

AWDF + FEMRITE
Creative Non-Fiction Writer's Workshop

21 – 31 July 2014

Entebbe, Uganda



Participant Profiles

#AWW14 Creative Non-Fiction Writer's Workshop



@abenakyere [GHANA]

ABENA KYERE holds a degree in English and a Masters of Philosophy in African Studies from the University of Ghana. Her research interest covers Gender and Popular Culture, Sexuality and Religion. She hopes her research will serve as a voice for women. She currently works as a Teaching Assistant at the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA), University of Ghana.

In her teaching and advocacy work at CEGENSA, Abena has come into contact with a lot of students and women and she believes that there is a lot more to be done for the women of this generation. Abena is an avid reader and spends her leisure time reading and writing short stories.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Gender and Popular Culture
- Gender and Religion
- Sexualities
- Children's Literature

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@alexteyie [KENYA]

ALEXIS TEYIE is a 21-year old Kenyan student majoring in History at Amherst College, MA. She writes and performs poetry and is currently working on speculative fiction.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Poetry and speculative fiction
- Gender based violence
- Queer theory
- Imaging of Africa
- Postcolonial studies
- Shakespeare
- Race and gender in 16th century England
- Travel writing



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@sheroxlox [NIGERIA]

AMINA DOHERTY is a Nigerian feminist activist and artist whose work focuses on feminist philanthropy and creative arts for advocacy. She holds a BA in Political Science & Women's Studies from McGill University (Distinction) and an MSc in Gender, Development and Globalization from the London School of Economics (LSE). Prior to her role as founding member and general coordinator of FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund, Amina worked in the women's rights grant-making program at the Sigrid Rausing Trust and has also worked as a research and youth organizer at the Directorate of Gender Affairs in Antigua and Barbuda.

Amina brings to her activism a passion for music, art, travel, photography, fashion and poetry. She has facilitated learning programs on women's rights, resource mobilization and economic justice, youth development and the arts. She currently sits on the Boards of the Global Fund for Women, and the international feminist organization Just Associates (JASS). She is an Advisor to the Match International Women's Fund in Canada and Mama Cash.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Youth Organising and Young Feminist Activism
- Grantmaking and Philanthropy
- Resource Mobilisation
- Communications
- ARTivism and Popular Culture
- Feminism and Women's Rights

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@BLamwaka [UGANDA]

BEATRICE LAMWAKA is a writer, an independent journalist, and arts activist. She writes for Daily Monitor and has written for Global Press Institute. She is also the General Secretary for Uganda PEN Centre.

Beatrice is a recipient of the 2011 Young Achievers Award in the category of Art, Culture and Fashion. She was shortlisted for the 2011 Caine Prize for African Writing and was a finalist for the South African PEN/Studzinski Literary Award in 2009. She was also selected as one of ten young African scholars in 2009 for the HF Guggenheim Foundation (US). She was Laureate, Council for the Development of Social Science (CODESRIA) 2010 Democratic Governance Institute: Corruption, Democratic Governance and Accountability. Her short stories have been published in various anthologies and journals. Her children's novella, *Anena's Victory*, is a supplementary reader in primary schools in Uganda. Beatrice is working on her first novel, *Sunflowers*, and a number of short stories.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Issues affecting women in post-conflict northern Uganda – former child soldiers
- Domestic Violence
- HIV/AIDS
- Sexuality
- Women writers/literature in Uganda
- Social Justice
- FGM



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@ComfortMussa [CAMEROON]

COMFORT MUSSA is a blogger, writer, activist, and multi-award winning freelance journalist from Cameroon. Comfort has more than seven years' experience in radio, Internet, documentaries and most recently photo and television journalism. She specializes in development news and is particularly focused on news about women and youth in her community, whose voices often go unheard in the mainstream media.

Talented, tireless and full of creativity, her works reflect her versatility and devotion to quality. She is also contributor to The Global Press Institute and The Media Project on a range of issues including culture, environment, health, religion, corruption and technology.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Gender Issues
- Sex and Reproductive Health
- Environment
- Development

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@franticurls [GHANA]

DEBORAH FREMPONG is a fourth year Public Policy major at Pomona College in California. A lover of the written word, she is interested in art as a form of activism and spends a lot of her time writing, and thinking about writing. She is incredibly passionate about women's rights issues and is a self-declared feminist.

