

UN
WOMEN 

Loud it!

***#16DaysOfActivism
in Nigeria, 2023***

IT'S VERY
SIMPLE
NO
MEANS
NO

UN WOMEN

Table of Content

1	Editorial: Unite! Invest to prevent violence against women	21	Students March Against Gender-Based Violence
3	Call-to-action Press Briefing	22	Creating safe spaces for women
4	UN building aglow in orange!	23	UN Resident Coordinator joins Walk against GBV
5	Engendering the UN System to end violence against women	24	Nigeria's Northeast rises against gender-based violence
6	UN Women Nigeria Media Partners Conference: a media coalition against GBV	26	Traditional leaders reiterate commitment to eradicating GBV at Media Dialogue
9	Investing to end GBV; UN Women regional office engage CSOs & private sector in Nigeria	27	Traditional leaders rise against gender-based violence in States
10	Nigerian first ladies UNITE to END VAWG	31	UN Women launch North-West Zonal Coordination Mechanism
12	Mega billboards promoting GBV reporting	32	Joint Advocacy Campaigns in Adamawa, Benue, and Plateau States
13	A radio campaign against social stigma	33	Inaugural National Women's Conference "Say No to SGBV" Club Launch: A Milestone by NSCDC
14	Television Outreach against GBV	34	Leaving no one behind: Vulnerable Groups join campaign Against GBV
15	Radio interventions in the States	35	Promoting Economic Empowerment to end GBV in Kaduna State
16	#IDeyWithHer Social Media Campaign	36	Ebonyi State inaugurates Nduru One-stop Centre to address gender-based violence
17	X Spaces: Investing in Women's economic empowerment to curb GBV	37	States agog in Orange
19	Promoting communal action against GBV at sensitization roadshows		

UNITE! *Invest to prevent violence against women and girls*



Editorial

You may already know why we make so much noise every year between November 5th and December 10th. For those who do not, we call it the 16 Days of Activism.

On 25 November 1960, sisters Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa Mirabal, three political activists who actively opposed the cruelty and systematic violence of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, were clubbed to death and dumped at the bottom of a cliff by Trujillo's secret police. The Mirabal sisters became symbols of the feminist resistance. In commemoration of their deaths, 25 November was declared International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Latin America in 1980. This international day was formally recognised by the United Nations in 1999.

Activists started #16DaysOfActivism at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991, and it is used as an organising strategy by individuals and organisations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

The theme for 2023 was "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls". This year, UN Women and its partners carried out diverse strategic multisectoral activities and multimedia productions to reach millions with a simple message—end violence against women and girls.

Many initiatives and events were happening for the first time this year. This includes a coordinated campaign against GBV in the states, with First Ladies participating; this is a result of the regional GEWE

coordination platforms earlier established by UN Women and ministries of women's affairs, and a capacity-building workshop on ending violence against women and girls for 19 first-time First Ladies. UN Women also held the maiden edition of the UN Women Nigeria Media Partners Conference to build a media coalition against GBV. For the first time, we collaborated with the Council of Traditional Leaders in Nigeria to hold a media dialogue, organise town hall meetings across the regions, and install informative mega billboards with strong messages from first-class traditional rulers.

I want to thank our government partners, development partners, CSOs, traditional and religious institutions, the academic community, women's groups, and young people for their collaboration and support in rolling out this year's campaign. Profound appreciation to UN Women Nigeria's senior management, team leads and staff who made this year's campaign an impactful endeavour.

This bulletin is a peek into the 2023 campaign!

Let's dive in.

Beatrice Eyong

UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS



**PRESS BRIEFINGS,
DIALOGUES AND
A HOUSE IN ORANGE**

Call-to-Action Press Briefing

UN Women joins Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to kick off 16 Days of Activism

UN Women continues to work with the government of Nigeria to advance gender equality and women's empowerment across Nigeria.

As it is in our tradition, we joined the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, development partners and civil society organizations for a UN Women-supported Press Conference, to kick off the 16 Days of Activism 2023.

The aim of the conference was to sensitize the press and the public on the need to escalate action against gender-based violence through their platforms and interventions.

"736 million women worldwide had experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence", said UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Matthias Schmale, at the event. He reiterated the urgency for a comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls in Nigeria.

The Minister of Women Affairs, Barr. Uju Kennedy Ohaneye, during her address, informed dignitaries and the press of Nigeria government's commitment to ending GBV, through the establishment of mobile courts to ensure GBV survivors receive prompt justice.

(Top to bottom) (i) (Second from right) Lansana Wonneh, UN Women Deputy Country Representative, and Uju Kennedy-Ohaneye, Minister, Federal of Ministry of Women Affairs at the Press Briefing (ii) Matthias Schmale, UN Resident Coordinator (iii) Barr. Uju Kennedy, Minister for Women Affairs (iv) Press crew at the press briefing. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali





UN Building in Nigeria aglow in Orange during the 2023 #16DaysOfActivism. Photo: UN Women Nigeria

UN Building Aglow in Orange!

Loud it!", screamed Ms Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Representative to Nigeria, as she placed her hand on the switch. The crowd that has gathered in front of the United Nations building in Nigeria echoed her call, "Loud it! To end violence against women and girls!". Amongst them was the UN Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, Dr Ireti Kingibe, Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), H.E Mr. Svein Baera, Royal Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, heads of agencies, civil society organisations and the security sector.

With a flip of the switch, the UN House radiated a soft glow of orange. The symbol of hope that one day gender-based violence, in all its forms, will be eliminated from the lives of women and girls in Nigeria and around the world.

Lighting the UN House in orange is done every year to remind residents of the FCT of the need to priori-

tize interventions to end violence against women and girls.

Preceding the lighting of the building was a Media Briefing where Ms Eyong informed the press and relevant stakeholders of the quintessence of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, reiterating the theme for 2024, "Unite! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls".

Other dignitaries at the event called for increased donor, government, and private sector investment in interventions against gender-based violence, as well as the need for inclusive programmes that engages persons with disability and the aged.

The event was supported by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.



Clockwise: (i) Dignitaries at the Pre-lighting Press Briefing, including the (r-l) Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Country Rep, Matthias Schmale, UN Resident Coordinator, (ii) Participants in front of the UN House as the building is lit in orange. Photo: UN Women Nigeria (iii) Participants at the pre-lighting Press Briefing Photos: UN Women Nigeria



Lansana Wonneh, UN Women Country Deputy Rep (7th from left), Patience Ekeoba, Programmes Officer, Coordination & Partnership (8th from left), and Matthias Schmale, UN Resident Coordinator (Centre), and other participants. Photo: UNIC Nigeria

Engendering the UN System to end violence against women

During the 16 Days of Activism, the UN Resident Coordinator with support from UN Women convened relevant CSO and women groups in the country to discuss processes for accelerating the achievement of the SDG five.

