



COMPILATION OF QUOTES



CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN 2.0

MARCH 2024

**CELEBRATING 52 EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN
PIONEERING DEVELOPMENT, AND MAKING AN
IMPACT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS WITHIN THE
GLOBAL DIASPORA / MIGRATION SPACE.**

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"Building networks becomes a crucial aspect of the migration experience, not only for professional advancement but also as a source of support and solidarity, affirming that the migrant woman is not alone in her aspirations and endeavors."



Ana Lucia Gutiérrez González,
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST,
CREATOR/PODCAST HOST

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"While some transitions during my travels have been challenging, they have been a great lesson in adaptability, patience, inclusion and the absolute need to support others, particularly women, in order to navigate these changes. Being proactive in voluntary and other social impact projects, networking, connecting with the locals and learning new languages has helped me feel ... included."



Pearl Kasujja - Van de Velde,
AUTHOR, EDITOR

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"When we are able to decode assumptions we have of ourselves and others, we have more impactful communication as women leaders. Inclusion is our personal journey through emotional intelligence so that we live a leadership lifestyle we can be proud of."





Monique Russell,
GLOBAL COMMUNICATION
SKILLS ADVISOR AND
EXECUTIVE COACH

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"If you want to see the heart of inclusive, look to the heart of a small child. Don't ever discount the value of our children and youth in contributing to the good of our world. The world simply needs to include them in on the conversation! Their ideas and contributions come straight from the heart and deserve a chance to be heard and recognized."





Liz (MamaLiz) Franklin,
INTERNATIONAL AUTHOR,
KEYNOTE SPEAKER,
INFLUENCER

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"Female migrants and refugees continuously exemplify strength and adaptability. This March and always, as we share news of progress and plans for more inclusivity, we also call for peace because fairness and justice are key to equality."



Nadine Loza,
FOUNDING DIRECTOR,
EGYPT DIASPORA
INITIATIVE

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"The most inspirational stories I have heard are from diasporic women. They have overcome numerous intersectional barriers, adapting to new environments, seizing opportunities, and embracing challenges. Their resilience is a testament to true empowerment and serves as inspiration for younger generations."

Larisa Lara, PhD
GLOBAL DIASPORA EXPERT
IOM HQ



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"Let's be intentional in building stronger, healthier, and positive relationships as women that fosters empowerment from the grassroots to the most qualified women. We remain the people that we are waiting for and the change that we want to see. The whole world is waiting for our full manifestation. Happy Women's Month."

Precious Nyaramba
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
VESSELS OF VIRTUE
ENTERPRISES, AUTHOR,
GLOBAL SPEAKER



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"Inclusivity and being present is important but it doesn't have to be all on you. You don't always have to be the strong one, the dynamic one, the driven one sometimes you can (need to) take time out and be the chilled one. This is difficult when you are in leadership but give yourself time to reflect and renew, and decide how you'd like to carry on so you enjoy and maintain the passion for what drives you."

Evina Quaison
DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT
SPECIALIST, ICMFD



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"It is always great to partner with and to learn from women in the diaspora. They are creative, dedicated, generous with their knowledge, and looking to make a difference. Investing in diaspora women, means investing in all this energy and knowledge that they have, all the communities they represent and the perspectives they bring."

Victoria Cápáti
CO-FOUNDER,
DIASPORA CONNECT



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"When I think of the Diaspora women I've met over the years, a few adjectives come to mind like determined, resourceful, and courageous. Still, what describes them best is humane and today, more than ever, we need them to show everyone what being humane truly is about."

Lorenza Lazzati
SPECIALIST:
DIASPORA, HERITAGE,
POST-DISASTER



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"When we embrace our stories and own our own narrative we share our true gift with world. No matter how the story played out. It's your story and your power."

Claudia Bruce - Quartey
CAREER COACH,
SPEAKER, AUTHOR



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"As the world power dynamics and economics contribute to change rapidly, immigrants typically have to learn to straddle realities and responsibilities, both home and in diaspora. As we celebrate IWD 2024, my charge to women in diaspora is to band together, exchange ideas, knowledge, connections so as to create safe spaces that promote circular prosperity and friendship. In summary, be your sister's keeper."

Mayowa Adekoge
GLOBAL MEDIA PERSONALITY, FOUNDER
OF ROAD TO SUCCESS SEMINAR



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"As a new mom, I've come to appreciate the crucial role of women inclusion and equality in the workplace. Diaspora women, through initiatives like the AOBU Business Mentors project, breathe new life into the careers of local women returning from maternity leave in Armenia. Witnessing this women-to-women support network is truly inspiring and fuels my belief in the power of investing in woman. Furthermore, the resilience and eagerness to learn displayed by these returning mothers, despite the demands of their everyday responsibilities and busy family schedules, never cease to amaze me."

