Nala

DIFFERENCE SHE MAKES

CSW70 Africa Intergenerational Feminist Declaration on Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls

Supported By

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Preamble

We, over 500 feminists across four generations from 35 African countries and the Diaspora, convened both in person and online, reaffirm our collective commitment to strengthening access to justice for all women and girls across the African continent. Grounded in feminist solidarity, our lived experiences and collective action, we affirm that justice and accountability must be accessible, inclusive, survivor-centered and transformative in all contexts in times of peace, transition and conflict. We further reaffirm the leadership and meaningful participation of multigenerational women; 224 feminists convened in person and over 300 online, through national and Pan-African dialogues held in person in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, and online in Sudan, conducted in Arabic, French, English and Portuguese.

Recalling the commitments made under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the Maputo Protocol, the Beijing Platform for Action, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG), the Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging the contributions of the:

- CSW70 Johannesburg Statement on Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls,
- CSW70 Buea Statement on Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls,
- CSW70 Abuja Statement on Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls,
- CSW70 Sudan Statement on Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls,
- Nalafem Women, Peace and Security WPS25 Statement
- Africa Young Women Beijing+25 Manifesto

Recognizing that 2025 has been a pivotal year in global politics, shaping a shifting world order, within which Africa has demonstrated political, legal and economic leadership, supported with strong intergenerational and feminist values and principles. Yet this progress comes with deep rooted, entrenched and persistent structural barriers,

Stressing that women and girls across Africa continue to face intersectional, structural and systemic barriers that undermine trust in justice institutions, entrench inequality and weaken democratic, social and economic systems,

Noting with deep concern the persistence of systemic discrimination, including discriminatory legal, customary and religious practices; colonial practices; gender-insensitive justice institutions; weak enforcement mechanisms; persistent stigma against survivors; underrepresentation of women in leadership in law; exclusion of young women from decision-making; fragmented data systems; insufficient accountability; high costs of legal proceedings; inadequate legal aid; heightened barriers in conflict-affected and rural areas; and harmful practices that perpetuate violence,

Alarmed by the growing prevalence of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), femicide, targeting of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), and shrinking civic space, particularly highlighted by the dialogues in Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Sudan, which erode public trust in justice systems,

Strongly condemns the increase in the use of women's bodies as sites of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), and the intersecting realities of conflict, displacement and insecurity that disproportionately impact women and girls, further heightening marginalisation and restricting access to justice,

Deeply concerned about the rise of Tech Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV) including doxxing, cyberstalking, image-based abuse, non-consensual imagery, AI-generated abuse, and online blackmail, coupled with insufficient survivor-responsive cyber laws and digital safety frameworks across all contexts,

Reaffirming the essential role of women, particularly young women's leadership in law, jurisprudence, litigation, community mobilisation, strategic litigation, academia, mentorship, and peer support, therefore, emphasising the need to strengthen pathways and resourcing that enable women to lead,

Hereby call for all Member States, United Nations bodies, the African Union, and all relevant regional and national institutions to ensure that the practice and accessibility of justice is equitable and centers women including young women in the following ways:

Access to Justice and Policy Reform

Across Africa, justice systems remain centralised, under-resourced and detached from the lived realities of women and girls. Weak legal aid infrastructure and the dominance of customary and patriarchal norms often override statutory protections, normalising the exclusion of women from accessing remedies in cases of violence, land, marriage, inheritance, detention and political participation.

Formal justice systems remain urban-centric, expensive, slow and procedurally hostile, excluding displaced populations, women in rural areas, women living in poverty, women in detention and women in conflict-affected regions. Although informal justice mechanisms are often used because they are more accessible, affordable and non-adversarial, they frequently reproduce patriarchal control, harmful practices and silence women's claims to justice particularly in cases of gender-based violence and property rights.

In Sudan, participants identified guardianship barriers to legal identity as critical structural obstacles to women's access to justice. Restrictions related to male guardianship, documentation and civil registration; particularly for displaced women, refugees, and children born during conflict, have excluded women from legal protection, humanitarian assistance and accountability processes.

As a result access to justice remains a lived impossibility rather than a guaranteed right for millions of women and girls. This demands urgent decentralised people-centered survivor-accessible justice reform.

