

# Sahle-Work Zewde



Sahle-Work Zewde (Amharic: ሳህለወርቅ ዘውዴ; born February 21, 1950) is the current President of Ethiopia and the first woman to hold the office. She was elected president unanimously by members of the Federal Parliamentary Assembly on October 25, 2018. As of 2019, she is Africa's only serving female head of state.

When elected, she promised to promote peace and make gender equality a reality in Ethiopia, urging lawmakers to work towards building a community that supports women, not oppresses them.

Sahle-Work previously served as Ambassador to Senegal, Djibouti, and France. She also worked with many other African countries through the African Union and the United Nations. Sahle-Work was only the second woman in Ethiopia's history to be appointed as an Ambassador. She is a strong, determined Ethiopian woman who is setting an amazing example for everyone!

# Meaza Ashenafi



In November 2018, Meaza Ashenafi was elected the first female President of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia. She is a prominent women’s rights activist and founded the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association. Meaza has also worked with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and helped develop the first women’s bank in Ethiopia (Enat Bank).

Meaza has received many awards for her philanthropy and leadership, and was even nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. As a lawyer, Meaza’s most famous case was turned into the film “Difret”, and won the World Cinema Dramatic Audience Award at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. The case, which she won, resulted in stopping young girls from being forced into marriage in Ethiopia.

# Liya Kebede



Liya Kebede is an Ethiopian model, women's health advocate, clothing designer, and actress. In 2007, she was listed as the 11th-highest paid supermodel in the world! She has appeared on the cover of U.S. Vogue, in many other magazines around the world, and has even starred in multiple movies. She launched her own clothing line, Lemlem (Meaning "to bloom") in 2008, which features hand-woven and embroidered women's and children's clothing. Her company was started to help preserve the traditional weaving in Ethiopia and to offer job opportunities to local artisans.

In 2005, Liya was appointed to the World Health Organization as a Goodwill Ambassador for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health. She then founded the Liya Kebede Foundation, whose mission is to reduce maternal, newborn, and child mortality in Ethiopia, and worldwide. Her organization funds advocacy and aware-raising projects, and provides direct support for low-cost technologies, community based-education, and training and medical programs. In 2013, Liya was named one of Glamour's Women of the Year for all her work, and she continues to pave the way for empowered Ethiopian girls!



# Dr. Senedu Gebru

Dr. Senedu Gebru was born in Mennagesha in 1916. As a teenager, she became the first woman to join the Black Lions, the resistance movement formed to fight against the Italian occupation in the 1930's. In 1957, she became the first Ethiopian woman to be elected to parliament, eventually serving as Vice President. This inspired Ethiopian women all over the country to take up leadership roles.

In addition to her role in politics, Senedu was also a prolific writer and educator. She wrote several plays and a collection of short stories, poems, songs and authored over 10 books. As headmistress at a prestigious all girls school, she always encouraged girls to persist in their education. She was one of the founding members of the very first disabled persons association in Ethiopia and served as the head of the Red Cross. Dr. Gebru was a remarkable Ethiopian woman.

# Abebe Bikila



Abebe Bikila was born in 1932 in Jato, Ethiopia to a shepherd and his wife. Bikila was the first sub-Saharan African and Ethiopian to win a gold medal in the Olympics and the first person to win back-to-back Olympic Marathons. He won his first gold medal in Marathon at the Rome Olympics in 1960, which he famously ran barefoot. His second gold was won during the Tokyo Olympics in 1964.

In 1969 he was involved in a car accident which left him a paraplegic. Nonetheless, he continued to compete in archery, table tennis and cross-country sleigh-riding. In 1971, he won the sleigh-riding event for the disabled in Norway. A movie called "The Athlete" was made about him. Bikila is an example to us all that one should persist in all circumstances.



# Haile Selassie I

Haile Selassie I was born Tafari Makonnen Woldemikael on July 23, 1892 in the village of Ejersa Goro, in the Harar province of Ethiopia. He was Ethiopia's 225th emperor and reigned from 1930 to 1974. During that time, he helped lead the resistance against the Italian invasion during WWII.

Additionally, he worked to modernize the country. He was instrumental in the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), later renamed the African Union. In 1974, he was overthrown. He was the last emperor in the Solomonic dynasty.

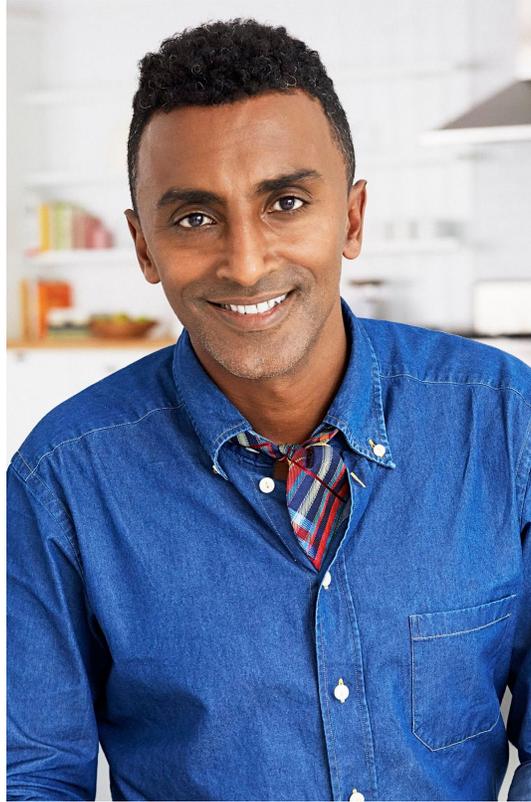


# Abiy Ahmed

Abiy Ahmed was elected Prime Minister of Ethiopia in 2018, and has made many changes in the government since being elected. He served in the Ethiopian National Defense Force for many years and was known for promoting peace between religious groups in multiple regions while in the military.

Starting when he was a member of the Oromo Democratic Republic, Abiy facilitated the formation of an alliance between the Oromo and Amhara groups (which together make up two thirds of the 100 million Ethiopian population). One of his most important achievements came in July 2018, when he signed a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship with Eritrea, which put an end to the tensions between the two countries and re-established diplomatic relations, reopened direct telecommunication, road, and aviation links, and facilitated Ethiopian use of ports in Eritrea. He has also promoted women within the Ethiopian government, appointing females to half of the total cabinet positions.

# Marcus Samuelsson



Marcus Samuelsson (born Kassahun Tsegie in 1971) is an Ethiopian-Swedish chef and restaurateur. He is most notably the owner and chef of Red Rooster in Harlem, New York, among many other restaurants he owns and projects he has been a part of. His father, Tsegie, is an Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church priest, and although Marcus was born in Ethiopia, he and his sister were adopted by a family in Sweden after his mother passed away when he was three years old.

Marcus became interested in cooking through his maternal grandmother in Sweden, and attended the Culinary Institute in Gothenburg, Sweden before coming to the United States in 1994. At age 24, he became the executive chef of Aquavit restaurant in New York restaurant, and became the youngest ever to receive a three-star restaurant review from *The New York Times*. He and his wife co-founded the Three Goats Organization, which is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children, young women, and families in Ethiopia by providing sustainable access to vital resources, such as food and water.