

Action

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Inside

Claiming space creates lasting change.

Discover inspiring stories of women claiming their rights,
raising their voices and leading change in their communities.

Welcome to your latest edition of *Action*, where you'll discover inspiring stories of women creating change in their communities and beyond. Thanks to your support, ActionAid continues to stand alongside women and girls as they challenge inequality, strengthen their rights and build a more just future.

Inside, you'll meet women who are transforming their own experiences into collective action – campaigning for fair pay, protecting the environment, defending workers' rights and creating opportunities for future generations. You'll also see how ActionAid supporters across the UK are taking action in their own communities, amplifying the experiences of women and girls around the world.

Every story in these pages is a reminder that lasting change happens when people come together. Your solidarity helps make that possible, supporting women to lead change, influence decisions and create a fairer future for all.

Thank you for being part of that journey.

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ActionAid's **Feminist Collective** takes the Climate petition to local event

Our Feminist Collective is a national, activist community of volunteers dedicated to gender justice. In August, Collective members held a stall at the Carshalton EcoFair, a local fair



dedicated to the environment and sustainability. We brought our Climate Justice campaign to people's attention, asking them to sign our petition telling the UK Government to stop banks from funding fossil fuels that are fuelling the climate crisis. **Right now, we have nearly met our target of 20,000 signatures.**

Collective action is vital to holding decision makers to account and seeking climate justice.

Why is it important for us to publicly campaign?

Women and girls are facing the violent erosion of their rights as a result of deep-rooted inequalities.

Being part of the Collective isn't just about being heard in Parliament or on the global stage, it's about showing up in your own communities. We can all take action by starting conversations, challenging stereotypes and inviting others to be allies, championing equality and demanding lasting change.

Join women and girls across the world who are calling for climate justice. Get involved with the Feminist Collective and find out more.



Join the Feminist Collective today

actionaid.org.uk/collective





A **voice** that Nepal couldn't be ignored

How one woman's decision to speak up changed the lives of everyone around her.

For years, Bhaga (centre) believed life was simply meant to be this way. Paid less than men for the same work, facing harassment on construction sites and struggling to provide for her children, she had little choice but to keep going.

Yet today, Bhaga leads the fight for fair pay and safer working conditions in western Nepal.

Bhaga was just two years old when her father died. Her mother raised the family by working on other people's farms, leaving no opportunity for Bhaga to go to school. She married at 18, but when her husband left for India to find work, she was left to raise their young daughter on her own. Although he later returned, he eventually left again, stopping all financial support and leaving Bhaga to shoulder the responsibility of providing for her family.

With no qualifications and few opportunities, she became a daily wage labourer.

The work was demanding, unsafe and unsanitary, lacking basic facilities including toilets and clean drinking water.

Everything changed when Bhaga joined the Seti ReFLECT Circle that's supported by Equality Development Centre and ActionAid. ReFlect is a methodology called 'Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques.' It's used globally as a way to improve literacy and support local rights initiatives.



To every woman I say:
We are not weak. We are strong. We deserve fair wages, dignity and safe workplaces. Together, we can create change.

Bhaga

“Education helped us to see clearly,” she says. “We realised we were being served an injustice.”

Bhaga brought together 30 women to campaign for equal pay. They knocked on doors, met with contractors, organised street theatre performances and encouraged other women to speak up. **Their determination paid off: women across neighbouring communities began receiving the same wages as men. But they didn't stop there.**

Together, they demanded safer workplaces, clean drinking water, breastfeeding spaces, labour registration and insurance for workers. Their campaigning led to the creation of the Labour Monitoring Committee to ensure women were paid fairly and worked safely. When 30 women were denied their wages, the Committee took their case to the authorities and successfully recovered the money.

Today, Bhaga earns nearly nine times more than she did when she first began working as a labourer. She serves on local committees and the Labourers' Trade Union, continuing to campaign alongside women claiming their rights.

Thanks to your support, women like Bhaga are claiming space in their workplaces, their communities and creating lasting change for generations to come.



Young Urban Women's Movement

ActionAid Liberia brought 80 young women and girls together for a two-day workshop during the 16 Days of Activism.



Liberia

Liberia's women's right leaders and activists curated a workshop session for women and girls to gain knowledge, confidence and skills to advocate for themselves and lead change in their own communities.

Changemakers from across the country came together for two days of learning, discussion and connection with some of the country's leading women's right activists.

The workshops gave participants, some of which are pictured, the knowledge and confidence to become stronger advocates for themselves and their communities. Together, they explored topics including sexual and reproductive health and rights, staying safe online, and how women can organise and work together to create lasting change.