Call to Action

1. **Eliminate all discriminatory laws,** including restricting women's mobility, guardianship, inheritance, land and property ownership
2. **Immediately abolish legal frameworks** that permit child marriage and restrict married girls and adolescent mothers from re-entering school.
3. **Mandate full harmonisation of statutory, customary and religious legal systems** with international and regional human rights standards, prohibiting the use of culture, religion or tradition as a justification for denying justice or equality before the law.
4. **Decentralise justice** by investing in circuit courts, mobile justice units and community legal clinics in rural, conflict-affected and marginalised areas as well as formally recognise local administrative structures such as access points while ensuring oversight to prevent abuse and discrimination.
5. **Institutionalise survivor-centred justice** through the establishment of survivor-friendly courts, gender desks within law enforcement, trauma-informed investigation and evidence protocols, resourcing and protection of women-led paralegal and legal aid networks.
6. **Leverage technology** as a public justice good by developing secure digital platforms for reporting, tracking, legal information and assistance with data protection confidentiality and accessibility for women facing stigma, surveillance or geographic exclusion.
7. **Launch sustained nationwide rights education campaigns** that move beyond awareness to legal empowerment ensuring women and girls can identify violations, navigate justice systems and demand accountability using accessible transparent and multilingual formats.

Indicators

- Number of discriminatory laws repealed or amended and completion of national legislative reviews led by feminist legal experts and civil society.
- Number, reach and functionality of mobile courts circuit courts and community legal clinics.
- Survivor satisfaction and resolution rates in SGBV and family law cases.
- Publication of, annual justice sector reports, national budget allocations and case digests on progressive jurisprudence and feminist demoprudence.
- Adoption, enforcement and impact of school re-entry policies for married and pregnant girls including retention and completion rates.

Criminalising Gender-Based Violence & Femicide

Sexual and Gender-based violence (SGBV) and femicide persist across Africa as systemic expressions of inequality and justice failure, rather than isolated crimes. Despite the existence of legal frameworks in some countries, violence against women and girls remains normalised through weak enforcement, social stigma, survivor-blaming, economic dependence and diversion of cases into informal or customary mechanisms that silence survivors.

The dialogue in Cameroon revealed entrenched institutional practices that allow SGBV to be framed as a private "family matter," leading to the diversion of cases from formal justice systems to police reluctance to register complaints, pressure on survivors to reconcile with perpetrators, and referrals to customary authorities. This privatization entrenches impunity, silences survivors, and undermines women's constitutional rights, while legal ambiguity around "family matters" is exploited to evade accountability, underscoring the need for urgent legal clarity on what constitutes a "family matter," to ensure that violence is not privatized or excused under the guise of family relations.

Police inaction, corruption, procedural delays, evidentiary burdens placed on SGBV survivors, pressure to reconcile, and lack of survivor-safe reporting pathways continue to obstruct accountability. In conflict and crisis settings, sexual violence has escalated dramatically, occurring alongside displacement, militarization and institutional collapse, with perpetrators operating in conditions of near-total impunity.

Legislative gaps, particularly the absence or non-enforcement of laws addressing marital rape, femicide and conflict-related sexual violence reinforce the perception that women's bodies remain negotiable within both private and public spheres. Criminalization without enforcement, protection and reparative measures has failed to deliver justice.

Call to Action

8. **Announce a state of emergency** on the widespread pandemic of SGBV in all its forms including femicide, rape, harmful practices, female genitial mutilation, early and forced marriage, sexual harassment, domestic and economic abuse, abductions, torture, trafficking and all forms of exploitation.
9. **Criminalise stigmatising language and survivor-blaming narratives** within law, media, religious, customary and political spaces, and enforce binding anonymity, confidentiality and non-retaliation protections for survivors.
10. **Reduce the financial burden on survivors** through court fines awarded directly to survivors rather than to the public treasury as well as free or subsidized legal aid and zero-cost prosecution of cases involving sexual violence and offences against women, girls and children.
11. **Strengthen survivor-safe documentation of violations** through trauma-informed and gender-responsive evidence collection systems, to guarantee legal, physical and digital protection of survivors, witnesses and documenters, leading to accountability rather than extraction.
12. **Enforce the investigation and prosecution of SGBV,** femicide, marital rape and war crimes as criminal offences and violations of international law, with mandatory timelines, independent oversight and sanctions for non-compliance, without diversion to informal or customary mechanisms.
13. **Champion feminist models of positive masculinity** by mandating and resourcing intergenerational mentorship, accountability and re-education programmes for boys and men, guided by feminist movements.
14. **Challenge and legally prohibit the framing of SGBV as a private or family matter** through statutory clarification, public awareness campaigns, community dialogues and mandatory enforcement under the law.