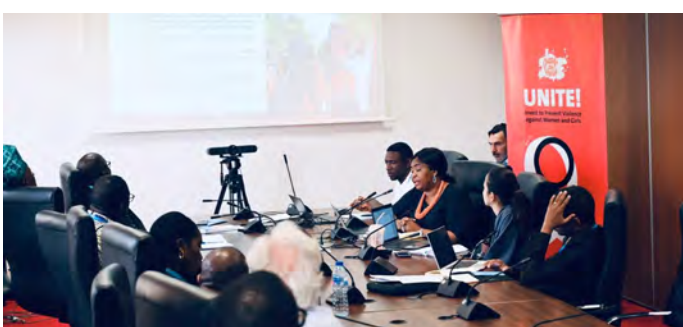
The CSOs and women groups in Nigeria have contributed to advancing the achievement of the SDG 5; their contribution is critical. During the meeting CSOs lauded the partnership with UN System under the leadership of the Resident coordinator and the coordination by UN Women to ensure gender-responsive UN interventions.

From the presentations made by Lansana Wonneh, UN Women Country Deputy Rep, Patience Ekeoba, Programmes Officer, Coordination & Partnership,

showed that UN Women engaged the resident coordinator and the UNCT to advocate for the implementation of the UN SWAP recommendations.

Through the resident coordinator leadership, opportunity was provided for UN Women to present the current status of the SAWP to the UNCT. After the presentation, UNCT committed to support the implementation of the recommendations and in particular, to take deliberate steps to ensure gender parity in their respective agencies.

UN Women also made presentation on the 16 days of activism theme and advocated to the UNCT for more political and financial support and investment towards ending violence against women and girls in Nigeria.



(i) Matthias Schmale, UN Resident Coordinator with Heads of UN Agencies at the UNCT meeting (ii) & (iii) Cross section of participants. Photos: UNIC Nigeria



Clockwise (i) UN Women Country Rep, Ms Beatrice Eyong addresses participants (ii) Ms Eyong joins participants on the red carpet (iii) Participants at the media conference. Photo: UN Women Nigeria

UN Women Nigeria Media Partners Conference: a media coalition against GBV

On 4th December 2023, heads of media, editors and reporters gathered at the United Nations Conference Hall, UN House, Nigeria. There was one agenda on the table – escalating media action to end gender-based violence and advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. Moderated by Moji Makanjuola, Executive Director, International Society of Media in Public Health and Lanrewaju Arogundade, Executive Director of the International Press Centre, the conference focused on addressing challenges of media advocacy for gender equality and women’s empowerment, strategy to improve media action for GEWE.

Key speakers included Siatta Scott-Johnson, Executive Director for Women in Media Development, and president of the Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL), Vivian Affoah, Programme Manager, Digital Rights, Media Foundation for West Africa, Accra, Ghana; Mrs. Aisha Ibrahim, President, Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ); and others.

“The power of the media to cause mass behavioural change cannot be over-emphasized”, said Ms Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, as she addressed the media, “Our interventions and efforts to change social norms and harmful traditional practices cannot be achieved within SDG-proposed timelines if the media is not in the driver’s seat”.

Outcomes of the conference, which the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative supported, include a media work plan to promote GEWE, approved scorecard criteria to enhance gender-responsive media reporting, and commitment from heads and editors of media to prioritize GEWE reporting.

The event was made possible with funding support from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.



100 Heads of media, editors & reports
50 Media Houses

Red Carpet at UN Women Nigeria Media Partners Conference 16DaysOfActivism2023



(1) Conference facilitators: Lanre Arogundade, and Moji Makanjuola, with Seyi Soremekun of UNIC Nigeria (2) Journalists are Conference (3) Lois Auta, PWD advocate (4)(5) Participants at conference (6) Anthony Abu, UN Women Nigeria Team Lead on Communications with Ene Ede, Media Gender Advocate (7) Participants arrive (9) Young journalists were in attendance (10) Patience Eze, one of UN Women staff at the event (11)(12)(13) Participants write on the commitment board.

All Photos except 6: UN Women/Anthony Abu; Photos 6: UN Women Nigeria

Photos of sections from UN Women Nigeria Media Partners Conference #16DaysOfActivism2023



1



2



3



4



6



7



5

(1) Cross section of participants
 (2) A participant makes her point
 (3) Participants signing commitment to advance GEWE through their platforms
 (4)(5) Participants during the discussions
 (6) Lansana Wonneh, UN Women Deputy Country Representative
 (7) Anthony Abu, UN Women Nigeria Team Lead on Communications discusses next steps with Conference facilitators: Lanre Arogundade and Moji Makanjuola.

Photos: UN Women Nigeria

In the margin of this year's 16 Days of activism campaign, UN Women Nigeria in collaboration with UN Women WCARO held a consultative session with CSOs and Women's Rights Organizations to present the new EU-UN Women initiative tagged 'ACT: To Eliminate Violence Against Women' to accelerate efforts to eliminate all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls. At the event, EU Representative, Ms. Esme Stuart, during her introductory remarks emphasized the long-term commitment required to address gender-based violence (GBV) in the region. UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Madam Beatrice Eyong, also highlighted the importance of proactive solutions, including investing in and empowering women's rights organizations.

The meeting's agenda covered introduction of the program's proposed approach, defining shared advocacy priorities, strengthening connections between actors, and establishing advisory mechanisms. Madame Arlette Mvondo, EAW Regional Specialist WCARO, presented the ACT Program's approach, strategies, and results framework, addressing global, Africa-level, and West and Central Africa regional challenges. The proposed outcomes involved strengthening coalition building and enhancing advocacy, campaigning, and policymaking. Participants also raised questions regarding the ACT project's approach to conflict situations, engagement with transformative theory, security and capacity building, violence against children, technology utilization, and more.

The first day of the consultation concluded with group discussions on a shared vision and common advocacy agenda, focusing on themes such as inclusive participation, promotion of women's rights, prevention of violence, and priorities for human rights defenders and survivors. The second day discussions focused on key priorities like further investments in care for survivors, strengthening women's groups, inter-generational dialogue, and addressing language barriers. The governance mechanism was also discussed, emphasizing regional/national focal leads, co-ordination, participatory and inclusive approach, communication, transparency, and security assurance.

At the end of the event, Madame Beatrice Eyong, expressed optimism that between the UN Women, the European Union and the African Continent at large, "great things would be achieved with regards Ending Violence against Women and Girls, especially when reflecting on the work done over consultation period."

Investing to end GBV; UN Women regional office engage CSOs & private sector in Nigeria



(Top to bottom) (i) Group photo of participants at the regional convening with CSOs and women right groups (ii) Cross-section of participants at the convening in group discussions (iii) Madame Arlette Mvondo EAW Regional Specialist WCAR giving a presentation at the convening. Photos: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



Nigerian Governors' Spouses UNITE to END VAWG

On the 9th of November 2023, UN Women, in partnership with the Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum (NGSF) as part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, conducted a capacity-building workshop on SGBV for first-time First Ladies from 19 states in Nigeria. The workshop aimed to enhance the First Ladies' understanding of gender, gender-based violence, and its psychosocial impact, while also exploring survivor-centered approaches for intervening in SGBV cases, emphasizing the unique roles of the First Ladies in leading efforts to end violence against women and girls in their states.

