

# AFRICAN CULTURAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE ON ENDING HARMFUL TRADITIONAL GENDER-BASED PRACTICES

Harmonizing Cultures and Investing in Peace,  
Justice, & Stronger Cultural Institutions





# AFRICAN CULTURAL LEADERS CONFERENCE



Harmful traditional sexual and gender-based practices are universal and prevalent across cultures.

Culturally, Violence Against Women is those acts that are explicitly justified or condoned through misuse of cultural, religious, or traditional beliefs, values, and practices that are meant to impose patriarchal control over women and girls. There are, for example, Early Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilations (FGM), and limitations of Women's development and advancement due to customs and traditional beliefs. Many of these culturally sanctioned practices are meant to subjugate women.

African Queens & Cultural Leaders Network, The African Royal Kingdoms (The ARK), and African Views Organization (AQWCLN– The ARK - AV) are the organizers of the African cultural leaders' conference on ending harmful traditional sexual and gender-based practices in observance of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 65) 2021, scheduled to take place on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2 PM Ghana Time.

Topics of discussion will include ensuring the following

- Role of Women in High-level Decision-Making leadership positions (if women can be president and prime ministers, why can't the queen rule in kingdoms)
- Removing traditional impediments of women repression such as Early child marriages,
- Zero Tolerance Female Genital mutilations, breast pressing, inheritance rights, and other harmful practices.
- Reimagining the role, choice, and potential of Women's contribution in modern traditional societies

Traditional rulers representing all the Six African regions will discuss eradicating harmful traditional practices in the communities.



# AFRICAN CULTURAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE ON ENDING HARMFUL TRADITIONAL GENDER-BASED PRACTICES

Featuring: His Royal Majesty King Adedapo Adeen Aderemi, Convenor General of the African Royal Kingdoms

Featuring: Her Royal Highness Queen Sylvia Nnaginda, 'The Nnabagereka' (Queen) of the ancient kingdom of Buganda

Host: Her Royal Highness (HRH) Nanahemaa Adjoa Awindor, the Ghanaian television host, Development Queenmother of Afigya-Kwabre Community, Ashanti Kingdom



Featuring: Her Excellency Yelzoi Naa Hajia Hawa Salifu, cultural leaders, and Traditional rulers representing all the Six regions of the African World

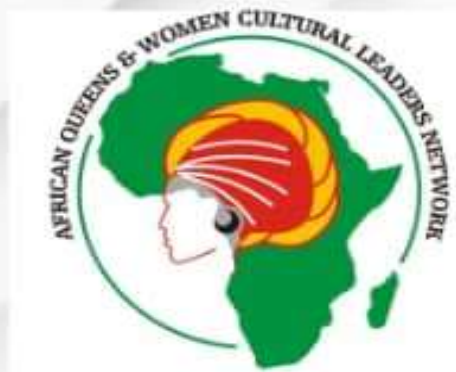


**CSW65**  
Commission on the Status of Women

**“BEYOND CSW65”**



# AFRICAN CULTURAL LEADERS CONFERENCE



## African Cultural Leaders' Conference on **ENDING HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Date: Wednesday 28th April 2021. Time: 2.00pm (GMT)



**CSW65**  
Commission on the Status of Women

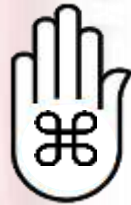
# “BEYOND CSW65”

# THE KINGDOM OF ASHANTI



## **HRH NANAHEMAA ADJOA AWINDOR** **Development Queen-mother of Afigya-Kwabre Community in Ashanti**

Nana Adwoa Awindor is the Development Queen mother of Afigya-Kwabre district in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. In 2013, she was elected the First President of the Continental Executive Board of the African Queens and Women Cultural Leaders Network. She is a member of the Unity and Advocacy Queens Ghana (AQWCLN Ghana)



Nana Adwoa Awindor is the host of the award-winning TV show titled Greetings from Abroad/Back Home Again and the CEO of a Premier Productions company. She holds several other traditional titles and a prominent figure among Ghana cultural elites.

