

FEMNET

February 2025 Newsletter



Thematic Triumphs: A February of Diverse Feminist Action.

February, though short, proved to be a powerhouse month for us! As the echoes of the new year settled, we dove headfirst into the critical work of advancing gender equality across the continent. From grassroots mobilization to high-level advocacy, our thematic areas buzzed with activity, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to dismantling patriarchal structures and amplifying the voices of African women and girls. Join us as we reflect on a month filled with impactful initiatives, strategic partnerships, and the persistent pursuit of a more just and equitable Africa.



SECRETARIAT BRIEFING

Africa Disrupt CSW 69: Passing the Baton from Yaounde to Gaborone



From February 25th to 27th, 2025, Gaborone, Botswana, became the epicenter of African feminist discourse as leaders and activists gathered for the Africa Disrupt CSW69.

Under the theme "Beijing +30 - Uniting in Solidarity, Safeguarding our Gains, Amplifying our Voices," the conference provided a critical platform to assess the progress of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, particularly as Botswana holds a key position within the African Union's gender equality framework and is set to co-facilitate CSW revitalization.

With powerful calls for collective action from figures like Graça Machel and FEMNET's Executive Director, Memory Kachambwa, the event emphasized the urgency of dismantling persistent patriarchal barriers and empowering African women and girls.

The conference featured robust discussions, including a pivotal panel on the "African Scorecard on BPfA+30," which balanced celebrating achievements with addressing ongoing challenges.

Participants delved into the upcoming CSW69, developing implementation frameworks and advocacy strategies. A symbolic handover from Yaoundé emphasized the continuity of the African women's movement, while skills labs focused on effective advocacy and media engagement.

The event culminated in the adoption of outcome documents, including an advocacy letter and implementation framework, solidifying commitments to gender equality.

Click link to [read more on the Africa Disrupt CSW69](#)

Advancing Justice and Reparations for African Women and Girls



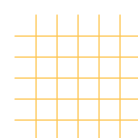
The 41st Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network Pre-Summit CSO Consultative Meeting and the 13th GIMAC Young Women Advocacy Training convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6th to 8th February 2025 under the theme “Advancing the Agenda for Justice and Reparations for African Women and Girls.” The gathering aligned with the African Union’s 2025 theme, “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.” Bringing together feminist activists, civil society leaders, policymakers, and young women advocates, the meeting reaffirmed the urgent need for reparative justice to address the lasting impacts of colonialism, slavery, apartheid, and economic exploitation on African women and girls. Participants emphasized that reparations go beyond financial compensation they are a transformative process aimed at restoring dignity, addressing socio-economic disparities, and ensuring gender-responsive governance.



Commending the AU’s commitment to reparations, the convening reinforced past declarations such as the Abuja Proclamation (1993), the Durban Declaration (2001), and the Accra Declaration on Reparations and Racial Healing. Key discussions focused on reforming global economic systems, advocating for debt cancellation, fair taxation, and climate reparations, particularly for African women who disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental degradation and extractive economies.

This landmark event underscored the need for multigenerational and transnational efforts, engaging grassroots communities, civil society, and policymakers to drive systemic change and ensure justice for African women and girls.

Click the link to [read more on the 41st Session of GIMAC](#)



Peer Power: Aga Khan Foundation Workshop Drives Gender Equality Through Collaborative Learning



The Aga Khan Foundation Regional Learning Workshop provided a dynamic platform for peer-to-peer learning, fostering meaningful exchanges on gender equality, policy advocacy, and community-driven solutions. Participants shared experiences, challenges, and best practices, emphasizing the power of partnerships in driving sustainable change.

Key discussions focused on collaboration between civil society and local governments, the role of research in addressing gender-based violence in sports, and innovative approaches to women's economic empowerment. The World Café sessions sparked critical reflections on religion, leadership, adolescent SRHR, and legal support mechanisms, reinforcing the need for collective action.

The workshop reaffirmed that gender equality is not just a goal but a movement—one that thrives through shared learning, strategic alliances, and continued commitment. As we move forward, these insights will shape stronger, more impactful initiatives across the region.

Whose Energy? Demanding Justice at the 16th Alternative Mining Indaba

The 16th Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) 2025 convened over 300 participants to address the critical question, "Energy transition for who?" This annual gathering served as a vital platform for communities, activists, and advocates to demand justice and equity in the extractives sector, particularly mining.



FEMNET contributed significantly by amplifying the voices of African women marginalized in these conversations, particularly those in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) communities.



