



**VIRTUAL DIALOGUE ON
PROMOTING REPARATIVE JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA
IN COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025**

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

PREAMBLE

We, the participants of the International Women's Day 2025 Virtual Dialogue, convened by the Africa Leadership Foundation (ALF) through its Centre for Gender Equality and Research (ALF CGER), gathered on March 26, 2025, to discuss under the theme ***"Promoting Reparative Justice for Women and Girls in Africa"*** in alignment with the African Union's 2025 Theme: *"Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations"*.

The dialogue brought together 90 participants from 22 countries, including gender advocates, policymakers, researchers, and civil society leaders from across the five (5) regions of Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The engagement focused on the historical and systemic injustices that continue to impact African women and girls, underscoring the critical role of reparative justice in addressing these inequalities and realising *"The Africa We Want"*.

We **recall the foundational efforts** of African leaders and activists in advancing the continent's reparations movement, including frameworks such as the 1993 Abuja Proclamation, the 2001 Durban Declaration, and the Accra Declaration on Reparations and Racial Healing; and **honour the legacy of pioneers** like Chief MKO Abiola, who was among the first African leaders to champion reparations for the continent.

We **affirm** that African women have never been passive victims but resilient agents of change, leading movements for justice, equality, and liberation across generations and **recognise the critical role of women's leadership** in shaping Africa's future.

We **stand in solidarity with women and girls** who continue to experience the consequences of historical and contemporary injustices. We emphasise that justice is not only about redressing past wrongs but also about eliminating the conditions that sustain gender-based violence, economic marginalisation, and structural discrimination.

We **celebrate the adoption** of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG) as a landmark step toward strengthening the legal and policy environment to eliminate gender-based violence (GBV) and advance the rights of African women and girls.

We **affirm** that the AU CEVAWG, when fully implemented, will provide essential legal protections, rebuild trust, restore dignity, and reshape societal structures to better support women and girls.

We **recognise** that violence against women and girls is rooted in power dynamics and manifests in both overt and covert forms, from workplace harassment to extreme violations such as femicide and intimate partner violence and; we acknowledge that addressing these requires multi-level interventions, including survivor-centred approaches, engaging men as allies, and institutional reforms to dismantle harmful norms and systemic inequalities

We **call for an inclusive, intentional, and holistic approach** to reparative justice that is deeply rooted in decolonial feminist principles and driven by the voices and experiences of African women and girls.

To guarantee justice and meaningful reparations for African women and girls, we urge the African Union and its Member States, development partners and civil society to prioritise the following actions:

African Union and its Member States

1. **Immediate ratification** of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (CEVAWG) by Member States and using it as a framework to redress and eliminate gender-related injustices across the continent
2. **Organise national dialogues** on reparative justice, develop roadmaps to address internal historical injustice perpetuated against their citizens, and ensure national policies around reparative justice are gender sensitive.
3. **Develop a diplomatic and advocacy agenda** at international platforms such as the United Nations that will push for recognition, admission, and formal apologies for historical injustices against African women and people of African descent, ensuring that reparations go beyond financial compensation to a holistic and transformative approach.
4. **Develop a protocol that protects Member States** from external agencies and entities from perpetuating further injustice around their mineral resources and natural endowment, including their human resources.

5. **Deploy existing legal and policy frameworks** to interrogate the structural drivers of gender inequality and gender-based injustices, particularly those rooted in colonial legacies and institutions that uphold them.
6. **Reform national education curricula** to promote positive social norms that uphold gender equality and elevate indigenous knowledge and historically accurate narratives.

The Pan-African Parliament

7. **Convene a Special Session** on Reparative Justice and collaborate with national parliaments to provide the necessary legislative leadership for addressing historical and structural injustices.
8. Take a unified stance in **advocating for the deconstruction of global financial systems**, including reforming the IMF, repealing punitive tax systems, and illicit financial flow regulations coming from corporate corruption
9. **Establish oversight mechanisms to track reparative justice initiatives** and collaborate with CSOs and WROs to ensure grassroots-driven solutions.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

10. **Lead the charge** alongside the African Union in holding global institutions accountable for their historical contributions to injustices against African women and communities.
11. **Work closely with the National Government** to ensure national dialogues on reparative justice and the development and effective implementation of the Country's roadmap to address internal historical injustice perpetuated against their citizens, especially women and girls.

As participants of this convening, we urge the African Union, national governments, regional bodies, civil society organisations, and development partners to take immediate action to implement the above recommendations. Achieving justice and reparations for African women and girls is not only a moral obligation but a prerequisite for The Africa We Want.

Africa Leadership Foundation (ALF)

March 26, 2025