



Wiki Loves Women



#BeINSPIRED

Amplifying the voices of Inspiring Women from the Open Movement

Wiki Loves Women's *Inspiring Open* is a podcast series that celebrates the inspirational women whose careers and personal ethics intersect with the Open Movement. Each episode features a dynamic woman who has pushed the boundaries of what it means to build communities and succeed as a collective. As a podcast series, it is available at any time, anywhere, to amplify the motivational stories of each guest, as spoken in their own voice. Each *Inspiring Open* episode raises the global visibility and profiles of the women reclaiming Africa and redefining the Open sector.

For the first season, the host was Ghanaian veteran journalist, Betty Kankam-Boadu. In 2023-2024 Inspiring Open has been focused on foregrounding female Wikimedian leaders. Inspiring Open interviews were recorded at Wikimania 2023 & 2024, Wikilndaba, and the podcast now has its own segment as part of WikiAfrica Hour.

African podcast, Audio, African Women, Women's Voices, Online Representation, Gender Gap, Gender Equity, Being Heard

Be inspired • Be challenged • Be bold!

Connect with INSPIRING OPEN!



@WikiLovesWomen




WikiLovesWomen



WikiLovesWomen




podcast.wikiloveswomen.org



"It was an epiphany for me, mind blowing, suddenly there's something that's super connected to what I study, to what I think [about] – how humans should engage and interact, and that information should be free and accessible, and that there should be justice in creating and consuming information."

Nichole Ebber




"A big part of what I am is openness. And I think that in sharing the knowledge that you have openly, you multiply the knowledge and you help the people ... it's disseminating. It's out there and it disseminates in the world and it's becoming helpful to people that you probably don't know. You're helping somebody every day. This is the satisfaction that I get from the work that I do, not only for Wikipedia, but also outside of it."

Netha Hussain


Podcast impact

- 21 podcasts released
- 21 inspiring open women showcased
- 15 podcast platforms or channels



"... these are some of the barriers that women naturally face because they naturally are seen as people who take care of the home ... to make sure that the home is comfortable, and more importantly when you are married or when you start having children. It's a cultural thing ... that women go through a lot. It's something that we need to be sensitive to, especially when we're engaging women in the movement. If we want to increase women participation, a lot of support, a lot of motivation is needed, like child care, because that can actually motivate you."

Ruby Damenshie-Brown



"... the sheer amount of things which have to be done in the Wikimedia world helped me to grow up professionally quicker than I think it would have been without Wikimedia, because the complexity and the challenges, they are unique. On the other hand, if you are able to transmit them into your professional work, that could help a lot. It was a good coexistence [sic] and it still is. It helps people ... grow with the responsibility they take within the Wikimedia movement. Our movement is open for newbies, for young people to just take over things and grow with the work they do. That is an opportunity which you don't have always within your professional career."

Alice Wiegand



"Let's write about women all year, not just the month of March, and then forget about it the other 11 months. So that's how we got our start. We thought maybe for 15 minutes people would be interested in contributing biographies about women in the middle of the year and, blessedly, we were wrong. And so here we are, many years later, with a very thriving community. 33 different languages have a version of Women in Red. And we are slowly but surely changing history."

Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight

"For me, open is about shared purpose. That's what I take from it is that in the diversity we can find commonality. Open allows for that, because we can share and we can learn from each other and from others, in a way that is building and not taking away."

Maryana Iskander

"Our idea of change definitely changes over the years. It's either because we grow and have a better understanding of the social construct. Or we have a better understanding of who we are as human beings. One of the reasons I was always advocating for women and music was just simply because it's very powerful."

Islam Elbeiti

"As soon as you see the licence is a Creative Commons licence, we don't have to worry about going to the publisher to ask for permissions, and we don't have to worry about copyright infringement. We just upload the document as per the licencing conditions."

Elizabeth Oyange

"Life can be really, really hard. We need to be deliberate about inviting pleasure into our life. Then we can find pleasure in the everyday moments, and the small moments. We actually just need to be conscious about it."

Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah



Listen to *Inspiring Open* on your favourite podcast platform

"My openness is about seeing opportunities, not for just myself, but for other people as well. To being open so that I receive the opportunities or I receive the information, I receive what I need for a particular time. If I'm not open, how will I get what I need?"

Mulenga Mpundu Kapwepwe

"You need to recognise that you can do hard things. Second thing, would be to do those things, even when you're afraid. Don't let your fear hold you back. Be open."

Angela Odour Lungati

"[An ideal future] doesn't punish differences, whether it's differences of identity of opinion, of religion, of social status ... one that embraces knowledge, one that makes knowledge accessible; equitable. Where diversity isn't something that is threatening. The ideal life is that the platforms that I'm building today would not be needed at all."

Esra'a Al Shafei

"I have obstacle blindness. Things that seem to stop other people from achieving their goals or going for the things they want. I don't see those things. When they're there, I see them as things to work through. They are not to be an encumbrance. They are not to be an obstacle. If I can't get through it, I will get over it. But I will get to my goal."

Lola Shoneyin

"I always look at it from moving from theory to practical, because that was when I was flooded with the real reality of open education. The beauty of open education, it was so beautiful."

Prof. Jane-Frances Agbu

"Given an opportunity, you have to take it and run with it and learn as much as you can. Because, remember, it's something that you're choosing. When you're choosing it, the more you learn, the more you are, the better you are."

Anie Akpe

"Our own existence as women in Africa or the Arab world is a way of resistance. You resist everything every day."

Emna Mizouni

"Looking at Wikipedia, that marvellous global entity. And we don't have a voice there? African librarians are not there? No! It's not possible. That was what made us push into that, to ensure that the librarians in Africa understand what free knowledge is all about, and the role they have to play in ensuring that the free knowledge that is out there is real, relevant, accurate."

Dr. Nkem Osuigwe

"The act of writing within itself, whether you intend it or not, whether you're deliberate about it or not, it is an act of activism. When our stories are sidelined, then our lives are sidelined. So it is important that we always find spaces for our stories, our voices."

Hilda Twongyeirwe

"When you design incentives differently, people behave differently. The same people behave differently. That's the key that we have not yet cracked with open. If we can design incentives for people to think broader than their own game, they become different beasts, and we can all live in this wonderful, harmonious utopia."

Helen Turvey

"You go into newsrooms and you lose your voice because the people who own media, as a media owner told me, 'We are not here to do democracy or free press.' Can you imagine owning media and saying to a journalist that we're not here to do free press or democracy?"

Nana Ama Agyemang Asante

"A lot of people benefit from other people's openness without ever doing anything first. That's okay, because a lot of open stuff is there for anyone to use without reciprocity. If you reciprocate, if you maintain relationships, and you invest in building them, you're going to get so much more out of it – people will find you and get you things you didn't even know you needed."

Maha Bali

Wiki Loves Women's Inspiring Open Podcast is a Wiki in Africa project.



Elevating Africa's Voices Globally
www.wikiinfrica.org



Season 1 of Inspiring Open was funded through the International Relief Fund for Organisations in Culture and Education 2021, an initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office, the Goethe-Institut and other partners.

Logos and Poster Design: Creative Flood for Wiki In Africa CC-BY-SA 4.0. Illustrations by Candace Di Talano for the Inspiring Open podcast – Wikimedia Commons Category:Inspiring Open Portraits, CC-BY-SA 4.0. Images: Ruby Damenshie-Brown 11.jpg by Ruby D-Brown CC-BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons. Images of Nichole Ebber, Netha Hussain, Alice Wiegand, Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight by Isiahaddow with image manipulation by Rachel Zadok, CC-BY 4.0