Indicators

- Issuance of official states of emergency on SGBV accompanied by time-bound and publicly disclosed funding, action plans and parliamentary or executive oversight.
- Percentage of SGBV cases with complete evidence packages including medical forensic testimonial and digital evidence.
- Number of survivors accessing safe houses, protection and psychosocial support and free or subsidized legal aid.
- Percentage of court-ordered fines, reparations and compensation awarded directly to survivors.
- Evidence of community awareness and behavior change regarding SGBV as a public, legal issue.

Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence & Digital Justice

Digital spaces have become extensions of structural inequality, enabling TFGBV including online harassment, cyberstalking, blackmail, doxxing, AI-generated abuse, and non-consensual imagery. These harms disproportionately target young women, women, WHRDs, journalists, and political leaders, operating as coordinated attacks on voice, visibility, safety and participation, and intersecting with offline risks such as arrest, extortion, reputational harm and physical violence.

The existing systems systematically fail to recognise violence online as significant or as part of broader justice and accountability frameworks. AI-driven TFGBV is increasingly weaponised to generate deepfake and non-consensual intimate imagery as a form of coercion, silencing and political intimidation, mostly targeting young women.

Evidence from the Nigeria dialogue shows that online violence is experienced differently by men and women, with women disproportionately subjected to gendered harassment, sexualized abuse, threats, and coordinated attacks intended to suppresses political participation, erodes agency and intentionally used to shrink civic space. Technology is not neutral.

In Nigeria, gender desks within law enforcement agencies are beginning to emerge as a response to the rise in TFGBV, However, these initiatives remain severely under-resourced and unevenly implemented

Justice systems remain largely unprepared to address digital harm. Limited digital forensic capacity, absence of standardized evidence protocols, weak platform accountability, and lack of survivor-safe reporting mechanisms allow impunity to persist. Violence is often mischaracterized as isolated, rather than recognised as organised, strategic and political, including as a weapon of war and repression, aimed at women's bodies, voices and access to justice in places such as Darfur. In camps, mobile phones can be instruments of surveillance and threat, and documentation lacking data protection exposes survivors to further harm.

Additionally, tech platforms have few binding legal obligations to prevent, mitigate or respond to TFGBV. Digital harm crosses borders, yet effective regional and transnational prosecution mechanisms remain absent. Institutions continue to place the burden of proof and protection on survivors.

Call to Action

15. **Define and criminalize TFGBV,** including AI-generated abuse, online harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual imagery, doxxing, and online blackmail, as serious criminal offences, with clear legal provisions on cyber, privacy, and data protection legislation.
16. **Enact national digital safety frameworks** and allocate sustained public resources to build investigative, prosecutorial and judicial capacity to address TFGBV.
17. **Establish a Continental Protocol on TFGBV at the African Union** to harmonize digital justice frameworks, enable cross-border investigation and prosecution, and mandate engagement of ministries, regulators and tech companies on TFGBV reform.
18. **Implement mandatory safety-by-design obligations on tech platforms**, including algorithmic transparency, content moderation accountability, rapid takedown requirements, reporting and prohibit algorithmic suppression of feminist and human rights content.
19. **Ensure survivor-centered reporting systems** with guaranteed anonymity, confidentiality and rapid response, backed by legally enforceable duties to act, establish specialised digital safety units and impose sanctions for platform non-compliance.
20. **Train prosecutors, magistrates, and police on TFGBV,** digital evidence and trauma-informed approaches, and institutionalise mandatory and continuous training on GBV and digital harm.
21. **Ethically document harm**, particularly in conflict and displacement settings, using survivor-consented, secure and rights-based protocols, ensuring documentation leads to accountability, reparations and justice, not extraction or surveillance.

Indicators

- AU TFGBV Continental Protocol developed and number of Member States ratified, domesticated and budgeted for its implementation.
- Percentage increase in TFGBV cases formally reported, investigated, prosecuted and adjudicated including cases cross-border and conflict settings.
- Survivor satisfaction and safety outcomes: privacy protected, and reduced retaliation.
- Frequency of transparency reporting and actions taken against platforms for non-compliance with safety-by-design and accountability requirements.
- Retention visibility and participation rates of women in the design of digital justice systems.

Women In Leadership In Law

Justice systems across Africa continue to be shaped by male-dominated leadership structures, despite women's increasing presence within the legal profession. Women remain significantly underrepresented in senior judicial roles, prosecution leadership, police oversight bodies, bar associations, and legal governance institutions, resulting in justice systems that reproduce exclusion rather than deliver gender-responsive outcomes.

