

**Save the date: Virtual Conference on Challenging Patriarchy:
'New Spaces and Strategies for Advancing Gender Equality in Africa'
28-30th of October 2013**

The background

In many other parts of the world, movements for democracy opened opportunities for equality advocates to advance their claims for full representation of women in political systems. For the past three years the 'Engendering Leadership Project', jointly implemented by the hbs offices in Nairobi, Cape Town and Abuja, has provided gender advocates the space to share, question and discuss their experiences and strategies to promote gender equality in Africa. From these discussions it has become evident that despite the enormous gains made by African women - through the state, in political parties, in the media and the economic sphere - gender equality remains an elusive goal. Efforts are frustrated by interpretations of societal norms and values rooted deeply in patriarchal structures and mindsets.

The conference

The conference will provide a platform for an African conversation on advancing feminist thought and action on the continent, exploring '**New Spaces and Strategies for Advancing Gender Equality in Africa**'. In order to do so, the conference will look critically at state-centered interventions targeting gender inequality in Africa while at the same time document and discuss strategies to tackle patriarchy that do not rely on the state – in the economic, the political and the public sphere.

The method

The conference will be **hosted in a virtual space**. Interactive sessions will be running from **October 28-30** on the special conference website: www.challengingpatriarchyafrica.org after which the dialogue will continue on the website and through the Twitter hashtag **#endpatriarchy**.

The participants

Discussants from the three partner countries (South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria) will guide the discourse in interactive panels, open to contributions from a virtual audience. The conference will be open for everyone interested to join the debate. A key audience, involving feminist networks and gender advocates from Africa, will give the conference the texture, quality and ultimately contribute to the goal of developing new spaces and strategies for advancing gender equality.

The conference program will be released together with registration information in the coming days. For further questions please contact the conference coordinator Sarah Muhoya at sarah.muhooya@ke.boell.org