A native of Ghana, Deborah is also especially interested in the sociological framework of post-colonial societies and hopes to, someday, fully dedicate her life to her home.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Religion
- Sexuality
- Gender

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@eunicekilonzo [KENYA]

EUNICE KILONZO is a storyteller who tells tales on issues of health, science, literature and the environment. She incorporates women's issues and feminism in her works. Her stories are told through writing and public speaking. Besides writing, she loves reading, advertising and commercials, Afro-music, travelling and taking quizzes.

She is currently a journalist at Daily Nation Newspaper in Kenya. She blogs at Kalundethescribe.wordpress.com

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Health [all sectors]
- Science and the Environment
- Women and Development
- Literature [fiction, poetry]



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@Fafy_Q [GHANA]

FAFA QUASHIGAH is a Research Fellow at Strategy Africa, a policy consultancy firm, and is also in her first year at the Ghana School of Law. Her research interests include discourse on human rights and social justice with a particular focus on women, children and other marginalised social groups.

As a participant in the Creative Non-Fiction Workshop for African women writers held in Entebbe, Fafa has honed the skills of channeling her academic and professional interests into fiction and creative non-fiction pieces in order to reach a wider audience.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Human Rights
- Social Justice
- Women, Children and other Marginalized groups

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@Flo8try [NAMIBIA]

FLORENCE KHAXAS is a feminist poet. In 2009, after a two-week training on feminism in Zimbabwe, Florence decided to build a Young Feminist Movement in Namibia, starting in the Erongo region. She is Founder and Project Coordinator of Y-Fem Namibia, an organization led by young feminists that develops feminist leadership in urban and rural communities in the Erongo, Otjizonzupa, Khomas and Oshikoto regions.

Florence is also a curator at the Mondesa Museum, a community archive that documents the history of the Black community of Swakopmund.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Cultural Leadership
- Arts Management
- Lesbian Feminism
- Rural Women's Movement Building
- Social Entrepreneurship



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@Jen_Thorpe [SOUTH AFRICA]



JEN THORPE is a passionate feminist writer and researcher based in Cape Town, South Africa. Jen has a Masters in Politics from Rhodes University, and recently completed her first novel as part of a Masters in Creative Writing from UCT.

In 2010 she started the My First Time women's writing project which is still open for stories from women on their significant first time experiences, and was published as book in 2012. She is also the creator and editor of FeministsSA.com - a feminist website sourcing articles from South Africa and Africa.

She lives in Cape Town with her fiancé, Mike, who works for Greenpeace Africa. She writes a monthly column for Women24.com. In her free time she writes for the Mail and Guardian Thoughtleader. She loves food, swimming, yoga, and reading.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Gender Based Violence
- Women's position in South Africa
- Maternal Mortality
- Feminist Blogging

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@KemNomu [NIGERIA]

KECHI NOMU is a freelance writer. She lives in Warri, Nigeria. Her poems have appeared in Saraba Magazine, Brittle Paper and elsewhere. In 2012, she took part in the Farafina Creative Writing Workshop. She also contributes to the AWDF blog.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Poetry and Fiction
- Gender
- Unemployment
- Technology
- Religion
- Editing



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@MBanyaGlobal [SIERRA LEONE]

MOIYATTU BANYA is a passionate writer and social Entrepreneur who was born and raised in Sierra Leone. She holds a Masters in Social Work with a focus on Entrepreneurship and Management from Columbia University's School of Social Work.

She is founder of WomenChange Africa a social media platform that focuses on documenting the successes of young African women innovators. She is also Co-Founder of Girls Empowerment Summit in Sierra Leone an organization that works to empower leadership skills of young Sierra Leonean girls.

Her focus is on development work, women's empowerment and young women's leadership. In the past she worked in Ghana for the Women Peace and Security Network (WIPSEN-Africa), as a Senior Programmes Officer of Program Design and Development.

Moiyattu is a writer at heart, and enjoys writing about African women innovators/leaders, gender roles, harmful traditional practices and its impact on women and girls, pop culture and feminism, issues that relate to young girls in Africa, Africans living in the diaspora and returnees, and issues relating to women during and post conflict.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Young African Women, innovators/Social Entrepreneurs/Leaders, women's Issues in West African Post-Conflict Countries, girl's leadership, mentorship in Sierra Leone, Ghana and Liberia, the impact of traditional practices on young girls, African Feminism, identity issues between Africa and the African diaspora

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@NjokiWamai [KENYA]

NJOKI WAMAI is pursuing a doctoral degree in Politics and International Studies at Cambridge University. Njoki was a Women, Peace and Security Fellow of the Africa Leadership Centre (ALC) in 2008/2009 and a Peace, Security and Development Scholar in 2010/2011 at the ALC where she obtained a Masters in Conflict, Security and Development from King's College London. She also holds a BSc and a graduate diploma in Gender and Development from the University of Nairobi.

