



AN ILLUSTRATED AFRICAN FEMINIST STORY-MAP

THE RED THREAD WE CARRY

From feminist consciousness to collective action

Inspired by the Feminist Narratives training, 13-14 July 2026. Facilitated by Sylvia Tamale.

A LIVING MAP

One fictional journey. Many connected lives.
No single story stands for a continent.

STOP 01 - AWAKENING

AT THE THRESHOLD

Amina begins with questions, not certainty.

THE INHERITED STORY

Amina has learned to be useful, grateful and quiet. Yet the work that holds her world together is rarely named as power.

SHE ASKS

Who taught me silence? Whose work counts? Which rules feel natural only because they are old?

A FIRST OPENING

Critical thinking turns the familiar into a question. A question becomes a doorway.



STOP 02 - ANALYSIS

NAMING THE CURRENT

Power is not only domination. It can also be capacity, dignity and collective action.



POWER OVER

Control, coercion and exclusion.
Ask who sets the rules
and controls resources.

POWER WITHIN

Self-knowledge, dignity
and the capacity to
imagine another reality.

POWER TO

The potential to shape
one's life
and act for change.

POWER WITH

Solidarity multiplies
knowledge,
courage and leverage.

LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

Visible decisions, hidden barriers and invisible beliefs often
reinforce one another.

Source: Training handout, The Concept of Power, especially pp. 1-7.

STOP 03 - THE TRAINING CIRCLE

THE CIRCLE CHANGES THE QUESTION

Learning becomes transformative when experience, theory and action meet.

RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS

Notice how ordinary experiences are organized by histories, institutions and beliefs.

ANALYZE INTERSECTIONS

Trace how patriarchy and coloniality work with class, race, disability, sexuality and place.

BUILD ADVOCACY

Turn analysis into language, strategy and accountable action.

THE METHOD

Listen. Question. Connect. Reframe. Act. Reflect.



STOP 04 - CONNECTION

MORE THAN ONE STORY

Amina's life changes when her story meets other stories without flattening their differences.



AMINA

A community facilitator balancing paid work, care work and a growing refusal to call inequality normal.

NANDI

A wheelchair-using organizer insisting that access is not an afterthought but part of justice from the start.

LAILA

A queer digital storyteller who asks whose voices platforms amplify, erase or put at risk.

THEIR MEETING POINT

They share no single experience. They share a commitment to dignity, choice, solidarity and change.

MANY STORIES MATTER

A story can reduce a person to one idea
– or restore complexity, agency and equal humanity.

STOP 05 - LINEAGE

ROOTS WE NAME OURSELVES FROM

African feminisms are plural, historically grounded and made through struggle.

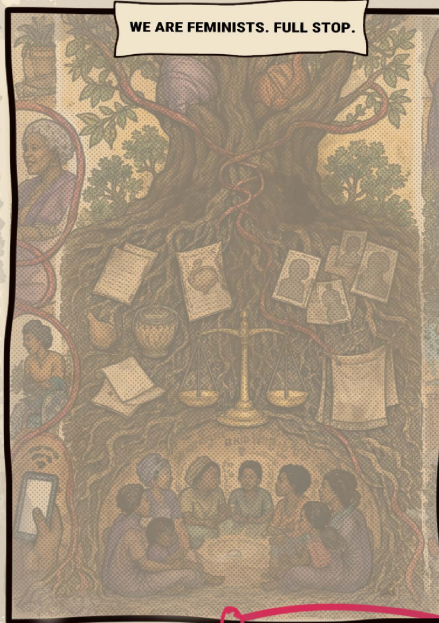
NAME OURSELVES

Naming feminism is political. It makes visible the structures that subjugate women and the tools needed to transform them.

RECLAIM KNOWLEDGE

Afro-Feminism builds theory from diverse African realities and recovers histories of resistance that colonial narratives erased.

WE ARE FEMINISTS. FULL STOP.



