When asked participants to share what sisterhood means to them, they shared words and phrases like emotional support, being seen, friendship and encouragement - but also accountability, shared anger, growth and challenge. To see the full word cloud click here.

As it turns out, sisterhood is full of contradictions - and that's exactly what we explored in our eight and final session in Feminist Leadership: Eight Weeks of Exploration, with African Women's Development Fund CEO Françoise Moudouthe.

"There's a tension in feminist spaces between the need for growth and the need for accountability."

Contradictions of sisterhood
- Sisterhood is often taken for granted in feminist spaces, yet (or perhaps due to that) we don't actively foster it
- Women sometimes discriminate against other women in the name of sisterhood - for example, white women assuming Muslim women are oppressed and in need of saving
- Sisterhood is seen as a gift we are lucky to receive rather than a responsibility we all have to one another
- Many seek feminist spaces because they want to grow and feel safe to ask questions, yet this process is not always tolerated
- Feminist spaces are also where you can 'let your hair down' but at the same time where you will be held accountable

Key takeaways and questions
- Sisterhood is not about liking or getting along with everyone, but respecting them
- We should remain aware of how the term 'sisterhood' can feel exclusionary ('community care' may be an alternative, see The Colour Factor)
- Sisterhood is not a state but an action; we must continually practice it to grow it
- What would leadership look like if we centred it not on a singular leader, but a collective notion of sisterhood?