



REWiB

RESEARCHERS WITHOUT BORDERS

2024

Annual Report

From the Margins to the Center:
Advancing Feminist Peace in Action



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■ Acronyms

AfIP	African Feminist Collective on Feminist Inform Policies
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AU	African Union
AWID	Association of Women’s Rights in Development
CEVAWG	Convention on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CPF	Commonwealth People’s Forum
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
FFP	Feminist Foreign Policy
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIMAC	Gender Is My Agenda Campaign
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Agency for Development
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual People
NAPs	National Action Plans
PAPS	Political Affairs Peace and Security
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REWiB	Researchers Without Borders
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFFP	Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy
SUNGO	Samoa Umbrella of Non-Governmental Organisations
UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPS	Women, Peace and Securty



Message from the Founder

Founder and Lead Researcher,
Researchers Without Borders



The 2024 Annual Report, *From the Margins to the Center: Advancing Feminist Peace in Action*, reflects not only our collective achievements but also our deep-rooted commitment to reimagining peace and justice from a feminist and decolonial lens. This year, our work reaffirmed that feminist peacebuilding is not simply about inclusion it is about transforming the systems that continue to marginalize the voices, agency, and lived experiences of African women and communities in conflict-affected settings.

Through strategic engagement in national, regional, and global spaces from the GIMAC engagements to the 15th AWID Forum, we have continued to make visible the interconnected nature of peace, climate justice, governance, and human rights. Each of our interventions has amplified the knowledge and leadership of those often left out of policy and political processes while advancing our mission to bridge critical feminist research with transformative action.

As we step into 2025, a year that marks both the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 we are called to deepen our resolve. These milestones are not just commemorative moments; they are political opportunities to demand accountability, challenge militarism, and push for systemic shifts that center care, justice, and equality.

Our key message for 2025 is clear: African women are not only peacebuilders, they are architects of justice and transformation. We will continue to strengthen our role as a research hub, a movement partner, and a space for bold, feminist thought leadership and action. Together, we will carry forward the momentum built over the last year to shape a future grounded in dignity, equity, and feminist peace.

Helen Kezie Nwoha

Introduction

2024 marked a significant year of engagement, knowledge exchange, and advocacy for Researchers Without Borders (REWiB).

In our commitment to reshaping narratives, influencing policy, and centering the lived experiences of women and marginalized communities in key decision making spaces across the continent. With our roots deeply embedded in intersectional feminist principles continued to serve as a space for research, coalition and movement building support that seeks to reimagine systems of governance, justice, and peace from an African feminist lens.

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The organization’s engagements throughout the year were guided by our mission to connect critical feminist research with transformative action.

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As global inequalities deepened and regressive forces pushed back against gains in gender justice, REWiB maintained a strong and intentional presence in national, regional, and international convenings. The organization’s engagements throughout the year were guided by our mission to connect critical feminist research with transformative action. These engagements included meaningful participation in high-level forums such as the African Union’s Convention on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (CEVAWG) consultations, the Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Meeting in Mexico, the Commonwealth People’s Forum in Samoa, and the 15th AWID International Forum, among others, each providing key opportunities to amplify feminist analysis, strengthen inter-movement solidarity, and challenge structural violence in all its forms.

This report offers a comprehensive overview of REWiB’s engagements, influence and shifts.

The African Union theme for 2024 enabled us and other civil society organisations to critically review the theme “Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa”. The 40th GIMAC Pre-Summit CSOs consultative meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the

African Union and Member States provided the platform for reflection from a pan-African feminist perspective.

Some of the key issues of concern were critical existing inequalities that are exacerbated by factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, which disproportionately affect girls and women and that despite progress, persistent gender disparities exist, impacting girls’ enrollment, performance, and completion at all levels. In times of crisis, conflict, disaster,

and fragile contexts, girls are disproportionately affected, and their education is hampered. Such situations further limit access to quality education. The report documents not only the events and spaces we participated in, but also the insights gained, the relationships deepened, and the critical interventions advanced. It also reflects on the challenges faced by feminist peacebuilding movements across the continent and the creative, powerful ways in which we continue to resist, rebuild, and reimagine new futures.

