

THE FUTURE IS HERS

African LGBTQ voices exist, featuring Selly Thiam

Selly Thiam is a Senegalese American journalist, filmmaker, producer, and the founder and executive director of None on Record, a digital media organization dedicated to amplifying the voices and visibility of African LGBTQ people. This video transcript is part of the *Future Is Hers* multimedia series, celebrating innovators, risk-takers, and change makers, supported by the Ford Foundation, who have impacted the lives of women and girls around the globe.

Transcript begins.

[on-screen text: Selly Thiam, Executive Director, None on Record]

[A Black woman with glasses, wearing a black shirt and kente cloth pants, opens and closes a clapperboard and addresses the camera.]

SELLY THIAM: There's a level of silence around African LGBT experiences. There's an idea that we are un-African, that we don't exist. So, when we started this project, it was very difficult to find queer stories, and we don't want that to continue to happen. If communities are documenting—even through oral histories, audio-based oral histories, small documentaries that they're making—then there becomes a record, a record of our existence. And that's why it's really important to empower communities to basically tell their stories.

[on-screen graphic: Ford Foundation logo]

End of transcript.