

Afrikan Stories for Social Change

an initiative of the 3rd African
Social Movements Baraza

MEET OUR
COHORT
2025

About

The **African Social Movements Baraza** is a collective platform, hosted by **TrustAfrica** and its partners, and dedicated to strengthening social movements across Afrika. It provides a space for activists, advocates, and change-makers to come together, exchange ideas, and strategize on addressing the pressing social issues facing the continent.

As part of the 3rd ASM Baraza to be held in Accra, Ghana from the 14th to 16th April 2025, **TrustAfrica** has partnered with **Thrive Afrika** to run the **Afrikan Stories for Social Change** (ASSC) program. ASSC harnesses the power of storytelling to amplify the voices and work of social movements, shedding light on critical social justice issues and driving collective action.

20 exceptional storytellers from across the continent have been selected for the ASSC program. These include photographers, filmmakers, writers, poets, and multimedia storytellers who are deeply engaged with social movements and are working on compelling projects that celebrate activism, ethical inquiry, and social impact. Their contributions will be featured through exhibitions, publications, and digital platforms at the ASM Baraza, fostering important dialogues on the role and power of social movements in fostering accountability, justice, and transformation.

Afrikan Stories for Social Change will kick off with a 6-week mentorship program from February through March 2024. Guided by experienced mentors, the storytellers will refine their projects and produce impactful works that spotlight the power of social movements across Afrika.



Organised by:



Afrikan Stories for Social Change

Addis Aemero Ethiopia

Addis Aemero, an Ethiopian freelance photographer, discovered her passion for photography at a young age. Inspired by her mother and grandfather, Addis has further honed her skills through workshops like the Creative Futures Program under the mentorship of Michael Tsegaye and later worked closely with Aida Muluneh, a leading figure in Ethiopian photography. Her work has been showcased in notable exhibitions, including the Blank Wall Gallery in Athens, Addis Foto Fest, the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, and the Sharjah Art Museum in the UAE. Addis also contributed to organizing Addis Foto Fest, the largest photography festival in East Africa. Among her accomplishments, Addis has served as the official photographer for Her Excellency Sahle-Work Zewde, Ethiopia's first female president. Today, she continues to capture stories through her lens as a freelance photographer.



Christina Kamwendo Malawi

Christina Kamwendo, known by her pen name Dark Shadow, is a Malawian poet, writer, and spoken word artist. Born on November 17, 1998, she began writing at a young age and embraced performance poetry in 2017, using the stage to share powerful stories. She has released three studio-recorded playlists and a full poetry album, blending raw emotion with thoughtful intellect. Christina's work explores themes of love, loss, justice, and human rights, using poetry as a tool to amplify unheard voices. Beyond her art, she is an advocate for youth and women's empowerment, championing education, art, and wellbeing as forces for change.

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Cyril Mawuli Adjabeng Ghana

Mawuli Adjabeng is a Ghanaian documentary photographer. He graduated from KNUST in 2013 with a Bachelor's in Industrial Arts, majoring in Textiles Design. He also completed a Masters in Development Communications at GIMPA-Accra. Mawuli's passion for visual storytelling led him to documentary photography; he now has over a decade of experience in visual storytelling. He has exhibited works at notable events such as Experience Ghana's "Back Home to Ghana" in Toronto (2017), the Fujifilm South Africa feature, University Research CO LLC/Systems for Health Photo Exhibition (2019), IMANI Jump Project Exhibition (2020), and the Norman Rea Gallery's "Black Lives Matter" Exhibition by York University (2020/21) – United Kingdom. His projects span clients like UNCDF, ECOM Trading, Plan International, Pasico-Ghana, Autism Awareness Conference, Star Oil Ghana, and Ghana Health Service. Mawuli's work is a testament to his belief in the power of photography to capture and remind humanity of its essence.