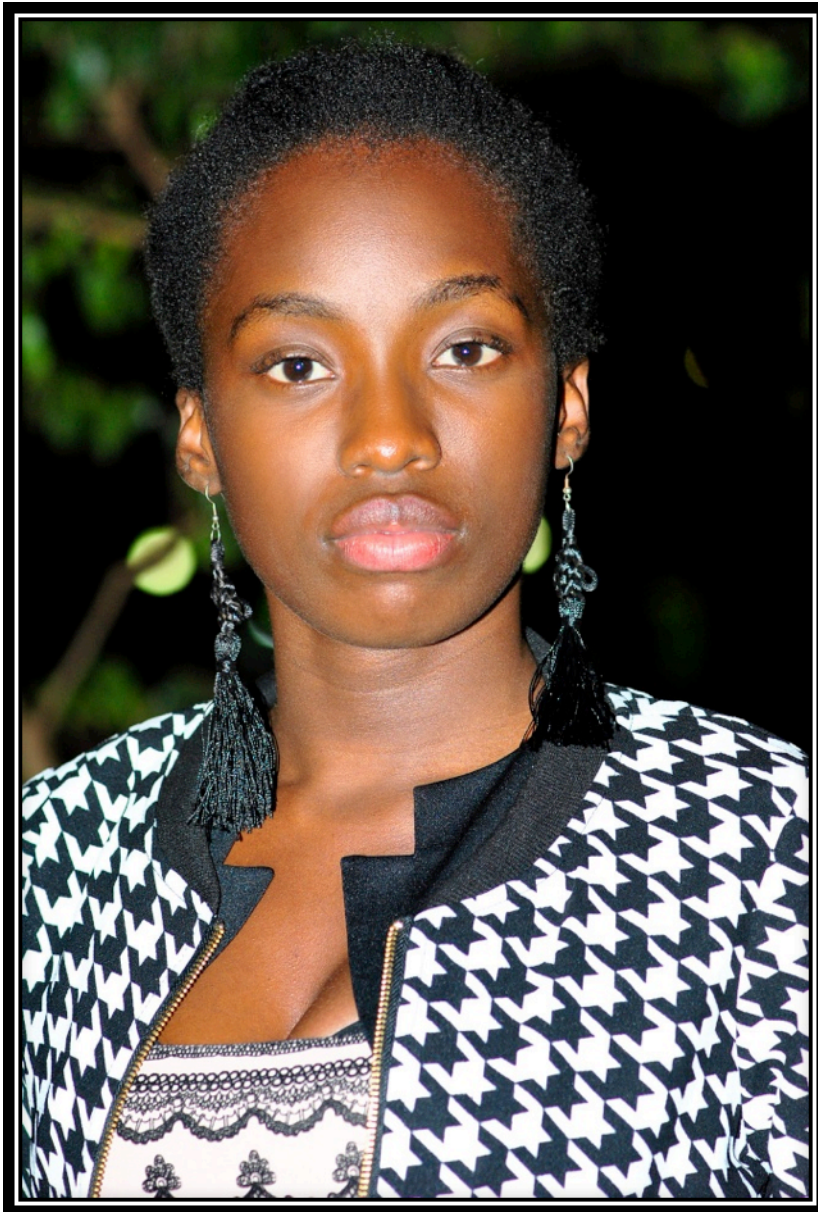
Njoki has worked in civil society organizations in Kenya as a human rights defender and research associate. Some of her publications on these topics can be accessed at <http://cambridge.academia.edu/NjokiWamai>

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Peace, Security and Feminist International Rights
- Women, Peace and Security
- Kenyan Politics
- Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Africa
- Women's Participation in Peace Processes [Resolution 1325]



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@TheLoulette [NIGERIA]

OLUTIMEHIN ADEGBEYE is a Nigerian writer and mother based in Lagos. She writes as a form of activism and fights for gender equality and social justice.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- African Feminism
- Unmarried/Single Parenting
- Independent Filmmaking
- Social Media
- Social Justice
- Yoruba History and Culture
- Sexuality and Gender
- Gender Inequality
- Urban African Lifestyle
- Fashion

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@ritah2014a [UGANDA]

RITAH ATWONGYEIRE is a Ugandan poet and writer. Ritah studied Cooperatives and Agribusiness Management at Ndejje University. She is currently working with Better HAG Uganda as the Finance and Administration Manager. She enjoys writing and her desire is to see women and children's lives changed for the better.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- African Feminism
- Women's Human Rights
- Gender Based Violence
- Organizational Management
- Finance
- Reproductive and Sexual Health



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@MsAfrakomah [GHANA]

RITA NKETIAH is currently a Ph.D. student studying the trend of return migration amongst second-generation Africans in Canada. In her creative writing, she covers topics such as African immigrant identities, race, and sexuality.