The workshop didn't stop at awareness. It fanned the commitment and passion for advocacy demonstrated by the First Ladies. Equipped with enhanced skills, the 19 first ladies became champions, committed to spearheading initiatives, policies, and programs aimed at eradicating VAWG in their respective states including commitments to fully implement the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act and the Child Rights Act which have roots in the Commission

for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Maputo Protocol.

A direct result of this workshop was the establishment of new SARCs, Sexual Assault and Referral Center (SARC) in States like Ebonyi, and nationwide activities to commemorate the 16 Days of activism leveraging on newly launched coordination mechanisms across all geo-political zones in Nigeria.

- (i) H.E. Amb. Prof. Mrs. Olufolake AbdulRazaq, First Lady of Kwara State and Chair of the Nigerian Governor's Spouses Forum addressing participants
 - (ii) Group photo of first ladies with UN Women Country Rep, Ms Beatrice Eyong and Mr. Ruben Alba, Head of EU Development Cooperation
 - (ii) Cross section of participants during the capacity building workshop
- Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



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**RIDING ON THE FORCE
OF ELECTRONIC, PRINT
AND SOCIAL MEDIA**



Mega billboards promoting GBV reporting

UN Women had a plan to get GBV toll-free Call numbers to more people, to increase the reporting of GBV incidents, curb the prevalence of violence against women, and increase prosecution of offenders. Apparently, mega billboards carrying contacts for response services, will advance this goal.

UN Women, in collaboration with the traditional leaders' council of Nigeria, with support from Ford Foundation, produced and installed informative billboards in strategic locations, which includes Apo, Madalla, and Nyanya, outskirts communities of the FCT, bordering Niger and Nasarawa States.

The billboards, which also call for reporting of GBV, have reached over a million people. It also carries toll-free GBV call numbers for Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, NAPTIP, and National Human Rights Commission.

Imagine driving or passing by a mega-billboard over and over, the billboard carries the photos of first-class traditional leaders in Nigeria declaring their stance against gender-based violence. Certainly, the message will stick, and the fact that there are toll free GBV call lines in bold letters on the billboards will enhance the rate of GBV reporting in these communities.

 **1.8 million**
persons reached



Photos: UN Women Nigeria





A Radio Campaign Against Social Stigma

“It is these short dresses that you wear that got you raped”, a voice from the radio said and it is quickly interrupted by Madam Common Sense, who says, “You should be ashamed of yourself. A GBV survivor reports her attacker to you, and you blame her?”. This voice from the captivating radio jingle goes on to reiterate the need to believe survivors, and provide them with the necessary support to survive the aftermath of gender-based violence.

The radio jingles were part of the I Dey With Her campaign, the Nigerian version of the With Her campaign, which is aimed at garnering support for GBV survivors and securing more voices against gender-based violence. The jingles, which were produced in five major languages – English, Pidgin,

Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa – were broadcast across Nigeria, covering the six geopolitical zones through twelve multi-state radio stations of Radio Nigeria.

The jingle tackled victim-blaming and promoted community accountability. The dramatic radio jingle portrayed a scenario where a survivor faces blame and scrutiny instead of empathy after a traumatic experience. The characters challenge societal norms, emphasizing the survivor's right to say ‘no’ and the collective responsibility to report perpetrators.



12 regional radio stations
24 million
listeners reached

Television Outreach against GBV

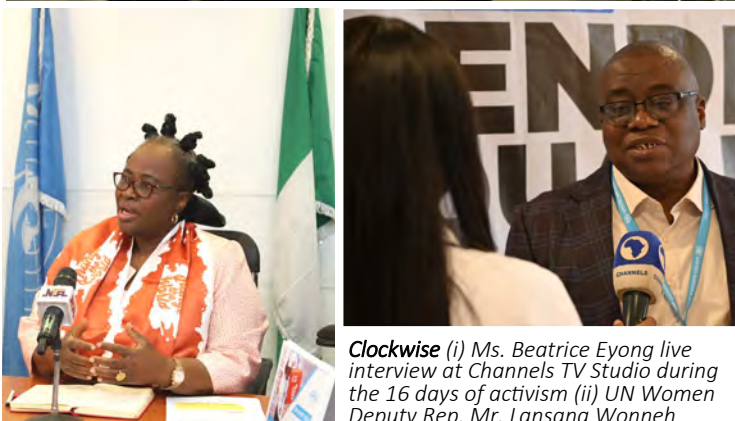


Photos: UN Women Nigeria/Oluoma Ali


Throughout the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, our campaign garnered significant attention through electronic media reports and media appearances. Over 120 reports were published in the media about UN Women Nigeria's activities during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the ensuing 16 Days of Activism campaign. Published articles in national newspapers addressed the nuances of gender-based violence, fostering inclusive narratives. Op-eds provided a platform for survivors, activists, and experts to share diverse perspectives, contributing to a broader understanding of the issue.

UN Women Country representative was also featured on major news outlets, where she emphasized the importance of investing in preventing violence against women and girls and reaffirming UN Women's commitment to ensuring that Nigeria becomes a country where every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential.

Together, these media efforts not only raised awareness but also contributed to dismantling harmful stereotypes and encouraging community dialogue. The combination of impactful articles and strategic media appearances significantly enhanced the campaign's reach, fostering a collective commitment to combatting gender-based violence.



Clockwise (i) Ms. Beatrice Eyong live interview at Channels TV Studio during the 16 days of activism (ii) UN Women Deputy Rep, Mr. Lansana Wonneh interview with Channels TV on investment in women's empowerment (iii) UN Women Country Rep, Ms. Beatrice Eyong interview with NTA during the 16Days of Activism.
Photos: UN Women/Oluoma Ali

 **120+**
Media mentions



Radio interventions in the States

In a determined effort to combat violence against women and girls, UN Women, in partnership with Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), organized a media campaign to mark the 16 Days of Activism in Yobe State on December 6th, 2023. This awareness initiative took the form of a live radio program broadcasted on YBC FM 89.5. The studio hosted distinguished guests, including the PWAN team and representatives from the established MOT, CSP, and WLO platforms. The discussions revolved around crucial topics such as breaking the silence surrounding Gender-Based Violence (GBV), highlighting the available support services for survivors, delving into the existing legal framework and protective measures, and most importantly, raising awareness about the roles and responsibilities of these platforms in enhancing community security engagement.