Reimagining Collective Power of Feminist Peace: Demystifying 2024 Through Reflection, Perception, Discourse and Learning

This section of the annual report explores key narratives, perceptions, and transformative learning activities from 2024 that shaped our feminist peacebuilding agenda. It highlights the collective action, strategic shifts, and lessons that emerged through advocacy, dialogue, and solidarity across movements, reaffirming the power of feminist approaches in confronting systemic violence and reimagining peace.



1. GIMAC Pre-Summit 40th CSOs Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union and Member States

2024 marked the African Union Year of Education guided by the theme “*Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa*’.

The 40th GIMAC Pre-Summit CSOs consultative meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union and Member States took place from 13 – 15 February 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme of “Educational Transformation for Gender Equity and Sustainability.”

Some of the key issues of concern were critical existing inequalities that are exacerbated by factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, which disproportionately affect girls and women and that despite progress, persistent gender disparities exist, impacting girls' enrollment, performance, and completion at all levels of education. In times of crisis, conflict, disaster, and fragile contexts, girls are disproportionately affected, and their education is hampered. Such situations further limit access to quality education, with damaged infrastructure, displaced teachers, and increased insecurity.

The meeting therefore urged African leaders to scale up actions for progressive gender inclusive education systems towards sustainable development at the national, regional and continental levels, including the following recommendations among others:

- Recognize the widespread and enduring conflicts across Africa, increase investment in peace education and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda; and prioritise the maintenance of safe and accessible schools during conflict and in peace times.
- Promote peace education and conflict prevention and resolution at all levels of education and for all age groups, in accordance with the Continental Framework for Youth, Peace, and Security, as well as the African Union Agenda 2063 which aims to ensure equal representation of young people in the AU

and its governance processes - recognizing that the youth represent 75% of the African population.

- Considering lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and existing challenges, establish minimum standards for education in emergencies. Recognizing the vital connection between food security, education, and sustainable development, prioritise education on nutrition and sustainable farming for women farmers; provide food for learners, especially in primary schools, ensure governance of education considers children's intersecting needs and rights.
- Recognizing cultural barriers hindering girls' access to education, take decisive

action to eradicate pervasive gender-based violence and inequalities by promoting positive masculinity in alignment with commitments to the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa.

- Ensure gender-responsive education access, offer comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education with free sanitary products and necessary infrastructure in schools, particularly in insecure areas. Education facilities must meet inclusivity standards, providing accommodations for marginalized groups such as women, girls and people with disabilities.

Building Resilient Education Systems



2. African Feminist Collective on Feminist Informed Policies Convening

The concept of Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) has gained global attention, with twelve countries, including three in Africa (South Africa, Libya, and Liberia), adopting or declaring the intent to adopt their version of FFP.

With no unifying definition, FFP serves as a framework that seeks to prioritize feminist approaches to various areas of international relations, peace, gender equality, climate change, and development cooperation, informed by a commitment to gender equality and human rights. Despite the broad reach of feminism and the intended recipients, there is a tendency for discourses around FFP to be dominated by the Global North with limited engagement from feminist movements in recipient countries, particularly in Africa. When African feminists have participated in discussions, typically, they lack the space to question the premise of global North engagements, often underpinned by neoliberal approaches. This gap in knowledge and practice informed the formation of the African Feminist Collective on Feminist Informed Policies (AFIP Collective), committed to prioritizing the voices and perspectives of African feminists within global ideologies and discourses that are shaping ongoing discourses so that global North FFPs address the implications of hierarchical power relations and are informed by internationality.