As the Executive Director of OBAAPA Development Foundation (ODF), Nanahemaa Awindor has coordinated various Projects and Programs. For the past 5 years ODF have partnered with over 20 Traditional Councils across Ghana to run the OBAAPA Women's Day Celebration Program at Ghanaian Festivals. ODF's Flagship project, the Teenage Mothers Back To School Project (TMBTSP) has enrolled 70 young mother drop-outs back to the classroom. The project aims to enroll up to 1000 Teenage mothers Back to School within the next 10 years.

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# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



## DR. ROBERT MPOYO

Dr. Robert Mpooyo is a resourceful, result oriented non-profit program administrator and executive secretary with extensive experience in French, English and Swahili speaking Africa. In-depth understanding of issues facing developing countries, providing expertise to organization-wide program units and to stakeholder agencies and partners. Skillful at generating resources and funding, negotiating program agreements, and mediation. Recognized as an authentic, effective communicator who employs a value-driven, team-oriented leadership approach to deliver results. Particularly committed to building the capacity of impoverished and marginalized people to achieve sustainable development including health, education and foods security and sovereignty.

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# THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS



## **CHENZIRA DAVIS-KAHINA**

(Sr. Dr. Chen)

ChenziRa Davis-Kahina is a cultural griot artist, educator, ordained priestess, and visionary. She is the founder and managing director of Per Ankh M Smai Tawi—an international NGO/NPO and spiritual society promoting Culture, Healing, Arts, and Spirituality. Davis-Kahina is the founding director of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center.



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# THE KINGDOM OF IDO OSUN



## **HRM KING ADEEN ADEDAPO ADEREMI** (The Alayemore Of Ido Osun)

HRM King Adedapo Aderemi is the 46th traditional Ruler of the ancient kingdom of Ido Osun in the Yoruba land of Osun State in Nigeria. The title bestowed is the Oba Alayemore of Ido Osun. The King is also the Convenor General of the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) / Conseil des Autorites Traditionnelles, D'Afrique (CONATA). King Adedapo Aderemi is also the Secretary General of the National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria. Prime among his duties as King is a passionate vision to empower women and see that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is achieved by 2030 in Africa. It was his vision that shaped the COTLA/CONATA as the main platform where Traditional and Cultural Leaders can more constructively engage and contribute at AU and the UN, regional, national and local levels to move towards the attainment of Africa's development, human rights and respect for girls' and women's rights with progressive cultural values.

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# THE KINGDOM OF IBADAN



## **NANA DR. WALE IDRIS AJIBADE**

**Nana Ankobiahene of Dwenase**



Dr. Nana Wale Idris Ajibade is the Executive Director of African Views organization.. He comes from the Royal heritage of Ibadanland, and several chieftains of Eko. He was made Nana Ankobiahene of Dwenase in Ghana for his work and contribution towards African development and devotion to cultural heritage, as well as harmony between cultures. He is the visionary and the progenitor of the African Royal Kingdoms.

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# THE KINGDOM OF BUGANDA



## **HER ROYAL HIGHNESS SYLVIA NAGGINDA,** The Nnabagereka (Queen) of Buganda Kingdom

Her Royal Highness the Nnabagereka of Buganda, who is the Queen consort of Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, the King of Buganda, is a transformational leader and an ardent advocate of human development rooted in cultural values. Her Royal Highness is the first Queen in the history of the kingdom, to establish an office in Bulange, the seat of the Kingdom of Buganda, to compliment the ongoing development work of the kingdom, and of the Government of Uganda.

Through the Nnabagereka Development Foundation, which she founded in 2000, she has been able to do charitable work for children, the youth, and women in education, health care, community development, and initiatives that advance good cultural values and practice for sustainable development. She is an icon who is highly regarded in society for her leadership and is renowned as a champion for mobilizing, sensitizing and empowering girls and boys including children with disabilities, the youth, and women, and for advancing Obuntubulamu as a strategic approach in all Foundation programmes and projects, that empowers individuals to reclaim their cultural heritage and encourages the use of cultural values as a tool for human development.

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## NIYI OJUOLAPE

Niyi Ojuolape is the UNFPA resident representative in Ghana since July 2017. He has mainstreamed youth issues, zero gender-based violence and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), as core strands of the organisation.