Rita mainly writes memoir and creative non-fiction essays. She hopes to return to Ghana some day soon to contribute to the African feminist movement, continue with her writing and eat plenty of banku :)

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- African Migration [North America]
- Race, Identity and Migration
- Return Migration and Development
- Second-generation African Immigrant Identity

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@Sokostina [ZIMBABWE]

TENDAI GARWE is a passionate African Feminist, writer, motivational speaker, and development practitioner. Tendai's main focus is on women's rights, body politics, leadership and political development for women especially grassroots based. Tendai is a Pan Africanist whose mission is to ensure women and men have equal access to resources and decision-making positions at all levels.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Gender Based Violence
- Women and Politics
- Leadership and Development
- Women's Rights
- Social Service
- Young Women's Personal Empowerment
- Mentorship
- Facilitation
- Radio Presenting



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@tiffmugo [SOUTH AFRICA/KENYA]

TIFFANY KAGURE MUGO is co-founder and curator of HOLAA! - an online Pan Africanist hub that advocates for and tackles issues surrounding African female sexuality. She is also a contributor to the Mail and Guardian, Thought Leader and This Is Africa. She is a consultant at Kagure Konceptions, a media consultancy firm that has a particular focus on social media. She has also written a short story which has appeared in the #AdultsOnly Anthology and works with the Parliamentary Monitoring Group from time to time.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- South African/Kenyan Politics
- Sex and Sexuality
- International Relations

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@val_bah [BENIN/HAITI]

VALÉRIE BAH is a freelance writer who also works in humanitarian affairs in Kinshasa, DR Congo. She writes about LGBTQ human rights, feminism, and culture, and blogs at Think Africa Press. One of her personal essays appeared in *Out Proud: Stories of Pride, Courage, and Social Justice* (Breakwater Books).

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- LGBTIQ Issues
- Humanitarian Affairs
- Culture [books, TV and film reviews]
- Urban Development

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@Wanjaah [KENYA]

WANJA MAINA is a 23-year old female, an East African of Kenyan origin. She holds a Bsc in Management, a certificate in citizen reporting and a certificate in peer education & HIV/AIDS. She has been at the forefront of advocacy for inclusive education, accessibility of WASH facilities in schools and, most importantly, an inclusive society that appreciates and embraces diversity. Wanja has been an advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 consultations and holds the opinion that among others, what will come after the MDGs expire should explicitly include the marginalised including persons with disabilities. She has spoken in different foras including: European development days in Brussels, MDGs consultations in England, the Sexual Reproductive Health Forum in Ethiopia and active participation in grassroots forums in Kenya. She serves as the youths with disabilities representative in Nairobi county.

Wanja's human interest articles have been published in local media, and online magazines including the Huffington Post, On Our Radar and WIPO.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Disability
- HIV/AIDS
- Sexual Reproductive Health
- Education
- Human Rights



#AWW14 Creative Non-Fiction Writer's Workshop: Facilitator

@yomotoso [SOUTH AFRICA/NIGERIA]

YEWANDE OMOTOSO is Barbadian-Nigerian and currently lives in Johannesburg. A trained architect, she completed a masters in creative writing at the University of Cape Town. Her debut novel 'Bomboy' (2011 Modjaji Books), was shortlisted for the 2012 Sunday Times Literary Awards, the MNet Film Award and the 2013 Etisalat Prize for Literature. It won the South African Literary Award First Time Author Prize. Yewande was a 2013 Norman Mailer Fellow.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Architecture and Urban Design/Planning/Design
- Functional Design
- Cities/Towns
- Fiction Writing
- Gender, Sexuality, Sexual Identity, National Identity
- Karate and Basketball
- Travel Writing



#AWW14 Creative Non-Fiction Writer's Workshop: Facilitator



@mamlekabu [GHANA]

MAMLE KABU, a writer of Ghanaian and German parentage, was born in Ghana. She studied at the University of Cambridge, where she obtained her BA and MA in Modern Languages and her MPhil in Latin-American Studies. She returned to Ghana in 1992 where she has since been resident and works as a freelance consultant in development issues. Mamle took up fiction writing in the late 1990s and has since written a number of short stories, all of which have been published in various anthologies and journals in Africa, the UK and the US. One of these is "The End of Skill," which was nominated for the Caine Prize for African Writing in 2009.