In April 2024, the Collective met to deliberate on the development of an African Feminist Manifesto on FFP, to guide advocacy towards feminist-informed approaches to foreign policy that engages African feminist perspectives. Discussions highlighted the weak implementation of the WPS agenda, increased militarization, and the need for more African voices in FFP discourse since FFP is being used as a tool for actors to fight proxy wars in Africa. Participants emphasized the importance of decolonizing FFP, discussed the erasure and stealing of African people's knowledge and the need for integrating African feminist perspectives into the Western policies that are being imposed on African States, and stressed the need for continental networking to propose African alternatives to white ideals. The meeting highlighted that FFP could be a powerful tool to counter external impositions and proposed other philosophies and ways of doing things based on African contexts and needs, therefore, the African feminist manifesto will define engagement principles in FFP. The discussions noted the lack of FFP in African countries and the necessity of making it a cross-cutting issue to interest governments,

and emphasized that the way to decolonize FFP is through movement building and collective organizing, pointing out the reinforcement of the division and the need for alignment between international and domestic policies in current FFP practices.

Participants discussed outward-looking policies, noting that countries like South Africa and Algeria have been at the forefront of pushing for international justice. However, historical and contemporary issues, such as global health security systems and immigration systems, continue to act as tools of violence against Africans. These systems are often weaponized, perpetuating discrimination and harmful narratives. Even with initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area, progress is slow compared to agreements with Western nations.

Existing principles and protocols, such as the Maputo Protocol, remain silent on certain rights and operate within anti-gender contexts, exemplified by practices like FGM in Ethiopia and Gambia, which are culturally justified but harmful to women and girls. A manifesto that defines and upholds African values, which do not discriminate against women, is essential.

A key outcome of the meeting was the development of a draft manifesto that articulates the core purpose and objectives of the Collective and is a declaration of the Collective's commitment to feminist principles in foreign policy, as well as the values and principles that outline the core beliefs that underpin the Collective's work including commitments to inclusivity, intersectionality, anti-racism, anti-colonialism, and solidarity.



3. Accelerating Gender Equality in Education in Africa: GIMAC AU-RECs Meeting

Building on the momentum of the 40th GIMAC CSOs Pre-Summit Meeting held in February 2024, the 6th GIMAC AU-RECs meeting offered a critical opportunity for women-led CSOs and various stakeholders to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in education in Africa.



The 40th GIMAC Pre Summit meeting yielded an outcome statement by CSOs, urging accelerated political, social, and economic commitments on education. These commitments underscore the imperative to rethink the purpose and content of education to achieve a truly transformative education fit for the 21st Century. Such an education system should be responsive to local, national, and global needs, diverse cultures, and individual capacities.

The Strategic Engagements with AU, RECs, and Partners consisted of plenary discussions that explored best practices, collaboration opportunities, and advocacy messages. There were other discussions including how to ensure learning continuity for crisis-affected children and building resilient education systems to withstand future shocks.

Recommendations from the break-out session on peace education as a driver of continental peace and security were:

