

## Biography

### Rokhaya Diallo (@RokhayaDiallo)

Rokhaya Diallo is a writer and film director

Born and raised in Paris, she became involved early on in local politics, presiding the Youth Council of the City of La Courneuve (a suburb outside of Paris), while at the same time participating actively in the anti-sexist organization Mix-Cité. In 2007 she co-founded the INDIVISIBLES, a group whose goal is to use humor and irony to break down prejudices, and racial discrimination. One of the ways the association tries to reach its objective is by recognizing through satire the “best” racist pronouncements made by French public figures during the “Y A BON AWARDS Ceremony

In 2009, after working eight years in youth television programming, Rokhaya, having earned degrees in law, and audio-visual marketing and sales, became a commentator for the TV program, *LA MATINALE* on Canal + before working for I>télé (a cable news network), RTL, France’s number 1 radio station, and then hosting and producing a cultural radio program *FRESH CULTURES* on Le Mouv’.

Being a journalist in no way kept Rokhaya from her commitments and convictions. She joined the ENAR (European Network against Racism), whose members hail from European Union countries.

In 2010, she co-authored *Call for a Multicultural and Post-racial Republic* (Respect Magazine editions). In 2011, Larousse published her work, *RACISM: THE GUIDE* and she co-authored “Trussing a Domestic” under the direction of Christine Delphy.

Rokhaya codirected and hosted the documentary TV series, “Equals but not too much” on LCP-AN, the French Parliamentary Channel for two years, and also cultivated her interest in international matters in “The INROCKUPTIBLES Magazine” through which she was able to cover topics on Bahrain, Tunisia and the United States, among others.

In 2010, The State Department invited Rokhaya to participate in its International Visitor Leadership Program around the theme, “Managing Ethnic Diversity in the US.”

Recognized for her work against racism, in 2012, Rokhaya was honored with a prestigious award for the Struggle against Racism and Discrimination by the NGO COJEP, represented in over fifteen European countries and affiliated with the UN and the Council of Europe.

Because of her activism and unremitting commitment Rokhaya was ranked 36<sup>th</sup> by Slate Magazine in 2013 on its list of the 100 Most Influential French Women and is also listed on Britain's Powerful Media list of the 30 Most Influential Blacks in Europe. She participates each year in the 40 under 40 program, dedicated to Europe's top 40 leaders under the age of 40.

Among Rokhaya's published works are *France Belongs to Us* (Michel Lafon, 2012) and *France: One and Multicultural* (Fayard, 2012) which she co-authored under the direction of Edgar Morin and Patrick Singaïny. She subsequently wrote *How to talk to kids about racism* (le Baron Perché), and directed in 2013 for Television Channel France Ô, *the Steps to Liberty*, she follows a group of young American heirs to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington 50 years after the momentous event and 30 years after the French March from Marseilles to Paris for Equality and Against Racism. She asks the young Americans to share their opinions, reactions and impressions as they discover a France in the middle of its own identity crisis.

The following year, after being the target of a call to rape on Twitter, Rokhaya produced a documentary for French channels LCP/AN and France 3, *Networks of Hate*, covering hate speech and freedom of speech online.

In 2014, she appeared on "Purpose Economy 100" a listing of the 100 main innovative economic players in Europe.

Today, Rokhaya lives in Paris and is working on her soon-to-be-released books and films. She is often called upon to participate in conferences in France and around the world.