UN Women also organized four interactive radio programs which aired on Al-Ansar and Dandal Kura radio stations in Hausa and Kanuri languages to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism. The radio program was used to increase awareness of Gender-Based Violence, forms of Gender-Based Violence, Harmful practices against women and girls, and how community members can unite to end Gender-Based Violence. The radio program garnered a total of 75 engagements, with one of the listeners, Amina from Abujantalawa, stating that the radio program has been a source of enlightenment for her, and another Massa Lawan from Kilbiri, Maiduguri highlighting the need for the support and participation of men in the fight against GBV.

By amplifying voices, breaking the silence, and engaging community members, these programs addressed a pressing need to create awareness, educate, and foster community engagement in the fight to end violence against women and girls.

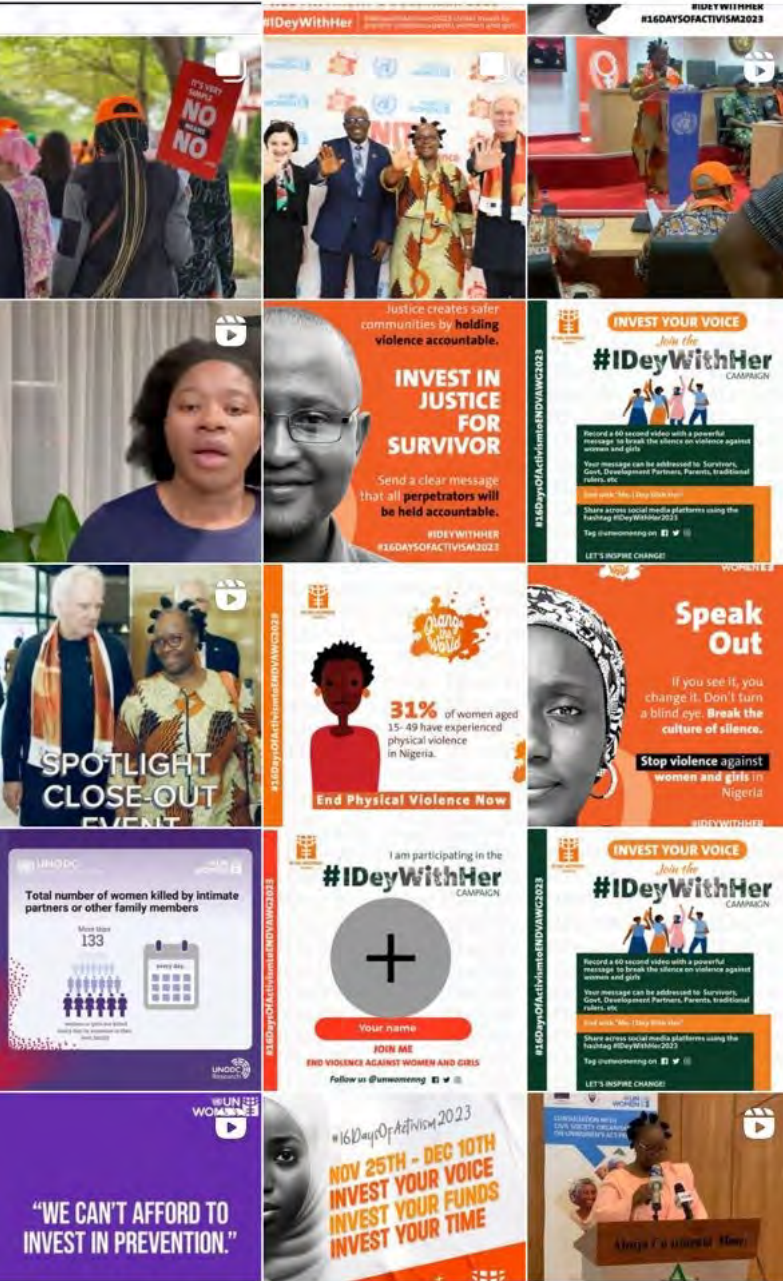
(i),(ii) Cross-section of presenters and experts guests at YBC FM 89.5. (iii) From left to right the expert guests Kaltume Abdullahi and Yakaka Mustapha and the OAP Fatima Abba Anas. (iv) From left to right the expert guests Ummi Uba Danbatta, Amina Ali Mónguno and Saude Dahiru and Habiba Ahmad the OAP Al-Ansar radio. Photo: UN Women Nigeria



More than
10 million
persons reached



26



Over 100,000
Organic impressions

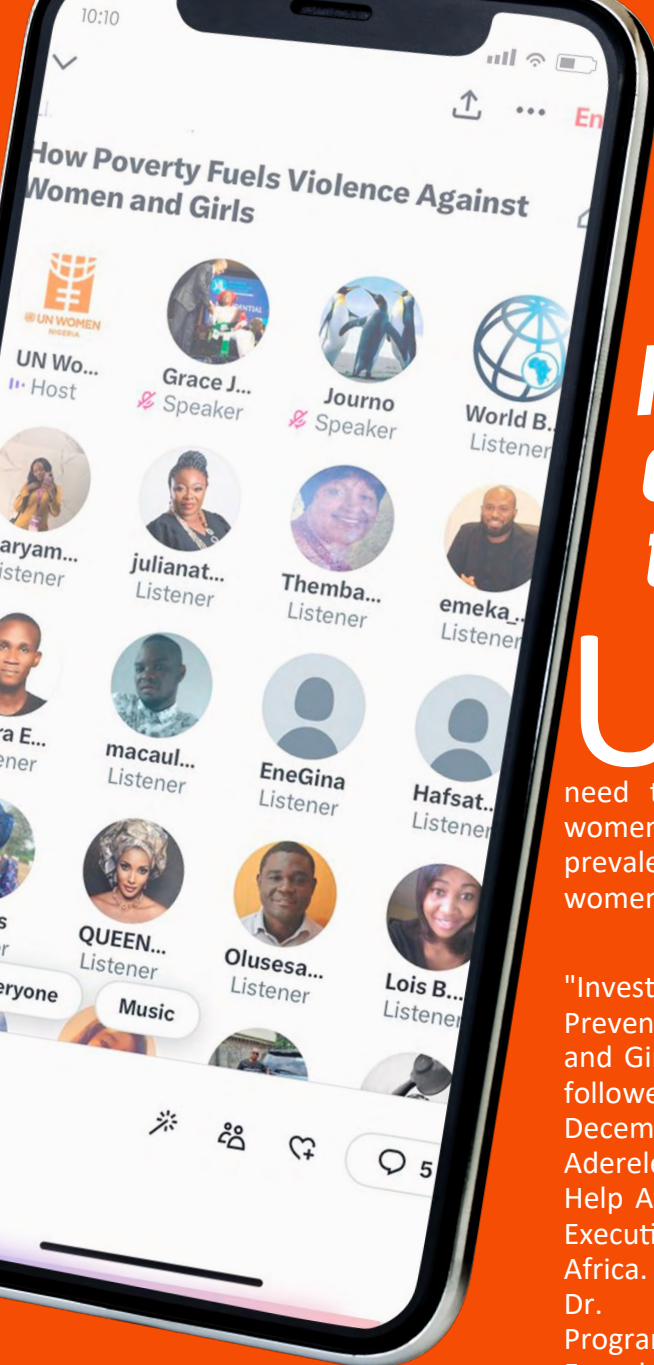
800

Social media users
created content to
promote #16DaysOfActivism

#IDeyWithHer Social Media Campaign

The message of investing to end violence against women and girls reached over 36,000 followers across UN Women Nigeria's social media platforms. The multi-activity social media campaign was implemented on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. It included X social media posts, campaign events reporting, infographics, photo statements, and promotion of knowledge products. This was part of the #IDeyWithHer Campaign, which saw the participation of over 800 people, with each individual creating personalised DPs and sharing messages as well.

