



E LOYA | COVID 19 EDITION

# E-LOYA 2021

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS  
(FIDA ) NIGERIA

## COVID-19 INTERVENTION



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**ELIANA MARTINS**

**NATIONAL PUBLICITY  
SECRETARY FIDA NIGERIA**

Felicitations Dear Readers!

The year 2020 was a most challenging year yet, it can also be termed an interesting year that forced all people, groups, communities and countries to re-assess and repackage themselves and their operations to meet the challenges presented.

Consequently, while we noticed a lot of negatives, applying the right attitude, one could clearly also see a lot of positives if you cared to look more closely.

FIDA Nigeria most admirably rose up to the challenges, reviewing systems and processes and did what I consider great things to support the vulnerable and indigent, in spite of the lockdown and so forth

This edition of E-loya is dedicated to the Covid-19 activities and interventions

I must say that I am certainly proudly Fidan

Relax and enjoy your newsletter.

Eliana Martins



# COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENT/NATIONAL PRESIDENT NOTE



**RHODA PREVAIL TYODEN**

I am indeed grateful to write the message of the Country Vice President and the National President of this great organization of highly esteemed women

I must commend the National Publicity Secretary – Eliana Martins and her team for the tireless efforts put in place to ensure that we have this edition of the E-Loya

It is no longer news that 2020 was the most unusual year with the sudden outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic during which we had to face many challenges and make abrupt changes and adjustments and also made to follow regulations and restrictions

The good news is that FIDA Nigeria faced the year with an unparalleled determination, commitment and unwavering dedication which saw us attending to the needs of indigent and vulnerable and the needy in the best possible way

With the lockdown and regulations in place, FIDA Nigeria quickly adapted new ways to continue to provide her services in a secured manner, some of which included but not limited to:

- Establishing hotlines
- Virtual meetings/online platforms
- Working from home
- Engaging partners/making referrals
- Community outreaches/meeting needs

The year 2020 also came with sorrows and very touching moments where we lost some members, family members and friends, with a deep sense of loss. We pray that their gentle souls rest in at the bosom of our creator

This edition of the E-Loya is showcasing the many giant strides and activities carried out by Fidans all over Nigeria to provide services and make interventions in the best way we could despite the pandemic with help from some of our partners

In this same year 2020, we saw the birth of two FIDA Nigeria - Bauchi State Branch and Zamfara State Branch we welcome them on board

I encourage you readers to read through this bumper edition of the e-loya and be enriched



# FIDA NIGERIA COVID-19 PANDEMIC INTERVENTIONS

The need for all hands to be on deck in tackling societal challenges constantly rears its head and this was no exception with the Covid-19 pandemic which challenged the workforce, economy, social, educational, security and health system especially because of the lockdown which was implemented in Nigeria

Facing such a new disease with so much uncertainty surrounding it, our populous nation and the Germaine issues affecting our health care system; bearing this in mind, the lockdown ensured all activities ground to a halt, further stressing the merger resources of the indigent, who Hustle daily for survival and live from hand to mouth. Consequently, in Nigeria, increased reports were seen across the nation of violence particularly against women and children.

FIDA Nigeria intervened in her bid to curb the high rate of GBV during the lockdown by engaging in different activities and programs, ranging from press releases/conferences, advocacy visits (to Attorney Generals, IGP & Media Houses), sensitizations, Rallies, and social media campaigns and so forth.

These interventions were highly welcomed and rated very successful

At the onset, Fida Nigeria issued a Press Release captioned " FIDA NIGERIA CALL FOR PROMPT ACTION TO CURB ALARMING INCREASE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE" (issued on 3 June 2020)

In it, FIDA expressed dismay at the continuous rise in gender-based violence cases reported during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in Nigeria condemning the daily gory tales of GBV which grossly affects women and children and indeed the family, with a long term negative impact on society.

FIDA sent out a strong message that RAPE/ GBV is certainly not a family matter; it is an OFFENCE! Offenders must be Prosecuted. Everyone has a role to play in ending the rape culture in our society. An unequivocal NO TO RAPE!

Fida stressed her commitment to providing legal support to the vulnerable victims of GBV.

For immediate action FIDA called for:

- Closer watch/ protection of children
- Better reporting of cases of violence
- Stoppage of stigmatization/ shaming of victims
- Mandatory punishment of offenders for their offense.
- Better safe guarding and protection of the public by the police; while keeping all gender desks at each police station open during the lockdown to accommodate reports on domestic violence and make quick responses/intervention;
- Police must prosecute offenders and not compel settlement of cases.
- The proper equipping of relevant officers to enable them adequately protect the lives and property of citizens
- provision for and equipping of one-stop referral and rapid response centers on GBV across states.
- the designation of special dedicated courts for the trial and prosecution of gender-based offenders;
- equipping the Judiciary to enable them to sit regularly during the lockdown to attend to such GBV matters;
- provision of additional shelters for the care and protection of victims;
- enable and support stakeholders' collaborative rapid response teams for GBV across states.
- need for better medical interventions especially psychotherapist etc

