

March 2026

IWD Edition



Superstar Africa

Angel Nduka-Nwosu
The Angel of Consistent Doings

www.metrotimes.ng

The Blazing Queen of Feminisim

BY CHIDERA OG ONYEKACHUKWU | EDITOR: NWANNUKWU STEPHANIE

Tell us about yourself and your organization

I am a writer, editor, journalist, and also a documentary researcher, and I am a performance poet and a stage actor, and I'm also a cook. I have a community I founded called The Emecheta Collective, which is a safe space for networking and accountability, and I recently finished my master's in English. I like to read. I like to write. I'm the editorial lead at a magazine. I'm also contributing to women-centered essays for another magazine. So that's pretty much it on my end.

Can you walk us through your community?

So, the Emecheta Collective is a women-owned feminist community where we share opportunities, discuss women's issues, and hold ourselves accountable to set goals. So majorly, the pillar of the community is a safe space where women can come in and talk about issues they may not be comfortable talking about outside; opportunity sharing and networking, where we come together and network with each other and essentially get opportunities that can improve our lives financially and career-wise; and also holding ourselves accountable to set goals. So every month, we have accountability meetings where we, you know, talk about what we've been able to achieve that month, like, where we need support. And every two weeks, we have informal calls with our members, or our group calls, where we just cover how we're doing. It is a networking and accountability community that also doubles as a safe space. Originally, when I started it, I started it because I wanted to essentially get more women to earn more in their freelance writing. And I had just gotten into international freelancing that year. And I realized that, you know, I could do with more support. I had, like, two or three or four women in my circle who were giving me that kind of support I needed, and I just thought, okay, I should be helping other women too. Even at the core of it, most people on there are still writers and freelancers, but it has now expanded to be a community for not just writers but also women in the creative space and also for women generally. There are women that are product managers and doctors on there but come there for the safe space conversations and conversations on feminism. And the other ones who come there for the networking, they want to be able to say, "There's an event going on. I can be able to, you know, look out events. happening in my city, or if I need help with accommodation, I can see it. There are women who come so people can hold them accountable. One key thing we do, even though it's not compulsory. It's that every woman is encouraged to have an accountability partner where you can both check in so that whatever goal it is, whether it's your writing goal or your career goal or any goal whatsoever, you are able to hold each other accountable so that you can also accomplish those goals and things like that. So that's pretty much the case. TEC is going to be 5 years old on July 21st. It's going to be five years of doing this in July.

What personal experience or gap in your own journey inspired you to create this kind of community?

The Emecheta Collective is not my first experience at building a women-only community. I started a community called "As Equals Africa" with Shalom Esene in 2018, and it was something similar, but it was heavy on feminist conversations. Occasionally you would see people dropping career advice, and I was in a stage in my life in 2021 where I was becoming more career-oriented. So I graduated from my first degree in 2020, and I remember thinking, Okay, people are always saying, "Go to LinkedIn" or "Go to this place or that place." I was lucky enough to be popular on Twitter, so immediately after I graduated, I was already receiving job offers, and by 2021, I started to go into freelance writing. And I remember just thinking more people would be able to benefit from knowing how to pitch, knowing how to look for magazines online, knowing how to position themselves. And I had somebody; I have to mention her name. Her name was Dzifa. She's in the US now. Dzifa and I were accountability partners. I also remember in early 2021, there was another group that was founded by a lady on TVC called Shalom Asha Obi. I wasn't able to join, but one of the things they were particular about is having accountability partners. And I thought, what if I take