Access to justice is shaped not only by who occupies judicial positions, but by how laws are interpreted and applied. Women are not only survivors of justice failure but central architects of justice in crisis. Women lawyers, human rights defenders, and community leaders have filled institutional voids in Sudan by providing legal aid, accompanying survivors, training communities on rights, operating emergency response units, and sustaining protection networks amid war. Their leadership demonstrates that justice systems in crisis are sustained by women's labor, expertise, and courage, yet this contribution remains under-recognized and under-resourced.

Lack of effective mentorship and mandatory gender-responsive and anti-bias training for judges, magistrates and court personnel to recognise and address intersectional discrimination has limited the development of gender-responsive jurisprudence and the transformative application of laws in practice.

Patriarchal institutional culture, political interference, conservative professional norms and weak accountability mechanisms restrict women's advancement. Where women do attain leadership positions, their authority is often constrained by tokenism rather than supported through decision-making power, budgetary control and institutional mandate.

At the same time, women lawyers, magistrates, and feminist legal practitioners are sustaining justice delivery where institutions fail, leading legal aid provision, survivor accompaniment, documentation of violations, prison monitoring, strategic litigation and community-based justice initiatives. Women's leadership is therefore not aspirational but indispensable, and justice reform remains unattainable without scaling women's authority, resourcing their leadership and embedding feminist decision-making within justice institutions.

Call to Action

22. **Increase women's representation, inclusion and leadership** in decision-making bodies, judicial appointments and governance structures across the justice sector through transparent, merit-based and publicly accountable recruitment and appointments.
23. **Adopt, enforce and operationalise equal opportunity and parity policies** in hiring, promotion, selection and appointment, including enforceable quotas, time-bound targets and sanctions for non-compliance.
24. **Enforce sexual harassment and anti-discrimination laws, policies and institutional norms** affecting women in law, with independent complaints mechanisms survivor protections and disciplinary consequences for perpetrators and institutions.
25. **Mandate intersectional and disaggregated data collection** across the justice sector by gender, age, race, disability, region and religion and publish annually to enable accountability and reform.
26. **Transform the meaning of leadership justice performance** from a masculine to a feminist framework through the enforcement of care policies, flexible working arrangements, maternity and reproductive health rights, pay equity and gender-responsive policies in courts, law firms and justice institutions.
27. **Institutionalize intergenerational mentorship and solidarity networks** through academic. professional and civil society platforms, dismantle gatekeeping of resources, sponsorship and opportunities, ensuring safe spaces for feminist leadership development.
28. **Strengthen community-based justice structures** including legal aid clinics and court administration and deploy trained women judges, prosecutors investigators and paralegals in conflict, transition and peace settings.

Indicators

- Percentage of women occupying senior leadership positions in law and justice sector.
- Number of justice institutions with formally adopted parity or gender-equality frameworks in leadership recruitment, promotion and appointment.
- Rates of reported sexual harassment, threats, hate speech and discrimination against women in law.
- Percentage of justice sector budgets allocated and spent on gender-responsive leadership measures.
- Trends over time in recruitment, retention, promotion, pay equity and attrition of women across the justice sector.

Women, Peace and Security

Women and girls often bear increased care and survival responsibility during conflict, war and post-conflict settings. Crisis, detention and displacement fundamentally reshape access to justice for women and girls, producing heightened exposure to sexual violence, exploitation, loss of legal identity, prolonged detention and economic dispossession.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), including rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, sexual mutilation and other forms of sexual abuse, is systematically deployed as a tactic of war, control, intimidation and ethnic targeting, whether by state or non-state actors.

Sudan and Cameroon dialogues emphasised that in conflict contexts, courts, police and prosecution services are often inaccessible, non-functional or complicit, while insecurity and poverty actively foreclose women's ability to pursue legal remedies as GBV and CRSV escalate alongside displacement, starvation, and militarization. Sexual violence is being perpetrated at scale, particularly in Darfur and Al-Fashir, while survivors face stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of reporting mechanisms, and absence of medical, legal, and psychosocial support; the proliferation of armed actors and unchecked authority has entrenched impunity, demonstrating that justice is not merely delayed but structurally denied.

Women in detention, refugee and IDP settings, informal settlements and conflict-affected regions as well as marginalized groups, including women and girls with disabilities, black women, elder women, adolescent girls and women from ethnic or religious minorities, face near-total exclusion from justice mechanisms.