FIDA in addition called for better collaboration and coordination between all stakeholders to work together to ensure that all offenders are brought to justice and adequately punished in accordance with the laws as a deterrent to others

Following the press releases on a National Call to Action on Mitigating/ Stopping GBV and a declaration of a state of emergency on GBV in Nigeria, FIDA Nigerian clearly articulated her own line up of planned activities as intervention plans to support the cause. These included the following:

# FIDA NIGERIA WEBINARS DURING THE COVID - 19 LOCKDOWN

## FIDA NIGERIA WEBINAR 1

FIDA Nigeria hosted her first webinar on May 14, 2020. It was themed. "Pandemics and the Protection of Women and Children using the tool of Law: The Covid-19 Experience"

Rhoda Prevail Tyoden, FIDA Nigeria CVP was the host, while Evelyn Membere-Asimiea FIDA Nigeria National Secretary was the moderator of the webinar.

The purpose was to expose how the Laws we have can be used as a veritable tool in safeguarding the rights of women and Children during Pandemics using the Covid-19 as a case study. (looking at it from the angles of the judiciary, the bar, the academic cycle and the civil society organizations)

FIDA Nigeria collaborated with her Partners Global affairs Canada and ActionAid Nigeria in organizing this webinar.

### Key speakers where

1. Hon. Justice Elizabeth Ama Oji
2. Dele Adesina, SAN
3. Professor Ine Nnadi
4. Nkechi Ilochi Omekeke

The Target group was Legal practitioners, CSOs especially Feminists groups, Psychosocial therapists and practitioners.

Key take home points and expectations going forward include:

- The need for a consistent drive and push to ensure effective implementation of the plethora of laws that we have - FIDA is to therefore embark on more sensitization of the existence of these laws.
- NBA/FIDA Nigeria to come up with draft laws to push for more proactive ways of ensuring the proper enforcement of the existing laws
- The need for FIDA Nigeria to collaborate more with critical partners to ensure that issues concerning women and children are brought to the fore.

## FIDA NIGERIA WEBINAR

As part of FIDA Nigeria's intervention strategies during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, a Second WEBINAR was hosted on May 29, 2020, themed "Sharing experiences: Stakeholders Discourse on Protecting Women and Children during this Pandemic"

The purpose was to bring together key stakeholders to enable them share their experiences so we can collectively adopt new strategies to protecting the vulnerable during these precarious times

Discussants:

- Jacinta Ike (FCT SGBVRT)
- Ijeoma Amugo (NAPTIP)
- Dr. Minnie Oseji (MWAN)
- Chief Magistrate Adefunke Anoma (Family Court)
- Dr Fatima Akilu (NEEN Foundation) and
- Evelyn Membere-Asimiea (FIDA Nig)

Key take home points and expectations going forward included the following:

- The need for greater Sensitization on the VAPP Act
- Ensure prosecution of all GBV cases; no settlement
- Need for more collaboration by all stakeholders
- Break the culture of silence and stigmatization
- Take advocacy to the men and youth to stop VAW

Position ourselves to be there for increased numbers of defiled and or abandoned children, teen age pregnancies etc.

- The need for greater counseling for offenders and victims
- Physcho - social intervention necessary; punishment must be combined with treatment

More one stop intervention centers to be set up across the states

- Hot lines available for easy access this period

The need for the training of paralegals to assist at the grassroots for quick intervention

Rhoda Prevail Tyoden,

FIDA Nigeria CVP, the hostess for the program encouraged greater collaboration and quick responses by all stakeholders when called upon despite the several challenges of the lockdown.

The WEBINAR was moderated by Mrs. Eliana Martins FIDA Nigeria National Publicity Secretary. A total of one hundred and seventy persons were virtually in attendance.

# FIDA BRANCHES NATIONWIDE CARRIED OUT PROTEST MARCHES, SENSITIZATION AND ADVOCACY WALKS AND RALLIES ON THURSDAY 11TH JUNE 2020 ACROSS THE NATION SPEAKING TO THE DIFFERENT ISSUES

FIDA desirous of a just, peaceful and equitable society where women and children's rights and interests are guaranteed.



