



INTERSECTIONALITY – WHAT IT MEANS FOR ENWAD AS A WOMEN ´S ORGANISATION & OUR APPROACH:

Gender, Women, Race, Disability, Identity, Religion, Culture, Social class, Sexual orientation, Education, and oppression. All of these intersects. "Intersectionality is a framework for understanding the way that the multiple aspects of our identities intersect, influence one another, and compound to create unique experiences." – statement by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw

Racism, Sexism, Classism, Colonialism, Heteroecism and Ableism – they are linked to oppression in form or the other. And they can not be solved with a single issue or by one group. We need to fight and tackle them in an holistic manner.

At our network: "**European Network of Women of African Descent – ENWAD**, we fight for social justice, inclusion and gender equality through an intersectional approach. We empower **PAD women, black Muslim women and young people of African Descent.**

We advocate to bring women as equal partners to men in all aspects of society. For us, we are fighting to gain recognition and to get a seat on the table. Women are rarely treated as equal political partners when it comes to social and economic policies. We are fighting to change this.

The reality of being black, a woman and Muslim at the same time can be a daily struggle. We often suffer from **triple discrimination.**

Media coverage on Women:

The BLM movement has been an eye opener when it comes to how the mainstream media treat men vs women on the same and/or similar issues. E.g. the death of George Floyd received far more media coverage than that of Brianna Taylor.

Black, Muslim women are socially excluded. They are normally not asked, invited, or seen as key stakeholders in policy making. They do not feel belonged.

If we are serious about intersectionality this needs to change. The feeling of belonging to a society that you were born in but constantly rejects you is a daily reality for **black women, black Muslim women and young girls of African descent.** ENWAD is working to change the way black women with a special focus on Black Muslim Women and Young People.

Here is a write up by our young women ´s coordinator: Fatou Diaby Dansoko ´s:

FROM A SPANISH AFRICAN DESCENT - PERSPECTIVE

Intersectionality is meant to bring together human diversity in a community. For instance, black people, LGBTQ, women, and other minorities are struggling daily with discrimination, verbal and sometimes physical abuse, not only by the individuals against them but also by the government's oppressed system. These groups have to justify themselves about their acts, their beliefs, their way of living to

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those who do not understand them and want to impose their ideology on everybody. In other words, if you do not follow the standards established by certain companies, politicians, or the majority of people, you will be treated differently and derogatory.

To avoid these exceptional people to fit in society, some countries had created laws and regulations that force the individuals to give up on their essence.

As a black Muslim woman born in Spain, I witnessed and experienced racism, xenophobia (although I am Spanish), and islamophobia.

How am I putting into practice this theory? Depending on the area, you figure out how to practice it. The educational system is based on white supremacy. I have studied for 14 years in a semi-private school and I was the only afro-descendant in my group. White people have established an idea of superiority upon other races and if you follow their lifestyle, you are going with the flow. However, I have suffered bullying at school because I was black, also because of my afro hair, etc. Even searching for a job, I have had less opportunities and a lower salary because of my physical appearance.

Later on, I have decided to wear a hijab (headscarf), and again, I struggle with bullying and discrimination at high school but this time, I had a high level of self-esteem and I did not let anybody step on me. I have noticed that when you accept your multiple identities like your gender, race, and religion, you encourage other people to do so, and it favours the inclusivity in a community.

In a nutshell, intersectionality is applicable in your life to discover who you are, your different identities and then, you will be able to deal with the discrimination, racism and all types of abuse. So, embrace yourself.