Discussions highlighted the disproportionate impact of extractive industries on women, who face underrepresentation, lower pay, and gender-based violence. The need for deliberate policies, budget allocations, and investments in women's participation in tech and mining was emphasized, alongside the importance of African-led research and data ownership. The AMI 2025 culminated in a solidarity march, delivering the AMI Communique to decision-makers and reinforcing the call for inclusive, accountable, and gender-transformative policies.

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Click link to : [read more on the Alternative Mining Indaba 2025](#)

Five Years of Impact: She Leads Mali's Final Chapter and Lasting Change



From February 17th to 21st, 2025, She Leads - Mali project implementing partners convened in Bamako for their final annual in-country reporting meeting, marking the project's fifth and concluding year.



This gathering provided a crucial platform to reflect on the project's journey, celebrate its achievements in empowering African girls and young women, and analyze the challenges faced within the evolving Malian context. Participants, including representatives from ROAJELF Mali, Terre Des Hommes, and Plan International Netherlands, shared experiences, highlighting the project's impact on building girls' confidence and leadership skills, while acknowledging obstacles such as resource constraints, cultural barriers, and political instability.

The meeting emphasized the importance of adaptive management and strong community engagement in navigating these challenges.

In-depth context analysis, both internal and external, allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the project's strengths and weaknesses, as well as the socio-economic and political factors influencing its implementation. Key learnings, including the significance of local ownership, participatory approaches, and sustainable funding, were distilled to inform future initiatives. The She Leads project's legacy will continue to inspire and empower young African women leaders in Mali and beyond, providing valuable insights for advancing gender equality across the continent.

Click link to [read more on the She Leads - Mali Annual Reporting](#)

Strengthening Pathways for Climate Justice

FEMNET participated in the 3rd edition of the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) Global Coordination Meeting (GCM-25), held from February 24-26, 2025, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Under the theme "Powering Pathways for Sustainable Climate Actions," the gathering set the stage for bold commitments toward a just and sustainable future.





Since its inception in 2021, AACJ has been instrumental in strengthening grassroots climate movements, advocating for inclusive policies, and amplifying African voices in global climate discourse. The 2025 GCM served as a pivotal moment to consolidate gains, refine sustainability strategies, and ensure the initiative's long-term impact. The meeting concluded with a communique outlining seven strategic imperatives to drive sustainable climate justice across Africa, including deepening grassroots movements, securing sustainable funding, enhancing policy advocacy, and fostering North-South cooperation.



A key takeaway from GCM-25 was the urgent need for collective advocacy in global climate negotiations. With major milestones ahead—such as COP30 and the review of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)—AACJ partners committed to developing unified advocacy messages that amplify African perspectives.

The coalition aims to engage strategically in global forums, pushing for ambitious policies that center human rights-based approaches, climate finance, just energy transitions, and the protection of environmental defenders.

Click link to [read more on FEMNET at the AACJ 2025 Coordination Meeting](#)



EU Youth Sounding Board Kenya Charts a Course for 2025: A Deep Dive into Strategic Planning and Youth Engagement



The European Union Youth Sounding Board (EU YSB) Kenya recently convened a strategic three-day planning meeting on February 18th–20th, 2025 to co-create their 2025 Annual Work Plan and strengthen youth engagement initiatives. The meeting featured in-depth presentations on EU-funded projects like "*Sikiliza Sauti Yetu, Dunia Inaita!*" and "*Sheria ya Vijana*," focusing on climate action and youth empowerment in the green and digital economy.

Key sessions addressed disability inclusion, program monitoring, and strategic communication. A dialogue with the EU Ambassador, to Kenya, H.E. Henriette Geiger provided valuable insights on the EU's ongoing engagements in Kenya in the energy sector, digitalization, and efforts to foster accountability and transparency. During these discussions, YSB members refined their mandate and set SMART goals for the year ahead.

The planning meeting laid a strong foundation for impactful youth engagement and advocacy. Members finalized their work plan with emphasis on policy dialogue, cross-advisory collaboration, and evidence generation. The agenda also included peer-to-peer learning and wellness sessions to foster personal and professional growth.

By prioritizing collaboration, capacity strengthening, and strategic advocacy, the YSB is poised to amplify youth voices and drive transformative action in Kenya. The 2025 workplan, shaped by the collective vision of its members, will serve as a roadmap for strengthening the partnership between Kenyan youth and the European Union Delegation while ensuring youth perspectives are integrated into EU-funded initiatives.

