



AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK  
ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

# CALL OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM CREATIVES

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## Introduction

The African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) is seeking creative artists to produce products that champion the Feminist Debt Justice Initiative. AFRODAD is a Pan-African civil society organisation established in 1996 to advocate for debt cancellation and address debt related issues in Africa. Our mission is to contribute to Africa's inclusive growth and sustainable development by influencing policy change on debt management and development finance anchored on a rights-based approach.

## The Problem

[Public debt](#) and inflation are the highest in decades, affecting the livelihoods of African women and girls [disproportionately](#). Of the global approximate of 388 million women living in extreme poverty, 244 million are from [Sub-Saharan Africa](#). There are 22 African countries that are in debt distress or in high risk of debt distress. In many of these countries, governments are now prioritising debt servicing over the provision of public services most needed by women and girls. Furthermore, the debt crisis in Africa is forcing governments to introduce regressive tax policies aimed at generating revenues for paying creditors and not financing social services, such as, social protection, health, education, food, and energy subsidies.

Debt burdens are being transferred to household level. Women continue to bear the burden of unpaid care work, as publicly funded day care centres remain unavailable. In this way, women and girls subsidise austerity measures. Gender disparities are deeply entrenched in policies, institutional and legal practices, households, and social relations

## Background Information & Rationale

The creditor landscape has evolved significantly to include commercial bonds traded on international capital markets and loans from China. Rising interest rates and the Dollar appreciation are exacerbating debt service costs, leading many countries into [debt distress](#). Thus, the power of creditors is undermining the role of the state in providing the basic goods and services needed to reproduce our societies. It weakens government commitments to [women's rights](#) because public resources are used to repay foreign debt. Rising inflation, food and fuel prices drive up the cost of borrowing and living.

If borrowed and spent wisely, public debt could have a role to play in maximising the resources available to governments to advance women's rights. Currently, rising debt servicing means declining public services, disproportionately affecting women. Women's experience of debt are shaped by multiple forms of oppression and discrimination. Understanding the political economy of debt from a feminist perspective will challenge economic orthodoxy to deliver the alternative policies needed for debt justice. The power of creditors in setting the rules needs to be challenged. Women's voices and perspectives have for long been marginalised in debt-related decision-making processes and spaces. To humanise public debt, it should not be discussed in financial abstraction. Rather, the debt discussion



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needs to be located in the material realities of African women and girls. Among other things, meaningful participation of African women in shaping debt policies and recognition and valuing of unpaid care work. It is time for Debt justice to become a lived reality for women and girls in Africa.

The Feminist Debt justice seeks to challenge the patriarchal dimension that has dominated the narrative on Africa's transformation.

### **Key Themes**

- Effect of unsustainable public debt on girls and women.
- The burden of unpaid care work and domestic work on girls and women
- Unequal opportunities for education, employment, running business or for leadership including political seats.
- The political economy of debt from a feminist perspective
- Challenge the patriarchal dimension that has dominated the narrative on Africa's transformation.
- Alternative policies needed for feminist debt justice.
- Maximising the resources available to governments to advance girls and women's rights.

### **Creative Products**

- Poetry
- Drawing
- Illustration
- Animation
- Skits

### **How to Express Interest**

Send a one-page write up on the type of creativity that you focus on. Include a quotation for your services. The subject should include your area of expertise i.e Expression of Interest- Poetry.

Email: [recruitment@afrodad.org](mailto:recruitment@afrodad.org) by 28 February 2025. Late submissions will not be considered.