Danmore Chuma South Africa

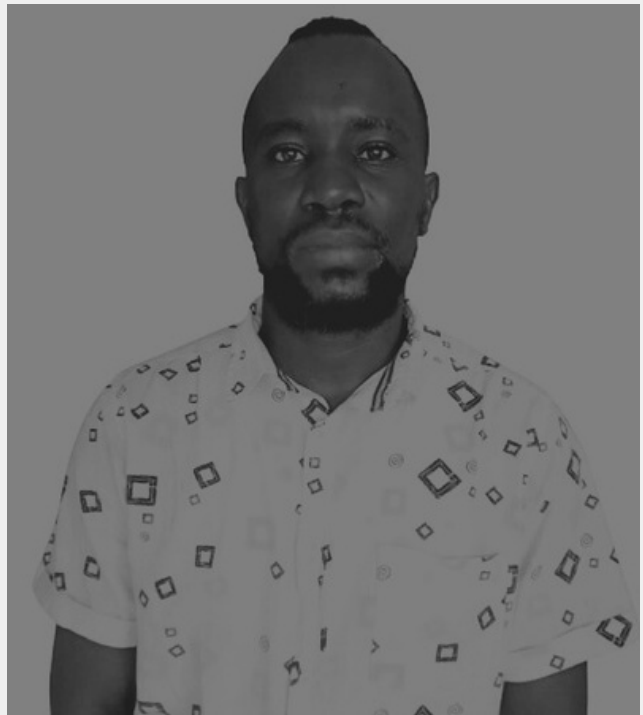
Danmore Chuma is an award-winning frontline human rights defender, a socio-economic justice activist and a journalist. He is a Research Fellow for Al Jazeera Media Network and a Report Fellow for the International Women's Media Foundation. Currently, Chuma is the Executive Director for Giraffe Heroes South Africa, an organisation that writes stories of rights defenders, people who risk and sacrifice for the good of humanity. He holds a BA degree from the University of Zimbabwe and is completing a Masters in Adult Community Education and Training at the University of Cape Town.



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Eric Muthomi Kenya

Eric is an experienced professional in community development, specializing in peacebuilding, governance, and natural resource management. Since 2013, he has worked on initiatives promoting gender equality, human rights, and environmental conservation, including drafting key legislation like the Sand Harvesting Regulatory Bill for Isiolo County. His efforts have significantly impacted Northern Kenya's community development and policy landscape. In addition to his work in community development, Eric is also a passionate advocate for youth empowerment and education. He has mentored young people from marginalized communities and supported them in pursuing their educational goals. Through his mentorship programs, he aims to empower the next generation of leaders from underprivileged backgrounds.



Fatma Fahmy Egypt

Fahmy is a distinguished Chemical Engineering graduate from Cairo University who passionately captures the essence of daily life in Arab countries, with a particular emphasis on societies preserving their traditional roots. Her approach combines ethnographic photography to create visual narratives that encapsulate the memory of the depicted place and its people. Her work has been recognized with awards such as the Daniele Tamagni Grant, and nominations like for the World Press Photo Joop Swart masterclass. Fahmy's photography has reached international platforms, being showcased at locations like Cite International des Arts in Paris and the Photographic Angel Exhibition in the UK. Recently, Fahmy has joined the ranks of renowned contributors to Everyday Africa & Everyday Egypt.

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George Koranteng Ghana

George is a multi-skilled professional with experience in visual communications, community development, social/digital media management and stakeholder engagement. He has an International development background with the United Nations including UNFPA, UNESCO and FAO. His work seeks to create value for organizations and lead/support sustainable development initiatives for impact..

Israa Alrrayah Sudan

Israa Alrrayah is a renowned Sudanese documentary photographer and visual narrator whose work documents the historical, cultural, and social dimensions of life in Sudan and Africa. She began her photography journey in 2016, gained professional momentum in 2023, and has since been lauded internationally. In 2024, she won the Urban African Photography Challenge and was named the Sudan hub scholar by the German Goethe Institute in Egypt. Israa's photographic collection illuminates public life in Sudan, with a focus on traditional attire, women's resilience, and climates of war and displacement. She held her first exhibition in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2024 and has since relocated to Cairo to continue her work, documenting the Sudanese people's adaptation post-war. Her aim is to highlight the positivity and resilience far from conflict, accentuating the significance of human connection.



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Lalaina Randriarimanana Madagascar

As a proud citizen of Africa, Lalaina navigates the world using her Malagasy passport. She advocates for people's power, drawing on her extensive involvement in youth development and community mobilization since her teenage years. Lalaina is a fervent supporter of social justice and democracy. Her passion extends into her photography, where she gracefully captures everyday life to depict hope, courage, and self-empowerment.



Mahmoud Hashem Egypt

Mahmoud is an Egyptian journalist with 14 years of experience, whose career has been dedicated to investigative journalism and multimedia storytelling, focusing on justice and human rights issues across Africa and the Middle East. Over the span of his career, Mahmoud has contributed to renowned platforms including Madaar.org, Raseef22, Peoples' Dispatch, and Shorouk Newspaper. This experience has allowed him to develop his research, analytical, and storytelling abilities. He has also worked alongside global organizations such as France 24, Le Monde Diplomatique, La Libre Belgique, Orient XXI, and Pan African TV. Currently, he is the Media Officer at the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR) and co-founder of Africavoices.net, an initiative dedicated to amplifying the voices of underrepresented African communities.

