Network and has contributed to the GIMAC convenings since 2019 working closely with the GIMAC communications lead.

Through her work with RMT, she has developed an appreciation of social and economic factors that disempower women and girls in rural communities. Gamuchirai aspires for a future where African women equally contribute and participate in existing markets, have access to and control over productive resources and meaningfully lead in economic institutions and decision-making at all levels from household level to the macro level.



Comfort Molefinyana is an Associate Researcher on the Wealth Inequality project at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS). She holds a Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Previously, she worked as a consultant conducting applied research in the public sector. She has contributed to implementation and impact evaluations including government management systems, public procurement, municipal tariffs, public employment programmes, agriculture, and health. Comfort has co-authored published work in public procurement (BBBEE) and the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). She has a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree in Politics and Public Policy, and an honours degree in International Relations, both from the University of Cape Town. Her research interests include social and gender policy, inequality, and social protection.



Tsholofelo Mokgoabone is an advocate of financial inclusion and economic empowerment and founder of Finance First Botswana, an organisation that exists to promote financial literacy and inclusion. She is a Director at Letsopa Consult, an enterprise that offers capacity building and business solutions for mainly women owned small, medium and micro enterprises in Botswana. She is also a country manager for Village Savers, a fintech company that provides innovative tech-based financial management solutions to village banking groups and Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises. Tsholofelo is a youth leader in her own right including among others alumna of the Global Shapers Community; an initiative of the World Economic Forum, YALI Tech-Camp Alumna, One Young World Ambassador, Apolitical Academy Southern Africa (now Futurelect) Fellow, Obama Leaders Africa Fellow as well as the 2022 Mandela Washington Fellow under the Public Management Track. For her leadership in financial inclusion, business and community development, she was awarded the 50 Botswana Change Makers under 30 award in 2016 under the Business and Leadership Category. She has over 10 years' experience in consultancy work ranging from grants management, business and economic research as well as corporate governance, compliance and Board development services. Tsholofelo aspires to see full participation of women in all sectors of the economy



Makomborero Carl Muropa is the Head of Programmes for Section7 Zimbabwe, a non-profit organisation working to promote constitutional praxis and rule of law research in Zimbabwe. He is a human rights lawyer by profession, currently pursuing an LLM in Human Rights and Democratization in Africa at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. He is a dedicated researcher who specialises in constitutionalism, constitutional law, business and human rights and feminist theories in business, law and society. His work around constitutionalism has a focus on gender and how women can use the constitution for self protection and self advancement in the economic narratives that concern them. He envisions women playing a critical role in the extractive industries across Africa, while occupying apex positions of leadership in both business and government. Achieving gender equality and equity in the realm of commerce has a positive effect on policy, productivity and inclusive governance.'



Nyasha Phanisa Sithole, is a dynamic young professional , advocate and champion for gender equality, ending inequalities including economic inequalities because these are central to achieving overall health and wellbeing of adolescent girls and young women in their diversity. Nyasha's professional experience has expanded over 10 years and she has contributed to the meaningful youth engagement and participation agenda through various youth led and young women led networks including AfriYAN ESA, ATHENA and DAWA. Nyasha has mentored, supported and co-created spaces and opportunities for marginalised communities of girls and young women in their diversity to challenge inequalities and develop knowledge products including toolkits and advocacy briefs. In fighting for economic justice through an indigenous girl and young women led network Nyasha co-founded she led the development and implementation of a campaign "Show Us the Money on Health" which supported girls and young women across Zimbabwe to engage in national budget consultations. Nyasha envisions a world where all young people in their diversities are able to challenge existing inequalities and fully enjoy their SRH



Abigail Buitumelo Mushendami, a 20-year-old fourth-year law student at the University of Namibia, currently serves as the University lead of the Break Free to Be Free Society campaigns under the One Economy Foundation. Which pursues sustainable economic development, reduced inequality, and the empowerment of marginalized communities in Namibia through increased access to economic opportunities, entrepreneurship, education, and vital resources. Abigail has held various positions within the University's Law Students Council, including Vice-President. During her tenure, she effectively represented the Council's views on pressing Namibian concerns at the annual conference of The African Network of Constitutional Lawyers, focusing on the theme of Constitutionalism and Sustainable Economic Development in Africa.

Since 2018, Abigail has actively engaged in civil society organizing, currently she works as a community organizer with Equal Namibia and as a digital creator for the Sister Namibia Trust. Through extensive research, analytical skills, and exceptional written and verbal communication abilities, she strives to educate and advocate for important causes such as sexual and reproductive health rights, political inclusion, social and economic rights, and the welfare of children.

