

**IMADR&WOCON**  
**Report 2013**

**CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS  
TO ADDRESS  
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE  
ESPECIALLY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
AND  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

*Executive Summary*

Introduction;

The collaboration project between Women Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) and IMADR for the year October 2012 –September 2013 targeted the building of capacity of at least 240 law enforcement officers in Lagos and Ogun States of Nigeria to address Gender based violence especially human trafficking. The primary victims of gender based violence are women and children who suffer from various forms of discrimination as a result of socio-cultural factors as well as their economic powerlessness.,

Although the WOCON's project was to be supported by other funders but as a result of other militating factors relating to political stability and insecurity in Nigeria WOCON was unable to obtain funding from other donors for the project. Consequently WOCON had to maximize the limited funding received from IMADR for the utmost effect.

Rather than utilize the IMADR funding only for the production of the Sensitization and education materials only WOCON decided to kick-off the training of the law enforcement officers to coincide with the first official visit pf the Secretary General of IMADR. Yuriko Hara to Women Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) and to Nigeria.

In order to redress the challenge posed by the incapacity of the law enforcement officers to curbing the menace of gender based violence (GBV) especially domestic violence , and human sexual violence and human trafficking which has resulted in impunity and the escalation of various forms of GBV WOCON kicked off with the training of 40 police Officers and officers of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in Lagos on how to address gender based violence including human trafficking on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013.at the Mainland Hotel, Lagos.

**BRIEF NARATIVE REPORT.**

**Objectives**

The main objectives of the project are as follows:-

- I. To build the capacity of the law enforcement officers particularly the Police and the immigration officers to address the issue of Gender Based Violence especially of human trafficking, Domestic and Sexual violence and Child labour/Abuse towards the prevention and elimination of the scourge in Nigeria as a whole.

- II. To Train, educate and sensitise law enforcement officers in target areas on how to approach and effectively help victims of gender based violence, for the protection of the victims and prevention of further violence on the victims.
- III. Create a generation of law enforcement officers and superiors who are informed and aware of the dynamics and scope of the gender based violence particularly human trafficking, Domestic and Sexual violence, Child labour/abuse phenomena in Nigeria.
- IV. Educate on what the components and what constitutes various forms of violence and how to identify victims, investigate cases , gather information and generally improve access to justice for victims of gender based violence especially victims of human trafficking Domestic and sexual violence and child labour/abuse.

**Target Communities.**

The project target community is Lagos State.

***Preparatory Activities***

**i Approval from the Inspector General of Police:** Letters of request for the approval to train 240 Police officers in Lagos and Ogun State of Nigeria were written to the Inspector General of Police in Abuja. This was followed up with visits to Abuja until approval was granted vide letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from the Inspector of Police (Letter attached)

**ii Production of IEC and Training Materials:** a) A draft training manual/ handbook was produced with inputs of Three gender consultants Mr..Sina Adefolahan of WOCON , Mrs. Grace Ketefe of Women Advocates for Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) and Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi executive Director of WOCON. This is to ensure standard training and to test the training manual for improved production of the 500 copies under the WOCON/IMADR project.

b) 100 Conference bags customized with Stickers were also produced for the participants  
 c) Copies of the manual for addressing gender based violence produced by the Women Group 8 (WG8) with WCON as member, the relevant laws on Domestic violence in Lagos State and human trafficking in Nigeria.

iii The reservation of the facilities of the Mainland Hotel for the hall, Room accommodation for, Lunch for 45 for 2 days, the Projector and public address system.

***2-day Capacity building training for Law enforcement officers in Lagos State.***

WOCON with the support of IMADR organized a 2 –day training for the capacity building of 40 Police officers to address the issues of gender based violence (GBV) especially domestic violence, rape and human trafficking.

The training workshop was non-residential and held at the Mainland hotel Lagos on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. The participants were drawn from the Police Force Zone 2 Command (Lagos), the NAPTIP officials, Representatives of Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) NGOs working on gender based violence and the med

After a brief opening ceremony where the executive Director of WOCON Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi gave a welcome address and brief overview of the situation and the overall project for the capacity building of the law enforcement officers (Copy Attached as Annexure “X”). This was

followed by motivating address by the secretary- general of IMADR Yuriko Hara which included a brief introduction of IMADR and its activities as well as the relationship with WOCON. The Representative of NAPTIP and that of the Lagos State Ministry of women Affairs and poverty Alleviation made their good will messages also informing the participants of their activities, objectives and areas of focus.

