



FEMNET

January 2025 Newsletter



A New Year for Feminist Action!

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, we are energized and ready to continue the critical work of advancing gender equality and feminist principles across Africa.

This year promises both challenges and exciting opportunities, and we're committed to deepening our impact through advocacy. In this first newsletter of the year, we'll share upcoming events, highlight recent achievements, and explore key issues impacting women and girls across the continent. Join us as we work together to build a more just and equitable future for all!

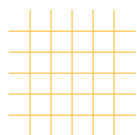


SECRETARIAT BRIEFING

FEMNET Engagement with SOAWR Coalition and Ethiopian Partners on SRHR Priorities



FEMNET convened a strategic meeting with the SOAWR coalition and partners from Ethiopia to discuss key priorities and collaborative strategies for advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The session fostered insightful discussions on driving meaningful change in the SRHR landscape. Key priorities identified included the need to contextualize abortion as part of the broader SRHR agenda while reinforcing that SRHR extends beyond abortion. Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening both political and technical goodwill to advance SRHR efforts effectively. Addressing the rise of anti-choice movements was also a critical focus, with discussions on strategies to counter misinformation and restrictive policies.



Siaya County Launches Landmark RMNCAH Act 2024

The launch of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Act 2024 marks a significant milestone in advancing healthcare access and equity in Siaya County.

The judiciary was recognized as a key ally in advocating for SRHR, particularly in legal interpretations and enforcement. Additionally, there was a strong call for continued advocacy to lift reservations on the Maputo Protocol, ensuring comprehensive protection of women's rights across Africa. The need to build a stronger, unified movement was underscored as essential for sustained progress.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of a coordinated approach to tackling SRHR challenges in Ethiopia, learning from Kenya's legal and policy advancements, and developing targeted strategies to influence policy reforms while addressing existing barriers.

The meeting reinforced the collective commitment to advancing SRHR and strengthening regional collaborations for impactful advocacy and policy change.



Unveiled by County Chief H.E. James Orendo, this pioneering legislation provides a comprehensive framework to enhance maternal and neonatal healthcare, strengthen child health interventions such as immunization and nutrition, and address critical adolescent health concerns, including mental health and sexual and reproductive health.

FEMNET is proud to have contributed to the advocacy efforts that led to the realization of this transformative policy. Speaking during a stakeholder meeting, Governor Orendo emphasized that the Act is a commitment to action, underscoring the need for increased resource allocation and accountability in healthcare service delivery. CEC Health Dr. Martin Konyango urged stakeholders to actively engage in implementing the legislation, reinforcing its potential to improve health outcomes for the county's most vulnerable populations. By prioritizing community-based healthcare approaches, the RMNCAH Act paves the way for a more inclusive and sustainable healthcare system in Siaya County.

Strengthening Economic Justice & Rights: Generation Equality Leaders Convene in Nairobi



The Generation Equality Action Coalition on Economic Justice & Rights (EJR) Leaders convened in Nairobi for a three-day retreat to assess progress, advance key workstreams, and strengthen collaboration. Hosted by FEMNET, the retreat provided an open and inclusive space for both structured and unstructured discussions, allowing participants to refine strategies and develop a clear, actionable roadmap for the coalition. Through in-depth technical discussions, leaders explored innovative approaches to accelerating economic justice and rights globally, while reinforcing their collective commitment to gender equality.

On the third day, Kenyan-based EJR commitment makers joined the dialogue, enriching the discussions with local expertise and grassroots perspectives. Their engagement emphasized the importance of amplifying local voices and co-creating solutions that reflect community needs. The retreat was widely regarded as a success, fostering deeper relationships among leaders, strengthening partnerships, and generating enhanced working methods to drive meaningful change at both national and global levels.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. AU summit and GIMAC(6th to 9th February 2025)

The Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network is set to host the 41st Pre-Summit Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) and Member States from 6 to 9 February 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This pivotal meeting will be held under the theme, "Advancing Justice and Reparations for African Women and Girls," aligned with the AU's 2025 theme, "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations."

Read more: <https://www.genderismyagenda.org/press-releases/6th-gimac-transforming-education-for-gender-equity-and-sustainability/>

2. Africa Disrupt CSW69 25TH to 28th February 2025

Africa Disrupt CSW is part of the efforts of African women to challenge the CSW process and emerged to respond to the continued shrinking space for African feminists and civil society engagement at the annual CSW session in New York.

In 2025, FEMNET members and other members of the NGO CSW Africa will convene the 4th Africa Disrupt CSW69. Specifically, Africa Disrupt CSW 69 will work towards realizing the following objectives; to develop advocacy strategies for impactful influencing CSW 69 revitalization and implementation of the political declaration ,share the Africa CSO and Youth Position Statement on Beijing+30 and brainstorm on how these can be used for advocacy at National, Regional and Global spaces.

3. Commission on the Status of Women NY 10th-21st March 2025

In 2025, the global community will mark the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2025.

The main focus of the sixty-ninth session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Read more: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw69-2025>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Urgent Action Fund for Africa - <https://www.uaf-africa.org/apply-for-a-grant/>
- Digital Defenders Prtnership Incident Emergency Fund - <https://www.digitaldefenders.org/incident-emergency-fund/>
- Global Fund for Women - <https://www.digitaldefenders.org/incident-emergency-fund/>
- Mama Cash-Resilience Fund - <https://www.mamacash.org/what-we-do/grantmaking/>
- UN Women Fund for Gender Equality - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/trust-funds/fund-for-gender-equality>
- Global Fund for Human Rights - <https://globalhumanrights.org/>
- Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund - <https://wphfund.org/calls-for-proposals/>
- New Africa Fund Venture Philanthropy - <https://www.newafricafund.org/venture-philanthropy-grants>

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