Astine Bodeyan
DIASPORA - ARMENIA MENTORSHIP
PROGRAM'S COORDINATOR



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"In this era of global challenges, the imperative of community and unity shines ever brighter. Our world yearns for collaboration that surpasses barriers of ethnicity, religion, gender, and all other divides, especially as we celebrate International Women's Month."

Almaz Negash
CEO & FOUNDER,
AFRICAN DIASPORA
NETWORK



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"I look forward to the new era of connecting all the dots across sectors, partners, and geographies to tell the true story of migration - the one which empowers, creates real impact in families, societies and countries; and the one which will help us build the future together full of optimism and collaboration."

Marina Manke
CHIEF OF IOM GLOBAL
MIGRATION DATA
ANALYSIS CENTRE
(GMDAC)



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"The narrative that women are competitive and negative towards one another is a false one. We must continue to elevate the tenants of our sisterhood - empathy, compassion, love for humanity, shared resources, support and joy. When women are valued and safe, we are all valued and safe."

Kwamara Thompson
SOCIAL/ANGEL
ENTREPRENEUR, SPEAKER,
PHILANTHROPIST



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"We honour the extraordinary contributions and resilience of African diaspora women worldwide. Their stories are woven into the fabric of history, yet often overlooked. Let's amplify their voices, celebrate their achievements, and stand in solidarity as they break barriers and pave the way for future generations."

Advoca Aggemang
FOUNDER OF GHANAIAN
LONDONERS NETWORK,
AUTHOR, CONSULTANT,
DIASPORA AFFAIRS



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"Our responsibility is to the generation behind us. We have the responsibility to teach, instruct, pray, help and support them in their journey and in the use of all the resources available to them. In so doing we will train and prepare them to become great lifelong learners, leaders, and innovators. This is the most important social and economic investment we can make in our children's future."

Sonia Wignall,
CO-FOUNDER & BOARD CHAIR, DIASPORA GLOBAL FOUNDATION



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"As a proud representative of Diaspora women, I embrace the 2024 International Women's Day theme. We stand united, resilient, and determined to create a world where every woman's potential is recognised and celebrated. I am deeply committed to transforming challenges into opportunities and fostering an inclusive environment where every woman's voice is not just heard but celebrated, bringing us closer to a future of equality and shared success."

Stella Fubara,
GLOBAL BUSINESS LEADER, MARKETING, TOURISM & TRADE



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"The time is now to unleash your authentic selves as the divine feminine. I thank the women (and men) before me and the incredible humans today who surround me and help shape me as a powerful business leader. When women prosper, we all prosper."

Claire Alexander,
DIRECTOR, AFRICA SCOTLAND BUSINESS NETWORK



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"Empowering women isn't just a matter of fairness; it's a strategic imperative. Excluding half the world's population means halving our potential for success. Inclusion isn't just a moral imperative; it's a smart investment."

Maria-Noelle O. Nwokolo,
POLICY STRATEGIST, RESEARCHER & ADVISOR



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"No economy can reach its full potential where women do not have equal opportunities" The World Bank.
"It is in the best interest of every human to invest equally. Laura Aide"

Laura Aidé De La Fuente
PRESIDENT OF RGMX IRELAND, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, TRANSFORMATIONAL COACH



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"Introspection is a must, however, the role of looking beyond my circumstances rests with me. Only when I have allowed for external exploration can I truly see how all of me can work towards the change I want to see. The change that moves from connecting with the familiar and the not so familiar; to become comfortable with the uncomfortable. May we all truly recognise that there is space for everyone in this journey called development."

Mandy Previlla-Findlay
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR BEYOND IVANDA CIC



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"Today's society has a significant responsibility towards migrant women. We need to rectify the system that discriminates against them in the labour market. We must ensure investment in data collection to fully understand the diversity and unique experiences of migrating women at work, transforming the narrative and walking towards an equal and inclusive job market at all levels and sectors, from high-ranking migrant women to the most vulnerable groups."
#Not without us!
#Invest in Migrant Women: Accelerate progress."

Sandra Ruiz Moriana
MIGRATION & GENDER SPECIALIST



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"For me, International Women's Day symbolises a global celebration of women's achievements, progress, and a call for gender equality."

Salha Kaitesi,
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AT TEAKSI




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"Diaspora women's experiences, struggles, and triumphs often shape their communities' future. Let us invest in women, as we are the silent architects of change."

Vivian Ibeji,
PROJECT COORDINATOR, GLOBAL DIASPORA CONFEDERATION (GDC)




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"In a world marked by the brain drain of globalization, where developing countries often find themselves at a disadvantage, the women of the diaspora emerge as architects of change. Through their roles as direct investors, philanthropists, and social entrepreneurs, these remarkable women are not just reversing the brain drain—they are transforming it into a conduit of empowerment and development for their home countries."

