



## ***African Women's Charity Organization***

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***Building African Women's & Youth Movements and Forming International Sisterhood***

## **The Importance of Women's Leadership in Building the African Women's Movement**

Objectives for building a Women's movement for the Unification of Africa

1. Build a women's movement through education by organizing Africa and Youth conferences in every country in Africa.
2. Organize African Women's Organizations the length and breadth of the African world.
3. Lead the movement for the Unification of Africa.
4. First build a women's movement in your district and then the surrounding border countries.
5. Read two books as a group, "Class Struggle in Africa" by Kwame Nkrumah, and "Women in Society" by Sekou Toure.
6. Build the African Women's Charity Organization and Men for the Emancipation of Women.
7. We will unite all women's organizations in one country to an organization with the name of "Women for the Unification of Africa".

The political maturity of the African masses may to some extent be traced to economic and social patterns of traditional times. Under communalism, for example, all land and means of production belonged to the community. There was people's ownership. Labor was the need and habit of all. It is very important to know that humanity lived in communalism for at least 90% of the time that it has been on earth.

During communalism women played a leading role in the society. There was a division of labor that developed in which for the most part men hunted and the women gathered in order to provide food for the collective." History teaches us that the class or social group that plays the principal role in social production and performs the main functions in production must, in the course of time, inevitably take control of that production. There was a time, under the matriarchal, when women were regarded as the controllers of production. Why was this? Because under the kind of production then prevailing, primitive agriculture, women played the principal role in production, they performed the main functions, while the men roamed the forests in quest of game. Then came the time, under the patriarchal, when the predominant position in production passed to men. Why did this change take place? Because under the kind of production prevailing at that time, stock-breeding, in which the principal instruments of production were the spear, the lasso, and the bow and arrow, the principal role was played by men." It was from the gathering that women learned that some of the plants could heal certain illnesses and thus women became the first doctors. It was women who discovered that you could start putting the seeds of the plants in the ground

and from that process grow crops. It was women who discovered agriculture. It was women who figured out the relationship between having sex and a baby being produced some nine months later. Women were the first and primary teachers of both the boys and girls in the society. Women were responsible for organizing the collective.

It was when private property emerged, and as communalism gave way to slavery and feudalism, that the exploitation of humanity and women began. The overthrow of mother-right was the world historical defeat of the female sex. The man took command in the home also; the woman was degraded and reduced to servitude, she became the slave of his lust and a mere instrument for the production of children. Individualism and tendencies to private ownership grew while communalism disintegrated and the collective spirit declined. The increase of production in all branches—cattle raising, agriculture, domestic handicrafts—gave human labor-power the capacity to produce a larger product than was necessary for its maintenance.... It was now desirable to bring in new labor forces. War provided them; prisoners of war were turned into slaves. With its increase of the productivity of labor, and therefore of wealth, and its extension of the field of production, came the first great social division. From the first great social division of labor arose the first great cleavage of society into two classes; masters and slaves, exploiters and exploited.

It is important to note that this is what happened among our own people. This was thousands of years before we came in contact with other races of people. It was this contradiction among ourselves that weakened us so that we could be taken advantage by other people. We think that it is important to go over this history because one of our biggest weaknesses to this day is the oppression of African women by African men.

When we look at our organizations today, we would find that African women are not recognized as playing a leadership role in our main organizations; even though women have played a key role in every significant struggle that we have ever had. This is a clear manifestation of the oppression of women. The exception to this rule has been when women have formed women's organizations. And just as there is a hatred of women; there is a hatred of women's organizations.

Let's not get confused. We are in no way against our men. True Women's Emancipation can only be attained in the struggle of the whole people against exploitation of any kind. A liberation struggle cannot be afraid to talk about the weaknesses among the people. Our brother Amilcar Cabral used to tell us, "Tell no lies, and claim no easy victories".

One of the biggest crimes related to oppression and exploitation is that it has a negative effect on the consciousness of the person that is being oppressed and exploited. Women are the primary educators of both the boys and girls of our nation. What bigger crime as a nation can we commit against ourselves than to exploit the primary educators

of our nation and affect her consciousness in a negative way and therefore affect our whole nation's consciousness in a negative way?

Everyone who loves Africa and African people must demand and insist that our sisters be recognized for the leadership that they have always displayed. Every organization that has a future will have women leadership and the organizations that insist on our sisters not playing a key leadership role will fade away and die. In traditional Africa women represented life, as Africans we know that anything that is anti-woman represents backwardness, evil, and death.

We are building an African Women's Movement for the sole purpose of the liberation of our people and humanity. We know that there is a difference between what is dominant and fading away versus what is very small and coming into being, and in time will be dominant. The organizations that have women and youth as leadership in them are the ones that are small but coming into being and in the future will dominate; the organizations that do not have women and youth in the leadership are the ones that are dying no matter how dominate they may seem now. African Women's and youth movements represent the life, forward thinking, and love of the people. Those who come to be the most conscious and most grateful will acknowledge that it was women who were their primary educators, and leaders. Women will develop as leaders in the women and youth movements and use their skills to organize the bigger liberation struggle. It's in these movements that women and youth leadership will not only be welcomed but insisted on because these movements must represent the most conscious of our people. We chose women because we chose life. We chose women because we know our history and we know the positive history that we have had when women were clearly in leadership positions. The African women's movement will be dynamic. Women's leadership will not be fought against but to the contrary fought for. We ask our women to be full of confidence and come to understand our history because knowing the true history of women in our struggle, makes us no other way but full of confidence.

For more information: [forafricanwomen@att.net](mailto:forafricanwomen@att.net) or 510-701-7548

We welcome you to come to solve our own problems by joining the movement, join the AFRICAN WOMEN'S CHARITY ORGANIZATION and WOMEN FOR THE UNIFICATION OF AFRICA