

# Akinyi ODONGO

O.G.W.

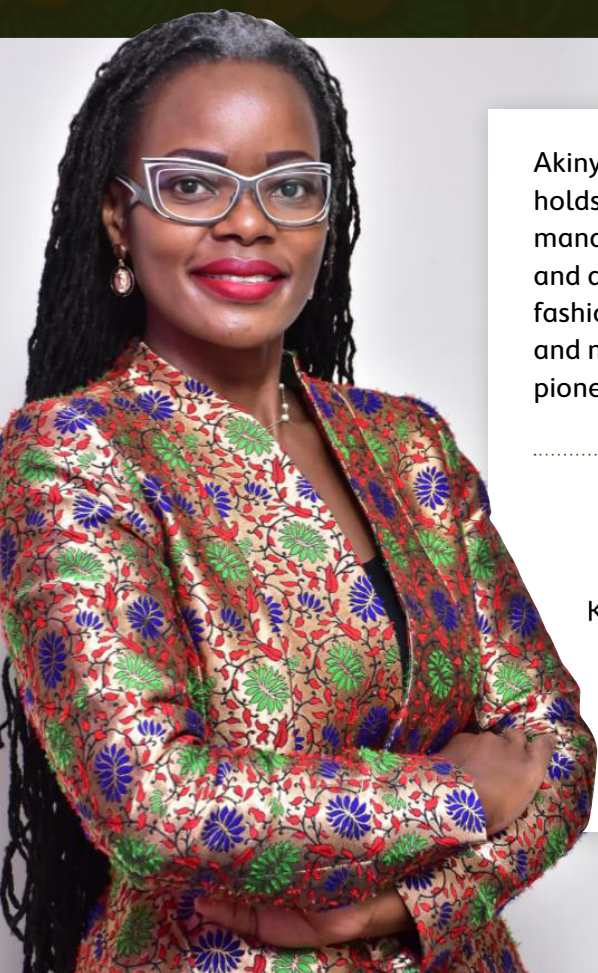
Visionary Leader ● Ethical ● Resilient ● Determined

- Founder & Executive Director ● Creative Director
- Fashion Lead & Consultant ● Business Developer
- Multi-Pioneer ● Entrepreneur ● Trainer
- Mentor & Coach ● Inspirational Speaker

**A**kinyi Odongo, O.G.W is a Fashion household name and a brand within the global fashion industry. As a leader and talent nurturer, with over 20 years experience, she has attained high stakeholding in mentoring and creating fashion leaders and entrepreneurs in the industry globally.

Akinyi is a graduate of Evelyn College of Design. She holds honorary credentials from distinguished fashion & management institutes, having been recognized globally and accredited as a leader, pioneer and advocate of the fashion industry. Her role in directing, mentoring, founding and managing multi diverse industries and institutions as a pioneer and engineer within fashion, is widely recognized.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP





## Vote of Confidence

She has a reach in many countries in East & Central Africa. Internationally, she has traversed platforms in New York, Dusseldorf in Germany, South Africa, Las Vegas, London, among others. Her honorary speaking has led her to grace platforms with high profiles including former President Barack Obama, at a summit held in Nairobi Kenya and Babson College in USA. Her nominations continue to stream in covering diverse work she has done in hosting and mentoring, supporting, entrepreneurship and leading in programs with established names such as European Union, Palace Summit, Fashion Agenda Africa, NITA Kenya, Kenya Fashion Council, external learning bodies and with United Nations programs etc. Most recently through her interactions, the Kenya Fashion Council was officially launched by Cabinet Secretary, Betty Maina at Strathmore University. It was the first body to be hosted and supported by The Office The President under SME Advisory Accomplishments 2016 to Date: Pioneered the formation of Kenya Fashion Council (KFCO) also served as the first Chairperson 2018-2022 key contributor in developing the implementation of buy kenya build kenya National strategy and Fashion Fridays.

