

International Women's Day 2021



In Kinyarwanda, Mukarubuga could be translated as "a lot of space". Small in size, **Florida Mukarubuga** is a great lady. She is that kind of personality that leaves an indelible mark because her humility, commitment and values make her an example.

It is within the framework of the collaboration between our associations ('Indah' in Belgium and 'Amizero' in Rwanda) that my meeting with Florida has awakened in me a real awareness of the multiplicity and subtleties of different ways of thinking, whether from here or elsewhere, but also as a woman.

In order to present her, I will define Florida as a tutor of resilience. Having herself been confronted with the worst atrocities in her small country, Rwanda, Florida turned to others to decide to begin her post-genocide life. In 1994, after losing the best part of herself (her loved ones and her will to live), she found the strength to rebuild her life by helping others.

Florida embodies the most beautiful thing I have ever discovered in a human being: the spirit of sharing. As a woman, and more particularly as an African woman, with the cultural heritage that this represents, Florida imposes a dynamic of mutual aid that is spontaneous and disconcertingly authentic. The African economy is defined horizontally, an economy of sharing that is lived in the present moment.

Through her journey as a Rwandan woman, we find in Florida the very essence of this part of our society: femininity. Isn't it said that Africa is the mother of our humanity? I am referring here to this part of femininity that transcends us all, men and women, whether we are from here or elsewhere.

Florida is an accomplished social entrepreneur whose mission is to enable the women of her country to regain their dignity. She embodies this role through her will, her action, her decision-making...but also through her creative, open-minded and sensitive talents. And it is this subtle balance between male and female talents that offers us a recipe that works in a sustainable way.

And to feel worthy, every human being needs to feel recognized, especially in his or her talents.

Florida's daily work consists in encouraging women to get up, get going... To find in each of them what makes them unique, their strengths, their talents, their desires, their needs. She takes a benevolent look at each one of them, while proposing concrete actions to help them move forward.

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Florida organizes trainings, encourages and promotes the creation of income-generating activities, workshops-meetings whose objectives are to recognize the identity, the history of these women to offer them a presence in the world; to hear their needs to assert their rights and give them the strength and tools not to give up. Giving back body and life in their eyes is the daily work of the Amizero association, which means hope in Kinyarwanda.

Florida has understood that true development requires a society where female talents are recognized as essential for a more just and balanced economy. Built in every moment, in sharing and respect for the dignity of every woman, of every human being, we must recognize and encourage this feminine part that exists and lives in each one of us.

I am proud to have this opportunity to collaborate with an inspiring personality like Florida in the framework of the Indah association. My confidence in her goes beyond the formal framework of a professional relationship. It is with great friendship and admiration that I have chosen to highlight her on this International Women's Rights Day.

Stéphanie Poumay | Founder Indah



Fondation
John Cockerill