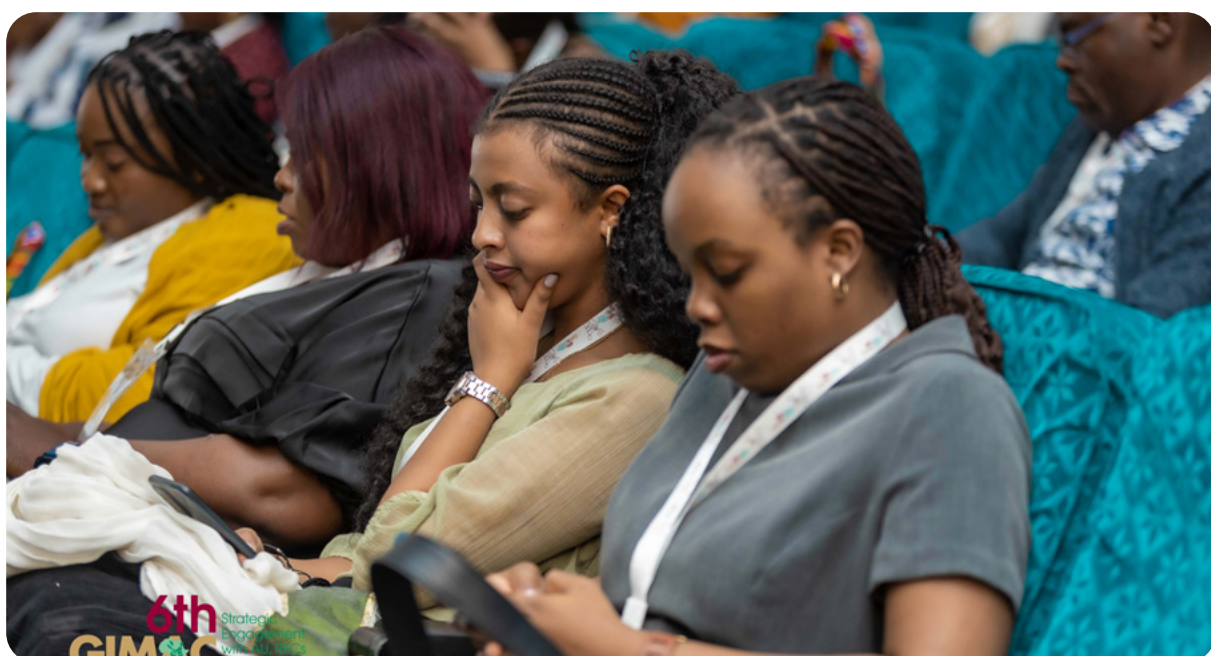
- AU and RECs should make it a mandate to end wars and conflicts by ensuring policies and agenda statements are enforced by member states through implementation strategies and encouraging technical and financial partners to be more engaged and involved in peace education by financing projects and initiatives that fight GBV and promote peace.
- CSOs must intensify advocacy for peace restoration in conflict-affected countries, and conflict-prone nations, through media and all other platforms available, encouraging the formation of school peace clubs, and organizing community peace groups and networks with the aim of discouraging hate speech, encouraging intergenerational dialogues to unlearn harmful practices, advocating for the removal or silencing of guns and breaking down tribal and religious divides, promoting democratic values and citizenry participation.
- AU, RECs, and governments should integrate peace education into educational curriculum, focusing on, a proper definition of peace that goes beyond the absence of conflict, identification of issues that lead to conflicts, and conflict resolution, equipping people with negotiation and mediation skills, dialogue techniques and promoting values such as empathy and respect for human rights.



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The organization's engagements throughout the year were guided by our mission to connect critical feminist research with transformative action.

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4. Taking Pulse on WPS: REWiB September Strategic Reflection Meeting

On September 24th, REWiB team convened a strategic planning and generative thinking session aimed at solidifying REWiB's distinct focus on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and its alignment with the organization's broader objectives.

The meeting provided an opportunity to assess REWiB's strategic positioning, including the alignment of team roles, thematic focus, and knowledge production efforts. In addition, a quarterly plan was developed to guide the remaining activities of the year.

A key takeaway from the session was the commitment to enhancing REWiB's mandate, ensuring a stronger contribution to feminist research and advocacy. This will involve actively tracking the implementation of the WPS agenda and advancing feminist peacebuilding and conflict prevention across local, regional, and global levels. To achieve this, the following actions were outlined:

- **Tracking the African Union Peace and Security Council decisions from a WPS perspective:** Monitoring decisions made by the AU Peace and Security Council to evaluate the extent to which they take into account women, peace and security concerns.

- **Tracking the Implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs):** Using the continental result framework as a tool, the team will organize a webinar to address gaps in tracking WPS data in Africa and advocate for more effective implementation of the WPS agenda. Six key institutions will spearhead this initiative, and a research agenda will be developed to ensure that data generated feed into existing work. This agenda will be shaped through collaboration with key stakeholders, including UN Women, the African Union, the Office of the Special Envoy on WPS, IGAD, and representatives from the UN agencies with WPS mandate.