In 2011, Mamle published a young adult novel under the name Mamle Wolo. This book, entitled 'The Kaya-Girl,' won the 2011 Burt Award for African Literature in Ghana. Mamle has also written poetry, two screenplays and is working on a novel. She is a co-director of the Writers' Project of Ghana and a keen believer in fostering writing talent and strengthening networks between African writers. In the past five years, she has attended the Farafina Writer's Workshop, the Caine Prize Workshop and the FEMRITE annual residency. She is currently in the U.S., participating in the fall residency of the University of Iowa's International Writing Programme. Mamle combines her work and writing with the raising of her two children.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Social Development [Education, child protection, child labour, gender]
- Writing [Fiction, poetry, craft of writing, mentorship, facilitation]

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@nas009 [GHANA]

NANA DARKOA SEKYIAMAH is a Communications Specialist at the African Women's Development Fund. Her articles have been published widely; including in the Guardian, Chimurenga and This is Africa. Nana authored a '*Communications Handbook for Women's Rights Organisations*', is co-author of '*Creating Spaces and Amplifying Voices: The First Ten Years of the African Women's Development Fund*', and edited '*Women Leading Africa: Conversations with Inspirational African Women*'.

Nana is a graduate of the University of North London with a BSc (Hons) in Communications and Cultural Studies and holds a MSc in Gender and Development from the London School of Economics.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Gender
- Leadership
- African Feminisms
- Communications
- Social Media
- Technology
- Sexualities



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@sionnene [GHANA/U.S.]

SIONNE NEELY is the Knowledge Management Specialist at the African Women's Development Fund. She received her Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California [U.S.] in 2010 following the completion of a dissertation examining how Ghana's postcolonial administrations responded to the needs and desires of musicians, particularly in the absence of formalizing a viable infrastructure for art, music and culture.

Dr. Neely has completed over 100 interviews with West African musicians and producers. She has written on sound and music and its relationship to the transatlantic slave trade and modern industry-making. In 2010, she co-founded ACCRA [dot] ALT, an independent arts network that promotes the work of emerging Ghanaian creatives and collaborative projects with international artists.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Race and Class
- Gender and Sexuality
- African and African Diasporic Cultural Production
- Arts Organizing
- Visual Ethnography
- Media Studies



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[UGANDA]

JULIET KUSHABA is a development worker. She is a member and employee of Uganda Women Writers Association - FEMRITE - where she has worked for 2 and a half years as a Programmes Officer. She is a published writer of short stories, among which is her favorite, "The Baby and the Giggling Men," in an online collection *Sticking to My Footsteps* by the Trans-Cultural Center for Writing at Lancaster University in the UK. Juliet enjoys engaging in human rights activism and discussions especially on sexuality-related rights, which she mostly does through her writing. She has done quite a number of researches in this regard.

Juliet has a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Secondary) and she has worked as a teacher both in Uganda and Rwanda. Currently, she is pursuing a Masters Degree in Women and Gender studies from Makerere University, Uganda.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Gender
- African Feminism
- Sex and Sexuality
- Research
- Creative Writing

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@twongye [UGANDA]

HILDA TWONGYEIRWE currently works with Uganda Women Writers Association – FEMRITE and she is very passionate about women's issues. Hilda is Second Deputy Secretary General of The African Asian Writers Union - Africa Region. She is a published author of short stories and poetry in various anthologies and journals. She is a recipient of the Certificate of Recognition 2008 from the National Book Trust of Uganda, for her children's book, *Fina the Dancer*. She has edited fiction and non-fiction works with different publishers.

Hilda is also a researcher of African women stories and has worked with different partner organizations to compile stories of women, the most recent being, *The Power of the Pen*, in breaking silence on sexual violence. She will in November 2014 convene a conference in Bellagio, Italy, for the African Women Writers Initiatives. Hilda lives in Kampala with her three children.

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Short Stories and Creative Writing
- Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction
- Women's Issues
- Editing
- Literary Issues (Selling of Literary Rights and

