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# NEWSLETTER



## Power in Partnership, Strength in Action

Across Liberia, the feminist movement is proving that when we come together with clarity of purpose, we can shift not only conversations but systems. In recent months, the Feminist Coalition has deepened its commitment to building a society where equity, justice, and inclusion are not ideals to strive for, but realities we live every day.

Our work has spanned from grassroots communities to the halls of policy-making, reminding us that transformative change requires both local voices and national influence. From intergenerational dialogues that bridge decades of feminist experience, to leadership trainings that inspire personal transformation, to policy sessions that equip lawmakers with the tools to budget for justice our collective impact is growing.

We are centering the voices of the marginalized, strengthening accountability within our own structures, and insisting that every decision, law, and budget in Liberia reflects a gender lens. This is the power of partnership. This is the strength of a coalition that knows change does not happen by accident it is built, step by step, together. As we look ahead, our resolve is stronger than ever: to keep organizing, keep advocating, and keep leading until gender equality is no longer a vision, but a lived truth for all.

## ● Feminists Then & Now: Bridging Generations, Building Power

In April 2025, Sisters 4 Sisters Liberia and the Feminist Coalition hosted a two-day “Intergenerational Voices of Feminists: Then & Now” gathering at I-Campus, bringing together activists of all ages, LGBTQI+ advocates, women with disabilities, and grassroots leaders from four counties.

The event fostered honest dialogue on bridging generational gaps, advancing mentorship, and ensuring deliberate inclusion of marginalized voices, while promoting self-care in activism. Participants committed to strengthening solidarity and pursuing reforms in reproductive justice, anti-discrimination laws, and survivor support systems, leaving with a renewed, united vision for a more inclusive and intersectional feminist movement in Liberia.



## Leading with Purpose: Feminist Leadership Training Transforms Perspectives

In a powerful step toward strengthening feminist leadership across Liberia, the Liberia Feminist Forum (LFF) hosted a five-day Feminist Leadership Training for members of the Feminist Coalition. Held at the Liberia Learning Centre, each coalition organization sent three representatives to immerse themselves in sessions exploring feminist values, movement-building strategies, and the principles of inclusive leadership. A highlight of the week was the final day's self-care session at D Calabash, where participants engaged in guided meditation led by a trainer from Medica Liberia reminding everyone that sustainable activism begins with personal well-being.

From the very first day, it was clear the training would be transformative. A pre-training survey revealed that 22.7% of participants did not identify with the feminist movement. By the end of the program, that number had dropped to zero, with "Yes" responses rising from 68.2% to 81%, and the remaining shifting from "No" to "Maybe." The shift reflected not just increased understanding, but a deeper personal connection to feminist values. Participants left with renewed confidence, stronger networks, and practical tools to integrate feminist leadership into their work.



*"I came here unsure about what feminism meant for me. I'm leaving knowing it's at the heart of the change I want to see"*



### From Strategy to Sustainability: Coalition Review & Financial Training Strengthens Unity

In June 2025, the Feminist Coalition gathered for a two-day Review and Financial Training that blended reflection, strategic planning, and practical skills-building. Day 1 opened with warm welcomes from Medica Liberia's Country Director, Yah V. Parwon, and Project Manager, Fenny Taylor-Diggs, who set the tone for honest dialogue and collaborative problem-solving. Coalition members reviewed progress, assessed strategic gaps, and agreed on a unified advocacy focus women's political participation with SGBV financing and FGM as sub-priorities. The day's discussions tackled operational challenges, including budget constraints, policy misunderstandings, and the need for stronger communication systems. Concrete commitments emerged, such as creating a centralized Google Drive for shared resources and designating clear communication focal points in each organization.

