



Building Momentum • Fostering Activism

# Shining the Feminist Light Bright

What does Feminism mean to you? What does it mean to be an African feminist?



Our March 14-16 campaign on African feminism, *Shining the Feminist Light Bright* and tagged #FeministSparks was about answering those questions and helping our followers and fans do the same. We asked engaging questions about feminism in action across the continent. What does it look like, on an institutional or individual level? What is our history, what do we stand for today, and what is the future we envision?

The goal of the campaign was to encourage our followers and fans to unlearn, relearn, connect and strengthen our resolve to end patriarchy and to uphold the principles of equality/ full humanity of women and men. We believe that African cultures uphold feminist values and ideals such as

respect, dignity, safety, value of women and treating people fairly, all of which are fundamental principles of feminism. African feminism is linked to Africa's past as a continent and the diverse struggles that challenged patriarchy and oppressive gender relations.

A major point of the campaign was to highlight the need for ongoing and increased feminist engagement with the issues women and people on the continent face, including violence of all kinds, economic disempowerment, and 'traditional' practices that harm women and girls. We made it clear that we agree with bell hooks' assertion that "Feminism is for everybody," including men. If men recognise and take actions that see women as of equal worth and value, then they can be feminists too. As African feminists, they too must walk the talk and be committed to challenging unequal power relations between women and men.

Some of the campaign participants also shared their own perspectives:

"I'm rooted by the principles of inclusion and equality from my grandmother The Late Letecia Akoth As in and my mother The. Late Dolphine Okech. They understood Feminism in their actions and how they lived."@EasterAchieng1 [#FeministSparks](#)

"We're guided by the work, contributions and trails that powerful African women that came before us have paved, which we continue evolving and paying forward for a socially just and feminist Africa." @earuyansolns

"Feminism is about choice and freedom,tearing down & challenging the patriachal notions that restrict men and women into categories that are constructed by society in our everyday lives. It begins with a personal inventory of my own life. It is also about challenging patriachal notions in spaces of faith. Churches can be the biggest spaces of oppression for women & as a feminist w/thin that space my role is to call them out! This has led to being ostracized from some spaces but I will not stop! [#feministsparks](#).

" @MoiyattuBanya

"African feminists recognize the broad feminist principles & strive to see African women accorded the same level of respect & dignity. African feminists accept and take pride in our identity as African women and challenge the narrative that gender equality is unAfrican"  
[@EvelynLetiyo](#) [#FeministSparks](#)

"There will be no equity without solidarity. There will be no justice without a social movement."  
Join Mukherjee [#FeministSparks](#)

We also shared some insights and resources of our own:

What guides your feminist practice? Learn about the Feminist Principles for African Feminists in this Charter <http://bit.ly/2HayGt3> [@stillSHERises](#) [@awdf01](#) [@earuyansolns](#) [@FemnetProg](#) [#FeministSparks](#)

This [#FeministFriday](#), we take a moment to celebrate the women who inspired us to do something about ending patriarchy. Who/what inspires your activism? [#FeministSparks](#) [#JusticaParaMarielle](#)