## Accomplishments

### 2018

**East Africa - Creative Enterprise Programme (CEP)** - Venue: Kampala Uganda – Hive Colab, an innovation, Incubation and collaborative co-working space for the technology community of Uganda – This is an entrepreneurship program.

Selected and participated in the **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)** on African Women's entrepreneurship program (AWEP) – organized by United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Mentor in scaling of business e-commerce best practices.

**Babson College - Boston USA** - program implemented by Women for Africa Foundation and Babson College. The program emphasis was on Learning by doing- Entrepreneurial programme

### 2015-Date

Founded and Leads **Fashion Agenda Africa (FAA)** an initiative that focuses on young designers across Africa to view fashion as a business

### 2016

**Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women** – This is a global initiative supported by Goldman Foundation that provides Women Entrepreneurs around the world with practical business education, business advisory and network - sponsored by USIU Africa, Chandaria School of Business.


### 2015

Trained Image Consultant – Trained and Certified by the **Protocol School of Washington**.

### 2014

Attended **Enterprise Export Capacity Development**





**2022** **Order of Grand Warrior ( O.G.W)** conferred to her by the 4th President of the Republic of Kenya. H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta in recognition of her distinguished service rendered to the nation in the fashion industry.

**2022** **I Change Nations Award.** Honor accorded for using her business, innovation and initiative to empower others in a way that creates global impact and productive change around the world.

**2019** Nominated **Best female designer in EAC.**

**2018**

- **PIFWA - Best Fashion Designer of the year.**
- **Timeless Women Of Wonder (TWOW)** – In recognition of exceptional & devoted service in the Fashion & design sector and her contribution to the flourishing future of Africa.

**2017**

- **DEAR Award - Best Fashion Designer:** for her relentless efforts in furthering development and sustainable growth in her chosen field, as a winner who has made a lasting impact.

- **Founding Award Distinguished Women in Leadership.** In recognition of her great leadership qualities that has made powerful, positive impact on broader society around her.

**2014** Prestigious Elnet Business Ethical Leader and Ethical Business Award

## Designing for Personalities

- Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, the former First Lady of the Republic of Kenya
- Hon Martha Karua – first female Presidential Candidate
- Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohammed
- US Diplomat Jendayi Fraser
- South Africa First Lady
- Celebrities and Personalities

# Features & Publications

## Publication & Media feature & experience

2022 Akinyi Odongo: The fashionista using art to tell the African story | [READ STORY](#)

Fashion speak with Akinyi Odongo  
[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

2021 Everyday women Kenya: Creative director Akinyi Odongo part one | [CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Akinyi.E.Odongo, creative director, Akinyi Odongo.  
[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Akinyi Odongo urges fashion designers to join KFCO; terms it beneficial | [CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Akinyi.E.Odongo, creative director of Akinyi Odongo Kenya tm and chairperson of the Kenya fashion council (KFCO), presented the peoples culture and creative industries in Kenya. The lecture was transcribed | [READ STORY](#)

2020 Made in Kenya: Akinyi Odongo of Kenya fashion council  
[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Walk in the show episode 3 - Akinyi Odongo.  
[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

2018 Akinyi Odongo: My legacy  
[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Fashion watch: One-on-one with fashion designer, Akinyi Odongo | [CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Meet Kenya's finest fashion designer, Akinyi Odongo  
[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Brand Kenya ink partnership to drive up the growth of the local fashion industry | [READ STORY](#)

Fashion Agenda Africa secures deal to push made in Kenya brand | [READ STORY](#)

Brand Kenya's new partnership to boost fashion businesses locally | [READ STORY](#)

## Partnerships

JUMIA

ITC | SheTrades

ASF  
ADDIS  
AFRICA SOURCING AND FASHION WEEK





5 - Excellent

## Testimonials



I confirm that Akinyi successfully carried out the project “FSUL Design studio” which aimed at the transfer of practical and hands-on design skills to young local textile graduate designers in Kampala, Uganda. Ms. Odongo led the training program and provided mentorship to the graduates. In addition, she fulfilled the regular project reporting responsibilities towards Aid by Trade Foundation. We thank her for her engagement in the programme.