Day 2 shifted focus to financial empowerment, with a full-day training led by a finance consultant on BMZ donor compliance, budgeting, procurement, and reporting. Members explored Medica Liberia's internal financial systems and received step-by-step guidance for fiscal sponsors on transparent procurement processes. The training was highly interactive, addressing common documentation gaps and equipping members with templates and tools to strengthen their financial management. By the close of the workshop, participants left with not only sharper advocacy goals but also the financial skills to sustain them reinforcing that a strong feminist movement needs both bold vision and sound accountability to thrive.



## Ending the Silence: Grassroots Activism Leads the Charge in Margibi

In a bold display of community-driven activism, the Radical Young Women Movement (RAYWOM) convened 44 participants in Margibi County for a powerful dialogue centered on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The session, grounded in prior community consultations, brought together survivors, local leaders, youth, and civil society actors to confront the root causes of GBV and FGM head-on. Survivor-led storytelling anchored the space, creating moments of healing while sparking urgent calls for change.

What emerged was a unified grassroots agenda: push for budget reforms that prioritize survivor support, expand public awareness campaigns, and mobilize men, traditional leaders, and religious institutions as active allies in the fight against harmful practices. By centering lived experiences and inclusive participation, the Margibi dialogue didn't just raise awareness it reignited a local movement. The commitment to survivor-centered, community-rooted advocacy signaled a growing force for change in Liberia's fight against GBV and FGM.





### Shaping Policy for Equality: Lawmakers Embrace Feminist Budgeting and Legal Reform

When WONGOSOL brought together a cross-section of policymakers, lawmakers, and government agencies for an intensive training on feminist policy analysis and gender-responsive budgeting, the impact was immediate. Around the table sat decision-makers from key ministries, the Legislature, law enforcement, and the Commission on Persons with Disabilities leaders with the power to shape how laws are written, budgets are allocated, and policies are enforced.

What began as a knowledge-building exercise quickly evolved into a space for accountability and action. A deep dive into Liberia's SGBV Crisis Budget revealed alarming funding gaps for gender-based violence prevention and response. This sparked public commitments from members of the Women Legislative Caucus to address the shortfall during the next budget recast. Participants gained new insight into international legal tools like the Maputo Protocol and CEDAW, explored the human rights and health consequences of FGM, and confronted disparities in existing laws, such as paternity leave.

They left not only with the skills to conduct gender-sensitive budgeting but also with a renewed determination to apply a gender lens to every policy decision. The training strengthened alliances between government and the Feminist Coalition, setting the stage for more equitable laws, inclusive budgets, and a stronger national commitment to gender justice.



### The Work Continues

As we wrap up this edition, we celebrate the collective strength and determination that fuel the Feminist Coalition's work. From grassroots engagements to high-level policy dialogues, every effort is a building block toward a Liberia grounded in equality, justice, and inclusion. These stories reflect more than activities they reflect the courage, persistence, and vision of those who refuse to accept inequality as the status quo.

Our movement thrives because of the diversity within it. Each member organization brings unique skills, experiences, and perspectives, yet we unite under one shared mission: to amplify marginalized voices, dismantle discriminatory systems, and create lasting change. This unity is our greatest resource allowing us to address immediate challenges while steadily building the frameworks that will sustain the struggle for gender justice over the long term.

The road ahead will demand even more collaboration, creativity, and resilience. We know the work is far from over, but with every dialogue held, every law influenced, and every mind changed, we move closer to our vision of a Liberia where every woman, girl, and gender-diverse person can live free, thrive, and lead. The journey continues and we walk it together.



### Feminist Voices on the Airwaves

Three members of the Feminist Coalition took to the airwaves on OK FM, using the platform to engage the public on the coalition's goals, progress, and vision for advancing gender equality in Liberia. The conversation not only amplified the coalition's collective work but also shined a spotlight on the unique contributions of each member organization.

By sharing updates, clarifying priorities, and responding to listeners' questions, the broadcast built greater awareness and strengthened public connection to the movement. It was a powerful reminder that media engagement is not just about visibility it's about creating dialogue, building trust, and inspiring collective action.

