



**STORIES FROM THE FEMINIST AWARENESS
TRAINING ON CLIMATE JUSTICE.**

We are pleased to share reflections and stories emerging from the series of Feminist Climate Justice sessions convened in Tanzania. These gatherings have created a much-needed space to engage deeply on the intersection of climate justice, gender, and feminism, while also integrating the essential elements of wellness and movement building

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFT-T) and Dada Mary Rusimbi from Nendiwe Wellness Centre for their visionary leadership in opening pathways for these conversations. Their tireless commitment has paved the way for actors across different movements to meet, reflect, and organize around this pivotal intersection.

So far, through three powerful sessions, we have witnessed how the intersections of climate change, gender justice, and feminist organizing are not only visible but urgent. Participants from across Tanzania have shared experiences, strategies, and dreams for a just future—grounded in care, solidarity, and sustainability. The enthusiasm and engagement continue to grow, demonstrating that this work is both timely and necessary

As we continue the journey, we hope these stories will inspire others to listen, learn, and act together towards regenerative and feminist climate futures. With gratitude's, Maria Matui, Convenor Feminist Climate Justice Movement - Tanzania.

1. MS. ROSE NJILO

Background: Ms. Rose is a proud Maasai woman who has faced significant hurdles related to sexual violence and domestic abuse within her community. She was married at just 13 years old and endured years of violence from her husband, which left her feeling trapped due to cultural prohibitions against women fleeing their marriages.

Her Story: In her brave journey, Ms. Rose recounted a life-threatening experience when she attempted to escape her abusive situation with her child. They came face-to-face with a lion in the wild, forcing her to return home. This encounter became a metaphor for her life facing constant dangers while yearning for freedom. Over time, she began to recognize the patterns of violence and oppression not only in her life but also in the lives of other women in her community.

With the support of **Women Action Towards Economic Development (WATED)**, Rose learned vital skills in advocacy and economic empowerment, allowing her to become a beacon of hope for women around her. WATED has increased her knowledge of wellness sessions and leadership, providing her with the resources to uplift herself and others.

Inspired by her experiences, Rose joined forces with other women who were enduring similar struggles. They initiated collective action, raising awareness and advocating for their rights. Her proactive efforts culminated in the establishment of **MIMUTIE**, an organization dedicated to empowering women through education and advocacy.

Through her leadership, Rose has played a pivotal role in nurturing female leadership for the first time in the Maasai community of Ngoro Ngoro. Furthermore, the **Gender Climate Change Tanzania Coalition (GCCTC)** Movement has enriched her organization by focusing on climate change and its impact on women, enabling her to advocate for sustainable solutions that address both gender equity and environmental issues.

Additionally, Rose has benefited from the trainings provided by the Feminist School of Leadership and Climate Change at Nendiwe School of Feminist Movement. These trainings have bolstered her confidence and equipped her with the necessary tools to lead effectively in her community. The skills and knowledge gained through these sessions have empowered her to create impactful programs that not only aim to end violence against women but also tackle issues related to climate change affecting Maasai women. As feminists, we celebrate Rose's achievements, recognizing them as significant milestones for feminist movements in the region. Her journey stands as a testament to the power of resilience and collective action in the pursuit of social justice.



Ms. Rose Njilo with other Masai women



Ms. Rose Njilo being recognized as an advocate for Maasai women

2. MARIETA MNAZI FROM IFAKARA

Background: Marieta is a grassroots organizer representing the Ifakara Women and Children Organization (IWCO), working with women farmers in Ifakara to promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Story: Marieta highlighted the devastating impact of climate change on women, particularly in crisis situations such as floods and landslides, where men often flee, leaving women and children behind to face the consequences. She emphasized the urgent need for women to take a leading role in climate resilience efforts. Marieta called on the government and development stakeholders to prioritize funding for organizations providing education on climate change, as well as to raise awareness within communities about its effects and necessary actions to mitigate them. By empowering women through education, Marieta aims to foster community understanding and response to climate change, ultimately improving food security and women's economic independence.



Ms. Marieta Mnazi on Success Stories and Challenges



One of the beneficiaries from Ifakara

3. MS. SOPHIA DONALD: A Woman Bringing Change in Gender and Climate Change.

Background: Ms. Sophia is a passionate advocate for gender and climate issues in Ukerewe, Tanzania. As a member of the Gender and Climate Change Tanzania Coalition, she focuses on influencing local government policies to address the unique challenges faced by women in the fishing community as climate change threatens their livelihoods.

