



GENDER FORUM BRIEF

TITLE: BRIDGING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH INNOVATION

Date: Tuesday, 12th March 2019

Venue: Alliance Francaise.

Time: 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

ENTRY FREE

Synopsis:

Gender innovation can be defined as innovations specifically targeted at addressing the roots of gender inequality. Gender inequality is a global phenomenon; different methods have been applied to address the diverse forms of gender inequalities in the world over. Decades of implementations have still not seen an end to gender inequalities more so on gender- based violence and sexual reproductive health related concerns. There is need to fast-track gender equality around the world, we need to shift these trajectories, upend existing dynamics, and pursue game changing interventions.

One thing we know for sure is that science, technology, and innovation are advancing rapidly. The quest for gender equality and the diverse methods applied to realize gender equality cannot be sufficient without employing science, technology and innovation and in particular social innovation. Bringing together the techniques of social innovation and new insights on realizing gender equality offers a potent way to address long-standing inequality. There is learning and development on offer for all parties in doing so. Social innovation that doesn't understand how gender shapes all areas of life won't achieve its full potential. Similarly, gender equality actors can learn from the exciting conjunctions, processes, and tools of social innovation to accelerate their vision for equality. The work of drawing the two together has already begun and is picking up speed; now is the time to make sure this work is linked together to make gender innovation mainstream.

Innovation is widely recognized as a catalyst and accelerator of desired sustainable development outcomes, use of innovation to realize gender equality, can be an indispensable, crosscutting approach, that when integrated with gender related social work could help address the gender inequality question. It then becomes crucial to address the nexus of gender equality and innovation¹.

In line with the 2019 theme for the international women's day, 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change' Heinrich Boll Stiftung in the month of March will host a

gender forum that will showcase some of the innovations that have been developed to specifically challenge gender inequalities and realize gender rights by addressing some of the root causes to the various violations. The forum will also provide a platform for candid conversation on the place of innovation in realizing gender equality.

The gender forum will be two parts; a panel conversation on the above discussion points and a presentation by developers on innovations that help realize gender rights.

Key discussion points:

- How can social innovation ideas and methods be better harnessed to advance gender equality?
- How can we ensure that gender related social innovations achieve transformational change?
- What are the challenges to integrating gender equality and innovation?
- What can help facilitate a sustained collaboration and co-creation across sectors to leverage a diverse set of stakeholders to advance gender equality?

Discussion Panel:

The discussion panel comprises of:

- Mageda Esolyo (TICAH)
- Antonia Musunga (Gender Expert)
- Joshua Ayuo (CREAW)

Innovation showcase

- Deaf eLimu Plus
- Imara TV
- Sophie Bot
- Janjaruka
- Jump Arena
- Aunty Jane

About the Gender Forum: The Gender Forum is a monthly public dialogue convened by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung since 2001, encouraging dialogue on pertinent national issues with a gendered lens. It brings together scholars, lawmakers and implementers, civil activists, government institutions, students and the general public, aiming at sharing knowledge and inspiring gendered analysis of policy and programmes.

Twitter: @HBSNairobi #genderforum

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¹ International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA), Towards Bridging Gender Equality & Innovation



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
EAST & HORN OF AFRICA

Gender Forum

Perspectives on Gender Equality

The Green Political Foundation

PROGRAMME: 12 th March 2019	
BRIDGING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH INNOVATION	
Time	Session
4.00 - 4.30 pm	Arrival and Registration
4.30 – 4.40 pm	Opening Remarks: Ulf Terlinden , Director, Heinrich Boll Stiftung
4.40 –6.00 pm	Panel Dialogue : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mageda Esolyo (TICAH)• Antonia Musunga (Gender Expert)• Joshua Ayuo (CREAW) Innovation showcase <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deaf eLimu Plus• Imara TV• Sophie Bot• Janjaruka• Jump Arena
6.00-6.30 pm	Plenary and Panel responses
6.30 pm	Closing Remarks : Caroline Kioko , Gender Democracy Programme Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Tea and Coffee

Join the discussion live on Twitter and Facebook

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Note: The photographs/video taken during the forum may be used in print, on the web, on film, and/or in archived form to promote and raise awareness of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, its offices abroad, and its affiliates in all German states

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