One of the highlights of the campaign was the participation of social media influencers in the sharing of call-to-action video reels on social media. Notable among them are Jola Ayeye, Kiki Mordi, and Rinu Oduala, who created reels with messages that aimed to break the silence, help shed light on the issue of violence against women and girls, and inspire individuals and organizations to take meaningful steps towards ending violence against women and girls.



X SPACES

Investing in Women's economic empowerment to curb GBV

UN Women held three X Spaces during the 16 Days of Activism 2023 to create awareness of the need to increase investment in women's empowerment to curb prevalence of violence against women and girls.

"Investing in Legal Action to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls, Pt 1" held December 1, followed by a second part on December 5, 2023. It featured Joy Aderele, Country Director of Self Help Africa, and Bukky Shonibare, Executive Director of Invictus Africa. Other speakers include Dr. Amina Salihu, Senior Programmes Officer, Macarthur Foundation, West Africa, and Juliana Taiwo Obolanye of Daily Times Newspaper.

Discussions revolved around prioritizing women's economic empowerment to enable women pay for legal services. On the other hand, empowering women also enable them to leave abusive relationships and prevent financial dependence that engender violence against women and girls.

The third X Space was in collaboration with the World Bank Nigeria Country Office, tagged, Investing in Women's Livelihood to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls'. Guest Speakers at the X

Space were Patience Ekeoba, UN Women's National Programmes Officer; Michael Ilesanmi, Senior Social Development Specialist for Africa Region, The World Bank; and Grace Jerry, Executive Director, Inclusive Friends, Abuja. Contributing includes Chukwue-meka Onyimadu, UN Women's team lead on Economic Empowerment.

The discussion from the two sections focused on the need to increase prosecution of offenders by investing in access to justice for GBV survivors. This should include establishment of GBV mobile courts and provision of pro bono legal services by lawyers. However, speakers reiterated that the issue of stigma and culture of silence has made some survivors and family to decline legal services. Recommendations include the need to raise awareness to empower both victims and offenders, strengthen systems, training responders and digitalizing the legal system to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and transparency.

GIN ZARAFIN
To Report, please
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**STUDENTS, WALKS,
AND COMMUNITY
OUTREACHES**



Actors in one of the scenes showing the need for community support for GBV survivors: Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

Promoting communal action against GBV at sensitization roadshows

“You mean to say, if I call this number, them go answer?” the young woman asked, inquiring if the GBV response phone number on the backdrop and pull-up banners will go through when she calls. From the teeming crowd, women were typing out the phone numbers on their phones, while others looked for pieces of paper to write them as the theatre troupe informed them that they must not be silent about gender-based violence anymore as there are numbers to call to report incidents of violence against women.

The market sensitisation roadshow – with the support of Ford Foundation – was held at the Masaka Market in Masaka and the Mararaba Orange Market in Mararaba. The primary objective was to create awareness about the clauses of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, empower communities with knowledge, and provide them with contacts to report cases of violence against women and girls.

“We will not tolerate violence against women and girls in this market!” Masaka market leader, Mohammed Ishaq, said emphatically, “As you have heard about the VAPP Law, all offenders

will be reported to the police”.

The market women leader of both markets also spoke against gender-based violence and decried defilement of girls, calling members of the community to come together and ensure cases are reported and perpetrators are prosecuted.

The sensitization roadshow included a captivating and illustrative dance drama and a thought-provoking playlet that showed the different forms of violence against women and called for communal action against GBV, as well as a dialogue and interactive section that addressed penalties for gender-based violence, and questions and answer section.

The active involvement of market council leaders and women leaders played a crucial role in delivering a clear message: “Report all forms of violence against women and girls”. This empowered the community with a unified voice against gender-based violence.

3,000
persons
reached 

More photos from the community sensitization roadshows



Mohammed Ishaq, a market leader speaks against GBV



Patricia Buba, a woman market leader speaks against GBV during discussions



Drama session by theater troupe



Theatre troupe arrive at the community



Community members participating in the discussions



The crew



One of the women in the community speaking against GBV



During the discussions



Community members participating in the discussions



Community members watch intently during the drama section

Photo: UN Women Nigeria

Students March Against Gender-Based Violence

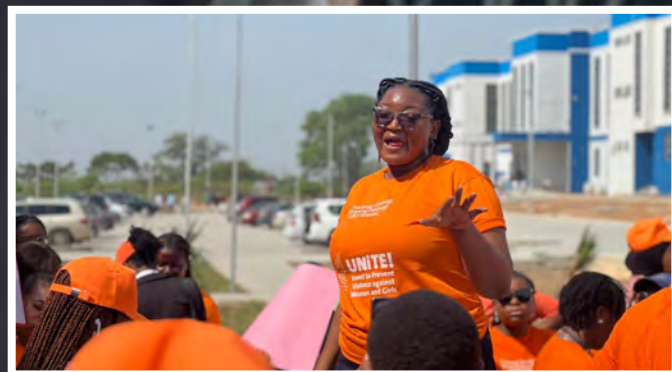
We say no to violence against women and girls!", one of the students yelled, and the other students in the procession echoed the call. Colourful placards with different messages stuck out of the crowd; punching the air with their fists, it was apparent that the students meant business, and the school community had to listen.

During the 16 days of activism, UN Women Nigeria organized an GBV awareness campaign at Nile University Abuja. This initiative commenced with a march against gender-based violence (GBV) within the campus premises, symbolizing a united stance against GBV.

This initiative aimed to instigate lasting change by nurturing a sense of responsibility and awareness among the youth, thereby reinforcing the broader objective of preventing violence against women and girls in academic settings.

Subsequently, a panel discussion session took place, focusing on the theme of "Investing Towards Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls in Tertiary Institutions." The inclusion of a panel discussion not only facilitated knowledge-sharing but also fostered an environment for dialogue and understanding.

The involvement of young voices in this engagement provided avenue to empower the next generation to actively contribute to the fight against GBV.



Photos: UN Women Nigeria

Photos: UN Women Nigeria

Photos: UN Women/Angela Muruli

Creating safe spaces for women

RESPECT
WOMEN
PERIOD!