## FIDA LAGOS

*FIDA Lagos, went on a protest march against rape, also visited the Governor's office and the State House of Assembly.*

## FIDA PLATEAU

*FIDA Plateau: Advocacy visit to the Plateau State house of Assembly to advocate for the domestication of VAPP ACT and a bill for the creation of sexual offence desk at the police station.*



## FIDA ENUGU

*FIDA Enugu - Paid an advocacy visit to Enugu state house of Assembly, demanding full implementation of laws on rape in the state*



# Advocacy Visits, Rallies, Sensitization Against SGBV



## FIDA KOGI

*FIDA Kogi, on an advocacy visit to the commissioner of police for a call to stand against rape and the domestication of the VAPP Act.*

## FIDA BAYELSA

*FIDA BAYELSA, in collaboration with various stakeholders organizations, CSOs/ NGOs, embarked on a peaceful protest walk against SGBV.*



## FIDA CROSS RIVER

*FIDA Nigeria, Cross River State Branch carried out a peaceful demonstration over all forms of Sexual Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls and reiterated her commitments to protecting, preserving and promoting the rights of women and children*

# PALLIATIVE DISTRIBUTION



*FIDA Nigeria, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, distributed a variety of food and other items as palliatives to indigent women in Aso Pada community in Maraba border settlement between Nasarawa and Abuja on 11th of June, 2020*



*The occasion also served as an Advocacy visit to the community who were sensitized on topical issues such as Gender Based Violence (GBV), Defilement & Rape; also on the Covid19 Pandemic and the need for compliance with Federal Ministry of Health guidelines*

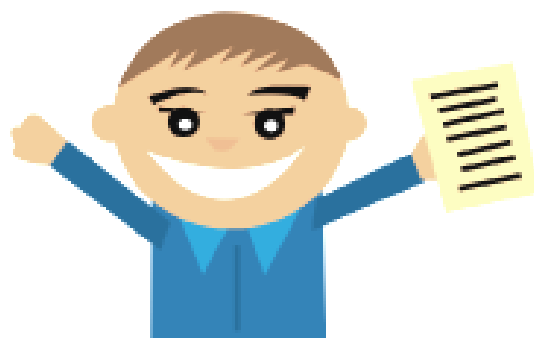
# FIDA NIGERIA TESTIMONIALS

Canada 

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## Client Testimonials

“



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**Mrs. Ezukanwa** who was ejected from her home by her husband for reporting about the defilement of their daughters and is now currently being sheltered by FIDA, Anambra has not ceased to be thankful to FIDA

·A lady forced to marry a 65 years old man and through the intervention of FIDA with the support from ACTION AID on the WVL project FIDA Intervened and gave her a place, sustained her while pending the time her case will be resolved

**Agu Blessing** a widow who was pregnant and was abandoned by the husband's family members and denied her access to her husband's property even in her critical pregnancy nature. However, FIDA Ebonyi through the Women Voice Leadership (WVL) project were able to sustain her and her children and also through legal services we got her right to ownership and control of her late husband's property today she is living fine and just last week put to bed and FIDA members went to show solidarity to her in her home town.

The case of widow with three teenage daughters no job and no home, instead of allowing her children take to prostitution or street hawking FIDA through the WVL project provided her food items and money which made her to go back into her food retail business and today she is thankful and grateful to ACTION AID





# THE AFRICAN GIRL AND COVID-19

By Rita P. Iyere Aicmc

Like the effect of the Ebola pandemic, COVID-19 will disproportionately affect adolescent girls in Africa bearing ripple effects of violence, trafficking, child marriage and teenage pregnancies hence downplaying the achievements made towards the education of the girl child over the years, thereby increasing the gender gaps in education. In West Africa, women and girls accounted for 60% of the population of those who were infected with Ebola, leaving thousands of children without parents and teenage girls dropping out of school to take up parental roles. In Nigeria, vulnerable adolescent girls would be faced with the risk of dropping out of school, getting married before the age of 18 everyday post-COVID-19 and being sexually exploited through transactional sex to support family needs.

It is worthy of mention that while governments and relevant stakeholders are prevailed upon to empower women and girls and to provide access to quality education, we find that thousands of girls are still out of school and with the outbreak of the new Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19, which was declared by the World Health Organization (W.H.O) to be a Public health emergency of international concern and characterized as a Pandemic in March 2020, the number of out of school girls would triple the number who dropped out of school during the Ebola crisis.

According to the New Education Data and Sustainable Development Goal 4 Indicators of the 2018 School Year of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS) estimated that around 258 million children, adolescents and youth are out of school; Nigeria has over 17 million children and youths out of school, of which about 60% are girls. With the ongoing global health challenge, UNESCO has estimated that over 89% out of the total student population are currently out of school and 743 million girls have been forced out of school in 185 countries. In Mali, Niger and South Sudan, girls have the least enrolment and completion rates in school, the forced closure of schools is likely to increase the number of out of school girls while adolescent girls in refugee camps remain disadvantaged

With the existential patriarchy system in Africa, women and girls are historically disadvantaged, this readily explains the vulnerability of women and girls and the uneven distribution of resources which places them in an uneven position of bargaining. It is, therefore, more critical at a time such as this for government, international organizations, and relevant stakeholders to provide additional safety nets for adolescent girls in times of emergencies. According to a recent publication of the United Nations (UN) Women, since the outbreak of COVID-19, the existing crisis of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is likely to worsen in the context of COVID-19, reports of violence especially domestic violence against women have increased in several countries as security, health and money worries create tensions and strains accentuated by the cramped and confined living conditions of lock-down.

