

## Event Round-up: Exploring the Intersectionality of Gender with Other Identities- Feminist In Context 5/6

**Speaker:** Omotola Abidemi | **Date:** 17th August, 2023

### Key Message

According to Kimberly Crenshaw, intersectionality reveals how a person's gender combines with their other identities (race, class, sexuality, ability) to shape their experiences. Understanding these intersections is essential for addressing social inequality and discrimination in our diverse society. This understanding is important because of the following reasons:

1. It promotes equitable engagement without privilege, oppression, or power dynamics.
2. Recognizes gender's intersections with identity, shaping diverse experiences.
3. Emphasizes the compounding impact of discrimination and oppression.
4. Guides inclusive strategies for promoting equity.
5. Unites marginalized groups, bolstering anti-discrimination efforts.
6. Offers nuanced insights crucial for effective research and policy.

Gender and race profoundly influence how we perceive ourselves, interact in society, experience well-being, access resources, and feel a sense of belonging. The complex interplay of gender and race/ethnicity can significantly impact individuals. Yet, acknowledging and comprehending this intersection is crucial for addressing the distinct challenges faced by those with multiple marginalized identities and fostering greater equity and inclusion.

Sexual orientation and societal gender roles shape family dynamics, socialization, and expectations. Promoting diverse families and challenging harmful norms fosters inclusivity. People with disabilities, facing the intersection of these aspects, encounter unique challenges like: double discrimination, restricted healthcare access and violence, stigmatization of intersectionality, isolation and social exclusion. It's important to recognize and address these challenges to ensure that people with disabilities, regardless of their gender identity, have equal opportunities and rights.

### Conclusion

Culture and tradition significantly shape intersectionality in gender and identities, influencing identity formation, gender perception, intersectional experiences, family dynamics, relationships, community, advocacy, and change. To address these challenges, society must raise awareness, promote open dialogue, implement inclusive policies, offer education and training, diversify leadership, support economic empowerment, foster community networks, fund research, encourage allyship, assess policies, and promote cultural sensitivity. These steps create a more inclusive and equitable environment for those at intersections of multiple identities, especially regarding gender.

### About YouPaD and Agora Thursdays

**Young Professionals in Policy and Development (YouPaD)** is a youth-led non-profit to create a platform for young people to engage with, discuss, research, and analyse issues relating to Foreign & Domestic Policy, Security, Climate Change, Governance & Development. We are a collective of young professionals and youth-led organisations providing solutions that improve various aspects of governance and public policy, with a unique view to addressing the challenges that young people face.

**Agora Thursday** is the online version of YouPaD's Agora Public Policy Discussion Series. We exchange ideas, thoughts, and actions to improve Nigeria's policymaking process and practice. The current series TiDE is focused on equipping young development professionals with skills and knowledge to thrive in the development field. Join us in this 6-part series.

*Disclaimer: The views expressed during Agora Thursdays are those of the Speakers and do not reflect the views of YouPaD.*