Recognizing the significance of an intersectional feminist lens, Abigail believes in approaching critical economic issues, including national budgets, international relations, unemployment rates, inflation, and the privatization of social services, to develop comprehensive and sustainable solutions. Abigail underscores the necessity of advocacy at all levels, including grassroots, regional, national, legislative, and judicial, in driving progress towards equality, inclusivity, and equity. Such strategies should prioritize the needs of Women and gender diver persons whom often face the brunt of economic crises such as the Covid 19 pandemic ,due to preexisting systemic inequalities



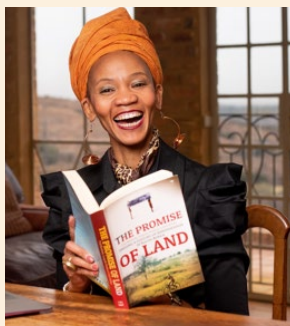
My name is **Thulisile Maziya** from the kingdom of Eswatini. I am the co-founder and executive director of a women empowerment organisation in the Lubombo region of Eswatini known as Sinatsisa Lubombo NGO (providing drinking water for the Lubombo region). My main aim for being part of the establishment of such an organisation was heeding a call from the region where women are treated as minors not knowing their rights and living under duress of the Patriarchal system of leadership. I am for the idea that women should own and be drivers of their own development initiatives, fully aware of their rights to be holistically empowered socially, economically, political and otherwise. I am a highly innovative tenacious achiever female leader whose main interest is in women for the empowerment and capacitating women to take a lead in political participation.

Having been an executive director for Sinatsisa Lubombo a women empowerment organisation for the past five years, I constantly explore various disciplines to broaden my own artistic pursuits, integrating a fine and well-structured designs of gender equity, women' and human rights, empowering women to take a lead in political participation and decision making spaces.

As a female leader, I am dedicated to empower women to be able to achieve their full potential by inspiring them to be advocates, change makers and leaders in their places of domicile, communities and in their countries. The women are equipped with resources, opportunities and platforms which facilitates networking, learning and experience sharing

My current areas of interest and exploration are my democratic leadership culture, human-centred design, and goal attainment. I begin projects by thoroughly researching and then developing my ideas through creative thinking." I am responsible for coordinating the Eswatini group on the Africa Diaspora forum while also undertaking responsibility of being the global financial secretary for the Non-governmental Organisations Founders network, while also being the country's President of the Eswatini chapter on the same platform. I however rely on various competencies for success which are; excellent, administrating and coordination skills, well-developed interpersonal communication and planning skills, highly competitive in small, medium scale research and data analysis, have a high level of analytical and innovative skills, and also a high degree of professionalism. I am highly skilled in local culture context, highly innovative and adaptive with an appraisable energetic, tenacious and proactive achiever concept.

FACILITATORS



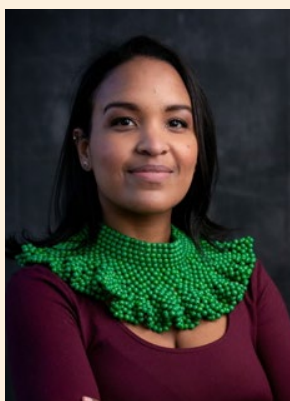
Lebohlang Liepollo Pheko is an activist scholar, academic, international movement builder and Decolonial Afrikan Feminist of over 25 years standing. Her research interests are in Afrikan political economy, States & nationhood, international trade & global financial governance, feminisation of poverty & social reproduction, regional integration and impacts of globalisation on labour migration. She draws strongly from intersectionality, and is using feminist economics, feminist wellbeing economics and the political economy of African states to explore the ongoing manifestations of imperialism and coloniality in international trade and international relations.

Liepollo is the Senior Research Fellow at feminist activist and advocacy think tank - Trade Collective, founding fellow of the Thabo Mbeki Leadership Institute and has taught International Trade, Afrikan Feminist Theory, International Development, Political Economy, Political theory and Race and Decolonial studies across the world. She is also a Lancet Commissioner on Reparations, an ambassador of the Well Being Economy Global Alliance, an African Futures Fellow and takes guidance and inspiration from the herstories of the women who have and continue to resist all forms of imperialism. To this end she is committed to excavating contributions of Afrikan women to liberation struggles and has written extensively on the hazards of masculinised, state curated memory. In her other life she takes regular hikes, slow jogs, listens to music of the soul and poetry, enjoys her rapidly adulting children and pursues the art of stillness.



