



Facilitate

# L'ATELIER

de la TRANSFORMATION SOCIALE

## Singing as a tool

In Haiti, singing is omnipresent at all ages and in daily life in general.

Throughout the country's history, singing was linked with transmission of memories and stories. As such, Haiti is one of the countries where history is transmitted orally.

The MPP has been using songs since its creation, but it was only able to create its own repertoire at the end of the 1980s, after the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship.

Its song repertoire now serves to confront the serious issues the organisation is facing.

As such, the movement wrote and published a booklet of over 100 songs covering many types of mobilisation and conscientisation, such as the right to own a land, social injustice, women's rights, etc.



**The following is a Haitian creole song about women's status and the need to fight back, first translated into French, and then into English:**

Creole version

Medam mete fanm sou nou  
Medam mete fanm sou nou  
Fo'n goumen pou'n bati yon lot sosyete  
Sonje nan listwa peyi nou  
Okenn lit pa janm fèt san medam yo

I  
Sonje Klè Erez, Madam Desalin  
Te sipote mari li ankouraje li

II  
Sonjje Ren Anakaona ki te yon fanm vanyan  
Lite goumen ak kolon yo, li prigale yo

III  
Sonje Anriyèt Senmak, libète ou lanmo  
Li te konbat kolon yo, li krabinen yo

IV  
Sonje Sizan Janbatis, fanm total kapital  
Man Touden Louveti, li te nan lit la

V  
Sonje Sanit Belè, Madam Chal Belè  
Fanm ki pa ret ak fanm, lite brav anpil

VI  
Sonje man Morepa, li pat pran nan kraponnay  
Pandye ak tout fanmiy li, yo mouri ansanm

English version

Ladies, take heart  
Ladies, take heart  
We must fight to build a new society  
Remember that throughout our country's history  
No fight was fought without women!

I  
Remember Claire Erez, Desaline's wife  
Supporting and encouraging her husband

II

Remember Queen Anakoana, she was a valiant woman  
She fought and defeated the colonists

III

Remember Henriette Senmak, freedom or death  
She fought and crushed the colonists

IV

Remember Suzanne Janbatis, a valiant woman  
Toussain Louverture's wife, she fought by his side

V

Remember Sanit Belè, Chai Belè's wife  
She didn't stay with the other women only, she was very brave

VI

Remember Morepa's wife, she feared nothing  
Hung with her family, they died together.

To listen to it go to the dedicated page on the website of the Workshop for Social Transformation: <http://atelier.fdh.org/en/take-action/our-tools/facilitate/article/singing-as-a-tool?lang=en>

**Objectives:** address the strong issues and the many mobilisation themes that concern the organisation.

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