



**COMPILATION  
OF QUOTES**

*Celebrating Diaspora Women*  
*March 2022*



*Celebrating 42 Outstanding, Accomplished and Phenomenal Women in the Global Diaspora / Migration Space Making a Positive Impact.*



# WEEK 1



## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Women in diaspora have managed to increasingly contribute to changing gender roles and family dynamics back home, both by distancing themselves from the sometimes-forced clinching of their communities to their regressive cultures, as well as by being the main source of financial support for their families back home, accounting for women empowerment and increased opportunities. Therein lies the power of diaspora in transferring new, progressive ideas and attitudes to their homelands. "

**EMIRA AJETI -**  
**Public-Private Dialogue**  
**Advisor**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" When women learn to strategically tell their stories, the invisible impact transforms lives, communities and nations. "

**MONIQUE RUSSELL -**  
**Founder, Clear**  
**Communication Solutions,**  
**Author & Executive Coach**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Let us put virtue-signalling and sloganeering aside in favour of sincere sisterhood and substance. The fundamental rights of women all over the world, particularly women on the move, must be secured and upheld; representation needs to progress beyond tokenism and the innovative spirit, perseverance and tremendous contributions of female migrants to their home and host societies should be recognised and respected. "

**NADINE LOZA -**  
**Founding Director,**  
**Egypt Diaspora Initiative**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Women of the world, I see you!  
The world sees you!  
It is the little things you do,  
delivered with great love that  
make a difference. "

**MamaLiz™ (LIZ**  
**FRANKLIN) -**  
**Author, Speaker, Special**  
**Initiatives on Children**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Women are capable of loving and empowering themselves in an enabling environment. "

**PRECIOUS NYARAMBI -**  
**Social Entrepreneur,**  
**Founder & Director -**  
**Vessels of Virtue**



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# WEEK 2



CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Women in the diaspora are often on the frontline of responding to humanitarian crisis in their country of origin. By creating networks, advocating for human rights, and contributing with their own financial and social means they are change-makers in their communities. "

**ALEXANDRA SINGPIEL-**  
DEMAC Coordinator &  
Humanitarian



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Investing in the educational, social and emotional wellbeing of our children is the greatest investment we can make in our future, because they are our future. "

**SONIA M. WIGNALL -**  
CEO, Diaspora Global  
Foundation



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" There's a huge opportunity for diaspora women to create a positive impact in the entrepreneurship and financing ecosystem. In the past two years, we've seen diaspora women showing tremendous resilience in re-creating their entrepreneurship path, however, the numbers aren't the same when it comes to investing in startups and SMEs. For example, our Green Venture Backers programme, which trains aspiring angel investors to start investing in startups and SMEs, has an under 5% representation of women, yet there's a large number of women wanting to get funded. We call upon the diaspora women to rise up to the challenge and become angel investors. "

**FRIDAH NTARANGWI -**  
Managing Director,  
Zidicircle



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Diasporas are actors with the will and capacity to create partnerships for development at the international, regional, national, and local levels. Women play an integral role in all of this; the more reason why we should #BreakTheBias to encourage their participation in diaspora development initiatives. "

**MARINA MANKE, Ph. D**  
- Head of Division, Labour  
Mobility and Human  
Development, International  
Organization for Migration



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Woman leaders from diaspora are creative, passionate and hard-driven. Their experiences and ability to adapt to changes and challenges in multiple settings make them unstoppable and inspiring leaders. They are consistently breaking barriers to create new opportunities for their communities. "

**LARISA LARA GUERRERO Ph. D**  
- Transnational Communities  
and Digital Communications  
Officer, International  
Organization for Migration



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Diaspora development is key to home country development. If we don't celebrate what we are doing as a diaspora, we leave it to other people to decide who we are. "

**MANDY  
PREVILLE-FINDLAY:**  
Co-Founder,  
BEYOND IYANOLA



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" I think it is important to study and to explore migration from a gender perspective. Women have a different migration journey, from the security we might feel in our new home, to experiencing maternity away from our people. "

**ANA LUCIA GUTIÉRREZ  
GONZÁLEZ -**  
Creator/Host of Granadilla  
Podcast, Communications  
Professional



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# WEEK 3



## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Migration can be both a source of empowerment and development for women. When planned, migration can offer wider access to education and employment opportunities, through which migrant women can acquire or reinforce their skills and knowledge, in turn elevating their social and economic status. Over the last years, female migration has become predominant in several countries, where women migrants' remittances play a pivotal role in supporting their families back home."

