



THE FREETOWN DECLARATION FOR WOMEN IN POWER

A Pan-African Call to Action for Feminist Leadership, Institutional Courage and Transformative Justice

Preamble

We, 120 women leaders from 25 African countries gathered in Freetown, Sierra Leone on 1st-2nd July 2025, united by a shared purpose: to shift the tide from mere representation to real power. hereby commit to the principles and actions outlined in the Freetown Declaration for Women in Power.

Acknowledging the enduring violent barriers to women’s full participation in leadership especially young, grassroots, disabled and displaced.

Affirming our responsibility to lead with courage, uphold feminist values, and dismantle the systems that have long thrived on our exclusion.

Recognising that patriarchal violence against women and gatekeeping is not just personal, it is political, institutional and digital.

Aware that women in public life face disproportionate scrutiny, mental health burdens and attacks that threaten their safety and silence their voices.

Asserting that meaningful gender equality cannot be achieved without intentional investment, shared accountability and systems change.

Therefore, we rise and we declare to:

Build and sustain a digital “army of women” who will mobilize online and offline to defend women leaders facing disinformation, cyberbullying and online violence.

Call for national memorialization of Official Days of Remembrance to honor the victims and survivors of Sierra Leone’s civil war, particularly honoring the women affected.

Commit to design and enforce structured intergenerational mentorship pipelines with a clear five year target to appoint, elect or elevate young women into national and regional leadership positions.

Advocate for institutionalized and resourced care systems including mandatory budget lines within government ministries, parliaments and political parties for psychosocial support, healing justice and safety infrastructure for women in public life.

Foster, Enable and Mobilize coordinated Intergenerational Solidarity Missions across Africa with cross country delegations to visibly back women running for office. **Silence is not safety. Connection is our weapon and sisterhood is our shield.**

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