Dr. Lovesun Parent,
GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADER (GENDER, O&V, DEIA, INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT)



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"Women artists from the diaspora bring a unique gift to the art world: they create artworks influenced by many cultures, diverse peoples, and landscapes, while simultaneously drawing from their own unique, complex individual stories. This is why, in my opinion, such art can resonate and touch the hearts of so many people."

Marta Nowicka,

VISUAL ARTIST & DESIGNER, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION TRAINER



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"Skill and qualifications are often the only assets migrant women have. Hence, it is crucial to invest in skills and make the best of them through the entire migration process – from intention to migrate to return and reintegration in the origin country."

Sona Kalantaryan, PhD,

MIGRATION EXPERT, DIASPORA MEMBER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TURIN



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"It's important to celebrate, recognize, and honor the contributions of diaspora women both to their countries of origin and their local communities in their countries of residence. Diaspora women continue to serve as leaders, changemakers, and barrier breakers, creating transnational linkages that strengthen connections between their diaspora communities and their homelands."

Kirstie Kwarteng, PhD,

DIASPORA, MIGRATION, QUALITATIVE RESEARCH EXPERT



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"Women in diasporas shape our cities, linking communities across time and space. Let's make sure we listen to their stories, and share them far and wide!"

Margaret Koudelkova,

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ROUTED MAGAZINE



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"In my interactions with various diaspora organizations, I've encountered remarkable and inspiring women who often undertake silent, crucial, and sometimes dangerous work. Passion and determination fuel them; passion for their home country and determination not to abandon those who remain behind. Moreover, women in the diaspora are the threads of the social fabric that extends beyond country borders. Their role deserves acknowledgement and recognition."

Cinzia De Santis,

CHAIR & FOUNDER, HEALING VENEZUELA



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"Women need more than just a seat at the table. My research into the role of migrant women in the labour force has shown that increasing women's participation in the workspace increases the overall well-being of the institution. It should be more than just increasing presence, but also about providing adequate mentoring and guidance that enables them to scale upward in their career. Migrant women, especially those having diverse backgrounds, find it more difficult to access and afford those spaces. To truly inspire inclusion and accelerate progress, organisations should invest more to make workspaces more accessible and growing spaces for migrant women to ensure the overall success of their organisation."

Ambi,

MIGRATION & MOBILITY LEAD, INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS



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"Seek, Speak, Invest in women, especially to young leaders. Believe in them as women spark change for more creativity, insights, knowledge and empathy initiatives, and their unique voices create a more psychologically safe, and inclusivity within the community."

Reykha Pratiwi,

CO - FOUNDER, DIASPORA MENGAJAR




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The voices of women across the diaspora are crucial in shaping our collective legacies. We not only lead the narrative, but also build communities of support and inclusion across various industries."

Keabetswe Boccomino,
CURATOR, AND FOUNDER OF AFRIWOVA



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"As a young woman from the Syrian diaspora working with young women and girls from diaspora communities, I'm profoundly inspired by their relentless pursuit of meaningful change and commitment to sustainable solutions as critical humanitarian actors. Promoting gender equality & empowering diaspora women & girls stand as fundamental human rights principles and are integral components for effective humanitarian action."

Hanan El-Wandi,
YOUNG WOMEN'S PROJECT OFFICER - DIASPORA HUMANITARIAN PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME AT BRITISH RED CROSS



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"After 2 days at the African Diaspora Investment Summit, where I was privileged to moderate a conversation with African women on mitigating the effects of the climate crisis on Africa, I am sure that we can't create solutions for people without them at the table. RPA is committed to ensuring philanthropy understands the impact of inclusive and trust based investments to reach the shared goal of a just world."

Latanya Mapp,
PRESIDENT/CEO, BOARD DIRECTOR, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR



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"Women from the diaspora are resilient agents of change. Investing in their labor mobility unlocks potential for global progress. Let's empower them for a more inclusive and prosperous world!"

Launa Ghawli,
ANZ CO-DIRECTOR AT TALENT BEYOND BOUNDARIES / BOARD MEMBER AT VICTORIAN DIVISIONAL ADVISORY BOARD OF AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS



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"In our fast-paced digital era, migrant women are left behind and their digital inclusion journey begins with access to appropriate technology."

Mirana Rajoharison,
PRESIDENT OF ALEFA DIASPORA




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"I STRONGLY believe that the World cannot be the same without the Diaspora Women. They are the ones who reconfirm powerfully that women are strong, adaptable, flexible, hardworking and invincible. We have ushered in the era of women. I'd wished this could have started much earlier so that humanity could have been saved from all these troubles and wars the world is going through right now."

