

Biography of Dr. Eregogie Tesefaye

H.E. Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye

Former Minister of Labour and Social Affairs | Current Minister of Women and Social Affairs

H.E. Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye is a dedicated Ethiopian politician and academic, currently serving as the Minister of Women and Social Affairs since October 6, 2021. Prior to this role, she was the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs from October 16, 2018, to October 6, 2021. Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping policies that promote social equity, gender empowerment, and labor rights in Ethiopia.

Early Life & Education

Born in Hosaena, Hadiya, Ethiopia, Dr. Ergogie was raised in both Addis Ababa and Hosaena. She pursued her higher education at Addis Ababa University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language and Literature. She later obtained a Master of Arts in Gender Studies and a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Anthropology from India.

Career & Leadership

Dr. Ergogie began her professional journey as an English teacher at Gimbichu High School. She later transitioned into academia, serving as a lecturer and director of the Gender and HIV Protection Office at Saint Mary's University. Her commitment to education and social development led her to become the Vice President for Research and Community Service at Wachamo University.

Her tenure as Minister of Labour and Social Affairs was marked by significant reforms in labor policies, social protection programs, and workforce development. As the Minister of Women and Social Affairs, she continues to advocate for gender equality, child welfare, and social justice, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive the support they need.

Impact & Contributions

Dr. Ergogie has played a pivotal role in conflict resolution training, gender policy development, and community service initiatives. She has collaborated with organizations such as the UNDP, ILO, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank, the African Union, and other international and multinational organization focusing on leadership, gender-based violence prevention, social inclusion and labor issues.

Her dedication to public service and policy-making has earned her recognition as a trailblazer in Ethiopian governance, inspiring future generations to pursue impactful careers in social affairs and gender advocacy.

Notable Achievements

- **Policy Leadership:** As Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, she played a key role in reforming labor policies and expanding social protection programs to improve working conditions and employment opportunities in Ethiopia.
- **Gender Advocacy:** She has been a strong advocate for women's empowerment, leading initiatives to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality in various sectors.
- **Conflict Resolution & Research:** Dr. Ergogie has conducted training on conflict resolution through partnerships with UNDP and the African Union, focusing on ethnic conflict resolution in Ethiopia.
- **Community Service & Education:** She has contributed significantly to higher education and community service, particularly in gender policy development and migration research.
- **International Engagement:** She has represented Ethiopia in different **global forums**, including delivering speeches at **African Union ministerial consultations** on gender and social affairs.

Recognitions and Awards

- H.E. Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye has received notable awards and recognition for her contributions to labor, social affairs and gender advocacy. One of her most distinguished honors is the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Alumni Award, which she was conferred in New Delhi on August 8, 2022. She was the only awardee from Africa, recognized for her achievements and contributions to strengthening ties between Ethiopia and India.
- Dr. Ergogie has been actively involved in high-level ministerial consultations, such as the Africa Pre-CSW 66 Ministerial Consultation, where she represented Ethiopia in discussions on gender equality and social development.
- **Advancing Gender Equality in Climate Action:** Dr. Ergogie played a crucial role in the Africa Pre-CSW 66 Ministerial Consultation, where African countries agreed on a common position to integrate gender equality into climate action agendas. Her advocacy has helped shape policies that address the disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls.
- **Strengthening International Partnerships:** She has collaborated with organizations such as UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIDO, ILO, IOM and the African Union, contributing to discussions on women's empowerment, Gender development, child protection, youth development, social protection, migration management, labor issues and conflict resolution.
- **Youth Economic Empowerment:** Dr. Ergogie supported the USAID Integrated Youth Project, which launched the Kefeta Youth Savings and Credit Cooperative to provide financial access to young people, particularly women and those with disabilities. This initiative has helped thousands of Ethiopian youth gain economic independence.

- **Global Policy Influence:** Her leadership has positioned Ethiopia as a key player in international gender and social affairs discussions, ensuring that African perspectives are represented in global forums.

Dr. Ergogie's international collaborations have strengthened Ethiopia's engagement in global policy discussions, particularly in areas of women's empowerment, youth development, labor rights, and social protection. Dr. Ergogie's work continues to inspire policy changes, international collaborations, and grassroots initiatives that uplift vulnerable communities worldwide.