HOLD COMPLEXITY

Patriarchy changes across time and place and is entangled with class, race, religion, sexuality and imperial power.

PRACTICE ETHICS

Solidarity, care, non-violence, accountability, intergenerational learning and responsible leadership are movement work.

Sources: Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists; Sylvia Tamale, Decolonization and Afro-Feminism.

STOP 06 - INTERSECTIONS

BODY / HOME / LAND / WORK

The map widens: private life, public power, economy, ecology and identity are connected.

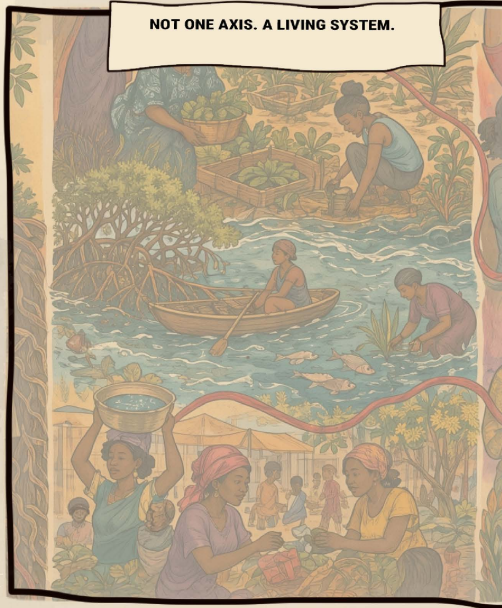
THE BODY

Bodily integrity, gender identity, sexuality and reproductive autonomy belong inside the story of justice.

THE HOME

Domesticity can make unpaid labour invisible and treat the private sphere as outside politics, law and accountability.

NOT ONE AXIS. A LIVING SYSTEM.



LAND AND LIVELIHOOD

Control over land, income, time and public space shapes who can act, decide and belong.

LIVING SYSTEMS

The exploitation of women and the degradation of the environment can grow from connected logics of control.

STOP 07 - COLLECTIVE POWER

TURNING VOICE INTO POWER

Narrative is not decoration. It can reveal, connect, mobilize and repair.

LISTEN FOR ABSENCE

Who is speaking? Who is missing? Which experiences have been framed as private, exceptional or impossible?

REFRAME THE STORY

Move from blame to structure, from pity to agency, and from a single hero to collective power.

CHOOSE THE CHANNEL

Story circles, art, community radio, digital advocacy, research, law and public dialogue reach different forms of power.

PROTECT THE PEOPLE

Consent, safety, credit, access and the right not to disclose are part of feminist communication.

THE SHIFT

From speaking for people to building conditions in which people speak, decide and organize on their own terms.



Training threads: strategic communication; many stories; power with, power to and power within.

STOP 08 - SUSTENANCE

CARE IS MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Rest, joy, safety and mutual support make long struggles possible.



CARE FOR SELF

Notice limits, grief, fear and joy.
Rest is not a reward for finishing
the work.

CARE FOR EACH OTHER

Share food, time, access,
knowledge, emotional support
and practical protection.

CARE FOR THE SPACE

Build fair pay, transparent
decisions, consent, conflict
processes and room for
feedback.

CARE ACROSS TIME

Credit ancestors, mentor without
patronizing, and make leadership
genuinely intergenerational.

A CARE QUESTION

What would our strategy look like if nobody had to
disappear, burn out or become disposable for it to succeed?

STOP 09 - STRATEGY

FROM LEARNING TO LEVERAGE

A strategy links analysis, people, methods and care to a specific shift in power.



01 - LISTEN

Begin with lived knowledge. Name the issue without collapsing many experiences into

02 - LOCATE POWER

Map visible decisions, hidden gatekeepers and invisible beliefs.

03 - CHOOSE LEVERAGE

Use the right mix of story, organizing, evidence, law, media, resources and alliance.