- **Monitoring Contemporary WPS Issues:** A monthly feminist trends analysis of WPS will be conducted, with findings compiled into a Bulletin – the WPS Bulletin. These trends will be shared through REWiB's social media outlets and mailing list to provide real-time insights into developments in the WPS landscape.

- **Building a WPS Movement Through Training and Research:** A series of podcasts focused on WPS will be developed as part of REWiB's educational and outreach efforts, aimed at expanding understanding of WPS principles and practices.
- **Quarterly Webinars on Emerging Trends:** These webinars will focus on timely and relevant issues, such as the intersection of AI and violence against women in elections, ensuring that REWiB remains at the forefront of critical discussions.
- **Addressing Emerging Issues:** The organization will continue to engage with emerging issues as they arise, positioning REWiB as a knowledge-generation hub and advocacy leader. This effort will center on producing knowledge from an African perspective on WPS, which will inform the African Union and other regional entities. Recognizing that conflict is dynamic and ever-evolving, REWiB will remain agile in its approach, ensuring its contributions remain relevant and impactful.



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The organization will continue to engage with emerging issues as they arise, positioning REWiB as a knowledge-generation hub and advocacy leader.

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5. Technical Dialogues on the AU CEVAWG Meetings

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains one of the most critical and urgent human rights challenges on the African continent.

To combat this prevalence, the African Union (AU) spearheaded the development of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG), which seeks to create a legally binding framework that demands accountability, ensures protection, and provides tangible support for survivors.

To create a truly inclusive and impactful Convention, the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network, in partnership with African Renaissance and Nala Feminist Collective, organized a pivotal online consultation on 5th September 2024, engaging over 570 participants from all five regions of Africa. This meeting brought together Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), women's groups, and other key stakeholders to share their expertise, experiences, and recommendations. These consultations marked a significant step towards ensuring that the voices of women and girls across the continent are integral to shaping the AU CEVAWG.

Building on this momentum, the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS) - Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security convened Twenty (20) CSO experts from

across Africa for an in-depth workshop from 10 - 11 October 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This gathering focused on refining the outcomes of the virtual consultations, reviewing the draft of the AU CEVAWG, and developing concrete recommendations and advocacy strategies to ensure CSOs play a central role in the promotion and effective implementation of the Convention. The key recommendations included;

- Enhance legal frameworks and ensure accountability for perpetrators of VAWG. Strengthen Africa's judicial system to better respond to VAWG through a multi-faceted approach.
- Provide protection and support services for survivors of VAWG, including health, shelter, and legal aid.
- Enhance and increase awareness of positive masculinity as a VAWG response strategy.
- Strengthen collaboration and enforcement with gatekeepers that is - cultural, religious, and community leaders.
- Strengthen advocacy, coalition, and movement building on VAWG.

6. The Commonwealth People's Forum

The Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) convened October 21-22, 2024, at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel in Apia, Samoa, as a prelude to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Organized collaboratively by the Commonwealth Foundation, the Government of Samoa, and the Samoa Umbrella of Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO), the forum served as a platform for civil society representatives from across the Commonwealth to engage in meaningful dialogue.

The primary objectives of the CPF were to explore the challenges and opportunities in delivering people-centered governance across the Commonwealth, with a focus on pressing issues such as climate justice, health justice, and freedom of expression. The forum aimed to amplify the voices of small and vulnerable states, women, and young people, ensuring their perspectives are integral to policy discussions and decision-making processes.

Key outcomes from the forum included:

- **Climate and Health Justice Initiatives:** Participants highlighted innovative, community-led approaches addressing climate change and health disparities. Discussions emphasized the importance

of supporting and scaling these grassroots initiatives to foster resilience and equitable development across member states.