Justice for women and girls in conflict is further undermined by their systematic exclusion from peace negotiations, humanitarian governance and transitional decision-making. Participation is frequently symbolic, with women consulted but not empowered to shape agreements, accountability frameworks or resource allocation.

Yet even in conditions of institutional collapse, women sustain justice infrastructures through mobile legal aid, survivor support, documentation of violations, prison monitoring and community protection networks. Justice in crisis must therefore recognize women not only as survivors but as first responders, rights-holders and peacebuilders.

Call to Action

29. **Establish secure, confidential and survivor-controlled reporting** pathways, including mobile reporting units, mobile courts and verification clinics that reach displaced and conflict-affected communities.
30. **Ensure formal recognition, sustained resourcing and security guarantees** for women-led emergency response, legal aid and community protection networks operating in conflict and displacement settings, including protection for women humanitarian workers and defenders.
31. **Systematically document violations** using survivor-safe, trauma-informed protocols, deploy mobile documentation units and fast-track services without requiring male guardian approval, and ensure that collected evidence is preserved and admissible for future accountability, reparations and transitional justice mechanisms.
32. **Guarantee a minimum of 50% women's participation** with decision-making power in peacebuilding and transitional governance processes, including as negotiators, mediators, signatories, heads of delegation and monitors of peace agreements.
33. **Prioritise legal identity, nationality and civil registration** for children born of conflict and survivors of sexual violence, including cross-border documentation mechanisms for displaced and stateless populations.
34. **Ensure access to safe, uninterrupted and rights-based education** for girls during crises, including accelerated learning pathways, with safeguards against child marriage, digital surveillance and online exploitation in humanitarian contexts.

Indicators

- Number and geographic coverage of functional survivor-safe reporting and mobile justice mechanisms.
- Percentage of peace agreements, transitional justice frameworks and humanitarian response plans with binding provisions on women's leadership.
- Number of CRSV cases documented, preserved and referred through survivor-safe protocols.
- Increase of the number and influence of women holding decision-making roles in peace negotiations, transitional governance bodies.
- Rates of legal identity and civil registration for conflict-born children and displaced survivors across national and cross-border contexts.

Financing Justice and Survivor-Led Accountability

Adequate and predictable funding of justice institutions is a prerequisite for access to justice for women and girls. Chronic underfunding across African justice systems has resulted in limited court availability, prolonged delays, weakened prosecution capacity, restricted legal aid and the erosion of survivor-centered services. These failures disproportionately impact women and girls who already face structural barriers related to poverty, geography, disability and displacement.

In the absence of functioning state institutions, women-led civil society organizations across Africa have assumed primary responsibility for legal aid, documentation, survivor support, and community protection, often at great personal risk.

Weak institutional accountability remains a defining barrier to justice. Inconsistent enforcement of laws, fragmented oversight mechanisms, absence of transparent and disaggregated data and the exclusion of survivors from accountability processes allow impunity to persist within policing, prosecution, courts, detention systems and traditional authorities. Where accountability is weak, violence is normalized and justice becomes discretionary rather than guaranteed.

In conflict and post-conflict contexts, the collapse or capture of institutions has erased formal accountability structures entirely, shifting the burden of documentation, evidence preservation and monitoring onto women's movements and civil society often at great personal risk.

Accountability mechanisms that exclude survivors and feminist oversight reproduce the same power imbalances they claim to address. Justice reform therefore requires continuous, measurable and survivor-informed accountability anchored in international human rights obligations and enforced at institutional and community levels.

Without political will, transparent financing and independent oversight, access to justice remains rhetorical rather than real.

Call to Action

35. **Establish binding national oversight mechanisms** including independent inspectorates and public justice scorecards to track implementation of laws, institutional performance and justice outcomes for women and girls.
36. **Allocate adequate, predictable and gender-responsive budgets** to judiciaries, prosecution services, police, legal aid, survivor services, court infrastructure and digital justice systems, with full public disclosure of allocations and expenditure.
37. **Implement robust anti-corruption frameworks** within justice institutions, including whistleblower protections, independent audits and enforceable sanctions for misuse of funds, procedural delays and institutional obstruction.
38. **Institutionalize survivor participation in accountability and reporting processes** through survivor advisory mechanisms, feedback systems and public reporting safeguards that guarantee confidentiality and non-retaliation.
39. **Mandate the systematic collection, publication and use of disaggregated data** on GBV crimes, prosecutions, sentencing and institutional responses to enable evidence-based reform and public scrutiny.
40. **Mobilize regional and international leadership** through the African Union, IGAD, the United Nations and transitional authorities to address collapsed justice systems and ensure prosecution of SGBV, CRSV, war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law.
41. **Align justice, education, land, finance and local governance** policies, budgets and implementation frameworks with gender equality and access to justice commitments, and hold responsible ministries accountable for measurable outcomes.