Story: Ms. Sophia has witnessed the devastating effects of climate change on the local lake ecosystem, contributing to a projected 7.7% reduction in fish catches and a 10.4% decline in fishing revenues by 2050, according to FAO (2021). The drop in fish populations and the extinction of species like catfish have placed immense pressure on women, who are often left vulnerable to exploitation when their husbands seek better catches on distant islands. This crisis heightens the difficulties faced by women who depend on fishing for their livelihoods.

After attending several feminist and leadership sessions sponsored by WFT-T and conducted by the Nendiwe Centre in collaboration with the Feminist Movement for Climate Change, Sophia realized the importance of empowering women to participate in decision-making bodies so their voices could be heard.

Ms. Sophia, in partnership with Ukerewe local government leaders, initiated a process to enact bi-laws that protect women. These include the 2023 Bi-law on the prevention of Violence against Women and Children and the 2023 Environmental Health and Sanitation Bi-law.

Furthermore, Sophia collaborated with the community development department to establish a Women's Movement at the district level. The goal of this movement was to promote gender equality. Through the movement, women were empowered to address climate change and participate in the leadership process.

One of the major achievements was the election of a woman as the village chairperson of a local government 2024 named Leokadia Magesa. This woman was the secretary of the women movement. Sophia believes that including women in decision-making bodies can mitigate the effects of climate change. She emphasizes that many women are affected by these changes because they depend on resources such as water, land, and forests in their daily lives.

Sophia concludes by saying that in 2025, “we plan to further strengthen the capacity of the movement to amplify the voices of marginalized women, especially those involved in fishing”.



Ms. Sophia Donald delivered her speech



Empowered women of Ukerewe, beneficiaries of Sauti ya Wanawake project, united for a brighter future.



Women of Ukerewe Island gather in the spirit of unity, as they skillfully cooking, under the rising sun of a new day

4. MS. ASHA OMAR KHAMIS FROM PEMBA

Background: Ms. Asha Omar Khamis is a dedicated advocate for gender equality and climate action in Pemba, Tanzania. As the Executive Director of JUMAWEAPE (Development Association for Education for Children), she tirelessly promotes initiatives addressing the unique challenges that women face due to climate change.

Story: Asha's journey toward advocacy began with a partnership with WATED that enabled her to conduct critical research on gender and climate change. This collaboration opened her eyes to the harsh realities women face in this context; while climate change affects everyone, women often bear the brunt of its impacts. This realization ignited her commitment to mobilize local communities and engage governments in addressing these pressing issues.

With the knowledge and resources gained through her partnership with WATED, Asha led her team to develop a comprehensive policy framework that integrated climate change considerations with women's needs. They launched several community training programs, empowering locals with essential skills in gender and environmental sustainability. Although limited financial resources initially hampered broader implementation, the groundwork laid by these trainings proved invaluable.

Asha's transformative experience at the Feminist School of Leadership equipped her with knowledge on the significance of community mobilization and the art of amplifying marginalized voices. She became acutely aware of the necessity to educate

women about gender and climate change, equipping them with tools for resilience and adaptation.

Recognizing the financial barriers women encountered in securing loans for agriculture—a critical element for adapting to climate challenges Asha devised a targeted plan within JUMAWEAPE to facilitate women's access to financial resources. This initiative promotes sustainable farming practices, ensuring not only current livelihoods but also a better future for generations to come.

Through her relentless advocacy rooted in WATED's support and her ongoing education, Asha has fostered resilience within her community. She remains a vocal advocate for WATED, emphasizing the essential need for continued resources and education, particularly for women, children, and individuals with disabilities. Asha's vision is clear: to build a thriving, sustainable community grounded in gender equality. She firmly believes that the fight for gender equity in the context of climate change is essential to forging a brighter, more equitable future for all.



Ms. Asha during WATED meeting, fostered collaboration and advocating for women's resilience in the face of climate change challenges.