- **Advocacy for Freedom of Expression:** Delegates underscored the critical need to protect media freedom and promote open dialogue. The forum called for robust legal frameworks and the safeguarding of journalists and activists to ensure that freedom of expression is upheld as a fundamental right.
- **Inclusive Policy Development:** The CPF facilitated direct interactions between civil society actors and policymakers, leading to commitments aimed at integrating the insights and experiences of marginalized communities into national and Commonwealth-wide policies.

The discussions and resolutions from the Commonwealth People's Forum were synthesized and presented to the heads of government during CHOGM, ensuring that the deliberations of civil society inform and influence the broader Commonwealth agenda.

7. Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy for Sustainable Development Conference in Mexico

The Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference took place in Mexico City from July 1 to 3, 2024.

The conference marked the third ministerial-level conference on feminist foreign policy (FFP), following previous gatherings in Germany (2022) and the Netherlands (2023). Significantly, it was the first time the conference was hosted in the Global South.

The conference created a platform for dialogue among ministers, special envoys, high-level officials, civil society representatives, and academics. The primary objectives were to share experiences, best practices, and challenges related to implementing feminist foreign policies, and to identify specific opportunities for mainstreaming gender equality in international forums, such as the UN Summit of the Future.

Key outcomes of the conference included a collective commitment from participating countries to adopt or strengthen feminist foreign policies as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality. Discussions covered a range of topics, including sustainable development

and financing, international peace and security, science and technology, digital cooperation, youth engagement, global governance, and intersectionality. The conference culminated in a joint declaration endorsed by 20 UN member states, reaffirming their dedication to integrating gender-transformative approaches into their foreign policies.

This event underscored Mexico's leadership in promoting substantive equality on the international stage, building upon its adoption of a feminist foreign policy in 2020 and its historical role in advancing gender equality since hosting the First World Conference on Women in 1975.

Prior to the SFFP Conference, representatives of AfIP Collective participated in the Feminist Foreign Policy Collaborative partners meeting, that enabled the sharing of experience, mapping partnerships and developing strategies for continuous engagement with FFPs. During the meeting AfIP Collective shared the process of developing its manifesto.



8. Feminist Africa and International Feminist Journal of Politics Joint Conference on Digitalisation, AI, and Feminist Futures

The “*Digitalisation, AI, and Feminist Futures*” conference was held from July 25 to 28, 2024, in Maputo, Mozambique.

The event brought together feminist scholars, activists, policymakers, and technologists from Africa and its diasporas to critically examine the intersection of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and feminist futures. The main objective of the conference was to challenge the patriarchal, capitalist, and imperial structures embedded in digitalisation and AI while envisioning feminist futures free from violence and injustice. Participants engaged in discussions on governance, democracy, work, knowledge production, and the importance of fostering inclusive technological advancements that reflect the lived realities of African women and other marginalized groups.

A major theme was the critique of technological determinism, which assumes that digital innovation alone can drive transformation without addressing the underlying political and gendered inequalities. Discussions on

governance and democracy explored how digital platforms both facilitate feminist activism and present risks, such as misinformation and the distortion of public opinion. The impact of digitalisation on the gig economy was a key focus, revealing gender disparities in earnings and precarious working conditions. The need for feminist economic structures that prioritize social reproduction, care, and equitable labor conditions was emphasized.

Another crucial topic was media censorship and political protests, using Kenya as a case study to highlight economic policies and their consequences on public resistance. Justice and reparations for people of African descent were also examined, with discussions on how human rights frameworks could be leveraged for decolonization. Addressing online gender-based violence, particularly against women in politics, was a significant concern, as

participants shared experiences of abuse and the lack of legal protections. Future research and advocacy efforts were called for to update legal frameworks and establish support networks to combat digital harassment and enhance women’s political participation.