The first day featured an inspiring workshop by Naomi Tulay Solanke, Executive Director of the Community Health Care Initiative. She encouraged participants



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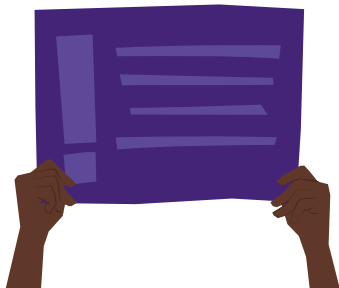


to explore what feminism means in urban communities and shared practical ways women can build collective power and lead change where they live.

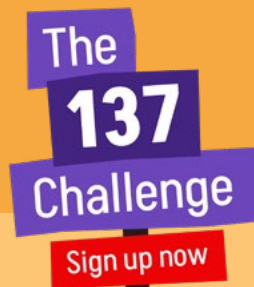
Madam Esther S. Davis Yango, Head of Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia, inspired participants to become leaders and advocates for change in their communities. She spoke about the importance of bringing people together and encouraged them to stand up for women and girls, challenge injustice and amplify the voices of people who are too often overlooked.

Her powerful reminder: as the legends of Liberia's women's movement age, the next generation must be prepared, skilled, and courageous enough to take up the mantle.

Madam Chikumbutso Ngosi from the Young Urban Women's PMovement at ActionAid International, brought the 2-day event to a close with reflective practices. The young women left more educated and knowledgeable about activism and ways to drive systemic change, sparking new perspectives and a renewed commitment to fearlessly advocate for women and girls' rights.



Step up for women's rights



This October, take part in The 137 Challenge and complete 137 step-ups, or another activity of your choice, every day and fundraise to help end violence against women and girls.

When: 1 – 31 October
Where: At home

Why 137?

One in three women will experience some form of violence in their lifetime, and globally 137 women are killed per day by a partner, family member or friend.

But across the world, women are driving change and challenging the systems and beliefs that make violence acceptable.

Join The 137 Challenge and step-up in solidarity with survivors of violence. Support women and girls who are leading the way towards a fairer and safer world.

Take part and you'll receive



A **calendar** to help you track your activity throughout October



A free 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' **tote bag** when you raise £137



Motivation from our 137 Challenge **Facebook community** where you'll feel supported by fellow participants.

Be part of the movement and help create change.
Sign up today at actionaid.org.uk/137



Ethical giving

Make a difference this festive season with meaningful gifts and cards for your loved ones.



Gift something memorable

Do you know someone whose values support equality, justice and peace? If so, browse our range of gifts for this festive season. Bring a smile to their face, knowing their gift represents solidarity with women and girls worldwide advocating for their rights.

£80



Essentials Kit

£45



Emergency Baby Kit

£17



Learning Lifeline

Visit actionaid.org.uk/gifts to explore our range of gifts

Limited edition festive cards

These are illustrated exclusively for ActionAid. All proceeds go towards our global work with women and girls.



£7.99
per pack
(packs of 5)

Visit actionaid.org.uk/festive-cards and choose from eight designs

Martina: The woman whose determination led to collective action

 Bolivia

One woman decided that silence would not be her destiny. And soon others followed.

Martina Santos Cervantes lives in Sucre, Bolivia, and since the age of 13 she was exposed to the realities of domestic work. She instinctively knew of the injustices domestic workers face and was not going to remain silent. Instead, she has dedicated her life to transforming the reality of thousands of women who, like her, have historically been made invisible behind the walls of someone else's home.

A movement of like-minded workers rooted in belonging and dignity came together.

Initially, there was no dedicated space for the women to meet, so it began in local parks and small squares. "We used to meet on Sundays, with permission, because we had to work on Sundays too," Martina recalls, revealing the difficulties women face.

In an environment where employers would say "We already give you a roof and food", the women knew that gratitude was no substitute for justice; their rights couldn't be sacrificed in exchange for a roof over their heads.

At first, taking action was an act of physical courage. Martina recalls marches where the police removed them by force. **"Some of us ended up in hospital and others fainted," she says, referring to the high cost of activism.**

One of the movement's greatest achievements occurred when Law 2450 was approved. It meant that a legal framework was put in place that guarantees social security and recognises domestic labour as work, not a favour. It also



We did not come only to serve; we came to claim our place in the world.

Martina



dignified a sector whose rights had been historically violated under the premise of receiving only food and shelter. **This law change is a testament to Martina's unwavering leadership and the commitment of the activists**

Systemic changes like this law are not just words on paper; the new law is the tool that enables all domestic workers to stop being called “girls” and become rights holders, consolidating unions and protecting themselves and each other. A model of dignity for the future.

Martina's ongoing activism has led her to join the Jaya Warmis – “spicy women” – a group of women human rights defenders who support one another, share knowledge and work together to create positive change in their communities.





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Will you support future generations?

Women have been taking action and fighting for their rights for decades. From South Africa to Malawi, Bangladesh to Brazil and Tanzania to Spain, women's rights activists, movements, organisations and allies are all advocating in solidarity for a fairer future.

Read more about these powerful changemakers and take action to be part of something bigger today.



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