As the UNFPA Country Representative in Ghana, he initiated several youth-centric and gender-inclusive programmes. Ojuolape is a member of the Advisory Board of the Coalition of People against Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices (CoPASH), a joint initiative of the Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Samira Bawumia and UNFPA Ghana. He has leveraged on the relevant public institutions like the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) and Faith-Based Organizations to increase awareness about GBV in Ghana and build capacity for improved response.

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# THE UNITED KINGDOM COMMONWEALTH

## **DR. ROGER OPPONG KORANTENG**

**Adviser and Head, Public Sector Governance, Governance and Peace Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK**

He established a successful and vibrant Association of Governance Institutions in Commonwealth Africa to promote interagency collaboration and learning through the sharing of experiences and best practices.

Recipient of the Prestigious UN International Governance and Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (Innovation) 2018



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# THE KINGDOM OF BECHUANALAND



## PROFESSOR SHEILA TLOU

Prof. Sheila Tlou is Co-Chair of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and Co-Chair of Nursing Now Global Campaign. She is former UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern/Southern Africa, former Minister of Health of Botswana, and former Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development in Primary Health Care. She has received over thirty awards, among them Botswana Presidential Order of Honor, Princess Srinagarindra Award from Thailand, Christiane Reimann Award from ICN, and Princess Muna Al Hussein Award. She is United Nations Eminent Person for Women, Girls, and HIV/AIDS. Prof. Tlou has a PhD in Nursing from University of Illinois at Chicago and has many publications on Human rights and HIV/AIDS.

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# THE KINGDOM OF MADAGASCAR



## **S.A.R PRINCESSE ZOENDRENINY ELAKOVELO ETSIOSA TSIMBAZHANE**

Présidente Fondatrice Nationale de la Fédération des Communautés Royales et Traditionnelles De Madagascar (FCRTM).

Descendant of King ETSIOSA BAHARY of Maroseragna Mahafaly Reign in the four Kingdoms of South West Madagascar such as: MENARANDRA, LINTA, SAKATOVO is ONILAHY but the oldest is the Kingship of Menarandra; He was a former governor of colonial times in the part Southwest is a King who reigned with great wisdom and intelligence for a long time in the Mahafaly Plateau; an exemplary King throughout his life because he loved his neighbor so much by tirelessly seeking alternatives so that his could live in peace, security, health and social comfort. A loved, adored, revered King is familiar to his people through his actions as a benefactor.



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# DAGOMBA TRADITIONAL AREA



## **YELZOL NAA HAJIA HAWA SALIFU** (Female Chief and Paramount Queenmother of Zabzugu)

Yelzol-Naa Hajia Hawa Salifu. Female Chief and Paramount Queenmother of Zabzugu, Dagomba Traditional Council, Northern Region, Ghana.

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# TINTO MBU COMMUNITY



## **HIS MAJESTY DR. TANYI ROBINSON**

(King of Tinto Mbu)

His Majesty Dr. Tanyi Robinson is the Traditional leader and King of Tinto Mbu in Manyu Division in the Southwest Region of Cameroon. He doubles as the De facto Secretary General of the Southwest Chiefs. He is equally the Secretary General of the Council of African Traditional and Native Authorities including Kings and Monarchs from Africa with Head Office in Benin. Dr King Tanyi Robinson, Secretary General of RECTRAD, the Network of Traditional Leaders for the Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Central Africa. He is also the indigenous African leader and President of the African indigenous Governance Council with H/Q in South Africa.



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# KINGDOM OF TUNISIA



## **PROFESSOR BOUALI ABDALLAH ELMARZOUGUI**

**Coordinator of North Africa (FORUM DES SOVEREIGNS AND  
TRADITIONAL LEADERS FROM AFRICA)**

Professor Bouali is a trained Mechanical engineer, specializing in solar energy. He is a human right advocate, representative and coordination of Northern African royal Kingdoms. He is also the Editorial Director of "Lisen El Arab"

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# CONTRALESA



## **HIS ROYAL HERITAGE ZOLANI MKIVA OF BOLOTWA VILLAGE IN DUTYWA**

His Royal Heritage (HRH), Zolani Mkiva is General-Secretary of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (CONTRALESA), he was elected unopposed in December 2017. For more than 15 years prior to his overwhelming election as General-Secretary he has served in the National Executive Committee (NEC) of CONTRALESA occupying senior leadership positions, including Head of the Presidency, National Executive Director and National Organizer respectively. Zolani Mkiva is also the President and Director-General of the Institute of African Royalty (IAR), a continental body that coordinates initiatives of African Traditional and Cultural Leaders. Zolani Mkiva is also the reigning Chief Executive Officer of the Xhosa Royal Council which looks after the interests of his majesty King Xolilizwe Sigcawu and the entire Xhosa Royal Family and Poet Laureate in South Africa.

