

FATMA ALLOO (TANZANIA)

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Born in Zanzibar Fatma Alloo finished her primary and secondary school education there. She attained her 'A' levels in Britain together with a course in Pitman's shorthand and typing while assisting her husband with his Ph.D. theses. After spending a few years as a housewife she later on decided to attain further education and became a journalist. Fatma is a Tanzanian citizen.

In the early 80's she worked as a journalist at Daily News in Dar es Salaam and as a radio producers in Uganda during the war years. She went back to England in mid-eighties to pursue further training and was later based in Geneva with a women's documentation centre called ISIS-WICCE and in Amsterdam with a Women's Reproductive Rights Organisations .It is this experience which enhanced and strengthened her organisational capacity and awareness on gender issues. In 1987 she established Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) together with other women journalists. TAMWA is now a media tool through which advocacy and mobilization of society over women's issues consistently is taken up.

She is involved in creating media visual images so as to impact the television programmes which has been introduced in Tanzania in 1994. She believes in the use of all forms of media as a mobilizing tool in advocacy and conscious raising for social changes. In 1999 she won an MNET award for her documentary on how women use Khanga as a medium of communication and Siti Binti Saad, the first woman communicator who defied the norm and emerged as one of the first taarab (coastal music) singer in Zanzibar. She also made Safari and Yalivyo which are doc drama based on true life stories of women which have been shown at the Berlin Film Festival. She is also an associate producer of Tanzanian feature film Maangamizi. She won the 2009 ZEZE award from Tanzania trust for Culture for her contribution to cultural arts in Tanzania.

She is the founder director of Non-Government Organization Resource Centre (NGORC) based in Zanzibar, a project of Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), in 1996-99. Alloo is presently a co-ordinating resident faculty of International Honor's Program (IHP) from Bard College, Harvard University. Boston, U.S.A -since 1998 in Tanzania. She is a founder of Zanzibar Int'l Film Festival (ZIFF) and now its vice chairperson. She works as a freelance development/media consultant. She is also the editor of the magazine Swahili Coast on eco-tourism along the East Coast of Africa and a founder member of ZaWoN- Zanzibar Women on the Net, a project under Society for International Development (SID). Alloo is the Development of Alternative Women's Network (DAWN) East African Coordinator. She is presently working with Civil Society

Foundation based in Dar es Salaam and is the Africa Coordinator of Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) with Women's Network Support Program of Association for Progressive Communications (WNSP-APC). Consulted with Foundation for Civil Society based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as grantees facilitator in capacity building, advocacy and strategy. Served on the Commonwealth Foundation's Civil Society Advisory Committee based in London. Consulting with IDRC Connectivity Africa/CATIA Advisory Committee. UNCSAC-U.N. Civil Society Advisory Board – Chairperson in Tanzania. I am Vice Chairperson of FEMNET – a communication network based in Nairobi. Also board member of the Africa Association of Research Foundation (ARRF) based in Nairobi. Director on Aga Khan Education Services (AKES) board.

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