

# Terms of Reference

**Consultancy:** African feminist mental health and emotional wellbeing knowledge series: A call for researchers, vloggers and artists. March 2021

## ABOUT AWDF

The African Women's Development Fund was established in June 2000 as an Africa-wide philanthropic, grant-making initiative to support the realisation and fulfilment of African women's rights through the funding of autonomous women's organisations. AWDF believes that if women and women's organisations are empowered with skills, information, sustainable livelihoods, opportunities to fulfil their potential, plus the capacity and space to make transformative choices, then we will have vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities. To achieve this, AWDF mobilises financial, human and material resources to support local, national, and regional initiatives for transformation led by African women.

## BACKGROUND TO THE CONSULTANCY

Mental health and emotional wellbeing is one of the significant Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) categories that are a leading cause of death and disability for African women. In a continent-wide study on NCDs and women in 2020, AWDF found that close to 73 million women in Africa were affected by mental health conditions and more than 235 million women by neurological conditions.

Yet, the scale, impact, evidence of what works, and actors involved or required remains greatly under-researched, under-reported and under-prioritised. Most notably, AWDF recognises the continued focus on Western mental health and emotional wellbeing interventional models over African and women-led approaches towards healing, psychosocial support and resilience-building collectively and individually.

Thus, through this call for consultants, AWDF invites African women researchers, artists and vloggers to document information, experiences, insights, practices and approaches that promote mental health and emotional wellbeing in communities and groups of women across the continent. We are particularly keen on innovations around feminist collective care and self-care in the digital era, humanitarian, post-conflict, rural and urban areas; work or stories that explore how mental health and wellbeing intersect with further marginalisations women face due to their queerness, disability and class status; approaches that work and the role of African women in stirring activism and solidarity for effective mental health and emotional wellbeing programmes and services across communities in Africa.

Contributors are expected to utilise decolonial feminist methodologies that deliberately centre the voices, experiences and stories of African women, solutions and intervention approaches. Guided by this call's title theme, AWDF will work with individual contributors to refine knowledge areas and co-create products that include articles, vlogs, and digital art on mental health and emotional wellbeing for African women.

## OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

Contribute to knowledge on African feminist mental health and emotional wellbeing through writing (research), art and vlogging. Specific deliverables for each contributor will include.

1. Holding an initial debrief meeting with AWDF to clarify assignment expectations
2. Review of submitted knowledge concepts, methodology and timelines
3. For researchers, undertake data collection based on the agreed-upon methodology
4. Present draft products for review and input by AWDF or work-in progress for artists?
5. Incorporate all feedback and refine the drafts
6. Produce and submit the final products, including any design files and complete bibliographies following AWDF guidelines.

## **METHODOLOGY**

- Discussion with AWDF to clarify the assignment, TORs and scope of work, including timelines
- Design methodology (including virtual interviews, desk reviews) that takes into account COVID-19 safety restrictions and involves AWDF through scheduling virtual interface
- Debriefing meetings with AWDF to highlight feedback areas and provide additional guidance for high quality, representative and insightful products
- Production of updated versions incorporating feedback from debriefing sessions and virtual input through email
- Production of a final product that incorporates all feedback

## **CONSULTANTS PROFILE**

The consultant should have:

1. Extensive experience of feminist content production on issues of concern to African women
2. For researchers, a University degree in the Humanities, Art, Social Sciences or field relevant to the work will be an added advantage.
3. Proven experience in digital documentation and using digital communications tools evidenced by at least one sample of work
4. Demonstrated research skills and excellent writing skills in English
5. Knowledge of women's rights in Africa; experience producing documentation products including reports, films, vlogs, art, podcasts, digital art for African women's organisations is a plus.
6. Excellent interpersonal skills and flexible attitude
7. Proven ability to work to tight deadlines
8. Commitment to AWDF's values of feminist leadership, accountability, diversity, respect and solidarity.

## **DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

We anticipate the work to take three months between April 2021 to June 2021.

## **TO APPLY**

Please send your CV, cover email and concept note with a budget describing the knowledge gap your area of contribution will be filling, the methodology you will employ and the product you will be delivering (research article, vlog or a form of art) to [consultants@awdf.org](mailto:consultants@awdf.org). Email subject header: Application for consultancy- AfriFem Mental Health knowledge series. Emails should be addressed to **The Human Resources Manager**. Submissions must be received no later than **20 March 2021**.