The Rise of the feminist Collective Culture



the model of As Equals Africa being women-centered and apply it to all of the things happening in my career right now such that women can also talk about their careers, talk about being women, and talk about the peculiar things that it says and still be able to, you know, earn? Because the one thing I noticed is that apart from even as before, I was after that; I was in other feminist groups. We are able to come together to embrace our feminism, which is all well and beautiful. I also think when women come together, we should be able to earn from that coming together. Not like being opportunistic and staying, but our conversations should also be able to spread beyond, you know, conversation. So I said, "I will carry the model of As Equals Africa being a feminist community, and I would infuse the career angle," and I also wanted to do peer mentorship because I realized that some women, in trying to get into the writing industry, may have been having issues with, you know, being bold enough to ask other more established friends. And that's why if we all come together and we have a question you want to ask, somebody answers you quick and fast. It's just one of the things where women could earn career-wise and also seek support from one another and be able to hold ourselves accountable while also discussing issues that we may not be able to talk about outside of that community.

"I realized that some women, in trying to get into the writing industry, may have been having issues with, you know, being bold enough to ask other more established friends. And that's why if we all come together and we have a question you want to ask, somebody answers you quick and fast."

Does The Emecheta Community feedback to Buchi Emecheta?

Yeah. It does. Heavily. It does a lot. I've always loved Buchi Emecheta. I've loved her work. I've loved, you know, what she stood for: the sisterhood, making friends with people across different barriers, and encouraging women to have agency and to not abandon their work in relationships and marriage, something I've always admired. In 2020, I went through a traumatic experience, and I called him out on social media, and it was very traumatic for me, and I found myself going back to Buchi Emecheta's work, not just Buchi Emecheta but also older African women writers like Mariama Ba. In 2021, in trying to heal from what had happened, I found myself reading Buchi Emecheta and not just her work but also her life. How she was able to leave an abusive marriage and how she found her own voice as a writer. And still being somebody who is very insistent that women have to come together regardless of whether you're against them, regardless of whether you're a feminist, you know, whatever it is, regardless of class barriers, regardless of race—that's the running theme with her work. And to honor how 2021 would not have been possible without her, you know, guidance through that period, I decided to name it after Buchi Emecheta. And in 2021, I also turned into what the excuse that I have to not, you know, to not heal from whatever it is that has happened to me. What's the excuse that I have for not thriving and being particular about pursuing my life? Buchi Emecheta had five children, and she was writing every morning, dropping her children off at school, teaching, and getting a degree while at it, so it was really to honor her memory even though she's dead now and to honor what her work was able to do in my life even as an Igbo woman

The theme for International Women's Day is "Give to Gain," so I'm a bit curious. I mean, based on your own personal journey in giving your time and energy and support to this community, how has that helped you grow personally and professionally?

Incredibly. Honestly. I don't even know where to start. This month, I'll be getting my first stage performance role, where I'll be performing one of my original monologues for a woman-centered event, and it was courtesy of The Emecheta Collective that I got it. I saw the ad out there, and I applied, and then I got it. There are people I have met on The Emecheta Collective that have continually, you know, recommended me for opportunities. There was even one time I had my birthday in 2022 or 2023, and someone sent me money; it's the biggest amount I've ever received for my birthday. Apart from even the monetary angle, just knowing that even though I'm the founder, I can be able to say, "I need advice on so-and-so," and women will come to my aid.