Indicators

- Mandatory annual justice accountability scorecards published by governments, publicly accessible and independently verified.
- Percentage increase in justice sector budgets that are gender-responsive and survivor-focused, funding for legal aid, survivor services, and SGBV courts.
- Reported SGBV and CRSV cases that progress from filing to investigation to prosecution and adjudication
- Increase in survivor participation in accountability processes, representation in oversight bodies.
- Number and outcomes of independent audits and anti-corruption reviews of justice institutions.

Land, Education, Economic & Reparative Justice

Access to justice extends beyond criminal accountability to include land, inheritance, education, economic security and reparative justice as foundational conditions for women's dignity, autonomy and survival. Across Africa, discriminatory customary practices, legal pluralism that privileges tradition over statutory law, and slow or inaccessible restitution processes continue to deny women ownership, inheritance and economic independence.

Women's land rights are systematically constrained by weak implementation, administrative barriers, corruption and limited access to legal support, reinforcing cycles of poverty, violence and exclusion.

South Africa Dialogue highlighted that the law affirms women's full legal personhood in the country, including equal rights to own, inherit and access land. Yet in practice, access to land remains deeply constrained by implementation failures, and uneven application of customary and statutory law. The 1913 Natives Land Act institutionalized racial land dispossession, laying the foundation for structural inequality that persists today. Despite post-1994 constitutional reforms, the slow pace of restitution, redistribution and tenure continues to undermine women's access to justice particularly in cases of inheritance disputes, evictions, domestic violence and family breakdown. Judicial disregard for women's non-monetary contributions to property acquisition continues to weaken their land rights.

In conflict and post-conflict contexts, unresolved land disputes, displacement, loss of documentation and sexual violence remain inadequately addressed. Without survivor-centered truth-telling, reparations and recognition of structural harm, transitional justice risks erasing women's lived realities.

Land dispossession across Africa is not only economic and political but also cultural and spiritual. It disrupted ancestral relationships to land, burial sites, sacred spaces and systems of identity and belonging. In many contexts, post-independence reforms have failed to meaningfully redress this harm.

Education inequalities further compound injustice. Low learning outcomes, structural exclusion and weak rights-based education limit women's ability to understand and exercise their rights, navigate legal systems and participate meaningfully in governance and public life. Education is therefore inseparable from access to justice and intergenerational equity.

Call to Action

42. **Integrate land reform and land administration** explicitly into access to justice frameworks, recognizing land rights as essential to women's safety, dignity, economic autonomy and freedom from violence.
43. **Accelerate land restitution, redistribution and tenure** reform through clear timelines, accessible procedures, transparency and enforceable accountability mechanisms.
44. **Guarantee the consistent enforcement of women's rights** to own, inherit and control land and property across statutory and customary systems, including recognition of non-monetary contributions and protection of women and girls in all forms of marriage and succession.
45. **Recognize and protect the cultural and spiritual dimensions of land dispossession** by safeguarding ancestral sites, burial grounds and indigenous practices within land governance and restitution processes.
46. **Establish national Reparations Funds for Women** to address structural harm, including healthcare, trauma recovery, housing, economic support and legal aid for survivors of violence, displacement and dispossession.
47. **Embed constitutional literacy, civic education and rights-based learning** across formal and non-formal education systems to enable women and girls to understand, claim and defend their rights.
48. **Ensure inclusive, uninterrupted access to quality education** for women and girls, including survivors of violence, pregnant learners and economically marginalized students, particularly in rural, peri-urban and historically excluded communities.

Indicators

- Percentage increase in women holding registered land titles, inheritance rights or secure tenure.
- Reduction in the number of land-related evictions, inheritance disputes and tenure-related court cases.
- Number of women and girls accessing reparations through formal mechanisms.
- Increase in education completion and competency outcomes for women and girls, including literacy, numeracy and secondary school completion rates.
- Public availability of disaggregated data linking land access, education outcomes and justice indicators, including budget allocations, implementation rates and outcomes reported annually by governments.