The conference also underscored the importance of feminist design principles in digital platforms, advocating for ethical AI development that centers marginalized voices. The role of AI

in military operations and the ethical dilemmas surrounding algorithmic warfare were explored, raising concerns about digital peacebuilding and the potential dehumanization of marginalized communities. The conference laid a strong foundation for future feminist research and advocacy efforts, calling for the integration of inclusive and equitable digital advancements that challenge systemic inequalities and contribute to a just and non-violent future.



9. Weaving the Perspectives of Women in Conflict Through Feminist Peace Training

The Feminist Peace East African Cohort Training took place from October 13th to 16th, 2024, bringing together participants from Uganda and Ethiopia.

The training provided a shared space for women to explore different perspectives on conflict and its impact on women and girls in Africa. It also focused on how women can be empowered as leaders to drive positive change within their communities.

The main objective of the training was to raise awareness about the importance and benefits of including women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes. Research has consistently shown that when women are meaningfully involved in peace efforts, the likelihood of long-lasting peace significantly increases. Feminist leadership plays a vital role in this by striving to build equitable and just societies—where everyone, regardless of background, has access to rights, opportunities, and resources.

Participants shared personal experiences with conflict, reflecting a deep understanding of its complexities. Ethiopian participants, in particular, recounted the devastating effects of the Tigray War, which led to widespread gender-based violence (GBV), mass displacement, and long-term socio-economic challenges in affected communities.

During the session on feminist leadership, participants were introduced to its core principles and values, which included: inclusivity, intersectionality, accountability, transformational and inclusive leadership, courage and resistance against patriarchy, redistribution of resources and opportunities, and a strong commitment to social justice.

10. Participation in the 15th AWID International Forum

The 15th AWID International Forum brought together over 4,000 participants from diverse regions globally to Connect, Heal, and Thrive.

The forum was AWID's first-ever hybrid event, allowing engagement both in person and virtually. It included participation through city hubs across multiple countries, reflecting a strong commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. The event featured over 200 sessions held both in person and virtually, alongside over 200 arts exhibitions, workshops, performances, and film screenings. Additionally, there were 23 dedicated spaces for feminist dialogue and movement building, 35 movement booths and lounges, 28 marketplace stalls, 8 hubs across 7 countries, and a gala night celebrating feminist resistance and achievements.

The forum aimed to create a space for collective reflection on gender justice and peacebuilding, highlight and strengthen feminist movements globally particularly from the Global South address emerging crises impacting women, LGBTQIA+ people, and marginalized groups, develop actionable strategies to advance feminist agendas in peace, security, climate justice, and economic rights, and facilitate cross-movement learning and solidarity-building among activists, organizations, and policymakers.

One of the highlights was the South Feminist Future Manifesto Session. This session discussed challenges with developing the manifesto including language barriers and accessibility issues, prompting commitments to continued outreach and in-person engagements. The discussions also emphasized interconnected struggles, highlighting the importance of anti-militarism and liberation in shaping a global feminist future. The Panel on Climate Justice and Energy Transition explored equity in energy access, emphasizing climate justice as a fundamental human right, particularly for marginalized communities. The discussion underscored the severity of energy poverty in Africa, where 64% of healthcare centers lack reliable electricity. Panelists linked climate justice to economic policies and debt crises affecting Global South nations, particularly highlighting challenges faced by small island developing states in the Caribbean. A key outcome was the commitment to developing a feminist climate justice manifesto, set for launch in February 2026. The discussion also emphasized the crucial role of government-led energy transitions, resisting privatization, and ensuring sustainable energy access for all. Another critical discussion focused on the Sudan Conflict and Women's Response.

Women-led organizations were recognized for their leadership in peacebuilding despite resource limitations and targeted violence. The panel issued urgent calls for international recognition and financial support for grassroots women's initiatives, emphasizing that only a small fraction of humanitarian aid reaches women-led organizations. The session highlighted the importance of collective healing, innovative advocacy, and African feminist-led responses to address systemic neglect. Additionally, panelists underscored the need to amplify the voices of Sudanese women in international peace discussions to ensure their perspectives shape broader peacebuilding efforts.