UN WOMEN

Photo: UN Women Nigeria



(Top to bottom) (i) Cross-section of LASU students during the safe spaces summit (ii) Cross-section of participants during the safe spaces summit (iii) Group photo with VC LASU, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello (4th from left), and Deputy Country Rep, Mr. Lansana Wonneh (3rd from right)
Photo: UN Women Nigeria

Sex-for-marks is a no-no thing here; definitely not under our administration. So I want to say it again that if you see something, say something, and we shall do something", the Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, reiterated at the Safe Spaces Summit organised by the LASU (Lagos State University) Centre for Response and Prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (CRPSGBV) in collaboration with the esteemed United Nations Women (UNW) and the Lagos State Ministry of Women's Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.

The summit's primary objective was to raise awareness about investing in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls. It aimed to identify institutional responses to gender-based violence (GBV) safe spaces and gaps in Nigeria, fostering transformative investment strategies for GBV risk mitigation and gender equality.

Ms. Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Nigeria Country Rep, ably represented by Deputy Country Rep, Mr. Lansana Wonneh emphasized the importance of investing in prevention strategies against violence and the need to shift the narrative from 'victimhood' to survivorship.

The Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Lagos State, Mrs. Cecilia Bolaji-Dada, stressed the collaborative effort required to eradicate GBV. She commended the VC of LASU for supporting CRPSGBV, dedicated to creating a safe, gender-balanced environment and providing premium services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

The summit concluded with two panel sessions focusing on institutional responses to GBV safe spaces and transformative investment strategies for GBV risk mitigation. Central to the discussions was the imperative to change the narrative around survivors of gender-based violence. The summit emphasized the importance of fostering safe spaces within the university community and beyond, where survivors receive support, empowerment, and resources to reclaim their lives.



Photos: UN Women Nigeria/Oluoma Ali

UN Resident Coordinator joins Walk against GBV

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale led UN Staff and other stakeholders on the streets of Abuja to protest the growing cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in the country.

The global march is organised by WARIF and was led, in Abuja by UN Women on behalf of the UN System with support from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.

The march which commenced from the United Nations Headquarters in Abuja, saw the group walk through the streets of Abuja carrying placards with messages that called for an end to violence against women and girls in Nigeria and sensitizing the public on the dangers of SGBV. Also present at the march was the FCT Mandate Secretary for Women Affairs, Mrs. Adebayo Benjamins-Laniyi, cheering on participants to “Loud it” and “Say No to GBV.”



(Top to bottom) (i) Matthias Schmale, UN Resident Coordinator, at the march (ii) Participants at the March (iii) A group photo of some participants.
Photos: UN Women Nigeria

Nigeria's Northeast rises against gender-based violence



Empowering PWDs on identifying and reporting issues GBV. Photo: UN Women Nigeria.



Educating young girls across public schools on SGBV and preventing it in their community. Photo: UN Women Nigeria.



Cross-section of participants at Dusman Hausari community peace, Jere Local Government Area. Photo: UN Women Nigeria.

Activities conducted in the Northeast region of Nigeria, an area still grappling with the aftermath of the Boko Haram Conflict, focused on addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through diverse initiatives. These initiatives targeted audiences in both rural communities and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Key objectives included creating awareness, educating communities, strengthening resilience against GBV, and empowering women and girls.

The activities aimed to achieve sustainable change by challenging societal attitudes, promoting gender equality, and fostering a culture of respect and non-violence. This resulted in enhanced capacity for identifying and reporting GBV issues, commitment from key stakeholders, reaching 800+ individuals including women and girls, school boys and girls, PLWDs, and religious and community leaders.

Community stakeholders such as the Bulama (Community leader) of Dusuman Lawanti and Dusman Hausari communities in Jere LGA also promised to support the Women's Critical Discussion Group and the interventions they carry out in the communities at all times.

UN Women received further commitments, including the establishment of a GBV committee, encouragement of girl child education, provision of a GBV desk officer, and training service providers on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) first aid.

Community members were also educated on existing GBV laws, with government and stakeholder pledging to increase involvement in providing integrated support to conflict-affected women and girls.



**JOINING FORCES
WITH TRADITIONAL
LEADERS**



Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, in her ceremonial traditional title regalia, and Oba Alayemore of Iddo-Osun, Osun State, King Adedapo-Aderemi, and other traditional rulers, during the media dialogue. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali

Traditional leaders reiterate commitment to eradicating GBV at Media Dialogue

On the 4th of Dec 2023, UN Women in collaboration with Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) and with support from Ford Foundation, organized a Media Dialogue by Traditional Leaders on the elimination of VAWG themed “Investing in Cultural Transformation: The Role of Traditional Leaders on Ending VAWG”. The dialogue provided an opportunity for the traditional leaders to assess and renew their commitments on ending VAWG across communities in Nigeria.

At the Media Dialogue, traditional leaders made commitments towards ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Nigeria, by promoting positive cultural values that respect individual rights and

debunking harmful norms, directly influencing community members.

The enhanced community mobilization resulted in proactive measures, victim support, and accountability for perpetrators, fostering a safer environment.

The traditional leaders also committed to actively engage with policymakers, and advocate for effective laws and policies to address gender-based violence (GBV). With the aim to create a legal framework that ensures prevention and response measures and contribute to a more robust system for preventing and addressing GBV.

More photos from the traditional leaders media dialogue



Cross section of traditional rulers and development partners participants at the Media Dialogue. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



Cross section of traditional rulers at the Media Dialogue. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



Cross section of traditional rulers Media personnel at the Media Dialogue. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



The Emir of Fika and Chairman Yobe State Council of Chiefs HRH Alhaji Dr Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa CON, and Funke Baruwa of Ford Foundation at the Media Dialogue. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



Paramount Ruler HRM Amos Uchua Uyumulam of Obanliku speaking at the Media Dialogue. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



Cross section of traditional rulers and Media personnel at the Media Dialogue. Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali

Traditional leaders rise against gender-based violence in States

Traditional rulers in various Nigerian communities became powerful advocates for change during the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Following a validation meeting that pinpointed harmful traditional practices against women and girls, leaders from both the northern and southern regions of Nigeria organized media dialogues and townhall meetings, others organised marches against gender-based violence.

The objectives were to address harmful social norms and traditional practices that engender violence against women and girls and advocate communal action to end this menace. The events also aimed to create

awareness the provision of the VAPP Act and other byelaws in their respective communities and educate the communities on their responsibility in reporting GBV incidents and ensuring that offenders are prosecuted.

At all these events, traditional leaders made it categorically clear that they, as custodians of culture, are against gender-based violence and will ensure that survivors get justice and redress.