Intergenerational Co-Leadership and Shared Power

Intergenerational feminist co-leadership is essential to justice reform across Africa. Bringing together movements, memory, legal expertise, lived experience and youth-led innovation, sustains justice work amid institutional failure, conflict and political repression.

As highlighted in the Pan-African dialogue, justice reform across Africa remains structurally exclusionary along age, gender and power lines. Young people under 35 constitute over 60% of Africa's population, yet they remain severely underrepresented in decision-making, holding less than 3% of parliamentary and senior policy roles globally, with young women representing under 1% of leadership within legal and justice-sector institutions.

Young feminist organisations remain under-resourced. Global gender financing data shows that less than 1% of bilateral aid reaches feminist organisations directly, and less share reaches youth-led or intergenerational feminist collectives.

Judicial and legal knowledge production continues to privilege technocratic, elite and colonial forms of expertise, systematically discounting oral histories, survivor testimony, feminist legal notes, community paralegal records and movement documentation. This epistemic exclusion weakens accountability, erases generational lived realities and limits the legitimacy and effectiveness of justice reforms.

Further, as anti-rights movements, fragmented advocacy, generational silos and competition for scarce resources further weaken impact. Evidence from national and regional dialogues demonstrates that where intergenerational co-leadership is absent, justice institutions experience declining legitimacy, reduced survivor trust and weakened community accountability. In Kenya and across the continent, these dynamics are compounded by shrinking donor support and the professionalisation of civil society at the expense of grassroots feminist leadership.

Young feminists therefore do not simply seek inclusion; they demand institutionalized, resourced and accountable intergenerational co-leadership as a non-negotiable condition for inclusive, survivor-responsive and resilient justice systems.

Call to Action

49. **Institutionalize intergenerational co-leadership** within justice systems, policy bodies and advocacy spaces to ensure young women's equal decision-making power, authority and visibility.
50. **Establish formal quotas and leadership pathways** for young women within judicial reform processes, technocratic bodies, advisory councils and multilateral justice mechanisms.
51. **Resource feminist and youth-led organisations** to coordinate advocacy, deploy community paralegals, document violations, maintain ethical data repositories and conduct People's Reviews.
52. **Shift power in research and documentation** by recognizing oral histories, lived experience, feminist legal notes and community-based documentation as legitimate sources of justice knowledge.
53. **End the invisibility of African women leaders in law** and justice through storytelling, narrative power and decolonial knowledge production that reshapes who is seen as an authority.
54. **Strengthen Global South leadership and cooperation** by setting justice agendas rooted in generational lived realities, solidarity and shared struggles for land, labour, economic and gender justice.
55. **Engage men as accountable allies** in preventing SGBV and CRSV through feminist-led positive masculinity programmes, bystander interventions and support for survivor services.

Indicators

- Number and diversity of formal justice and policy bodies with representation of young feminist leaders.
- Increase of justice and advocacy funding allocated directly to feminist and youth-led organisations.
- Number of active intergenerational feminist coalitions operating at national, regional and continental levels, with documented joint decision-making and actions.
- Increase of lived experience and feminist documentation, cited or adopted in justice reforms, policies or accountability processes, measured through policy outputs and legal reforms.
- Demonstrated shifts in leadership composition within justice institutions and movements, measured by increase in young women's leadership and authority.

Annex I: Evidence

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Annex II: Media

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Africa Rise & Shine. 2025. Nalafem launches Africa intergenerational dialogues to promote women's leadership in law

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Nalafem. (2025). CSW70 South Africa Intergenerational Dialogue on Access to Justice for Women and Girls.

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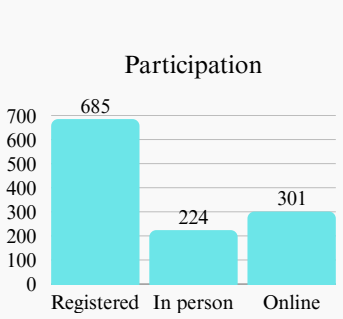
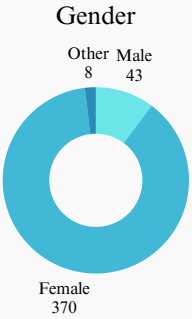
Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative. (2025) Ahead of CSW, Women's Coalition Calls for Women's Inclusion in Security Reform

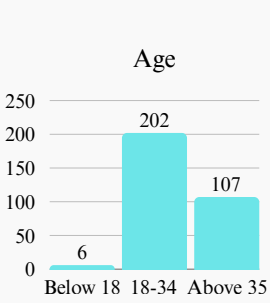
BusinessDay. (2025, December 3). Rising SGBV: Women's coalition demands inclusive justice, security reforms ahead of CSW70