**CHIARA SCISSA -**  
PhD researcher in Law at  
Sant'Anna School of  
Advanced Studies



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" I feel so proud and privileged to lead the brilliant EUDiF team which is 90% women. Naturally, women empowerment resonates with our core values and we strive to mainstream it within our work. "

**DR AURÉLIE SGRO -**  
Senior Project Manager,  
EUDiF



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Travelling is probably the most valuable form of education if you are an open-minded person. Travelling exposes you to different cultures, ways of thinking and understandings, it cuts out myths and things of that nature. "

**STELLA FUBARA-OBINWA**  
Director of International  
Operations, Dubai Department  
of Tourism & Commerce  
Marketing.  
African Female Leader of the  
Year 2021



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Arab women in the diaspora make important contributions to research, policy, and practice in a wide range of fields. Their knowledge production is informed by their lived experiences, making them indispensable actors in an increasingly complex world. Genuine engagement with their ideas and their insights is good practice! "

**DR NOHA ABOUELDAHAB**  
Scholar of Transitional  
Justice, Assistant  
Professor, Non-Resident  
Fellow at The Brookings  
Institution



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Diaspora women are key knowledge holders; their engagement in the creation, conservation and sharing of local knowledge within and for their communities is vital in achieving sustainable development. "

**DR FANNY TITTEL-  
MOSSER**  
Knowledge Management  
& Research Officer,  
EUDiF



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" My charge about #BreaktheBias in the media industry is for women themselves. I would like to see more women faces, hear more women voices, and a change in how women perceive themselves - no longer holding back but taking charge, and stepping into the spotlight. "

**MAYOWA ADEKOGE -**  
International Journalist and  
Dubai Correspondent for  
Channels Television



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Women and girls are essential actors of social change, leading the way with empathy and collaboration. "

**CHARLOTTE GRIFFITHS -**  
Communications Officer,  
EUDiF



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# WEEK 4



CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" We, women in diaspora, are not only agents of development in our home countries. We are also political agents in our host countries, who fight racism and discrimination. We also claim our role as transnational peace builders. "

**HELGA FLAMTERMESKY -**  
Coordinator, Mujer Diáspora



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" To #BreakTheBias is more than words; it is about action. If we want to see genuine change as a reality for the next generation, we don't just celebrate women's achievements. Have difficult conversations with family, friends and colleagues; challenge gender stereotypes, bias and discrimination. Every small step can make a difference. "

**BASHÁÏR AHMED, PhD -**  
Chief Executive Officer, Shabaka



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" I have witnessed so many times when diaspora women have inspired others with their stories, mostly because of their courage to share the successes along with the trials and hard times in finding their own way, far from their home country. I congratulate all the women who had the chance to learn from and motivate each other, be it from home or abroad. "

**DIANA HINCU -**  
Capacity Development Specialist, EUDiF



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" I grew up with a loving, strong, and determined mother who taught me that women can do anything when given the opportunity. And, yes, it's true they can do anything, all they need is access to opportunities. "

**ALMAZ NEGASH**  
Founder & Executive Director of the African Diaspora Network



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Armenian Women have always built and rebuilt their nests in order to survive and now they can freely fly concretizing their dreams also thanks to the solid support of the Diaspora. "

**GAYANÉ KHODAVEERDI**  
Chairwoman of AGBU Milan, Commercial Manager



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Diaspora women are change-makers, leaders, sources of inspiration and role models. We celebrate those who are and support those to come. "

**ELVINA QUAISON -**  
Diaspora Engagement Specialist, EUDiF



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Woman, don't be comfortable with where you are right now for there is so much more of you to give. Tap into every opportunity and resource around you to acquire knowledge and better yourself from the person you were yesterday. If you truly believe you have reached the pinnacle, then extend yourself to help others get there too. Together we stand stronger; together we can make the world a better place! "

**BELINDA BOADU -**  
Founder, Atana Women/Impart & Impact, Serial Entrepreneur



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CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" The power of sisterhood unites us, women in the Diaspora and women in our homeland. It is our collective duty to support rising female leaders by investing our social and intellectual capital in change agents and networks. Let's give back together and leave a legacy, not just through the work we do but the relationships we create and the women we impact along the way. "

**MELEK PULATKONAK**  
Founder of TurkishWIN



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# WEEK 5



## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" It always seems impossible until it is done" is a quote that motivates me every day. Born and raised in Fiji, a small island nation in the Pacific does not limit us to the endless opportunities in this world. We just need to be brave, step out of our comfort zone and work hard so that we can set the example for the younger generation at home. "

**DR SERA VADA -**

**Postdoctorate Research Fellow at the Griffith Institute for Tourism**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Changing ecosystems changes mindsets. Leading with empathy, thinking with equity in mind, and putting the human being first is key to any professional or personal relationship. "

**KWAMARA THOMPSON - Founder, TEC LLC & Black Women Matter, CEO - I am a Black Woman, Yes I Matter Clothing Line**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Diaspora women in science play an important role in breaking gender stereotypes in their origin countries. They inspire girls to choose academic and STEM career paths and hence contribute to enhancing the innovative potential of their homeland. "