Paramount Ruler HRM Amos Uchua Uyumulam of Obanliku speaking at the townhall meeting
Photo: UN Women Nigeria



Paramount Ruler HRM Amos Uchua Uyumulam of Obanliku and Oluoma Ali, UN Women Communications Assistant, presenting a certificate to 100 graduands of a second chance education and skill acquisition programme



The Alayemore of Iddo-Osun and the chiefs during the town hall meeting in Iddo-Osun, Osun State.



Group pictures with the students and elders that attended the town hall meeting in Iddo-Osun, Osun State. Photo: UN Women Nigeria



The Olu of Iwaya Kingdom and two of his chiefs, Lagos State. Photo: UN Women Nigeria



Cross-section of participants during the town Hall Meeting in Iwaya, Lagos State. Photo: UN Women Nigeria



Group Photo with The Emir of Fika, National convener COT-LA & Chairman Council of Traditional rulers, Yobe State, Alh. (Dr.) Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa CON (4th from right) Photo: UN Women Nigeria



Cross-section of participants at the Emirs Palace in Potiskum, Yobe State Photo: UN Women Nigeria



STATES AGOG IN ORANGE

UNITE!
Invest to Prevent Violence
against Women and Girls

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UN Women launch North-West Zonal Coordination Mechanism



Top-to-Bottom (i) UN Women Deputy Country Rep, Mr. Lansana Wonneh conveys his remarks (ii) Patience Ekeoba, UN Women National Programmes Officer (extreme right) with State teams developing their action plans for disseminating CGEP in their states. (iii) Group Photo of participants, decorated in orange/white t-shirts and caps in commemoration of 2023 16 Days of Activism Photo: UN Women Nigeria

On the 29th of November, UN Women successfully launched the North-West Coordination Mechanism/Platform in line with its mandate to coordinate activities to advance GEWE in Nigeria. These platforms, designed to be a comprehensive hub for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) initiatives, have quickly become a pivotal tool in promoting assessment, planning, peer review, reporting, and more across the region.

The launch of these Coordination Platforms has sparked a wave of renewed efforts by state governments and ministries of women affairs. Statewide awareness and advocacy campaigns have been initiated, showcasing a tangible commitment to addressing gender-based issues. This demonstrates a direct and immediate impact on ground, with people at the grassroots actively engaging in the 16 Days of Activism.

The launch is the sixth in the series of launches of the zonal GEWE mechanism across the six geopolitical zones, with the objective to increase and accelerate accountability, investments and sustainability for GEWE in Nigeria. The launch was done at the wake of the 16 days hence it was used to promote the theme and campaign.



Joint Advocacy Campaigns in Adamawa, Benue, and Plateau States

The collaborative efforts of the State Ministries of Women Affairs in Adamawa, Benue, and Plateau States, along with various Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) structures, resulted in a comprehensive advocacy campaign to prevent violence against women and girls. The initiative, aimed at creating awareness and fostering commitment to end gender-based violence (GBV), unfolded through multiple activities.

A One Day Media Roundtable in each state heightened awareness of the National Gender Policy and the Continental Result Framework on WPS in Benue, with a focus on monitoring National Action Plans. The roundtable discussions also addressed collaborations to reduce GBV cases. TV Appearances featured in-depth discussions on gender-based violence, stressing collaborative efforts and increased commitment from participants to share knowledge.

The Road Walks in all three states witnessed active participation from various stakeholders, including CSOs, security agencies, schools, MDAs, Traditional Rulers, FIDA, and the Police. The walks also included distribution of the National Gender Policy and SOPs on GBV prevention.

In Benue, all stakeholders committed to ending violence, and FIDA pledged pro bono services for women and girls. Plateau saw commitments like budget allocation for GBV prevention, increased inclusion of women in the Traditional Council, and a groundbreaking budget increase to over N1 billion for the Ministry of Women Affairs. The campaign successfully achieved its objectives, promising progress in uniting against violence. Continued collaboration and sustained efforts are essential for the impactful implementation of preventive measures outlined in the National Gender Policy and SOPs.



Jos



Benue



Adamawa



Group Photo of Participants at the NSCDC Inaugural National Women's Conference.
Photos: UN Women Nigeria/Oluoma Ali

Inaugural National Women's Conference "Say No to SGBV" Club Launch: A Milestone by NSCDC

With the valued support of UN Women Nigeria and the government of Germany, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps successfully organized its inaugural National Women's Conference. This landmark event was complemented by the launch of the "Say No to SGBV" (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence) club in schools during the 16 Days of activism.

The conference prioritized capacity enhancement and the integration of gender mainstreaming strategies. It served as a platform to foster awareness and commitment to gender issues within the NSCDC and the broader community. The initiation of the "Say No to SGBV" club in schools showcased the NSCDC's commitment to sensitizing and empowering children to be vigilant against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

At the event, the Commandant General (C.G) Ahmed Audi of NSCDC emphasized the organization's commitment to safety and security in schools. He noted the crucial role of awareness in combating SGBV, stressing that addressing gender issues is a collective endeavor for a better future, not a struggle between men and women.

UN Women Nigeria Country Representative Ms. Beatrice Eyong, represented by Mr. Peter Mancha, commended the NSCDC Commandant General for his dedication to gender mainstreaming and pledged its support for operationalizing the Gender policy within the NSCDC, recognizing the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing gender equality.

The inaugural conference and club launch marked a pivotal moment in advancing gender awareness and combating SGBV within the NSCDC and schools. By prioritizing capacity building and education, the event laid the foundation for a more gender-inclusive and informed community.



Cross Section of participants at the Joint Symposium for Vulnerable groups. Photo:UN Women/Oluoma Ali

Leaving no one behind: Vulnerable Groups join campaign Against GBV



Patience Ekeoba, UN Women National Programmes Officer makes her remarks at the Joint Symposium for Vulnerable groups. Photo:UN Women/Oluoma Ali

Aligning with the principle of leaving no one behind, UN Women in collaboration with Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN) organised a joint symposium focused on addressing the unique challenges women with HIV, disabilities, elderly women and young people experience in the face of violence.



Participant sharing her story at the Joint Symposium for Vulnerable groups. Photo:UN Women/Oluoma Ali

This event provided an opportunity for the Association of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN) and other special need groups to share their experiences of violence, their survivor stories and make demands for increased prevention interventions and response and also provided the opportunity for government representatives, the UN System development partners, and civil society representatives at the meeting to listen, discuss and recommend new ways to advance prevention interventions and funding mechanisms to enhance prevention and mitigation services and actions for the target groups.



Dr. Emem Omokaro, DG National Senior Citizens Center, giving her remarks at the joint symposium for vulnerable groups: UN Women/Oluoma Ali



Group photo of participants at the Joint Symposium for Vulnerable groups. Photo:UN Women/Oluoma Ali



(Left to Right) (i) Group photo of participants at Widow's Multipurpose Development Association (ii) Group photo of teachers at Panaf International Schools (iii) Dr Chukwuemeka Onyimadu (UN Women) addressing student of Panaf International Schools (v) Dr Chukwuemeka Onyimadu (UN Women) addressing teachers of Panaf International Schools Photo: UN Women Nigeria

Promoting Economic Empowerment to end GBV in Kaduna State

Economic empowerment of women plays an important role in preventing violence against women and girls by fostering financial independence, improving social status, and challenging traditional gender norms. When women have economic resources, they gain autonomy, reducing their vulnerability to abuse and enhancing their ability to make choices about their lives. Additionally, economic empowerment programs can further empower women to break free from cycles of violence.