Ms. Asha Omar Khamis with valued partners, championing gender equality and climate action during her impactful visit in Pemba

5. MS. JUDICA LOSAI

Background: Ms. Judica Losai is a seasoned activist with over 30 years of experience in communication and documentary production. Initially starting as a Telecommunications Engineer at the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC), she transitioned into environmental journalism after receiving extensive training from local and international organizations.

Her Story: Ms. Judica Losai is a dedicated environmental advocate who has harnessed media as a powerful tool for climate education. Her journey in environmental reporting includes attending four COP sessions (12th, 15th, 18th, and 29th), sponsored by prominent institutions such as the World Bank, UNFCCC, CCMP, and WATED. The support from WATED has been pivotal in her development, offering resources and a network to amplify her voice on climate issues. Her contributions to climate

communication have earned her esteemed awards from MISA-TAN, UNFCCC, UNHCR, and CCMP.

Ms. Judica's involvement with the Gender Climate Change Tanzania Coalition (GCCTC) Movement has been key in shaping her advocacy efforts. This platform has allowed her to collaborate with various stakeholders, share experiences, and advocate for policy reforms that address the gendered impacts of climate change. Through this involvement, she has reinforced her commitment to promoting equal education and participation of both men and women in climate resilience efforts.

Additionally, Ms. Judica has benefited from training on feminist leadership and climate change at the Nendiwe School of Feminist Movement, deepening her understanding of the intersectionality between climate change and gender. These skills have empowered her to effectively engage in climate policy advocacy and community mobilization, further amplifying her impact.



Ms. Judica Losai: Championing climate education and gender equality through media and community initiatives.

6. MS. LAUREL JAMES KIVUYO.

Background; Ms,Laurel James Kivuyo is a Tanzanian feminist climate activist and founder of Climate Hub Tanzania, a youth-women-led organization empowering women and young people in environmental action. Passionate about climate justice, she advocates for gender-responsive policies, eco-friendly entrepreneurship, and community resilience, shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Ms. Judica Losai

Story; Growing up in Tanzania, Ms, Lauren Kivuyo witnessed how climate change disproportionately affected women and girls in her community. Environmental challenges like deforestation, water scarcity, and extreme weather deepened gender inequalities, making daily life more difficult for women. These experiences ignited her passion for climate justice, ensuring that women are at the forefront of shaping solutions. The support from WATED has been instrumental in Lauren's journey, providing her with the resources and network to amplify her voice on climate issues. WATED's support has enabled her to engage in climate policy advocacy, community mobilization, and feminist

leadership, further strengthening her commitment to promoting women's leadership in climate action.

Lauren's involvement with the Gender Climate Change Tanzania Coalition (GCCT) Movement has also been critical in shaping her advocacy. The movement has provided a platform for her to engage with other stakeholders, share experiences, and push for policy reforms that address the gendered impacts of climate change. Her participation in the movement has further strengthened her commitment to ensuring equal education and participation of both men and women in climate resilience efforts.

Furthermore, Lauren has benefited from trainings on feminist school of leadership and climate change organized at Nendiwe School of Feminist Movement. These trainings have enhanced her understanding of the intersectionality of climate change and gender, enabling her to develop more effective strategies for promoting women's leadership in climate action. The trainings have also equipped her with the skills to engage in climate policy advocacy and community mobilization, further amplifying her impact.

She founded Climate Hub Tanzania, a youth-women-led organization empowering women and young people to take leadership in environmental action. Through various initiatives, the organization has trained hundreds of young women in climate policy advocacy and eco-friendly entrepreneurship, particularly in briquette-making from recycled materials, offering financial independence while combating deforestation. Climate Hub Tanzania has also mobilized communities to plant thousands of trees, provided climate education to schools, and advocated for gender-responsive climate policies at both national and global levels.

Despite systemic barriers, Lauren has continued her advocacy, challenging patriarchal norms and ensuring women's voices are heard. She has participated in global climate negotiations at COP27 and COP28, amplifying the voices of women most affected by the climate crisis.

For Lauren, feminism and climate justice are inseparable. She believes empowering women leads to stronger, climate-resilient communities. Her journey is far from over, but every barrier broken brings her closer to a just and sustainable future.



Ms. Laurel Kivuyo joins forces with her dedicated colleagues to plant trees and foster a sustainable community



Growing a greener future, one tree at a time! ✨ Ms. Laurel Kivuyo dedicates her time to nurturing the environment with her hands-on approach to tree planting.

