

# HER VOICE



Issue No.01

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A Newsletter from the African Women Leaders Forum

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



**Dear Colleagues, Partners and Friends,**

It is our pleasure to share with you updates from the African Women Leaders Forum (AWLF) which is dedicated to promoting young women's agency and leadership in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our goal is to see women especially young women, acquire the abilities, positions and sufficient opportunities in leadership roles and decision making in social development. We encourage young women to work in partnership with civil society organizations and governments, both at national and

sub national levels through strengthening capacity, women empowerment and advocacy in order to have the positive change in policy making and positive social development.

In this spirit, we are pleased to share with you recent milestones in promoting gender equality in democratic governance and decision making in Africa. We appreciate your commitment to and interest in this work and encourage all of us to continue pursuing a world in which young women come together to decide their own futures and shape the decisions that affect not only their lives, but their communities, their societies, and the world.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and we look forward to your feedback.

Kind Regards,

Glanis Changachirere.

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- EEMSI Report Validation
- Launch of the Gender Barometer

Feminist Leadership Spotlight



## HIGHLIGHTS...

### African Feminist Solidarity for women in Eswatini, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan Initiative (EEMSI)

On the 25th of May 2022, African Women Leaders Forum joined the continent to celebrate Africa Day. On this day AWLF hosted the Eswatini, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan Initiative (EEMSI) Report Validation meeting under the theme “Centering African Feminist Solidarity in countries in transition and conflict”.

Read more here: <https://awlforum.org/download/the-situation-of-women-in-countries-in-transition-and-conflict/>

African Feminist Solidarity for women in Eswatini, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan Initiative (EEMSI)

**EEMSI REPORT VALIDATION**

Date: Wednesday 25 May 2022  
Time: 1400hrs to 1600hrs CAT

Moderator: Bella Matambanadzo

Centering African Feminist Solidarity in countries in transition and conflict.

Panelists: Julia Wachave, Doo Aphane, Rita Kahsay, Samar Abushama

“When we speak, we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.”

— Audre Lorde.

### Launch of the ACDEG Gender Barometer

On 24th July 2022, the African Women Leaders Forum (AWLF), in collaboration with the International Centre for Peace, Human Rights and Development (IPHRD) launched the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) Gender Barometer. The launch took place at the Annual Young Women’s Political Leadership Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme, “Centering ACDEG in African Young Women’s Agency and Leadership”.

Read more here:

<https://awlforum.org/2022/10/26/gender-barometer-to-assess-implementation-of-the-african-charter-on-democracy-elections-and-governance-acdeg-launched/>

<https://awlforum.org/2022/10/26/combating-online-violence-against-women-is-possible/>



Above: Panel discussion on the ratification, domestication, implementation and reporting of the ACDEG by member states.



Participants reviewing and highlighting insights from the ACDEG and its provisions.

## FEMINIST LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

*“Women come from different backgrounds and carry different experiences which shape policy. Gender equality and development are intertwined and it is therefore important to empower more women into leadership positions.”*



ROSEBELL KAGUMIRE, UGANDA

Pan-African Feminist and Socio-Political commentator.

### YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA: A CONVERSATION WITH ROSEBELL KAGUMIRE

Our question to Rosebell:

“We know the importance of having as many women as possible holding positions of leadership and decision making in all spheres of life, especially politics. Is there a distinction between women’s leadership and feminist leadership? If so, why does it matter that a leader is not only a woman but a woman who understands the role and influence of feminism in leadership?”

Watch the full interview on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtCqAdq4qTA&t=52s>

We would love to hear from you. Please share your stories, articles, comments, suggestions and other communications here: [africanwomenleadersforum@gmail.com](mailto:africanwomenleadersforum@gmail.com)



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