

AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN) – GHANA STATEMENT ON AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

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On the occasion of African Women's Day 2025, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) – Ghana Chapter proudly joins women across the continent and the diaspora in celebrating the enduring strength, resilience, and leadership of African women. The 2025 theme, "*Rooted in Greatness: Celebrating Women of African Descent*," invites us to reflect not only on our rich heritage but also on the extraordinary contributions of African women past and present in shaping our societies.

In 2024, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Ghana Chapter marked the Day with a Maiden Awards Ceremony under the theme "One Vision, Many Voices: Celebrating our Gender Champions,". The event aimed to recognise and celebrate outstanding gender champions and to reinforce the importance of gender diversity and inclusion, and to strengthen the network of individuals and organisations committed to advancing women's leadership. A total of 22 trailblazing individuals, both women and men, were recognized for their efforts in promoting gender equality and women's leadership in their disciplines.

This year's celebration is especially meaningful as it calls on all of us to honour the greatness deeply embedded in the African woman's identity. Whether in politics, education, agriculture, business, health, the arts, or community development, women of African descent continue to transform lives and redefine leadership in both visible and quiet ways. Their impact stretches across generations and borders, grounded in courage, dignity, and collective progress.

As a Network committed to advancing women's leadership, AWLN Ghana recognises both the victories and the unfinished work. While African women are rising, they continue to face unequal access to resources, underrepresentation in decision-making spaces, and systemic barriers to economic and social mobility. Ghana made history by electing her first female Vice President in the 2024 elections. However, the representation of women at all levels of decision-making remains very low.

AWLN Ghana, therefore, sees the African Women's Day as not just a ceremonial event. It is a catalyst for reflection, recommitment, and action. For women in Ghana, it affirms their rightful place in the country's development and aligns powerfully with the goals of the Affirmative Action Act, which seeks to create a just society where women and men participate equally in shaping the nation's future.

We therefore look forward to the full implementation of the Affirmative Action Act in the allocation of resources, appointments to all decision-making bodies to reflect gender balance in accordance with the law.

We expect private sector actors to promote workplace policies that support gender diversity and provide opportunities for women's advancement.

AWLN Ghana appeals to traditional and religious leaders to use their influence to challenge harmful norms and champion the value of women's leadership in communities.

We recognise the role of civil society and the media to keep the spotlight on progress, expose resistance or inaction, and continue amplifying the voices of women and girls.

AWLN Ghana remains committed to mobilising African women across generations and sectors to amplify our voice and deepen our impact. We will continue to work in solidarity with partners across the continent and beyond to ensure that the greatness we celebrate today becomes the foundation for an even greater tomorrow.

Let African Women's Day be more than a celebration. Let it be a turning point. Let it be a loud, unified call to action for justice, equity, and transformative leadership. The time to act is now. Ghana's development depends on it.

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