7. MS. DORIS ALFRED.

Background; Ms. Doris Alfred is an entrepreneur from Majohe Ward, Kerezange Street, is well known for selling porridge and snacks in various community spots at her area. she discovered Sauti ya Jamii due to their work with children, which resonated with her past role as a school club leader. Now, as a mentor, she teaches children cooking skills and life lessons, including self-awareness and mutual respect.

Her Story; Ms. Doris at first didn't see the link between climate change, environmental degradation, and gender-based violence. She thought climate change was a natural phenomenon, beyond human control. However, after attending seminars hosted by experts from TRIDO and Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), Doris realized how deforestation, charcoal production, and poor waste management contribute to climate change and disproportionately affect women and children.

Motivated by this new understanding, Doris made a change in her own business practices. She stopped using traditional charcoal and firewood, opting instead to produce alternative charcoal. This shift has saved her between 90,000 and 120,000 Tanzanian shillings per month. Doris also shared her knowledge with 34 other women in her community, teaching them how to make alternative charcoal, so they no longer have to buy it.

By reducing charcoal consumption, Doris and her community help preserve trees and mitigate the effects of climate-related issues like drought and food scarcity. This also reduces the dangerous labor of collecting firewood, which exposes women and girls to risks. Doris believes this project will continue empowering women, improving their lives, and narrowing the gender leadership gap in her community.



Pictures showing Ms. Doris Alfred an entrepreneur with the home-made alternative charcoal



Pictures showing Ms. Doris Alfred an entrepreneur with the home made alternative charcoal

8. MR. HUMPHREY MREMA

Background: Mr. Humphrey Mrema represents the Youth Survival Organization (YSO Tanzania) and participated in a transformative series of workshops on feminist climate justice at the Nendiwe Training Center in May 2024. These sessions brought together passionate stakeholders, activists, and experts to embed feminist perspectives into climate action strategies. They served not only as a platform for dialogue but also as a crucible for ideas that would shape YSO's advocacy and community outreach efforts.

His Story: As a consultant who co-authored the coalition's baseline study on climate justice, Humphrey encountered diverse perspectives on the challenges and opportunities within this space. The workshops enriched his understanding of how feminism intersects with environmental justice, highlighting the voices of marginalized groups, especially women disproportionately affected by climate change. Listening to stakeholders discuss feminist advocacy in climate justice reinforced the necessity of inclusive solutions.

After the workshops, Humphrey mobilized YSO's network of over 150 members through a series of engagements, kicking off with interactive webinars designed to share the lessons learned. These online sessions covered feminist perspectives on climate adaptation and practical ways to integrate these insights into local projects. The enthusiasm from young members was inspiring and underscored the need for continued dialogue.

YSO held a Pre-COP29 National Youth Forum in Dar es Salaam on November 1, 2024. This vibrant gathering featured youth perspectives on climate issues, including an insightful panel with Madam Maria Matui, a trailblazer in feminist leadership for climate action. Her powerful narrative resonated with the young audience and emphasized the importance of gender-responsive solutions.

Recognizing the role of media in shaping climate narratives, YSO extended its efforts to the Media4Climate Initiative, convening and training a dynamic cohort of young media professionals since March 2024. This initiative educated them on reporting climate policies while encouraging gender perspectives in their stories, resulting in

impactful media content that raised awareness about the intersection of feminism and climate justice across Tanzania.

YSO's journey did not stop there. As a consultant, Humphrey shared insights from the coalition's baseline study, which highlighted localized climate challenges and feminist solutions, during various stakeholder meetings. The study has since become a foundational guide for climate justice advocacy in Tanzania following its adoption in October 2024.

From hearing firsthand about the struggles of Maasai pastoralist women facing resource conflicts due to climate change to understanding the challenges faced by women-led conservation efforts in Pangani, YSO's mission has evolved. The organization is now more committed than ever to elevating feminist voices in climate justice initiatives. This journey has been one of learning, sharing, and transforming. As they forge ahead, YSO remains a beacon for youth-driven advocacy, pushing for a just and inclusive climate future where everyone, regardless of gender, can thrive.



Mr. Humphrey Mrema Delivering his speech at Nendiwe wellness center



Mr. Humphrey Mrema Delivering his speech at Nendiwe wellness center



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