The UN Women further reported that the economic impact of COVID-19 on women and girls has increased the financial strain on communities, top of which are vulnerable communities, this would engender higher risks to girls from low and middle-income families within the community. The vulnerability of women and girls around the world is seen in the most deplorable state of war and conflict providing an insight into the probable state of hardship and suffering most women and girls are likely to face after the pandemic. When adolescent girls are consistently faced with barriers to education, this adversely affects their self-esteem, enhances gender inequality and puts them at disadvantage.

Conclusively, to ensure that marginalized girls from low and middle-income countries, communities and families are adequately protected, government and relevant stakeholders must allocate more resources to education to combat the post-COVID-19 effect in marginalized communities and families; provide safety in times of emergency and additional safety for girls, equip teachers to commit to helping girls in and out of school and civil society practitioners must work closely with teachers and communities to ensure that girls are returned back to school through an increased community awareness campaign and other support services.

# THE APPLICABILITY OF REGISTER OF CONVICTED SEXUAL OFFENDERS IN NIGERIA

Tosin T. Faleye

## Abstract

No doubt, the frequency of sexual abuse has increasingly become worrisome in Nigeria. Currently, children and women are the most targeted persons of this vice. Consequently, in May, 2015, the Violence Against persons (prohibition) Act (VAPP) was passed into law to address this common devil. VAPP was enacted to eradicate and/or stop all forms of violence against persons in private and public life. The VAPP supersedes any offences created by other statutes in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Before VAPP, Lagos State Ekiti State created a Black book via an executive order to deal with issues of abuse. The National Agency for the prohibition of Trafficking of persons and other related Matters (NAPTIP) , on 25 November, 2019, being the regulatory body of VAAP performed one of its duties when it created an online data base of convicted sexual offenders after several workshops and online petitions . This article examines the applicability of the register of convicted sexual offenders in Nigeria.

**Key words-** Register, Convicted Sexual Offenders, applicability.

## Introduction

According to the findings of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2015, it stated that whilst one (1) in every four(4) Nigerian girls and one (1) in every ten(10) Nigerian boys are victims of sexual violence before attaining the age of 18, . Also, the national survey in 2014 carried out reveals that only 38 percent (38%) of those who experienced sexual violence as children informed someone about it and only 50% sought assistance. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) records that violence against women had been on the increase from 2015-2017 and the statistics ranges from 63.04% to 72.13% in 2016 but decreased to 69.33% in 2017

. Section 1(4) of VAPP provides that: 'A register for convicted sexual offenders shall be maintained and accessible to the public. A register, though not defined by VAPP (particularly as regards to the content of the register), is to record formally and exactly . Who is a convicted sexual offender? The VAPP did not define who a convicted sexual offender is. A convicted sexual offender who be a person whose criminal trial ends in a judgment and sentence that he is guilty as charged.

The analogy of the above is that before a person's name can be in the register, the person must have been tried by a competent court that has jurisdiction to entertain the matter and found guilty.

In addition, the convicted sexual offender did not appeal the decision of the trial court and/or if he did, the conviction was affirmed by the higher courts . Another point that is worth of examination is where the convicted sexual offender raised the defences of insanity, drunkenness names be included in the sexual offender register. This question should be answered in the affirmative as the wordings of VAPP is clear, once there is a conviction- sending someone to a mental asylum will also qualify as a conviction.

VAPP referred to some people who are to be tagged Dangerous sex offenders and these sets of sex offenders are those who have been sentenced for sexual offence more than a time. NAPTIP has to address in establishing the online data base. There is a need for the concern to implement the provision of the law by creating a column for dangerous sexual offenders on its website. It is important to mention that since the accredited service providers have the power to record violence incidence, it is arguable that accredited service providers equally have a register of an accused sexual offender and this can be an excellent start point for NAPTIP to gather her data.

The scope of the applicability of VAPP is worthy of examination. The 1999 Constitution is the grund norm in Nigeria and it makes provision for the types of law which the National Assembly can legislate on. A review of this schedule clearly reveals that the VAPP cannot constitutionally bind all the 36 states in Nigeria unless and until the VAPP is adopted/domesticated and passed into the law in the other 36 states in Nigeria. Infact, Section 47 of VAPP also expressly stated that the applicability of VAPP is only in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. It is therefore expedient for civil organisations who core values are to protect women and children to advocate in each of the state that the VAPP be replicated in the other states in Nigeria.

Currently, Ekiti, Kaduna, Oyo, Ogun, Benue, Ebonyi, Anambra and Lagos states have domesticated VAPP.

[i] Section 45 of VAPP

[ii] Governor Babatunde Raji Fasola in 2014 created a black book wherein record of sexual offender can be noted and it was believed that same will serve as a deterrence to such offenders. Unfortunately, the book is regularly updated particularly when the personal information of such offenders changes.

