



Special points of interest:

- * **Launch of AkiDwA strategic Plan**
- * **Seminars In Limerick and Waterford**
- * **Launch of Ireland's third National Action Plan on Women Peace & Security**
- * **IDEAL training course**
- * **Google helps us take action against online racism and abuse**
- * **Mobile phone filmmaking**

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Migrant Women Na hÉireann launch our election Manifesto



In May AkiDwA teamed up with migrant women from groups across Ireland to launch an election manifesto that voiced our needs to all candidates.

The Migrant Women Na hÉireann Manifesto drew attention to the many challenges that migrant women face in accessing work, housing, edu-

cation and healthcare, two weeks before Ireland went to the polls.

We highlighted issues around language and gender based violence. We celebrated when migrant women did better in the 2019 local elections than ever before, with six women from diverse ethnic backgrounds elected to local councils in Dublin, Longford, Limerick and Meath. Full report online: <http://akidwa.ie/youre-elected-the-five-migrant-women-who-won-council-seats/>

AkiDwA launches our strategic plan *Shaping the Future*

In March AkiDwA launched our strategic plan for the future at the Irish Human Rights Commission in Dublin. The plan outlines our priorities for improving the representation of migrant women; promoting integration and equality and helping migrant communities to develop, while also developing AkiDwA as an organisation. At the launch, from left to right were AkiDwA Chair Ashimedu Okwonko, Head of Operations & Strategy, Salome Mbugua; Una Ní Dhubhghaill, Principal Officer at the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration and AkiDwA Board member Paola Maggiorotto.





We used art to talk about the trauma of FGM

2019 has been a busy year for AkiDwA

To mark Zero Tolerance Day for Female Genital Mutilation in February, AkiDwA partnered with the Cork Sexual Violence Centre to mount an exhibition of paintings at Trinity College Dublin. Artist Eve Coleman was inspired by the bravery of survivors who have found the courage to speak out against FGM. The exhibition highlighted how FGM is linked to inequality and injustice and built solidarity with survivors. **In June** we marked World Refugee Day with an Intercultural Celebration near our office in Dublin, from which our local community radio station Near FM broadcast a live interview with our founder Salome Mbugua.

AkiDwA is working on plans to celebrate the International Decade for People of African Descent in Ireland



**INTERNATIONAL
DECade FOR PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN
DESCENT**
2015 - 2024

AkiDwA has been working on plans to mark the International Decade celebrating People of African Descent (**IDPAD**) in Ireland since 2017, with partners such as The Africa Centre, The African Students Association of Ireland (asaionline.org) and other Afro-centric cultural organisations. Plans for **IDPAD** emerged in 2001 at the third World Conference Against Racism, with the adoption of the Durban Declaration. This highlighted how the people of Africa had been victimized by slavery and called on states to take specific steps to promote greater knowledge of and respect for diverse cultures in Africa and to combat racism and xenophobia.

IDPAD Celebrations are taking place around the world

from 2015 to 2024. Our challenge in Ireland is to make our celebrations appropriate and special. AkiDwA went to a public meeting in Dublin in May to hear ideas on how Ireland can celebrate the contributions made to society by people of African heritage, whether they are descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade or more recent migrants.

“Local authorities have a huge role to play if we are to achieve meaningful integration”-

Salome Mbugua

Seminars in Limerick and Waterford provided space for us to discuss integration and mental health services with local

In May AkiDwA held a seminar in Limerick where we focused on migrant women's mental health and the many stresses that can affect us. We brought together service providers and NGOs like Doras Luimní and Limerick City Council to explore the topic and we held discussions with the women of Limerick and beyond.

We also used the opportunity to launch our strategic plan (2019-2021) Shaping the Future, which aims to amplify the voices of migrant women across Irish society.

In June we launched our plan at Waterford City Hall and used the opportunity to discuss migrant women's integration in the south east area with frontline service providers such as Waterford City and County Council and Waterford and South Tipperary Youth Service.



AkiDwA trains young migrant women as video journalists

During June and July members of AkiDwA's Young Migrant Women Group took part in a series of workshops to help them develop journalism skills.

They learned how to record and edit high quality videos and how to share films on social media. They are planning to show their work at an exhibition later this year.

Our Google seminar tackled online racism and abuse

In March AkiDwA hosted a seminar on online racism and gender discrimination at Google Docks in Dublin. It was an opportunity for AkiDwA to reveal the results of our research into the racism and abuse that migrant women in Ireland have experienced online. When AkiDwA asked migrant women in Ireland, 83% said they'd had experience of online abuse. The seminar provoked lively discussion and we got tips from Google on how to report abuse on social media sites like Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and on how to stay safe

IDEAL project spurs debate between migrant women

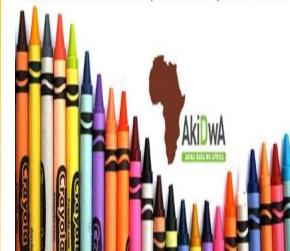
Over four weeks this summer AkiDwA IDEAL project sparked dialogue between a group of migrant women about migrant engagement in society, authority and leadership.

The IDEAL Project aims to empower young migrant women by helping them to develop key management and decision making skills and by exposing them to decision making situations they might face if they were involved in local residents groups, social clubs or school organizations.

ONLINE RACISM & GENDER DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN SEMINAR

MARCH 21, 2019
9:30 AM - 2 PM

GOOGLE DOCKS, BARROW ST,
GRAND CANAL DOCK, DUBLIN 4, D04 V4X7



*AkiDwA
research
found that*

*83% of
migrant
women in
Ireland had
experienced
online abuse*

AkiDwA is pleased to confirm that our organisation now complies with the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable (CVC) Sector organisations operating in Ireland.

Compliance involved AkiDwA's Board examining all aspects of how AkiDwA operates, in order to ensure that all our policies and procedures conform to best practice and guidance available. Following a rigorous assessment process, our compliance has been certified until April 2021.





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AkiDwA is short for **Akina Dada Wa Africa**, a Swahili phrase that means sisterhood.

AkiDwA is a charity that was started in Dublin in 1999 to support, represent and advocate on behalf of all migrant women living in Ireland.

AkiDwA works for the advancement and integration of migrant women of every socio-economic status and of all ethnicities and religions. For two decades AkiDwA has been working with government departments and other state bodies to review legislation and create policies that improve life in Ireland for migrant women and their families.

Upcoming AkiDwA Events

- * AkiDwA Health Fair September 13th
- * Brain Gain Ireland October
- * FGM Conference November
- * AkiDwA AGM December

Putting women at the very heart of policy



AkiDwA has been hard at work for the past nine months helping to develop Ireland's third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which aims to put women at the heart of all policymaking by the Irish government. In September 2018, Salome Mbugua was appointed by the Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney to chair meetings of the working group charged with developing the plan. The Department of Foreign Affairs Conflict Resolution Unit produced the plan, which was launched in Cork by Mr Coveney in June.



Meet the new AkiDwA Team

From right to left: Shamsun Nahar Chowdhury, Development Officer; Salome Mbugua, Head of Operations and Strategy; Nevenka Fernandez, Accountant; Nenette Bouithy, Women Support Officer; Shan Kelly, Communications Officer; Annie Waithira Burke, Administrator & Young Migrant Women Leader; Katie Walker, Policy and Research Officer