



TUWEZESHE AKINA DADA [Spotlight] LEADERSHIP & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2021



The *TuWezeshe Akina Dada*, is an international program which seeks to nurture a generation of young women from FGM-affected communities [Fellows] into effective leaders in the campaign against FGM. The TuWezeshe Fellowship incorporates a bespoke leadership training for women from FGM-affected communities aged 18-30 who have a keen interest in FGM advocacy and are based in Europe.

During this training, participants are engaged in concepts of self-awareness, power theories, and effective project management after which, Fellows are equipped with the skills needed and a grant to implement their own social action project.

TuWezeshe Fellows benefit from a mentoring relationship with a woman-leader with expertise in FGM-advocacy who supports them in the realisation of their social action group research project. From lobbying policy makers, building new networks and working with local communities; TuWezeshe understands that the fight for women's rights is collective and multidisciplinary. This is reflected in the growing network of TuWezeshe Fellows and Mentors both in the EU, the UK and in Africa.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

The Fellowship will commence with a virtual or face to face (depending on the COVID-19 situation) leadership training in Brussel (Belgium). Participants will study and engage in key concepts which are essential to effective leadership within SGBV advocacy. The training includes:

- Introduction to power theories, personal agency and spaces of influence;
- The art of self-care;
- Feminist theories;
- Sexual and reproductive health rights;
- Effective leadership - communication change strategies and public speaking;
- Grant and project proposals
- Risk management and stakeholder maintenance;
- Monitoring and evaluation within project planning and implementation;



After successfully completing the leadership training, Fellows will be expected to design a social action **advocacy project** and will receive a **seed grant** to pursue and implement a **Social Action Project**. Projects should fall within at least one these five thematic areas under the overall theme of **'ending FGM'**:

- Community Mobilisation
- Youth Outreach
- Policy Advocacy
- Social Media Advocacy
- Creative and Performance Arts

Past projects have included: *Street Harassment: Nairobi Style*– Documentary set in Kenya (UK Fellow), *Sisterhood Group* – Young Women's Empowerment Group (Uganda Fellow) and *20 Chapters of Woman* – a Photo Exhibition (UK Fellow). Throughout the Fellowship, Fellows will have exclusive opportunities to attend a range of high-profile conferences, facilitate skills sessions and participate in global advocacy campaigns.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Participants will be paired to a mentor who will support and guide them throughout the year-long Fellowship. Fellows and Mentors will be partnered based on interests and experience. Previous TuWezeshe Mentors have come from varying backgrounds and professional experiences including government staff, barristers, NGO professionals, art curators and journalists. The rich network of mentors ensures that TuWezeshe Fellows gain first-hand experience and unique insights into the work currently being done at the forefront of SGBV activism.

IMPORTANT:

Please note that the *TuWezeshe Akina Dada* 'Accelerating African-led FGM Change Makers' is being implemented in partnership with the following organisations: Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), England, Akili Dada (Kenya), Think Young women (the Gambia) and End FGM European Network (Belgium).

This programme is funded by the UNFPA Spotlight Programme.

You must apply for the fellowship through the organisation implementing it in your country or through End FGM European Network for all EU residents.