**Nina Schottle**

**Project Manager - Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning**

**AID BY TRADE FOUNDATION**



Akinyi Odongo embodies a true champion of the Cotton, Textile and Apparel value chain in Kenya. During the 3 years I served as the SME Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Trade & Cooperatives, she not only took initiative to engage Government with proposals on how best to support startups and SMEs on funding, market access and common manufacturing facilities, but also actively mobilized her colleagues in the Fashion Design industry to speak in a collective voice. She is a selfless leader who took the initiative to create a mentorship platform for upcoming fashion designers.

She founded the Kenya Fashion Council out of a need to establish a coordinated structure for Fashion Designers to engage with the Government and other private and non-governmental bodies. She was readily available to my office whenever I needed to consult with SMEs to co-create policies. I truly admire her passion and consistency in supporting other entrepreneurs and always professionally representing Kenya in international platforms through her creative designs.

**Florence Kimata**

**Enterprise development policy advisor.  
World Bank**



Akinyi has supported the German-Kenyan pilot group of our Design Networking Hub with her lecture on “Kenya - People, Culture and the Creative Scene”. Especially for the German participants it was a great introduction to learn more about Kenya (e.g. the spirit of Umoja, “Silicon Savannah”). Thank you dear Akinyi!

**Linda Robens**

**Project Management Design Networking Hub  
German Design Museum Foundation**



Akinyi Odongo through her Fashion Agenda Africa (FAA) an initiative that is founded on a paradigm of creativity, innovation and sustainable impact in the farm to fashion value chain is in collaboration with Tafari Centre for the Arts to advance the understanding appreciation and adoption of the fashion design practice among those living in the rural areas and particularly the youth. Over the years that this collaboration has been running, Akinyi has been very instrumental in directing the programme with very visible impact on the target community. She has further directly supported our centre in the establishment and equipping of permanent fashion design spaces with the above goal in mind. This space has now become a regular space for use by our artists in residence, film makers, and the community around us in their fashion design, costume making etc initiatives. Part of the collaboration entails providing young fashion designers in Africa with opportunity to co-create with others from different cultures and traditions – Akinyi has been pursuing this vigorously leading to successful inter-cultural creative fashion residencies at our centre. She continues to support our centre with the goal of mainstreaming fashion design as a gainful economic activity and confidence building amongst the youth. Tafari Centre for the Arts is a multidisciplinary centre set in a secluded and inspiring rural location in rural Kenya.

**George Tafari**

**Founder**

**Tafari Castle & Centre for the Arts**



# Testimonials



I have known Akinyi for over 18 Years, Akinyi provided her professional guide and mentorship for our youth programme at NairoBits Trust an organization that amplifies the voice of the youth, promotes their creativity and provides a platform to showcase digital and social innovation that open up their employment opportunities, and making them community leaders. Akinyi also designed and supplied the organization with high quality beautifully designed graduation gowns being used to date. I have known Akinyi Odongo as a passionate, innovative, brave, and single minded professional, always brings out the best in her work. I have particularly observed Akinyi's consistency and watched her tremendous growth over the years.

**Casper Pedo**  
**Head of Region: Eastern & Central Africa**  
**Fairtrade Africa**



I have had the honor to know Akinyi Odongo, O.G.W since 2014. She is a remarkable thought leader with unparalleled insight into her area of expertise. This insight is further coupled with a fiery passion to empower, equip and uplift African youth. She has achieved this through patient coaching, firm mentorship and generous exposure to her networks. Akinyi is a high flying super achiever in her own right, and has been a pioneer in numerous causes, most notably the formation and steering of the first ever Kenya Fashion Council, where she has diligently served and led for the past 6 years. As she also holds the hands of her young mentees at FAA in steady guidance, she is also a no nonsense teacher who has mastered the delicate balance of gently encouraging and firmly pushing the young people into their potential. I am proud to have been mentored by Ms. Odongo and owe a lot of my tenacity to her relentless commitment to my betterment. She comes highly recommended.

