

RESISTING & REIMAGING: FEMINIST GOVERNANCE IN AN ERA OF SHIFTING SYSTEMS

Hosted by Akina Mama wa Afrika | Feminist Leadership Convening 2025

In the world of feminist leadership practitioners, governance is often seen as a sticking point. How can we not only transform our individual leadership styles, but also the decision-making structures that shape our organisational culture?

In a learning needs assessment conducted by the Feminist Leadership Hub in the first half of 2025, Feminist Governance emerged as a key topic for survey respondents. Due to their extensive work on this area, we therefore invited Akina Mama wa Afrika to host a session on this topic.

Hosted by Sharon Eryenyu (Akina Mama wa Afrika) with panelists Hala Al Karib, Rebecca Mweru Kabejja, and Olabukunola (Buky) Williams. The following is based on their presentations.



“The most difficult question for us is to start sincerely rethinking the modalities of our struggle towards feminist governance.” - Hala al Karib

Key takeaways: solidarity, conflict, and vision

- The current crises expose the failures of our governance systems - e.g. collapse of health systems during a pandemic, or the gendered violence that escalates in conflict
- Solidarity in Feminist Governance is not just a feeling, but a commitment to action and willingness to make sacrifices
- Within existing systems we can still explore and test alternative governance models autonomously, e.g. leaderless movements, rotational leadership
- Let conflict be generative: friction can lead to transformation and growth
- Feminist Governance is not only about resistance, but also about rebuilding; it is not only oppositional, but also visionary
- In feminist governance, we are asked to think not only of surviving crisis today, but of creating and sustaining a just world for future generations

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- Think of a governance system you are a part of, for example in your work or your country's government. If you could change one thing to make it more inclusive and feminist, what would it be?
- How can feminist movements and actions of previous generations help inform our strategies towards Feminist Governance today?
- Does your organisation have mechanisms to create space for generative conflict? As well as mechanisms to repair, heal and care for self and other?

Rebecca Mweru Kabejja: "Crises cut over borders, so we must build solidarity not as charity but as co-resistance."

In 2024, a Community Advisory Body made up of Feminist Leadership Hub community members developed "Feminist Governance: A Practical Guide for Change." Complete with definitions, exercises and concrete examples, the guide is available with the Hub's Resource Library.