Click link to [read more on the EU YSB Kenya Planning Meeting](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 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>

2. International Women's Day

The International Women's Day which is celebrated annually on **8 March 2025**, will be under the theme, **"For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."**

This year's theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation—youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls—as catalysts for lasting change.

3. Launch of the SRHR Charter

The forthcoming forum, that will be convened in Nairobi, Kenya to solicit input from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the continent, will be instrumental in shaping the charter's unique African perspective. The objective is to define a locally relevant understanding of SRHR, articulating accepted terminology and principles that resonate with diverse cultural contexts. This Charter, therefore, represents a significant step towards a unified and effective continental approach to ensuring universal SRHR.

4. She Leads Outcome Harvesting Meeting

The She Leads Annual Reporting and Outcome Harvesting Meeting shall be held on **4th to 7th of March 2025**. This event seeks to take stock of the outcomes of the project in 2024 and plan for the 2025 Regional Activities. Additionally, each participant needs to have a common understanding on the context of the She Leads program, the (signs of) changes in our target groups and actors, how we contributed to these changes and what does this mean for our current implementation?

5. Feminist Post COP 29 Reflection and WGC Africa Strategic Meeting

FEMNET, in collaboration with the 1Africa Women and Gender Constituency, will bring together African women and girls to reflect on the negotiations, assess progress, and strategize for the upcoming engagements ahead of COP 30 in Abuja, Nigeria from **27th - 28th March 2025**.

6. FEMNET events at CSW



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>

FEMNET BOARD SPOTLIGHT!

AMEL SAMOUD KHAMARI - VICE CHAIR, NORTHERN AFRICA



FEMNET: A Second Family and a Catalyst for Change in Africa

Championing Women's Rights Across North Africa

Serving as the Vice-Chairman of the FEMNET Board for North Africa is both an honor and a commitment. It represents an unwavering dedication to ensuring that African women are recognized as active members of society, driving sustainable development and shaping political life.

Through FEMNET, I have learned that change happens when we unite—when we campaign, advocate, and stand together for a better future for both women and men.

I close my eyes and imagine myself with: a rural woman in Ethiopia, a doctor in Mauritius, a UN official from Ghana, an Algerian woman in leadership at the OAU, women excelling in pharmaceutical laboratories, universities, and government offices across the world. These experiences elevate my vision and reinforce my commitment to gender equality.

Breaking Barriers Through Advocacy and Training

The Tunisian association ATGEC, which I chair, has launched multiple initiatives to support women's empowerment. Our STITCH project, implemented in collaboration with FEMNET, the European Union, and Oxfam, has transformed advocacy efforts in seven African countries.

Through STITCH, ATGEC has provided training in soft skills, gender budgeting, leadership, political and economic violence, and cyber rights for women from all regions of Tunisia. Our lobbying efforts have pushed for:

- ✓ Women in leadership - from Prime Ministers to CEOs, Ambassadors, and Parliamentarians.
- ✓ Representation in agriculture - increasing women's participation in cooperatives.
- ✓ Legal advocacy - championing the Maputo Protocol to secure women's rights.
- ✓ Engaging men as allies - through the "Man to Man" program, creating champions of women's rights.

FEMNET: A Movement, A Family

Beyond advocacy, FEMNET has become my second family. Whether through in-person collaborations or virtual engagements, I have developed strong bonds with FEMNET's administration, Board members, and feminists across Africa. Together, we work to:

- End violence against women,
- Shatter the glass ceiling,
- Ensure women enjoy full rights in all spheres of life.

FEMNET's role in advancing women's freedoms cannot be overstated. Thanks to its relentless efforts, more women can live without constraints, pursue leadership, and shape Africa's future equally with men.

Advice to Young Feminists in North Africa

To young feminists and activists, my message is simple:

- Feel free, break barriers, and reject societal constraints.
- Women's roles extend beyond the household; they are catalysts for national progress.
- Never fear sexism—prove your capabilities and demand your space.
- Dare to push beyond the glass ceiling.

Join FEMNET through your associations. This is not just an African network—it is a global force for gender equality.

The Power of Sisterhood Across the Continent

Working with passionate feminists across Africa has reinforced one undeniable truth: There is no difference between men and women in their ability to create economic, social, and political progress. The key to success lies in unity.

By joining hands, supporting each other, and mobilizing for change, we are building the Africa we want—a continent where gender equality is not a dream but a reality.

Together, we move forward. Together, we rise.

Are you a FEMNET Member?
Become a FEMNET Member Now

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