04 - ACT TOGETHER

Clarify roles, consent, risks, care needs and what success would change.

05 - REFLECT

Ask who gained voice, choice and control – and what must be revised.

Training threads: deconstructing power; transformative feminist leadership; strategic communication.

STOP 10 - PRACTICE

A FEMINIST PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

Amina's fictional project moves from a good intention to an accountable experiment.

THE MANY HOMES STORY

A community-led process to make unpaid care visible, connect it to public decisions and build locally defined solutions.

WHO LEADS

Care workers, disabled women, young feminists, elders and gender-diverse community members shape the questions and decisions.

HOW IT WORKS

Story circles + time-use mapping + art + a public listening forum + a small mutual-care fund.

SAFEGUARDS

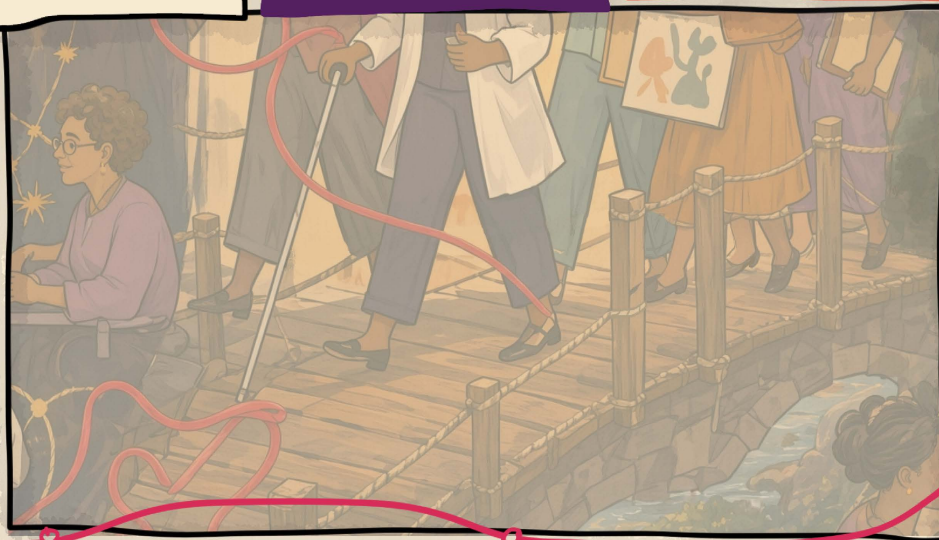
Consent, anonymity options, access support, fair credit and no forced disclosure.

FIRST 30 DAYS

Form a five-person advisory circle; listen before designing the first session.

POWER SHIFT

Participants set the agenda and decide what leaves the room.



Training anchor: Session 5, Conceptualizing Personal Feminist Projects.

STOP 11 - CONTINUATION

NO ONE ARRIVES ALONE

The map stays unfinished so others can enter, question it and redraw the road.

OUR MOVEMENT PROMISES

- Name power without reproducing domination.
- Refuse the single story; keep difference visible.
- Treat lived knowledge as theory, not decoration.
- Share resources, credit, risk and decision-making.
- Build access and collective care into the strategy.
- Return to the people whose stories shaped the work.

ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

Amina, Nandi and Laila are fictional composites. They do not represent one country, ethnicity, class, religion, sexuality, disability or African experience.

TRAINING SOURCE SHELF

Feminist Narratives Session Guide; Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists
Sylvia Tamale, Decolonization and Afro-Feminism; The Concept of Power
Domesticity in Africa; The Gender Spectrum; Feminism Types; The Danger of a Single Story
Further framework: AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).



THE RED THREAD CONTINUES WITH US.



Sustaining Women's Leadership

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Plot 1476 Muyenga Road,
Kampala, Uganda



+256(0) 761 848 408



+256(0) 761 848 408

HEAD OFFICE



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MEMPROWUganda

www.mempro.org

