



VOICES AGAINST EXTRACTIVISM: SHEROES FOR CHANGE

FACILITATOR GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This comic book draws inspiration from WoMin's analytical paper **Extractivism* and Violence against Women**, which encapsulates WoMin's insights into the violence faced by women as a direct result of large-scale mining and extractivism.

It profiles the poignant tale of a community uprooted by extensive mining operations leading to their resettlement in a location far removed from essential services. This comic unveils the predatory nature of multinational corporations' relentless pursuit of Africa's natural resources, which often translates into the exploitation of both African women and their communities for profit, whilst communities are dispossessed of their land and are subjected to violence by police and private security to safeguard corporate interests. It powerfully illuminates African women's resilience and the strength of coordinated local/community and Pan African organising, by visibilising women's vital role in confronting and resisting injustice.

The comic also highlights the violence experienced by women in extractive-impacted communities. It explicitly visibilises the normalisation of the violence, the culture of fear, stigma and silence that surrounds sexualised violence that women experience and the failures of the system to protect women. While violence features as one of the key themes in the comic, it is also a story of healing, solidarity, hope, self and collective care and most importantly a story of how African women continue to collectively organise and fight injustice.

This booklet offers a set of activities and discussion guides for use of the comic book in communities, learning institutions, organisations, movement spaces and more. Please use and adapt them as needed.

****Extractivism** is a violent development model that takes large amounts of natural resources from the earth. These are then exported to different parts of the world for the benefit of companies and rich people in Europe, North America, China and other parts of the world. When these natural resources are mined, people are forcefully taken off their land, they lose access to water and forests, they become ill, and they experience violence. Women and girls carry the greatest burden because of their responsibility to grow food, fetch water, and care for the sick. Their lives are destroyed while the benefits are enjoyed by others.*



HOW TO USE THE COMIC AS A POPULAR EDUCATION RESOURCE

The comic book was designed to be used as an accessible feminist popular education resource that can be used by a wide range of people—from popular educators, movement builders, activists to academic institutions, media workers, non-governmental organisations, community organisations and more. It draws on lived experiences and stories that have been shared by women and communities with whom WoMin has worked over the years. This book is meant to enable conversations on some topics that ordinarily communities do not feel comfortable talking about.

The comic book can be read in a meeting setting as a conversation starter on violence and extractivism. You can choose to act out scenes from it or to read it. After the reading or acting out, give the participants time to reflect on it before starting the discussion.

NOTES FOR THE FACILITATOR

Violence against women remains a very sensitive subject in the contexts where WoMin works. There is stigma attached to all forms of violence, however sexual violence remains one of the most stigmatised violences that women encounter. Women who experience sexual violence do not often talk about the violence that they face for fear of repercussions that come with disclosure. The comic surfaces very sensitive issues and may be triggering for women who may have experienced similar forms of violence(s). It is therefore important for the facilitator to take the following into consideration before a session that uses the comic book. A trained counsellor or someone who knows how to support women survivors of violence may be required to support the session.

Throughout the sessions, the facilitator will need to listen carefully, be aware of body language cues, be mindful of the mood in the room and how each participant is experiencing the discussion.

It is important that facilitators create a safe space for discussion, openness, and non-judgment, allowing participants to express emotions and thoughts. The facilitator should take care to be supportive both in their body language and in how they communicate.

A facilitator should:

- Set up the space in a way that makes the participants comfortable.
- Collectively set grounding principles for the space and offer the opportunity for any concerns to be raised.
- Emphasise confidentiality and the importance of trust.
- Highlight solidarity and accountability for supporting each other.
- Have where possible, a person who can support women who may be emotionally triggered.
- Make use of some traditional exercises that allow for emotional stabilisation where necessary. See examples of such exercises in **Building Activists' Power to Keep Safe – A Risk and Safety Handbook**.
- After the meeting, finish with an exercise that helps with emotional upliftment.



POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

Note: You do not need to use every question or discussion point, but these are to spark your thinking on how to structure the discussion for the participants.

GENERAL DISCUSSION



- In the comic book, we see a community that is in a new location, what led to the community moving to the new community?
- How has the move affected the community?
- What are the different forms of violence that we see in the story? Who is affected by the different types of violence?
- What services are available for women or the community when faced with violence?
- What are the similarities shown in the comic book and your own communities?
- What are the differences?
- Are the issues that the women are facing relatable? Is it also happening in your communities?
- How are the women/your community dealing with issues such as these?



MOVEMENT BUILDING AND ORGANISING DISCUSSION

- What lessons can we draw about solidarity and care from the comic book?
- What did you notice about the resistance and/or organising strategies of the women?
- What are some of the common the strategies that you have used in your community?
- Which of these strategies have you not been using but may be useful for you in your local context?



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