[iii] In 2013 Governor Fayemi also created a black book.

[iv] Although NAPTIP has its offices in all the States in Nigeria (usually within the immigration office), it cannot by implication extend its activities to every states in Nigeria until the States' assembly passes a similar law.

[v] <https://www.change.org/p/nameandshame-sex-offenders-registry-in-nigeria>

[vi] <https://www.change.org/p/nameandshame-sex-offenders-registry-in-nigeria>

[vii] <https://allafrica.com/stories/201912030165.html>

# INAUGURATION OF NEW FIDA BRANCHES

*FIDA Nigeria with branches in thirty-six states of the Federation including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja can be accessed across the federation.*



FIDA Taking Giant Strides through the Inauguration of her 34th and 35th State Branch

In ensuring that the vulnerable in society can easily access support when in need, FIDA Nigeria has diligently strived to ensure she has branches in each state of the Federation.

It was therefore a thing of great joy when on the 23rd July 2020, FIDA Nigeria Inaugurated her 34th branch, that is now called FIDA Nigeria Bauchi State Branch.

The exciting occasion was attended by His Excellency (Senator) Bala Mohammed, the Governor of Bauchi State and his lovely wife the First Lady- Her Excellency Hajiya Aishatu Bala Mohammed.

The Country Vice President FIDA Nigeria Rhoda Prevail Tyoden and Deputy Country Vice President Amina Agbaje led the team that showcased the very colourful ceremony

Similarly, on the 5th of November 2020, Fida Nigeria inaugurated her 35th branch, to be known as FIDA Nigeria Zamfara State Branch. The occasion was also attended by key government officials, members of the Zamfara State Judiciary, CSOs, and other guests. Fida was highly commended for this great fete.





# COMPENDIUM OF FIDA CASE REPORTS

## GEOPOLITICAL BREAKDOWN

### North Central

1. Benue = 26
2. Kogi = 51
3. Nasarawa = 8
4. Niger = 72
5. Plateau = 32
6. F.C.T = 42

### South South

1. Akwa Ibom = 39
2. Bayelsa = 169
3. Cross River = 21
4. Rivers = 65
5. Delta = 63
6. Edo = 9

### North East

1. Adamawa = 8
2. Bauchi
3. Borno = 65
4. Gombe = 10
5. Taraba
6. Yobe = 1

### South West

1. Ekiti = 209
2. Lagos = 174
3. Ogun
4. Ondo
5. Osun
6. Oyo

### North West

1. Jigawa
2. Kaduna
3. Kano = 14
4. Katsina
5. Kebbi
6. Sokoto
7. Zamfara = 1

### SUMMARY

#### North Central

=231

#### North East

=81

#### North West

=15

#### South East

=143

#### South-South

=366

#### South West

=383

**Total = 1219**

## Compendium of FIDA Case Reports

**FIDA in 2020 took key steps in capturing more effective data on cases handled by her different branches.**

**We received and handled over 1,219 cases across the branches ranging from Rape, defilement, marital issue, child custody, child abuse, domestic violence, emotional/verbal abuse, a threat to life, recovery of property, Retrieval of children, abandonment, forceful ejection from the matrimonial home, neglect of parental responsibility, abduction of children, recovery of debt, unlawful termination of employment, widowhood issues, traditional harmful practices and so forth**

**The table indicates the numbers handled and reported per state and a summary is done across Geopolitical zones.**

# FIDA PROJECTS



## FIDA NIGERIA PROJECTS 2017 -2020

Engaging and positively impacting the community directly through grassroots outreaches, advocacy, and sensitization programs and activities Fida effectively collaborates with partners, donor agencies, key community influencers, and stakeholders to ensure its mandate is achieved

FIDA celebrates her partners who join hands with Fida taking giant strides to accomplish great fetes through their projects

**Action Aid Women's Voice and Leadership Project:** A five-year project in the FCT. The project is designed to tackle barriers to gender equality and support the empowerment of women and girls through the provision of technical and financial resources. Term 2019 - 2020.

1(B). Action Aid - COVID - 19 Top-up Intervention Fund: This project responds to the rising cases of GBV, particularly in Ebonyi, Akwa Ibom, Anambra and Rivers in order to provide temporary shelter to survivors/victims of GBV, and to also provide psychosocial support and counselling in addition to legal representation for survivors/victims of GBV.

**EU-UN Women Spotlight Initiative:** A four-year project currently on-going in Adamawa, Lagos, Ebonyi, Cross Rivers, Sokoto, and Abuja. The initiative seeks to respond to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices. 2019 - 2022.