**SONA KALANTARYAN, PhD - Project Officer - European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" One of the reasons I decided to co-launch an international business network was to build prosperity and connections across a large community of businesses, to essentially ensure many businesses interested in the African and Scottish ecosystems can connect to each other directly and meaningfully and thrive at the same time in an inspiring, proactive and future thinking network. "

**CLAIRE ALEXANDER - Co- Founder & Director, Africa Scotland Business Network. Award-winning Event Producer, Business Woman, Speaker, Mentor**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" As the Diaspora-Armenia Mentorship Programs Coordinator at AGBU, I am amazed every single day by the firm determination and motivation of our AGBU women beneficiaries who, irrespective of their regular work and every-day responsibilities, are still ready to learn, develop and grow. "

**ASTINE BADEYAN -**

**Programs Coordinator, Armenia-Diaspora Mentorship**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" The diaspora women I work with are compassionate, determined, empathic and resourceful, always seeking opportunities to give voice to their sisters who cannot speak. Time and time again, diaspora women have responded to crises, supported families and reached out to those most vulnerable and less visible, simply driven by their kindness and humanity. It is time to respectfully acknowledge their work and to create an enabling environment for their action to grow and flourish. "

**LORENZA LAZZATI -**

**Program Coordinator, Diaspora Action Australia**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Being an African American woman as well as a person who is trying to create social change, Art is my way of exploring and inspiring change. I believe that Artworks can offer healing, and unite people under this banner of social agency. And so, Arts is really focused on cultivating this expression into the fabric of all neighborhoods, in effect bringing it to a larger audience. "

**YA LA'FORD -**

**Visual Artist, Educator**



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# WEEK 5



## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" "We learn from crisis. Through my involvement as part of the African diaspora supporting students and nationals fleeing Ukraine, diaspora agency has stood out in the multi-stakeholder setting. More than ever, we see how closely linked we are as diaspora, regardless of structure, ambitions and nationalities. We see how diaspora action in crisis supports government efforts, draws individuals, communities and philanthropy. Women in diaspora are essential in working out strategies and getting into action. "

**PADDY SIYANGA KNUDSEN**

Migration Governance Expert, Development Economist, Vice President, GRFDT



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Not only are youth going to inherit this world and society, we are going to be politicians and future business owners. It is only fair that youth start to be engaged in decisions early. We need to inherit a world that we understand and have control over. "

(Future Forum 2021)

**ELANA WONG - Youth Representation & Migrant Rights - Major Group for Children & Youth (MGCY), Co-Founder, Colours of Edinburgh**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" As we honour and celebrate the achievements of women on #IWD. I hope we will see more strategies and actions from organisation to ensure that workplaces and employment opportunities are accessible for women of all diverse experiences and backgrounds. Women need to be provided with opportunities for career advancement and growth. My experience working within the development and humanitarian sector would have not been what it is today without being able to reflect on my own lived experience as an Afghan woman who made Australia her home in 2007. Having the opportunity now to serve in decision making roles, I can do much more for communities also using my lived experience as a women in the diaspora to guide me. "

**TAMANA MIRZADA - Capacity Building & Leadership Specialist Board Member, Indigo Foundation**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" If you want to be successful, you need to work hard, be consistent, and show up every day. "

**ADWOA AGYEMANG - Serial Entrepreneur. Author. Founder of Ghanaian Londoners, MOVE2GHANA Club, Accra Kconnect**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" For every area in your life that you do not take control of, you will be overpowered by someone else. This does not make you a victim of their over-empowerment, but rather an absence of empowering that area of your life. "

**LAURA AIDÉ DE LA FUENTE**

Senior Project Manager, President of RGMX Ireland, Co-Founder of LATC, Certified Coach, International Speaker



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" Visionary, entrepreneurial, compassionate - these are the diaspora women entrepreneurs I see in migration and development - looking to make a difference not just for themselves, but for others - their families, their communities, their countries. Supporting female-led entrepreneurship means seeing the world differently, making maximum impact and building a better future for all. "

**STELLA OPOKU-OWUSU Deputy Director at AFFORD UK**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" I am specifically looking for that long term value which drives the narrative and makes several years of impact to have a cultural shift. This way, we will really understand that we already have everything we need, to start investing in ourselves. "

**FARAH BRUNACHE - Founder, African Tech News & Lagatos, Tech Developer**



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## CELEBRATING DIASPORA WOMEN

" It is essential to realise the potential for women in the diaspora, particularly second-generation women, to play an active part in transmitting values of greater gender equality to their homelands and within the transnational space. "

**DR. AIDA IBRICEVIC - Migration & Diaspora Studies Researcher/Consultant**



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**THANK YOU!**

*Celebrating Diaspora Women*

*March 2022*

