

Interview took place at Women and Girls Network, West London. See also Interview UKLSE_CT1_SD01_001_001_0014_0001.wav, transcript UKLSE_CT1_SD01_001_001_0014_0001.pdf and photograph UKLSE_CT1_SD01_001_001_0014_0001.tif

Interview Summary.

0:00 mins:

Akima Thomas' experience of working in the women's voluntary and community sector to improve women's structural position in the UK. Akima is the founder and Clinical Director of Women and Girls Network.

Childhood experiences. Experience of being a nurse. Civil rights movements and Akima's political development.

5:55 mins

Influence of Angela Davis and Audre Lorde. Black lesbian social life. North London Polytechnic. Kitchen table feminist activism and the establishment of Women and Girls Network.

13:06 mins

Rape crisis movement. Cleveland child abuse scandal.

15:19 mins

Black feminist women writers. 'Man'-made theories. Judith Lewis Herman. Sarah Nelson & Beatrice Campbell. Current intersectional feminist writers. Women within Akima's community.

21:56 mins

Leadership based on feminist principles – empowerment, operation of power, non-hierarchical, collaboration, mutuality, clarity and accountability and value-based. Inclusive leadership supported from behind. Women & Girls Network – one voice, flat-top leadership, power alongside. Women's leadership as co-operative, nurturing and supporting. Men's leadership as competitive.

30:40 mins

Social justice. Ending violence against women and girls. Safe welcoming spaces for women. Survivors as next generation activists. Development of high quality holistic services. W&GN at the forefront of the VAWG movement.

38:52 mins

Women's sector leadership as bold, compassionate and inclusive. Personal growth and self-learning.

43:31 mins

Gains in understanding and awareness. Austerity rolling back improvements. Backlash to feminism. Creation of meaning-making movements.

49:51 mins

Dismantling patriarchy. Structural and attitudinal change. Resistance and rebellion. Young women.