Dr Basani Baloyi is the co-Programme Director and the former Climate, Energy and Infrastructure Programme Lead at the IEJ. She is a feminist, development economist and activist. She gained her research experience while working on industrial policy issues in academia, at the Centre For Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED) and Corporate Strategy and Industrial Development (CSID) Unit. She is the former Inequality Programme Lead at Oxfam South Africa where she infused her research and management experience with movement building and coordination, campaigning and advocating for economic and social justice, in partnership with social movements.

Dr Baloyi is also the former Director of Industrial Policy and Acting Chief Director in the Industrial Procurement Unit at the Department of Trade and Industry. Dr Baloyi holds a PhD in Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, an MA in Public Policy and an MCom in Economics from Wits University.



Odile Mackett is a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Governance. She holds a PhD and a MCom in Applied Development Economics from the University of the Witwatersrand in addition to a BA International Studies (majoring in Politics & Economics) and a BCom (Hons) in International Trade and Finance from the University of Johannesburg. She is a labour and feminist economist and her research interests are related to the division, quality, and definition of both paid and unpaid work, how households and families are structured and formed around these types of work, and how the state interacts with households and the market to reinforce the gendered and racial division of work. She has broadly written on social security, poverty, and inequality specifically as these factors relate to gender inequalities in society.



Busi Sibeko is an economist and researcher. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Duke University and a Masters in the Political Economy of Development from SOAS, University of London. She was previously at the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ) where her research focus was macroeconomic policy, including participatory feminist budgeting. She was the co-Chair of the Budget Justice Coalition which is comprised of 14+ civil society organisations. She also provided research support to the labour constituency. During her time at the IEJ, Busi contributed to many outputs, including *The Cost Austerity: Lessons for South Africa* and *A fiscal stimulus for South Africa*.

In 2020, Busi was featured in the roundtable series of renowned economists on *Rebirthing the Global Economy to Deliver Sustainable Development* by the United Nations Secretary General. She also participated in the UN Women expert group which informed the *Beyond COVID-19: Feminist Plan (2020)*. She has written a paper titled *A feminist approach to debt in Africa* and co-wrote a paper titled *Feminist Proposals on Macroeconomic Policies needed for a COVID-19 Economic Recovery A perspective from the African continent*.

She considers herself a feminist political economist in training and is determined to be a part of unwinding structural injustice



Professor Fareda Banda holds two law degrees from the University of Zimbabwe where she won the university book prize for graduating in the top three.

She was awarded a Beit Fellowship to Oxford University and a Livingstone Scholarship to Cambridge. She took the Beit and went to Oxford where she was elected President of the graduates of her College and completed her doctorate on access to justice for women within 3-years. Thereafter she worked for the Law Commission of England and Wales before being awarded a Leverhulme Special Research Fellowship which enabled her to return to Oxford as a post-doctoral research fellow.

Fareda joined SOAS in 1996. She has convened and taught English family law, human rights of women and law and society since then. She has also contributed to various courses including Alternative Dispute Resolution, Law and Development, Law and Development in Africa and Legal Systems of Asia and Africa. She has supervised PhD theses on topics including children's rights sexual violence against women, post-conflict reconstruction and gender. Fareda sits on several academic journal boards.

Fareda loves teaching and has been invited to lecture in a number of jurisdictions including: Onati, Oslo, Harare, Kampala, Strasbourg, Bayreuth, Pretoria, Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Vienna (for the CEU) and Zaragoza. She was awarded a visiting scholarship by St Johns College, Oxford, and has held visiting appointments in Onati and Harare. Fareda was appointed a Hauser Global Visiting Professor by NYU in 2009 and 2014.

She has been commissioned to produce reports on diverse topics for agencies. This includes **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Project on a Mechanism to Address Laws that Discriminate against Women, 6 March 2008**. This report built on the work of Equality Now post Beijing agenda and was key to the setting up of a UN Working Group on Laws and Practices that Discriminate against Women.



Sophie Efange is a Black feminist of Ethiopian and Cameroonian heritage and currently works as Head of Policy for the Gender and Development Network (GADN). Before joining GADN, Sophie was the Senior Gender Policy Advisor at Christian Aid. Prior to that, her previous posts have included the role of Gender Officer for the National Democratic Institute in Malawi. Sophie has an MSc in Development Administration and Planning from UCL.



