

**« WORKSHOP TO EVALUATE AND CAPITALIZE ON INITIATIVES ON FEMINISM
IN WEST AFRICA »**

Evolution of the Feminism Program: Crossed views on the achievements and perspectives of intergenerational transfer in West Africa.

Dakar : December 12 to 13,2024

Background and rational:

Speaking about feminism and its definition, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a Nigerian Nobelist and feminist, said **"My own definition is that a feminist is a man or a woman who says, yes, there is a gender problem as it is today and we have to solve it, we have to do better."** Analysing this reflection, it is clear that feminism is not a myth or a prohibition, but "a way of life", which involves every person, whether male or female. This is an urgent question that should interest every woman and every man of our time, for a more just and harmonious world.

It is in this sense that the regional office of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation has embarked on the formulation of a new component, feminism, to reflect on the evolution of women's rights in West Africa and elsewhere. It should be recalled here that in general, African women have always faced challenges and issues specific to their context, such as marginalization, domestic violence, war, poverty, disease, illiteracy, health care, female genital mutilation, reproductive health, access to land, early marriage, harmful widowhood practices, femicide, rape etc.' (2022 conf report).

Hence the foundation's approach to promote feminism by focusing its initiatives on promoting women's mental health as well as building their potential so that they can position themselves as agents of sustainable change in their communities.

Thus, since 2022, RLS Dakar has initiated a series of conferences with themes aimed at the appropriation of the theme by women, through the sharing of good practices and tools for their socio-political and economic empowerment and to consider together strategies for intergenerational knowledge transfer.

These different frameworks of reflection have led to the establishment of a pool of female leaders sensitive to the issue of feminism through the creation of a network on feminism in West Africa.

The said network became a reality in March 2024 with the creation of a WhatsApp group which, initially, allows us to organize discussions and debates on feminism: feminism in our African societies, in our workplaces, in our immediate environment, etc.

LThe first webinar focused on the organization of the network, its implementation, the objectives and the activities to be carried out; The second webinar was held on October 15 and provided an opportunity to discuss Improving the inclusion of women in civil society initiatives, their participation in associations, in decision-making processes, etc.

In addition, the foundation's desire to make the issue of feminism in Africa one of its priorities has also resulted in the granting of funding to women's organizations in four West African

countries, Côte d'Ivoire (CI), Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, which are working to impact their communities on various themes.

The NGO Living Without Violence (VSV) CI, continues its activities to strengthen the network that was created last year as part of the Project for the benefit of women processors, farmers, traders, etc. To support their activities and the marketing of their products in the different regions.

Center for Social Justice (CSJ), Ghana, through its gender pillar raises awareness among students on women's rights and issues related to feminism to safeguard the achievements of the project and also to introduce the younger generations to the fight for gender equality in society.

Femmes Films d'Afrique, in Senegal, promotes women's rights and participation in cinema. Every year for more than three years, the RLS has accompanied the festival that the organisation holds and which brings together filmmakers from all over the world.

Ceehope, Nigeria has made the fight for the improvement of domestic working conditions one of its goals. A bill to this effect was presented during the last session of parliament. Advocacy continues with the authorities for its adoption. Ceehope also continues its activities to fight for the well-being of children and women.

Through all the actions presented above, the Foundation wants to continue its momentum, to strengthen these achievements on the ground through the partnerships already engaged and the network. It is also about stimulating the learning process about feminism, its value and its impact in the transformation of our societies. Hence the importance of the meeting to evaluate and capitalize on the achievements scheduled for December 12 and 13, 2024 in Dakar.

❖ **Objectif :**

The objective of this meeting is to promote the strengthening of links between the members of the network of women feminist in West Africa but also to continue reflections on the role of women in the development process through their actions. Best, it is still important to question the impact of the network and consider the prospects for intergenerational transfer.

❖ **Objectifs spécifiques :**

- Strengthen the framework for reflection on the achievements, the challenges on women's initiatives but above all Identify advocacy issues, create coalitions to strengthen the new network with the participation of all members;
- take a critical look at the evolution of the program in order to better formalize future projects and programs;
- Design a strategy to strengthen the work of the RLS on feminism in West Africa,

- Exchange and transfer of skills with female students.

❖ **Activité :**

This workshop will be structured around an opening ceremony, plenary work to evaluate the achievements and perspectives of the feminism program, thematic exchanges and sharing of experiences. In addition, an intergenerational exchange will also mark these two days meeting with students from 2 public and private universities in Dakar.

Specifically, there will be a visit by the participants to universities. Two groups of 6 experts from the sub-region will be trained and will visit universities. One group will go to the Cheikh Anta Diop University (Institute of Human Rights and Peace) and the second group to the African Institute of Management (IAM). It is a meeting of sharing on feminism, its origin, its definition, its importance in relation to women's rights and why to involve the younger generations; To introduce students to the fight for women's rights, the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination against women and how to respond to them. It will have an introduction followed by a short presentation from each woman, followed by discussions (questions/answers/comments) and conclusion.

Méthodologie :

- Plenary sessions, thematic exchanges, training and exchange sessions with students.

❖ **Les résultats ;**

- Clear actions of the network are identified with identified leaders;
- A strategy for strengthening the feminist network is available,
- Young student girls have a better knowledge of feminism and its challenges in West Africa

Cible : This activity will bring together 20 women leaders who are members of the network from West African countries and are committed to the issue of Feminism in their communities.

Budget : 12 340 000 FCFA