

On est ensemble: Funding feminist movements in French-speaking Africa

Side-event jointly organised by AWDF and FJS at the 68th session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW)

**19 March 2024 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm - Scandinavian House
(Volvo Hall)**

Arrival starts at 1:30 pm with a light lunch

Session description

African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) has worked over the past few years to improve its understanding of, and response to, the specific challenges faced by women, girls and gender-diverse people, the realities of feminist organising in French-speaking Africa, and the implications for philanthropic actors seeking to advance gender justice in the region.

In this context, AWDF partnered with the Foundation for a Just Society (FJS) to commission and develop a study mapping out the context and state of women's rights and feminist organising in Francophone West Africa, and with a specific focus on the countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The study aimed at increasing AWDF, FJS and other philanthropic institutions' understanding of the specific contexts, organising strategies, challenges, and priorities of women's rights and feminist groups and movements in the region. This study will be formally launched in 2024, after having been presented in late 2023 during the Francophone Feminist Forum in Lomé, Togo.

A conversation about funding women's rights and feminist activism in French-speaking Africa is critical at a time when the region is facing multiple challenges, including conflict, terrorism and political instability (e.g. in the Sahel and the DRC), economic crisis, and shrinking of civic space and expansion of anti-gender and anti-rights movements. Robust women's rights movements are needed now more than ever, and the philanthropic community can and should play a role in supporting them.

Session objectives

In that context, the African Women's Development Fund and Foundation for a Just Society are partnering to host a side event on the margins of CSW68 in order to:

- Amplify the voices and messages of feminist activists and movements from French-speaking Africa about their contexts, actions, priorities and challenges;
- Inform the strategies, work, and plans of key actors in the philanthropic community working or interested in engaging in French-speaking Africa;
- Get a common understanding of existing strategies and priorities from key actors in feminist organising and philanthropy, especially in response to the most pressing challenges in the region, and
- Provide a space for collective strategising and synergy creation for future work.

Session plan

- Duration: 2 hours
- Facilitation: Françoise Moudouthe, AWDF

- Format: Successive panel discussions with funders and organisations working in Francophone Africa followed by a roundtable-type discussion with movement partners from the region.
- Language: French and English (with simultaneous interpretation)

Session	Description and speakers	Comments
<u>Arrival</u>	Arrival time from 1:30 pm for refreshments before the session.	Lana/Dinnah
<u>Welcome & Introduction (10min)</u>	Speaker and facilitation: Francoise Moudouthe, AWDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome and introductory remarks “On est ensemble: Funding feminist movements in French-speaking Africa” 	
<u>Panel 1 (30 min)</u> Setting the Scene; sharing various findings from regional studies	<p>In this session, each organisation will present the key findings from their report/ mapping and share with the audience their key recommendations to donors for the funding of feminine and feminist organisations in Francophone Africa</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>1. AWDF – Make Every Woman Count Mapping of women's and feminist organizations in Francophone West Africa by AWDF and Foundation for a Just Society Lana Razafimanantsoa sharing the context of the mapping Rainatou Sow presenting the key results of the mapping</p> <p>2. ISDAO - Caroline Kassoumian Doundou: Mapping LGBTQI organizing in West Africa.</p> <p>3. EQUIPOP - Lucie Daniel a. Droits des Femmes- Combattre le backlash</p> <p>4 FJS - Rosalie Niezen, b. Rosalie will complement Lana/Rainatou and share insights on the organising of domestic and sex workers in the Sahel region</p>	
<u>Panel 2 (30 min)</u> Amplifying the voices of the feminist movements	<p>In this session, our movement partners will share their insights and experiences in the region, their observations, the needs they have</p>	

	<p>identified, and what they need from funders given their context.</p> <p>Proposed speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mariam Oumar : ARFAD/ARCC Consortium to provide insights on national/local contexts in Mali related to the presentations 2. Wendyam Micheline Kabore- IPBF (working in multi-countries in West Africa with focus on young feminist movements) 3. Idé Sadou Nafissatou- ONG FAD- bringing insights from national context in Niger 4. Hortense Lougue Kabore-Association D'appui et d'Eveil Pugsada (ADEP): sharing insights based on the feminism research related to Burkina Faso context, challenges and perspectives 	
<u>Strategic discussions(45mn)</u> Roundtable discussion	In this session, we will open the floor to questions from the audience: donors, philanthropy, movements, etc.	
<u>Closing (5mn)</u>	Speaker and facilitation: Françoise Moudouthe	

On est ensemble: Financer les mouvements féministes en Afrique francophone