Yamina Ouldali (she/her) is a passionate feminist, currently working at the UK-based Gender and Development Network (GADN) as the Senior Communications and Policy Officer. Before joining GADN, she worked for different development organisations, such as the GIZ and Plan International.

Of German and Algerian heritage, she is passionate about decolonising the international development sector as well as decolonisation and anti-racism more broadly in addition to working towards gender equality and women's rights, with a special interest in feminist economic alternatives.

During the course of her studies, she has conducted research on women entrepreneurship in Morocco, women empowerment of Syrian refugees in Egypt and Jordan as well as digital Muslim feminism on Instagram and holds a master's degree in international development studies.

FEMNET TEAM



Sonia Phalatse is the Economic Justice and Rights Lead at the African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) - a Pan-African, feminist, membership-based network headquartered in Nairobi. In this role, she leads FEMNET's advocacy and research at the intersections of economic justice and women's rights in Africa. An economist by training, Sonia's extensive work experience has focused on making feminist economics visible, foregrounding the many ways that macroeconomic policies shape the lived realities of women and other marginalised identities in Africa. Her research experience and interests are in feminist political economy, ecology and development.



Nicole Maloba is a Lawyer and Policy Researcher working towards bridging the gap between localised initiatives to advance women's socioeconomic rights and systemic attempts to transform economic sectors through legal gender reform. She is currently a Chevening Scholar at the School of African and Oriental Studies. She was previously the Africa Advocacy Advisor at Christian Aid and formerly led the programmatic and advocacy work on economic justice at FEMNET. She is passionate about gender justice and has been advocating for economic and governance structures that are responsive to the rights and needs of women and girls. When she's not advocating for gender justice, Nicole "enjoys live music and discovering Africa's hidden gems." Nicole seeks to develop innovative and comprehensive global solutions to sustainable women's rights development.



Kerubo Onsoti is a Digital Media Officer at The African Women Development and Communication Network. She has been in the digital space for more than 6 years and has a vast knowledge and experience in how to manage diverse online community platforms. She is a holder of a Bachelor of Commerce, Finance degree from the University of Nairobi. Kerubo is passionate about voicing the struggles and experiences of women. She has a keen interest in Economic Justice and Rights, and leads communications on the platforms under the hashtag #Femonomics.



Wambere Mugo is an Economic Justice Rights Assistant at the African Women Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) based in Nairobi Kenya. Her role enables her to assist marginalized communities understand their rights and benefit from work and projects she is directly involved in. She is passionate about advocating women's rights and socio-economic development in Africa. Wambere graduated from The University of Edinburgh with an MA in Politics and Economic and Social History which set course for her career. Before joining FEMNET, Wambere volunteered in various NGOs and worked at the Youth Café Africa. In her free time Wambere is passionate about animals and enjoys her time in nature and the outdoors.

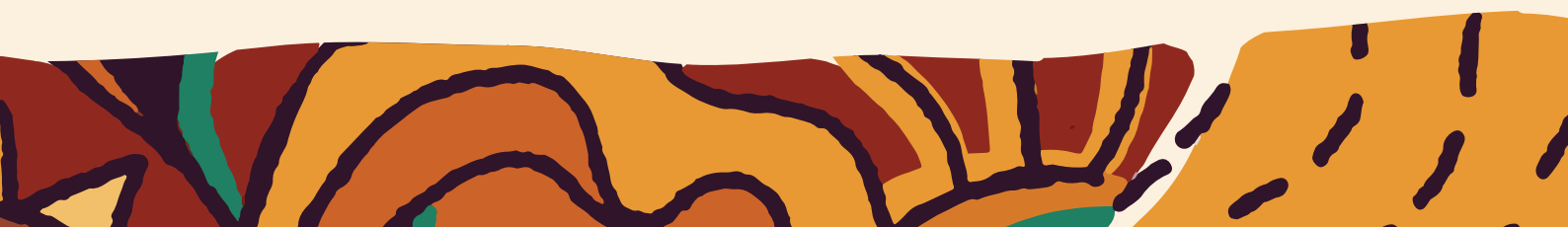


Abigail Muniu is an enthusiastic young Certified Human Resource Practitioner who values human capital. She is also passionate about women and young girls being given equal opportunities across the board. In this regard, she has been able to attend to some spaces advocating for gender inclusivity such as WPP Thematic Dialogue with COMESA and the African Feminist COP.

She works in the Human Resource and Administration department in FEMNET and strives to create an enjoyable and conducive working environment.



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AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY

The Audacity to Disrupt



**Ford
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WOMEN'S
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The African Women's
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