Women that I may not even meet in person, you know, because some of the Emecheta women are not in Nigeria. Some are in Japan, the UK, and the US, but I know that I have a community of women that can show up for me. And aside from even money and the opportunities. Because I am the founder of the community, sometimes it feels like, as crazy as it may sound or as problematic as it may sound, it feels like I also have to make sure that I am on my own A game, and that has given me the sort of push. Because generally, I'm a very driven and confident person. I'm someone that says if I'm going to do something, then I will do it. That's why one of my nicknames is Angel of Consistent Doings. If I say I will get it done, I will get that done. But knowing that I also have to stay accountable to people that I'm in community with has really helped me. Because when I was doing my master's, I'll be honest and say there was a time I was about to throw in the towel. I just thought, no. You can't. Like, you really can't, because you've already said you are doing this thing. So why would you not want to do it? And I think one time, I came and spoke about it on Emecheta, and I told everybody that I was tired. I'm like this. I'm like that. And they all gave me encouraging words and support. That kind of support has been so instrumental in my life. And when I see women earn from the Emecheta Collective, also, it's very humbling for me because I've had single mothers who have earned. At some point, we had a single mom's fundraiser where we were all contributing to send money to some of the single mothers in the community, and they've been able to get job opportunities. Some of them have been to get accommodation and things of that nature from the group. So it's a very empowering experience; at the same time, it's humbling because I know that even though I've created this community, now it's a bit bigger than me. And I am both a founder and a member at the same time because I also have to be held accountable to the standards that I've set. So it's been very interesting leading a community. I've benefited personally; career-wise, I think last weekend, I went for a birthday weekend for somebody who is in the community. And she's been helping me in my career. Because I do music journalism, and she's been very instrumental in helping to map my career path. And I met her when they met her on The Emecheta Collective. It's very interesting. Yeah.

How have you built the trust for women for women to feel comfortable enough to ask for help, whether it's monetary or not?

I think the trust thing is still something that is an ongoing thing. So one of the things we do in The Emecheta Collective is that we have an admin board. I'm not the only admin; there are, like, 10 of us on the admin board. You have to bring the monetary request via the admin board. So that's one. Other forms of help: Emecheta women are always willing to help. Apart from monetary stuff, and sometimes even with monetary stuff, I know women have crowdfunded for women who needed help to leave situations that were unsavory. But one thing we do now to build that trust so that nobody feels cheated is that before you come up with a fundraising request, for instance, you have to go through an admin, and an admin will check it to be sure that you are not trying to scam people. And even when you get the thing that you're asking for help for, you have to come back and give an account of, oh, this is what I did with this, what I did with that. In terms of trust, I think people see that women are always willing to help because, in a way, it kind of helps them because then they know that, "Okay, I can get help," and then people see that there are structures put in place to ensure that nobody, you know, rips anybody off of their money or their time. It also helps. I don't know if that answers your question

What does GIVE TO GAIN, the theme for International Women's Day, mean for you? And what does it mean for your community in this new year? What strategies are you implementing to be able to, you know, so that women can work towards this theme?

Oh, okay. For me, it's simply doing the same thing that I've been doing, which is pouring into women-centered issues, even if I'm not the richest person. I think of the word, you know, even though the IWD slogan has been criticized, but in terms of GIVE TO GAIN, as a community manager, it simply means when I pour into women and women-centered issues, because women can also pour into issues that are not women-centered, but when I pour into women-centered issues, it is with the expectation that it will come back to me because it definitely will come back to me.

Be it recommending women for opportunities, being a listening ear for women who need support, or using the resources and the contacts that I've gained as a journalist to further the fight for women's freedom, really. Knowing that I'm pouring into my community or pouring into women who need help is a kind of comforting thing and is a thing where I do know that it will come back to me because it always comes back to me. And in terms of the community itself, it's the same thing we've been doing, which is organizing events; partnering with other women in the community to ensure that, you know, women are being pushed forward; bringing opportunities to this community, to my community; engaging in the accountability report that I mentioned earlier; and engaging in, you know, the fortnight calls that we usually do, also being intentional about ensuring that no woman is left out in my community. Yeah. That's it.

Give us all your last words

My last words would be, "We have only ourselves at the end of the day, and as sad as it is, it is also, in a way, a bit empowering in the sense that I strongly believe in women's solidarity because I am an Igbo woman, and sometimes women in certain tribes would think that we don't have a lot in common; they are better than you, oh, I am better than you, blah blah blah, my culture is more this and that, some Nigerian women would think that they are more superior to African American women, and African American women would think they live in a more stable country. Something I studied is that sexism is universal, with a slight difference in manifestation. I am currently watching *Bridgerton*, and I look at the character of Eloise, who is white and living in Luddington, England, in the 1700s, and I just think that this kind of mirrors the women who don't want to be married and who are from very rich families, and still, their success is tied to their marital prospects. So for us to really make progress on women, we have to recognize that regardless of age, regardless of class, regardless of race, regardless of tribe, and regardless of even sexuality, we all have to come together. Coming together does not mean it is a kumbaya kinda thing, it just means that we recognize that we are together in this. We can fight, we can have disagreements, and we can say, "Oh, this is the way that I want to do my feminism."

