

---

# Feminist Africa 14 Rethinking Gender and Violence

Issue 14: December 2010

First published in 2010 by the  
African Gender Institute  
All Africa House  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag  
Rondebosch 7701



© in published edition: African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town,  
South Africa, 2010

ISSN: 1726-4596

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording and/or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

Published with the support of HIVOS, and the African Women's Development Fund.

Printing and Cover design: Fareeda Jadwat and Compressdsl  
Cover photograph: Kayo Fusejima, proudlymemedia  
Distribution: AGI Staff

*Feminist Africa* is a scholarly journal accredited by the  
South African Department of Education.

## Editorial policy

*Feminist Africa* is guided by a profound commitment to transforming gender hierarchies in Africa, and seeks to redress injustice and inequality in its content and design, and by its open-access and continentally-targeted distribution strategy. *Feminist Africa* targets gender researchers, students, educators, women's organisations and feminist activists throughout Africa. It works to develop a feminist intellectual community by promoting and enhancing African women's intellectual work. To overcome the access and distribution challenges facing conventional academic publications, *Feminist Africa* deploys a dual dissemination strategy, using the Internet as a key tool for knowledge-sharing and communication, while making hard copies available to those based at African institutions.

Two issues are produced per annum, in accordance with themes specified in the calls for contributions.

The editorial team can be contacted at [agi-feministafrica@uct.ac.za](mailto:agi-feministafrica@uct.ac.za)

## Acknowledgements

The *Feminist Africa* team acknowledges the intellectual input of the community of African feminist scholars and the Editorial Advisory Board.

We thank HIVOS and the African Women's Development Fund for their financial support towards production and publication.

## Disclaimer

The views expressed by contributors to *Feminist Africa* are not necessarily those of the Editors, Editorial Advisory Board, the African Gender Institute, or our partners. While every reasonable effort is made to check factual accuracy in published material, the contributors are ultimately responsible for verifying claims made in their writings. Neither *Feminist Africa* nor the African Gender Institute will be responsible for errors or inaccuracies in contributions.

## Editor

Amina Mama

## Issue 14 Editor

Jane Bennett

## Editorial team

Jane Bennett

Awino Okech

Yaliwe Clarke

Adelene Africa

Fareeda Jadwat

## Editorial advisory group

The editorial advisory group of *Feminist Africa* consists of scholars and researchers, located in different fields in the social sciences and humanities, who offer their expertise to the development and dissemination of *Feminist Africa* as an innovative African-focused journal. Advisory group members are:

Akosua Adamako-Ampofo, Bibi Bakare-Yusuf, Teresa Barnes, Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Hope Chigudu, Tsitsi Dangaremba, Carole Boyce Davies, Simidele Dosekun, Amanda Gouws, Pregs Govender, Pumla Dineo Gqola, Shireen Hassim, Desiree Lewis, Zine Magubane, Takyiwaa Manuh, Helen Moffett, Chandra Mohanty, Patricia Mohammed, Patricia McFadden, Ruth Ochieng, Margo Okazawa-Rey, Awino Okech, Charmaine Pereira, Jennifer Radloff, Rhoda Reddock, Vasu Reddy, Kopano Ratele, Ebrima Sall, Fatou Sow, Julia Sudbury, Sylvia Tamale, Dzodzi Tsikata, Zenebeworke Tadesse, Muthoni Wanyeki and Paul Zeleza.

## Manuscript submissions

*Feminist Africa* has a submissions policy determined by the continental focus and capacity-building aims of the African Gender Institute's "Gender and Women's Studies in Africa" project. Periodic calls for contributions along particular themes should guide submissions. All contributions must register the centrality of gender analysis and politics to past, present and ongoing processes of social, political and cultural change in Africa. We regret that we cannot respond to all unsolicited submissions.

Please submit contributions electronically to [agi-feministafrica@uct.ac.za](mailto:agi-feministafrica@uct.ac.za). We regret that we do not have the capacity to consider contributions in languages other than English.

All submissions to *Feminist Africa* must use the FA style sheet, and should not include graphics.

Feature articles should not exceed 6 500 words. Other contributions should not exceed 2 000 words.

### Editorial procedure

Contributions submitted to *Feminist Africa* are considered by the editorial team. Feature articles are peer-reviewed by readers with expertise in relevant areas. Editorial discretion in relation to submitted work resides with the editorial team.

### Copyright and reproduction

The authors and artists hold individual copyright. Overall copyright is held by the African Gender Institute. Material, artwork extracts and articles from *Feminist Africa* may not be reproduced in any form of print or electronic publication without the permission of the Editors, who can be contacted at [agi-feministafrica@uct.ac.za](mailto:agi-feministafrica@uct.ac.za). Requests for permission to reproduce material will not be granted until one calendar year after first online publication in *Feminist Africa* has lapsed.

### Distribution

Adams Campus Bookshop  
University of KwaZulu-Natal  
Howard College Campus  
Durban, South Africa  
tel: 27 31 261 2320  
fax: 27 31 261 6053  
email: [campus@adamsbooks.co.za](mailto:campus@adamsbooks.co.za)

Clarke's Bookshop  
211 Long Street  
Cape Town 8001  
South Africa  
tel: 27 21 423 5739  
fax: 27 21 423 6441  
email: [books@clarkesbooks.co.za](mailto:books@clarkesbooks.co.za)  
web: [www.clarkesbooks.co.za](http://www.clarkesbooks.co.za)

### International Subscriptions

EBSCO Subscription Services  
P O Box 749  
Cresta 2118  
South Africa  
tel: 27 11 678 4416  
fax: 27 11 678 4464  
email: [mailsa@ebSCO.com](mailto:mailsa@ebSCO.com)  
web: [www.ebsco.com/home/southafrica](http://www.ebsco.com/home/southafrica)



# Contents

## Editorial: Rethinking Gender and Violence

– *by Jane Bennett* 1

## Feature Articles

Sexual Violence in Conflict: a Problematic International Discourse  
– *by Eva Ayiera* 7

“Circles and circles”: Notes on African feminist debates  
around gender and violence in the c21  
– *by Jane Bennett* 21

Domestic Violence in the African North  
– *by Fatima Sadiqi* 49

Women’s Activism and Transformation: Arising from the Cusp  
– *by Anu Pillay* 63

## Standpoint

“Murderous women”? Rethinking gender and theories of violence  
– *by Adelene Africa* 79

## In Conversation

Godwin Murunga, from the University of Kenyatta, talks with  
*Jane Bennett* about the politics of masculinities studies and  
African feminisms 93

Pauline Dempers, from Breaking the Walls of Silence, Namibia,  
talks with *Yaliwe Clarke* about some of her ideas on peace-building  
which are rooted in experiences as a ex-combatant in the  
Namibian liberation struggle 103

## Profiles

One of the very few places in the country without abuse:  
The Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children  
(Cape Town, South Africa)

– by *Irma Maharaj*

115

There is Hope...We are Not Giving Up : Freedom and Roam  
Uganda

– by *Kasha Jacqueline*

123

## Review

*A situation analysis of the women survivors of the 1989-2003  
armed conflict in Liberia* – Isis WICCE in collaboration with the  
Ministry of Gender and Development in Liberia and the  
Women in Peacebuilding Network Program of the West Africa  
Network for Peace (WANEP). 2009

– by *Vicky Karimi*

129

## Contributors

135