In this light, the Zamani Foundation, in collaboration with UN Women, engaged with Private Sector partners as part of the 2023 sixteen days of activism against gender-based violence. The team visited various institutions, including schools, factories, and restaurants, to sensitize them on gender issues and the importance of empowering women in the fight to end violence against women and girls.

Notable visits included Great Panaf International Schools, Widow's Multipurpose Development Association, Noble Crown School, Nigerian Brew-

ery, Harmony Hospital, Sidi and Sons Supermarket, Cavendish, Titioluwa restaurant, and St. Matthew's Primary and Secondary School. The team successfully engaged with key stakeholders, discussing topics such as procurement, women empowerment, and GBV.

Several institutions expressed interest in redirecting a percentage of their procurement to women-owned businesses as an investment in the prevention of violence against women and girls. UN women also received commitment from institutions like Nigerian Brewery and Harmony Hospital to involve women in procurement and support women's economic empowerment. Key recommendations include supporting schools in developing comprehensive mechanisms for preventing and reporting gender-based violence and providing knowledge and practical steps for addressing GBV.

Ebonyi State inaugurates Nduru One-stop Centre to address gender-based violence



Her Excellency Chief Mrs. Mary-Maudline Uzoamaka Nwifuru giving her remark during the unveiling event at the Nduru One Stop Centre at the Ebonyi State Teaching Hospital. Photo: UN Women Nigeria

On 29th November 2023, Her Excellency Chief Mrs. Mary-Maudline Uzoamaka Nwifuru unveiled the Nduru One Stop Centre at the Ebonyi State Teaching Hospital, marking a significant milestone in the fight against Gender-based Violence. Supported by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in collaboration with Partnership for Justice, the Nduru One Stop Centre stands as the first of its kind in Ebonyi State.

The Centre's establishment follows the successful collaboration with the Nigeria Spouses Forum, spearheaded by UN Women, focusing on empowering First Ladies for impactful change. This collaborative effort, including training sessions, laid the foundation for increased essential services dedicated to survivors of violence and individuals at risk.

With a commitment to providing comprehensive support, the Nduru One Stop Centre integrates various services under one roof. This includes medical care, counseling, legal assistance, and support programs, creating a streamlined and

holistic approach to address the multifaceted challenges faced by survivors of gender-based violence.

Her Excellency Chief Mrs. Mary-Maudline Uzoamaka Nwifuru expressed her gratitude for the support received from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, Partnership for Justice, and UN Women. She highlighted the important role of the Nduru One Stop Centre will play in ensuring the women and girls in Ebonyi state are safe. The launch of this Centre is a testament to Ebonyi State's dedication to eradicating Gender-based Violence and creating a supportive environment for survivors. As the Nduru One Stop Centre begins its operations, it is positioned to make a lasting impact in transforming the lives of those affected by violence.

States Agog in Orange

Never have we seen the kind of participation we had from states in this year's 16 Days of Activism 2023. Clearly, this was preliminary impact of UN Women's recent launching of civil society-government-led Zonal Coordination Platforms to improve GEWE coordination and enhance synergy in GEWE advocacy and

intervention. Several states in Nigeria carried out impactful activities to amplify the message of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, enhancing public awareness and engendering government commitment.



Delta State: The Ministry of Women Affairs in Delta State commemorated the 16 Days of Activism with an array of events focusing on accelerating actions to end GBV and Femicide, leaving no one behind.



Osun State: The Ministry of Women, Children Affairs in Osun State, collaborated with the Office of the Wife of the Governor and received support from UNFPA for an awareness campaign engaging all key stakeholders in Osun State to campaign against all forms of violence.

Photos: UN Women Nigeria Partners

States Agog in Orange



Imo State: The Office of the Imo State First Lady and the State Ministry of Women Affairs organized an awareness walk/seminar to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls.



Sokoto State: The First Lady of Sokoto State organized an awareness lecture on ending violence against women and girls.

Members of the Sokoto State House of Assembly pledged unwavering support for legislative measures addressing GBV and VVF.



Jigawa State: Jigawa State governor briefing participants during a March against gender-based violence, as part of the 16 Days of Activism 2023 in the State.

States Agog in Orange



Ondo State: Ondo State organized marches to raise awareness about ending violence against women and girls.



Anambra State: State response team, Ministry of Women and Social welfare and other relevant stakeholders at a workshop during the 16 Days of activism.



Enugu State: Enugu women march to raise awareness to end violence against women and girls

Photos: UN Women Nigeria Partners

States Agog in Orange



Abia State: The government of Abia state in collaboration with the ministry of women affairs and poverty alleviation raised awareness to end violence against women and girls.



Edo State: Edo State Ministry of Social Development and gender issues led by the hon. Commissioner and other stakeholders, went on a road walk to raise awareness on ending violence against women and girls.



Kebbi State: Kebbi state MWASD observed the 16 days of activism in collaboration with TWG on GBV sensitization of Okada and tricycle riders in the state on the dangers and consequences of committing and form of

Photos: UN Women Nigeria Partners

States Agog in Orange

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Rivers State: Stakeholder meeting of pushing the Gender Agenda Forward in commemoration of 16Days of activism.



Akwa Ibom State: Akwa Ibom State Ministry of women affairs in collaboration with implementing partners organizes awareness campaign to end violence against women and girls.

Kano State: Dissemination of Nigeria Gender Profile and commemoration 16Days of Activism in Kano state.



Ebonyi State: The wife of Ebonyi State Governor, Mrs Mary-Maudline Uzoamaka Nwifuru led over 100 institutions non-governmental and civil society Organizations in a mega rally against Gender-based violence in Ebonyi State

States Agog in Orange



Ogun State: Ogun State, led by the Governor H.E Dr. Dapo Abiodun and first lady H.E Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun in collaboration with the state ministry of women affairs organized an awareness march on Ending violence against women and girls.



Lagos State: Lagos State Ministry of women affairs organizes awareness march to end violence against women and girls.



Katsina State: 16 Days of Activism Round Table Discussion with the Hon. Commissioner, Katsina state Ministry of Women Affairs.

Photos: UN Women Nigeria Partners

States Agog in Orange



Bayelsa State: The Office of the Bayelsa State First Lady organized an awareness march to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls.



Kaduna State: The Office of the Kaduna State First Lady and the State Ministry of Women Affairs organized an awareness walk to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls.





Photo: UN Women Nigeria



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