**Ford Foundation** - A two-year project titled, "Work with Gatekeepers including Women Leaders, Youth, Religious Leaders, and Traditional Rulers to Address Social Norms that Negatively Affect the Status of Women and Entrench Violence Against Women and Girls". 2020-2022

**Mac-Arthur Foundation** - A three-year project titled, 'Enabling Capacity for the Adoption and Implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015

**The Embassy of Switzerland-** A Six-month project titled, "Mitigation of Gender-Based Violence through the Training of Community Paralegals in the FCT". 2020.

MacArthur  
Foundation

# FIDA NIGERIA AGM 2020



## FIDA NIGERIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

FIDA Nigeria's FIDA Law Week/AGM and Pre-Convention Meeting held from 18 - 21 November 2020, with the Theme: "Building Effective Service Delivery to Enhance Justice for The Vulnerable in Society". The week was filled with lots of educative yet entertaining activities. Advocacy visit by FIDA Nigeria Executives to the Plateau State Attorney General Hon. Chrysanthus Ahmadu Also, to the Chief Judge of Plateau State Justice Yakubu Dakwak.



FIDA NIGERIA EXECUTIVES WITH THE AG PLATEAU STATE



CVP FIDA NIGERIA WITH THE AG OF PLATEAU STATE



# AGM 2020

On 18 of November, the Program commenced with an Opening Ceremony chaired by the First Lady of Plateau State Her Excellency Mrs Regina Lalong who was ably represented by H.E the Wife of the Deputy Governor of Plateau State Mrs. Abigail Tyoden. In attendance were the Attorney General of Plateau State, Hon Chrysanthus Ahmadu and Hon Justice Julie Kyentu (RTD) PCCA amongst other key dignitaries who graced the occasion. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a Welcome Cocktail, by the poolside where attendees were entertained with a cultural display

Day Two of FIDA Nigeria Annual on the 19 of November 2020, started with business sessions on continuing Legal education for Fidans with presentations by different Chairpersons. The sessions were chaired by Chief Mrs Victoria Awolomo SAN. The first presentation was on the “Child Rights Act” by Emem Ette(Aqua Ibom State), followed by the “Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act” by Phil Nneji (Lagos State), then the “Administration of Criminal Justice Act” by Chief Magistrate Adefunke Helen Anoma( Ekiti State). Discussions were also held on the presentations. The sessions were concluded by Group work and presentations on the respective legal laws being tools for effective service

The evening program was cultural dress and presentations by the different branches; it proved very colorful and entertaining

Day 3 of FIDA Nigeria AGM and Pre-Convention Meeting held beautifully with members who could not be physically present also joining virtually. The Executives of FIDA Nigeria including FIDA branch representatives in each geopolitical zone joined in paying a courtesy visit to His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, Governor of Plateau State, who received them with key commissioners in his cabinet including the Attorney General of the State Hon. Chrysanthus Ahmadu. The day ended with formal dinner at Steffan Hotel, Rayfield Jos.



# FIDA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2021



The 37th FIDA International Convention held virtually from February 15th -17th 2021 and was themed “From Barriers to Bridges”. It was a beautiful week to remember with fully packed enlightening and educative sessions. FIDA Nigeria was very well represented with a large number of delegates who registered and attended the conference and with members playing key and active roles throughout the conference Program.

The Program commenced with an Opening Ceremony on the 15th of February with opening remarks from Shadhana Gunaratnam (Switzerland) the FIDA International President, while Ezinwa Okoroafor (Nigeria) Secretary, FIDA International steered the affairs.

There were several interesting sessions such as the one on “Economic Rights of Women: A Comparative Analysis” which was moderated by Viviane Infante alongside presenters from CEDEW, EU, AU Commission, Asia-Pacific Council of America Chambers.

The major highlight of the day was the celebration of our very diverse cultures covering the 22 countries represented. Nigerian also proudly showcased her dance and attires to the enjoyment of all.

Day Two of the 37th FIDA International Convention, commenced with presentations, first on “Women’s Mental Health and Well Being: Connecting Mind, Body and Spirit?” moderated by Rosette Katungye (Uganda) with presenters from South Africa,

Uganda, Taiwan, and Kenya. followed by “Information Technology – A Bridge or a Barrier to women’s Right to Access to Justice?” moderated by Kevitha Gupta (India).

This was followed by “Facing Challenges – A Broad Spectrum: From living with Disabilities to Eradicating Gender-based Violence” chaired by Olufunmi Oluyede (USA), and the session was followed by “Transitional Justice Mechanism In Protection of Women’s Right” (In Espanyol) moderated by Carolina Rios Villota (Colombia), concluding with “FIDA and the Protection of Women’s Rights – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” (An Integrational Discuss) moderated by Chief Mrs. Victoria Awomolo SAN (Nigeria). Her Excellency Erelu.... The first Lady of Ekiti was a Guest Speaker and she appreciated and commended the beautiful work Fida Nigeria was doing.

The third and final day commenced with a business session, presided by Shadhana Gunaratnam (Switzerland) President, FIDA International with opening remarks after which Country and Regional Reports were taken, likewise other reports from the UN representative and finance report were also presented.