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# DIMBELEGE KASAÏ



## HRH QUEEN DIAMBI KABATUSUILA

Diambi Kabatusuila was crowned as the ruler of the Bena Tshiyamba People of Bakwa Indu of Central Kasai Region part of the ancient Luba Empire in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She holds the Title of Diambi Mukalenga Mukaji Wa Nkashama Wa Bakwa Luntu (Queen of the Order of the Leopard of the Bakwa Luntu People. She is also the Grande Mãe do Povo Bantu Brasileiro. Also the -Queen of the African Descendants of Brazil.

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# AFLAO TRADITIONAL AREA



## **HON. MAMMA ABLA DZIFA GOMASHIE**

**Development Queenmother of Aflao Traditional Area (Protocol)**

Honorable Abla Dzifa Gomashie is a veteran Actress, Producer, Writer, Poet, Entrepreneur, and politician. She has served as the Former Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Creative Arts. She is currently a Member of the Parliament of Ghana, representing Ketu South in the Volta Region.

She is the founder of Values for Life (VFL-GHANA). This non-governmental organization provides various social services improving children, Youth, and Women in Ghana. She has Produced, Directed, and Narrated many Ghanaian Television cultural Programs, such as 'By The Fireside. She serves as the Country Representative for the Continental African Queens and Women Cultural Leaders Network (AQWCLN), Ghana.

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# THE KINGDOM OF TORO



## **QUEEN BEST KEMIGISA** (Queen Mother of the Toro Kingdom)

Queen Best Kemigisa is the Queen Mother of the Toro Kingdom, based in Fort Portal, Uganda. She is mother to Rukirabasajja Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, the reigning Omukama of Toro. Queen Queenmother of Toro Kingdom in Uganda, Board Member of AQWCLN Continental and Exec. Member of COTLA

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# MOGHAMO COMMUNITY



## **HRH JENNET KEM**

**Queen Mother of the Moghamo  
Community in Cameroon**

Queen Mother of Guzang Fondom of the Moghamo People, North West Region, Cameroon. Representative in the Republic of Burundi and Member of AQWCLN. Manager, Africa UNiTE Campaign to end violence against women and girls

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# THE KINGDOM OF BALOBEDU



## **RAIN QUEEN VII MASALANABO II**

(Modjadji of Balobedu)

The name Modjadji or Rain Queen refers to a line of queens of the Balobedu (Limpopo province, South Africa) known for their ability to control clouds and rainfall. The girl child that was the result of this union became the first in a long line of Lovedu Rain Queens, known by the ceremonial name of Mudjadji (or Modjadji), which literally means 'ruler-of-the-day'.

The Lobedu or Balobedu (also known as the BaLodzwi or Bathobolo) are a southern African ethnic group within the Sotho-Tswana people group. They were initially known as Bakwebo (wild pigs). The name "bolobedu" means place of tribute, go loba/lobela. Hence Balobedu are people who receive tribute from others. They have their own kingdom, the Balobedu Kingdom, within the Limpopo Province of South Africa with a female ruler, the Rain Queen Modjadji.

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# COMMUNITY OF BOMAA DWENASE



## **HRH NANA ANIMA AHWNEPE** (Queenmother of Dwenase)

Nana Anima Ahwnepe ascended the throne and take the responsibilities after the passing of her mother, Nana Adoma Kyerekua. She is enstooled as the chief Nana Afari Tiekua II. The elders, and the entire Asona Ebusua of Bomaa Dwenase have given their blessings that all shall go smoothly by the grace of God almighty. May the universe support her and may she be successful in fulfilling her traditional duties and promises to the people.

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# THANK YOU

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**MEDAASE**