Somebody can say, "This is the way that I want to do my feminism," but at the core of things, we should be looking out for each other. Like now, when I get an opportunity or I'm told to recommend someone, my first instinct is always to recommend a woman; that's the way I've built my own feminism, and also, to add to that question you asked about the whole give to gain thing, like, what are the prospects I am using? When I think of recommending women for life-changing opportunities, it's always women who come to mind. It doesn't matter if this woman and I have had some disagreements in the past. When I want to improve the lives of women, or I think of, you know, improving the lives of certain people, I think of women first. I mean, I have, you know, male friends who I adore, who I love, who are in my life, but it's always women first. Even before them, it's always women first. So, you know, practicing sisterhood, but my sisterhood doesn't mean that everyone has to be my friend, and it doesn't matter if a woman and I have cut each other off. If I am at a party or a rave, and I see that someone has spiked her drink, I am going to throw away that drink before she comes. We can argue. We can, you know, argue about differences in feminism, but I will not be wide awake and watch as another woman is denigrated because that is not in line with my politics, and I also say that women, African women, Nigerian women in particular, we need to be more intentional about learning about the women in their families, the history of the women in their families. Because sometimes (not me because I don't do that), generally, we look to Western feminism, and you can get inspiration from them, no doubt, but we look to them as pioneers of feminism. I think, no, that's not true. They are just the ones who have their own feminist history well documented, and I will say Mary Wollstonecraft exists, but my great-grandmother also exists. She was one of the organizers of the Aba Women's Walk. So there are women in my family who, if I need inspiration as to why I should not stay in something that doesn't benefit me, I can easily reach for as examples, and this applies in every family. There are families where a simple act of saying, "I want my daughter to go to school," or a simple act of saying, "You have the auntie who says, 'Nobody should settle in this marriage thing; I'm just living my life.'"

" You have the auntie who says that she's going to move into her apartment before she ever thinks to marry. Those examples exist, and those women deserve to be documented; it doesn't matter if they don't identify as feminists, but they're living feminist lives, because you know that you can always reach for examples in your own environment to suit your own context before saying, "Oh, I'm looking at first wave and second wave and third wave of feminism in the US and UK and whatever." So yeah, sisterhood, being one, and documenting ourselves being another, and also being an active villager in any community you find yourself in, because one thing I've also realized from being a community manager, a feminist community manager, is that there are people, women, inclusively, that just want to benefit without giving, and that's crazy. That's really, really crazy, like you just want it to be. You know, they need help. You can always reach out, but they are not doing things to benefit other people, you know, the kind of people who are opportunistic. And I also find that problematic. So as much as you're talking about, oh, community, women also have to ensure that you are also a villager and not just the one the whole village rallies around. Yeah, that's it on my end

Social media that you want people to check out?

@asangelwassaying, those are my Twitter and my Instagram. My accounts are public.

Superstar Focus

An interview with Angel Nduka-Nwosu



In 2021, she founded the Emecheta Collective, which boasts of 900+ women. A shared commune of feminist sisterhood. She's a journalist, Poet & Editor. As if that's not enough, she's also a chef! We guess that's how she got the moniker - Angel of consistent doings.

With a Master's in English, she has consistently proven that writing is her north star and supporting women is her passion, regardless of the industry she's in.

The best cheerleader you need in your corner. She is a dedicated advocate focused on creating safe spaces where women can unburden their trauma and access career opportunities to improve their financial independence.