To conclude the conference, elections were conducted, and several Nigerian delegates came out victorious with key positions in the international executive council.



# PARALEGAL TRAINING

FIDA Nigeria working with all her respective state branches organized Paralegal training for key persons in different communities across the states of Nigeria. The primary objective was to support faster access to justice at the grassroots/in the communities and to better equip partners in ensuring social justice.

FIDA targeted the capacity-building training for paralegals across her 36 state branches as part of her activities to commemorate 16 days of activism for 2020. The training also enlightened on the handling of SGBV cases



Abuja



Bauchi



Ebonyi



Borno



Edo



# PARALEGAL TRAINING



Ekiti



Enugu



Gombe



Lagos



Yobe



Yobe



# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2020

#orangetheworld

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2020

2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:  
"Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" :

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today and is a threat to millions of girls and women online and offline. It affects women regardless of their age, background, or level of education. This violence takes many forms, including physical, sexual, or psychological violence, as well as economic abuse and exploitation.

The 16 days between 25 November and 10 December, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and 10 December, Human Rights Day, are known as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

FIDA Nigeria commemorated the annual 16 Days Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) violence 2020, on the theme "Fund, Respond, Prevent and Collect" with activities across all her 33 state branches in the federation





# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVITIES ACROSS FIDA BRANCHES

FIDA desirous of a just, peaceful and equitable society where women and children's rights and interests are guaranteed



## FIDA PLATEAU

*On November 27, 2020, personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service paid a courtesy visit to FIDA Plateau excos. The purpose was to enlighten FIDA on the non-custodial sentences which is a new innovation in the state*

## FIDA KADUNA

*FIDA Kaduna in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission and JMA flagged off the 16days of activism 2020, with a standstill rally and press interview.*



## FIDA LAGOS

*FIDA Lagos in collaboration with the Nigeria Human Rights Commission, Lagos Chapter, yesterday 25th November 2020, flagged off this year's 16 days activism against Gender-Based Violence, themed: Stop the Violence!!! Fund, Response, Prevent and Collect. Orange the world*





## FIDA EKITI

*FIDA Ekiti members at the Gender-based Violence Summit held on 25th November 2020 to kickstart the 2020 16 days of activism.*

*#16DaysOfActivism*

*#EndGBV*

## FIDA OYO

*FIDA Oyo, commenced the 16 days activism against gender-based violence by paying an advocacy visit to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police at the SCID Iyaganku Ibadan, where the FIDA Nigeria statement was issued, had a discussion on the increased rate of the GBV cases in the state and the way forward.*



## FIDA LAGOS

*In commemoration of the 16days of activism 2020, FIDA Nasarawa in collaboration with the SDGs carried out sensitization in four schools educating the students on their rights and the need to speak out when they are assaulted, raped or abused.*

# FUN CORNER



**The right to remain silent:** A man in an interrogation room says, "I'm not saying a word without my lawyer present." "You are the lawyer," said the policeman. "Exactly, so where's my present?" replied the lawyer.

**A lawyer defending a man accused of burglary tried this creative defense:**

"my client merely inserted his arm into the window and removed a few trifling articles. His arm is not himself, and i fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offense committed by his limb".

"well put", the judge replied. "using your logic, I sentence the accused's arm to one-year imprisonment. He can accompany it or not as he chooses".

The accused smiled. with his lawyer's assistance, he detached his artificial limb, laid it on the bench and walked out!

## At the lawyer office

*memes by breezydope*



Lawyer Up Memes. Best Collection of Funny Lawyer Up Pictures



# COMMENTARY ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE BOY CHILD

By Mary Abah Izam

Institutions, Organizations, and Individuals throughout our global village will observe “World day of the boy child” Today the 16th Day of May 2020.

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Nigeria) Plateau State branch will not be left out in this very auspicious celebration of the day of the boy child as FIDA’s mandate also captures the Promotion, Protection, and Preservation of the rights of the boy child.

The theme for this years’ celebration is “PROTECTING OUR BOYS RECLAIMING OUR HERITAGE” Simply means if we protect our boy child, we shall have back our customs.

On the 22nd of January 2018, Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh from Trinidad and Tobago, in the Caribbean sent a letter to government leaders and NGOs calling for the inaugural observance of The International Day of the Boy Child more commonly known as “International Boys Day”, on the 10th of May 2018

It is on the strength of this inauguration in its second year of inception, that FIDA Plateau joins the whole world to celebrate the boy child. It may be strange to hear that FIDA is celebrating the boy child for the first time but it’s equally not out of place nor strange to FIDANS and those who understand FIDA’s mandate as the boy child’s protection is all-inclusive in FIDA’s mandate even though FIDA seems to talk more about the girl child because the girl child is more prone to threat and vulnerability. Since 2012, the United Nations marks 11 October every year as the International Day of the Girl Child, but the obvious question is – Why have we not dedicated a day that focuses on the boy child? We cannot ignore that without a focus on both the boy child and the girl child, gender equality is not a reality.