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Mzingenkosi Sibanda Zimbabwe

Mzingenkosi is a Zimbabwean-born storyteller, journalist, and documentary photographer with a passion for amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. Growing up in Nketa Township, Bulawayo, he was deeply influenced by his grandmother's stories of resilience and self-determination. Despite financial hardships, he pursued his education through open learning while working as a teacher for five years. His early career in journalism was met with resistance and political hostility in Zimbabwe, prompting him to explore new avenues of activism. This journey led him to photography—a powerful medium to document social issues and drive change. Refining his craft at Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg, he has since focused on visual activism, particularly highlighting the struggles of immigrants in South Africa. Through his work, he seeks to influence policy and promote a united Afrika where Africans uplift one another rather than being divided by borders.

Oluwayemisi Onadipe Nigeria

Oluwayemisi Onadipe is an artist whose visual vocabulary cuts across photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Born and living in Lagos where she experienced her childhood, she is fascinated by time, change and memory. She uses her works to capture and interrogate the passage of time, re-imagining of objects and spaces and how change shapes perception and memory. She studied fine and applied arts at Federal College of Education, Lagos.



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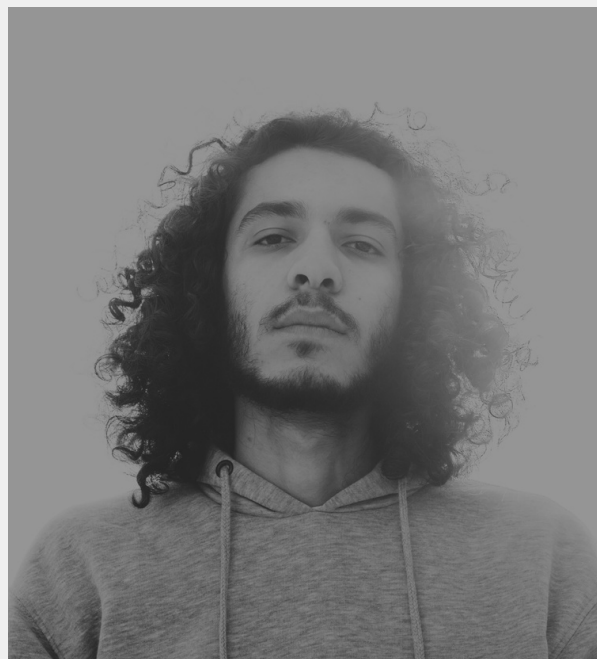


Reuben Ekow Quansah Ghana

Ekow Quansah is a Ghana-based African photojournalist and photographer specializing in exploring history and identity through his works. Focused on reevaluating African heritage, his photography embodies the clash between tradition and modernity. His project "Unspoken Bonds" delves into the shifting dynamics of African fatherhood, tackling themes of patriarchy, colonial disruption, and evolving societal roles. In "The Battle", Quansah highlights the fight against illegal mining in Ghana, emphasizing the resilience of these communities. His most recent work, "Next to Godliness", looks at the contradiction between strong religious devotion and environmental negligence in society. His work aims to challenge preconceived notions and encourage dialogue and a redefinition of African identity.

Sahl Abdelrahman Egypt

Sahl Abdelrahman, born in 1999 in El Fayoum, Egypt, is a renowned street and documentary photographer. With a passion for photography from an early age, Sahl honed his skills through studies in photojournalism and documentary photography at DMJX. He uses his lens to capture the everyday life of Egyptians, focussing primarily on children's issues. His compelling work, which seeks to raise awareness on critical issues like child labor, has been recognized and showcased internationally by celebrated platforms like World Press Photo, Getty Images Reportage, and National Geographic. Sahl's accolades include top placements at the Egypt Press Photo awards in 2022 and 2020. His works have also been exhibited in Egypt and abroad, including at the Beirut Image Festival and Alserkal Avenue in Dubai.



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Samson Otieno Kenya

Based in Nairobi, Kenya, Samson Otieno is a renowned freelance Photojournalist and documentary photographer, known for his compelling portrayal of ordinary people's everyday life. Originating from Kibera, he uses his camera to chronicle cultural, environmental, political, and socio-economic narratives. Recognized for his significant contribution to the African Resilience in the Wake of a Pandemic campaign, Otieno has also collaborated with well-known names like Bobby Pall Photography and the MasterCard Foundation amidst the COVID-19 crisis. His work has graced the pages of top-tier media outlets such as The Washington Post, Der Spiegel, Al Jazeera, and The Guardian, and he is a consistent contributor to the Associated Press. Otieno's outstanding talent further led to his selection as one of 21 internationally acclaimed photographers showcased at the Apfelweingalerie in Frankfurt, Germany.