Rudina Hoxha,
JOURNALIST, CO-FOUNDER OF TRAILBLAZING MAGAZINE



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"Women in the diaspora must own & tell their stories of resilience and how they have been empowered even through natural and imposed challenges of inclusion. Transformative action is imperative and I will continue to promote platforms that amplify our voices and showcase our stories. Collaborating, we can go farther as women. We can and we shall! Happy International Women's Month."

Seyram Amakpah-Azasu,
DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR




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"Throughout the globe, women in diaspora shed light on the potential for unity amidst diversity, demonstrating that our differences serve as bridges rather than barriers to understanding. Embracing the challenges of carving out new paths, we uphold the depth of our cultural heritage with our narratives serving as proof of an unyielding capacity for adaptation."

Kenza Aggad,
DATA & POLICY OFFICER, IOM - UNITED NATIONS MIGRATION (IOM/UN/DC)




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"Inclusion is intentional, it's not a buzz word. Inclusion can be achieved through investment. Let's invest in women and girls."

Josephine Nzerem,
DIRECTOR, VENTURE AND TALENT AT ASHOKA AFRICA, SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR



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"Inclusion could be inner, intimate, sensual, a practice of shared listening rituals. It could be a translation of the many "me" into possibilities of belonging as "we". Inclusion could be opening spaces for voices and words that make no sense and that cannot fit in the system of "them." Inclusion could be to risk spaces of uncertainty, intuition, and creativity that allow the reinvention of whoever "she" was, inclusion could be a dream where reason ends its inherited motifs that exclude "her." "

Ximena Alarcón-Díaz,
PHD,
SONIC MIGRATIONS ARTIST-RESEARCHER



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"In this year's International Women's Month, I think of all the inspirational migrant women I have met, particularly of those who have dedicated their lives to raising and amplifying other women's voices in the most difficult circumstances. Their message is clear: empowerment and inclusion are up to none other than all of us, women in the diaspora."

Marzia Rango,

MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY SPECIALIST, ILO OPERATIONS & CRISIS CENTRE (UNVOCC)



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"I love the Diaspora women! They are enthusiastic, smart, eager to learn, empathetic, driven, and go-getters! I work with many Diaspora women who set up projects in their country of origin. This differs from social business to development projects. It strikes me how driven these women are. Fortunately, I see more and more Diaspora women coming out and having a bigger voice. I hope this continues and call all Diaspora women to make themselves and their work more visible and to be proud!"

Georgina Kwakye,

FOUNDER OF PIMP MY VILLAGE, COMMUNICATION ADVISOR



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"Investing in diaspora women is an imperative and a strategy to further progress in all spheres of society. Resilience, extraordinary potential, determination are only few of the amazing features that characterize diaspora women. Amidst obstacles, struggles and discrimination, we need to acknowledge the multi-level and intersectional challenges that diaspora women face on a daily basis, and thus also promoting their well-being and protecting their mental health. It's now time to give women the opportunities and the space they have been historically and systematically deprived of, amplifying their voices and stories."

Tasnim Nafea,

MA INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, INTERN AT IOM - UN MIGRATION



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"Investment in women should be equitable. Women should be supported to thrive personally and professionally without having to sacrifice one over the other. The right investment in women transcends to their families and society at large, reaping great dividends. Women should believe in their enormous potential and not feel limited in their ability to explore beyond their wildest dreams."

Josephine Agyeman-Duah,

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL



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"Diaspora women need a support village. I found my mine in the many women who intentionally connect to make diaspora that powerful force for development. Women should celebrate women, to elevate diaspora work, celebrate diaspora wins, highlight what is important to the diaspora and shine the light on diaspora women."

Paddy Siyanga Knudsen,

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST



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"UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said "We don't need the return of the patriarchy - we need to turn the patriarchy back." From this year's theme, we must understand that poverty is a gendered phenomenon and they exist because of patriarchal finance policies. It is our duty to have a gender angle when it comes to investing in women."

Amaka Felly Obioji,

AUTHOR, CO-FOUNDER & MANAGING EDITOR AT DIASPORA AFRICA



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"As diaspora women, we can think for a moment that we have no voice, that our narrative will never be understood. Then, we start to speak and it's amazing to realise that our voice is not heard by only our communities but it can also find an echo in many others. Diaspora women can move mountains if they feel safe, empowered, considered and supported."

Nawel Aouissi-Padioleau,

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT



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"Inspiring inclusion means recognizing the unique contributions of diaspora women as catalysts of change. By investing in their potential, we accelerate progress for women and every community they touch."

Sihana Bejtullahu,

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GERMIN



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