We need to protect the boy child from the harmful influences of society. There is an urgent need to focus on the home and school to save the boy child. The boy child lives in a turbulent social environment that makes him vulnerable to a multitude of negative forces. If a boy child is continually neglected or fed a diet of hate and violence, it is obvious that he will develop into a teenager who is misguided and confused and the next crucial transition into manhood will be even more difficult.

There are regular incidences in which young, misguided boys and teenagers are involved in crime and violence which is one of the most challenging social problems in Nigeria and across the globe.

International boy’s day celebrates all the positive elements that boys bring to their families and communities. It also highlights the issues and challenges that boys face as they develop.

Few more issues affecting the boy child in Nigeria include but not limited to the following.

a) **INADEQUATE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION.** According to the data collated by EDUCELEB in 2019, we have 6,340,321 out-of-school boys in Nigeria including the Almajiris who are predominantly boys. In as much as girls are subjected to child labor and sex slavery,

boys are also not exonerated completely from such vulnerabilities. Millions of the Almajiri children are homeless, out of school, lack hygiene and care, and are susceptible to sexual, verbal, emotional, psychological, and physical violence. The Almajiri practice involves trafficking and child labor and must be curbed, as the practice is a flagrant abuse of the rights of the boy child as enshrined in the child’s rights law especially in this dispensation of covid 19, making them very vulnerable to infectious diseases. Education holds the seat to National Development therefore the rights of the boy child to quality education must be protected.

b) **LACK OF ROLE MODELS/MENTORS.** This is important in the development and upbringing of a boy child. Whether good or bad, a male child will always have one. Boys need to have positive role models. People they can look up to in respect to marriage, career, education e.t.c.

c) **DIFFICULTY IN ACCESSING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.** Boys have been taught through social norms that the expression of emotions and seeking help are signs of weakness and emasculation. This norm must be changed.

d) **BOYS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCESS LEGAL AID AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT COUNSELING** in cases of gender-based violence because they are often shy and feel deprived of their MALE IDENTITY if they report that they were beaten by a girl or girls as this may affect their ego and masculinity as well as the feeling of superiority. This mindset must be changed.

e) **A CLUSTER OF BOYS’ CREATE SUSPICION AND ALWAYS MISINTERPRETED** thereby making them preys especially to security agencies. Permit me to cite the recent unfortunate incident of the killing of RINJI BALA, a 20-year-old University of Jos student. We hereby join the people of Plateau in condemning his cold-blooded murder which was carried out under mistaken belief. This was an extrajudicial killing of an innocent boy-child whose right to life was flagrantly violated. We call upon the state government to ensure that the culprit is made to face the full wrath of the law. RINGI deserves justice!! May his soul rest in peace and God grant his family, the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Conclusively, it is No News that our societies are ravaged with an increased rate of violent crimes, underdevelopment, hunger, poverty, etc especially in this era of COVID 19, where survival of the fittest is the order of the day and the boys will tell you” they are HUSTLING!” Nobody takes time to ask them what exactly they are hustling? especially if the hustling puts food on the table. Let us be mindful of the hustling of our boys and avoid sending them off with a WORD like GOD BLESS YOUR HUSTLE! When we don’t even know what they are hustling. There is an URGENT NEED to create sustainable ways to handle these societal anomalies by taking intentional boy child development seriously.



# EMERGENCY HOTLINES

**FIDA NIGERIA SAYS NO  
TO ALL FORMS OF  
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

**Contact FIDA hotlines for help**



**Abia: 08034623936**

**Abuja: 08176406945**

**Adamawa: 08033071785**

**Akwa Ibom: 08088964551**

**Anambra: 07048775271  
08068733216**

**Bauchi: 08023757212**

**Bayelsa: 08039117078**

**Benue: 08032893779**

**Borno: 08036571628**

**Cross River: 08074477077**

**Delta: 09044099459  
08053771671**

**Ebonyi : 09077188516**

**Edo: 08090361002**

**Ekiti: 08068083296**

**Enugu: 07032055068  
07089237347**

**Gombe : 09049927304**

**Imo: 08101590797**

**Jigawa: 08126841995**

**Kaduna: 07029173945**

**Kano: 08026709136**

**Kebbi: 08060749978**

**Kogi: 07047766412**

**Kwara: 08035871927**

**Lagos: 08033065042**

**Nasarawa: 08035966115**

**Niger: 07047197707**

**Ogun: 08034024715**

**Ondo: 08030419049**

**Osun: 08034659120**

**Oyo: 08037166168**

**Plateau: 08033376965**

**Rivers: 08037056103**

**Sokoto: 08033145631**

**Taraba: 08036423443**

**Yobe: 08039466886**

**Zamfara: 08036056595**

**fida.org.ng**

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## EDITORIAL TEAM

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