**Pilot Benson Kabugi Wamwea**  
**Founder/CEO**  
**Afrojet Aviation Solution**



Akinyi has been known to our businesses in Kenya and Uganda for a number of years to date as we continue to collaborate in a number of projects. She was the head of a 14 months CmiA grant project at fine spinners Ltd in Kampala, Uganda. The objective of the project was to transfer practical and hands on design skills to locally trained textile graduates. This was to develop the designers further for designing for European market. The project served as a role model for other similar projects within the textile industry. With the use of local fabric to increase marketability of products from a fully vertically integrated textile mill starting from locally grown cotton, to spinning-of yarn, to knitting, dyeing, finishing and garment in. This was the first designer training and creating a full designing studio of this kind in Africa.

The studio has produced designers that have been finally integrated into the company for full time employment for continual output of trendy and fashionable designs. Akinyi saw through the project to its completion with excellence. All reports and were done in record time and the donors were constantly updated. Thank you for changing lives and giving hope to future great designers just like you.

**Sav Bedi**  
**CEO**  
**Fine Spinners Ltd Uganda**



Akinyi really helped me with growing my business. She made me change my mindset to start thinking of Styletech as a business and not just a hobby. She encouraged and urged me to put structures in place that have helped me better manage my business and finances. From making 0 to 2 sales a month I am now making an average of 15 sales per month pushing me closer to my monthly sales goals. This has also opened up a new market for me internationally as we have started getting new orders from overseas. Thank you so much to Akinyi for really going to the basics and showing me a more effective way of running a successful business.

**Teshie Ogallo**  
**(Founder of Styletech by Teshie)**



5 - Excellent



# Testimonials



I had Akinyi as a business coach. It was an eye opening and insightful experience. I was struggling with doing my financials and she simplified it for me and I was able to calculate my cost of production effectively and reaching my targets. She was very honest with her feedback in regard to my brand and now i am able to see results. Akinyi has been a wonderful coach for me, she is honest, very receptive to every question i asked, quite encouraging and very impactful. I am very grateful.

**Sharon Wendo**  
Epica Jewelry



I worked with Akinyi at Kenya Fashion Council as an administrator. She was the Executive Board Chair, I must say she was an extremely professional leader who always stood for what is right. She made my work easier through her guidance. Her deeper understanding of the fashion industry and putting the needs of the industry ahead of her own.

**Hon. Joan Michuki**



Akinyi Odongo is a powerhouse! Her power and influence goes beyond fashion to leadership and development. She has infused her passion in fashion into not only promoting sustainable

development but also to empowering women and girls to have secure livelihoods through fashion. She is trustworthy, creative, innovative and adds royalty to her style.

I discovered Akinyi when I needed a total wardrobe shift and she guided me gently. If you're looking for a designer and fashion guru with international influence, yet humble, and approachable, then Akinyi Odingo OGW is the woman for the job!

**Caren Wakoli**  
Founder & Executive Director  
Emerging Leaders Foundation



Akinyi as a leader is fierce & fearless. Akinyi as a designer is meticulous & detail oriented. I haven't seen more passion & gusto in a person like I have seen with Akinyi. She takes her work seriously and executes with the utmost precision and transparency.

As my mentor, she has taught me the importance of professionalism, especially finishing well, in any situation. A lesson I carry with me into my various projects.

The most admirable thing about Akinyi, is her resilience and capacity to withstand challenges. It is an honour for me to call Akinyi my mentor.

**Ciruma Mbare**  
CEO  
Attirety PR

**MOTTO:** To be a good steward of what God has bestowed upon her