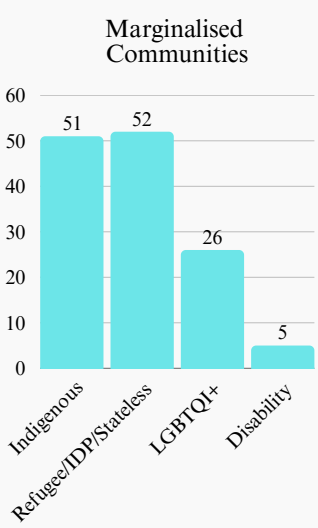
Kay-bizzle Kurv Phasha

Annex III: Africa Dialogues Series Data

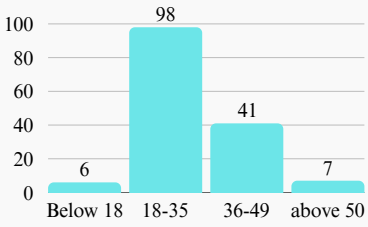






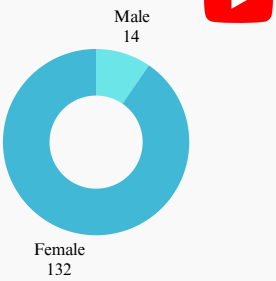


Pan African | 12th December 2025



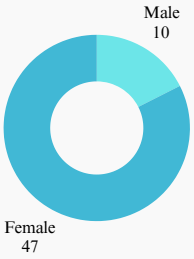
Registered: 146

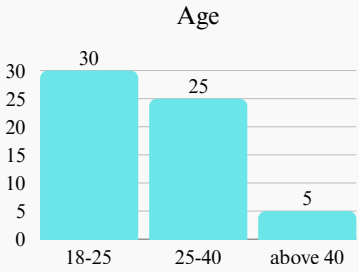
Participants: 101



Buea, Cameroon | 5th December 2025

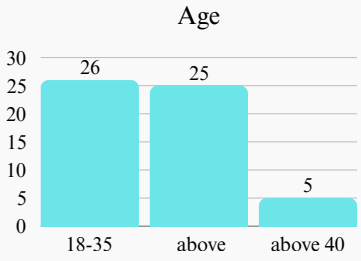
Registered: 65 Participants: 57





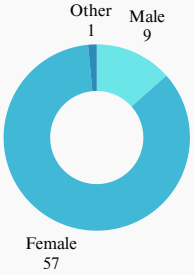
Sudan, Online | 4th December 2025

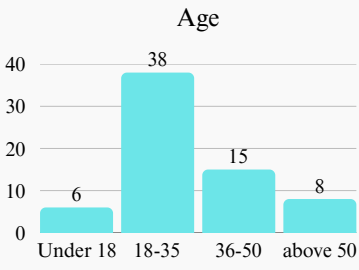
Registered: 44 Participants: 40



Johannesburg, South Africa | 2nd December 2025

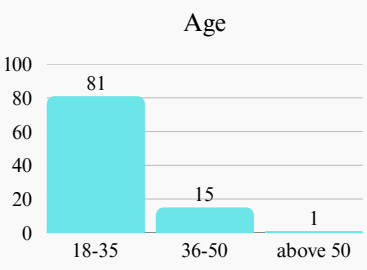
Registered: 106 In person: 67 Online: 160



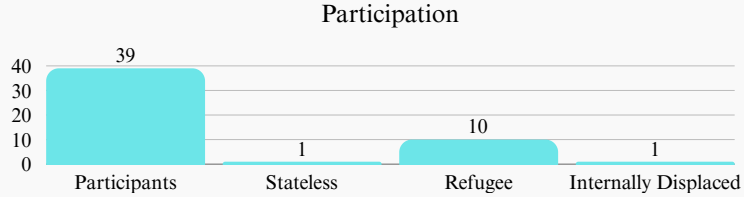


Abuja, Nigeria | 1st December 2025

Registered: 97 Participants: 61



Nalafem Women, Peace and Security Forum, Nairobi, Kenya | 28-30th October 2025



Countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, and Swaziland

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Nalafem and the Difference She Makes, in collaboration with UN Women and African feminists united youth across Africa and the diaspora to ensure that the experiences and contributions of African women are incorporated into the CSW70 consultative processes and final agreed conclusion through this Declaration.

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Nala

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