Looking ahead, the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2025 present key opportunities to sustain the momentum from the AWID Forum. Discussions and initiatives from this gathering will continue to influence global feminist advocacy efforts, ensuring that women's leadership and rights remain central to peace, security, and justice agendas. This forum has set the foundation for continued collaboration and movement-building, reinforcing the urgent need for intersectional and decolonial approaches to feminist advocacy worldwide.



11. Contextualizing Beijing +30 Advocacy and Feminist Position

The Second UN Women and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) meeting on Beijing+30, held virtually on October 9, 2024, served as a critical platform to reflect on key gender equality issues raised during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Centered on the theme “Leaving No One Behind – Acting Together for the Advancement of Peace, Sustainable Development, and Human Dignity for Present and Future Generations,” the webinar explored both progress and setbacks in the global gender equality agenda.

Discussions focused on urgent challenges such as the ongoing pushback against gender equality, the impact of climate change, and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Young women speakers shared their experiences and highlighted enduring barriers to female leadership, including cultural norms, structural inequalities, and personal challenges. They pointed to ageism, gender bias, and limited access to mentorship and professional networks as major obstacles, urging the UN to establish more inclusive platforms that elevate young women's voices in decision-making spaces.

Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, stressed the

importance of sustained advocacy for women's inclusion in the WPS agenda and broader gender equality efforts. She emphasized the gendered impacts of conflict and called for peace, social justice, and a global ceasefire to protect women and girls from militarized violence. Ms. Gumbonzvanda also challenged member states to demonstrate accountability through gender-responsive funding, particularly in areas such as gender-based violence (GBV), WPS, and climate change. She underscored the need to place women at the center of these efforts.

Despite growing awareness, gender imbalance in leadership remains stark: only 10 out of 100 speakers during the formal sessions of the General Assembly were women, and just 47 women currently lead their countries' foreign missions. These figures underscore the persistent underrepresentation of women in public leadership and diplomacy.

The conversation also highlighted the recently adopted Pact for the Future, launched at the

Summit of the Future (September 22–23, 2024). This landmark agreement outlines 56 actions to address urgent global challenges and revitalize multilateral cooperation. It calls for collective action to combat climate change, gender inequality, and social injustice. Notably, Action 18 of the Pact advocates for the elimination of violence against women and gender-based violence.

The 79th UNGA report reaffirmed the pressing need to accelerate progress on gender equality across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Civil society leaders were encouraged to develop innovative strategies to promote women's leadership—particularly for women with disabilities—and to actively engage in renewed dialogues at both national and global levels through platforms like the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).



Conclusion

The convenings, consultations, and collective actions of 2024 reflected a dynamic, yet sobering landscape for WPS advocacy and research in Africa.

As shrinking civic space, climate crises, militarization, digital exploitation, and systemic inequality continued to affect communities across the continent, REWiB stood in solidarity with movements and actors working toward justice and transformation. We reinforced our commitment to shifting power and centering not just the voices, but the leadership, wisdom, and strategies of African women, girls, and marginalised communities.

A consistent thread throughout these engagements was the call for structural change, not simply demanding inclusion into existing systems, but the need to dismantle and reconstruct systems altogether, so that peace, equity, dignity, and collective care are not exceptions, but the foundation. Our contributions in 2024 have shown that research, when grounded in community and powered

by activism, can serve as a tool for deep, transformative change.

As we move into 2025, a year that marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, REWiB is focused on sustaining the momentum built with partners and allies across the continent and globally. These anniversaries present both a moment of reflection and an opportunity to build collective political pressure for meaningful implementation and accountability for the WPS agenda.

We look forward to deepening our collaborations, growing our knowledge networks, and continuing to support African peacebuilding movements in the ongoing work of building a just, liberated, and peaceable future.



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