Tessilim Adjayi Togo

Based in Lomé, Togo, Tessilim Adjayi is a globally recognized photographer and filmmaker. He started gaining attention after completing his audiovisual license in 2013, with his works featured in numerous film festivals and winning awards. His documentary, "Rejoindre L'Europe Mourir en Mer," has brought him international acclaim. Tessilim's projects were showcased across India, France, Lagos Photo, the Philippines, South Africa, and more. In 2020 alone, he celebrated over twenty exhibitions. He won Second Prize at the JUSTPHOTO CONTEST – MARKET PHOTO WORKSHOP in South Africa. Over the years, Tessilim has participated in several exhibitions and residencies in France and Benin, and represented Togo in the photography category at the 9th Francophone Games DRC in 2023. His iconic pieces grace both public and private collections in Togo, as well as internationally renowned galleries such as the Chang Kil-Hwan Art Museum in South Korea and "Les Abattoirs Musée – Frac Occitanie" in France.

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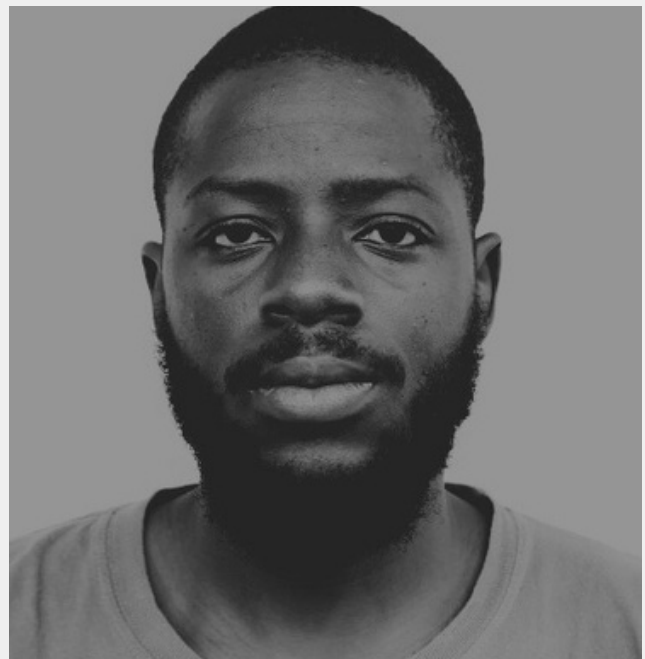


Thembela Dick **South Africa**

Thembela “Terra” Dick, a Cape Town native, is a seasoned filmmaker, photographer, video editor, educator, and visual activist. With over 15 years of experience, she documents the lives of Black populations in South Africa, emphasizing the youth, women, children, and LGBTIAQ+ community. Terra possesses notable qualifications in photography and filmmaking, and has directed and worked on numerous films, her work reaching over 38 countries. Her storytelling prowess extends to article writing and youth-focused educational projects. Terra currently operates Terra Dick Productions, narrating African stories centered around women, children, and the LGBTIAQ+ community, with *NdiliGazilakho/ (I am your blood)*, *Indlalifa/ (An Heir)*, and exhibits like *Layers of a Black Trans Woman*, Thembela the Solo being some of her notable works.

Tinomudaishe **Muchirahondo** **Zimbabwe**

As a highly skilled Zimbabwean filmmaker and photographer, Tinomudaishe Muchirahondo employs his passion for visual storytelling to address societal issues. He specializes in filmography, directing, photography, editing, and production, creating impactful short films and documentaries with a focus on climate change and cultural resilience. Tinomudaishe has been recognized as a top participant in a renowned African storytelling project, furthering his expertise in social justice storytelling. His academic background in film, radio, and television production strengthens his practical skills. Ultimately, Tinomudaishe is dedicated to creating awareness, inspiring change, and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities.



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Tirivashe Mundondo **Zimbabwe**

Tirivashe Mundondo is a Zimbabwean storyteller and activist dedicated to using narratives as a catalyst for social and political transformation. He documents the impact of governance failures on ordinary citizens while mobilizing communities to organize for change. Through film, digital storytelling, and advocacy, he amplifies marginalized voices and promotes non-violent, grassroots-driven solutions to national challenges. His work focuses on bridging the gap between political discourse and local realities, empowering communities with the tools to demand accountability and drive sustainable development.

Zanele Lebaka **South Africa**

Zanele Lebaka is a Johannesburg-based photographer from Aliwal North, Eastern Cape, specializing in portraiture and documentary photography. Her work captures raw moments and overlooked stories, using photography to spark conversation and highlight social issues. A graduate of Market Photo Workshop's Legacy Project and Photography Incubator Programme, Zanele was also a runner-up on The Lucky Star Collab TV competition. Her work has been exhibited four times, including in Photography and Democracy alongside renowned photographers Cedric Nunn and Pieter Boersma. She continues to explore new ways of storytelling, with her latest project focusing on the water crisis in Aliwal North.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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