There were 3 experienced gender consultants namely Sina Adefolahan, Grace Ketefe and Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi that facilitated the training sessions. The content of the training included education on the Concepts and definitions of gender, gender roles, forms of violence against women, causes of gender based violence, health implications of Gender based violence, specific Laws on Gender Based Violence. Forms and dynamics of human trafficking, Child Abuse/Labour in Nigeria, Relevant laws on GBV and Human Trafficking as well as the role of law enforcement officers in addressing various forms of Gender Based Violence.

There were interactive sessions where the participants had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the training.

The participants also had group discussions where they had opportunities to discuss the issues in an elaborate manner for the better understanding of the issues.

There was a simulation exercise where participants engaged in role plays to show their understanding of what they had learnt.

**Communique.** The Participants nominated representatives from each of the Area commands in Zone 2 of the Police Force in Nigeria and NAPTIP to form a Committee for Communique writing. At the end of the 2-day training the participants issued a communique copy of which is attached as annexure ‘B’

### **Publicity**

The programme was covered by the electronic and print media. There was publicity by the print and electronic Media. The event was aired on National Television. There was also publication in the Newspapers (Newspaper clips attached as Annexure “C”)

### **Achievements/ Results**

At the inception of the sessions, it was evident that the most of the law enforcement officers especially the police officers were ignorant of the laws relating to gender based violence especially the human trafficking law. This lack of knowledge of the laws by the law enforcement officers who are charged with the responsibility of preventing GBV , Protecting victims majority of whom are women and children who are vulnerable as a result of gender discrimination.

After the training the evaluation assessment through the responses of the participants to the predesigned evaluation questionnaire, showed that there was improved knowledge of what they had been taught.

The training was further popularized through the media as it was relayed on the National Television and published in the Newspaper.

### **Outcome and Follow-up**

- I. The training of the law enforcement officers on Gender based violence especially on human trafficking was first of its kind in the country and was really embraced by the participants who demanded for more training of other officers.
- II. The production of a draft training manual with the support of IMADR which was used for the training and would be of use for future trainings for standard impact.

- III. The trained police officers became more responsive to cases relating to gender based violence including human trafficking such that it enhanced an improved collaboration with WOCON on such issues.
- IV. After the training there was increased networking among the different stakeholders that participated. Such that WOCON received many contacts from the members of the society on cases of gender based violence. One of such was the intervention of WOCON in collaboration with Lagos State Ministry of women Affairs, the Police and NAPTIP officers to prevent the sale of a 13 year Old girl into marriage to an old man on September 6, 2013 by her family. A form of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children was thus prevented.

**Other WOCON Activities in the year relating to the campaign against human trafficking include the following:-**

***57<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of women (CSW 57)***

It is significant to note that over the years the United Nations is gradually moving from rhetoric to Action. Consequently the CSW57 session was strongly tilted towards examining practical experiences of survivors and learning from such experiences towards effecting change and elimination of violence against women. Lopa Banerjee, Chief, and Civil Society Section of UN Women at a pre CSW consultative meeting of stakeholders held in the Harding Room of the UN Building in New York on 19 November 2012 and attended by representatives of NGOs including Women Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) elaborated strongly on proposed format to convene a panel of "survivors" of various abuse/violence acts who went on to achieve legislative reform in their countries i.e. who became activists after their ordeals.

The African Ministers to the Africa Ministerial CSW 57 Preparatory Meeting from 14 to 16 January 2013 held in Addis Ababa also agreed unequivocally to the elimination of violence against women in Africa.

CSW 57 took place in New York from March-4-15 2013 with the thematic issue ***“elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” and the review theme of “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS.”***

Apart from coordinating the activities of representatives of NGOs and the delegates from Nigeria and networking with Regional groups, WOCON in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of women Affairs held its parallel event at the Armenian Convention Center on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 from 10.0am- 12.30pm. It was titled “Documentary on survivors of violence against women and Panel discussion on initiatives for the prevention of violence against women and girls in Sub-Saharan Africa.” In line with the proposal to have survivors’ testimonies, WOCON recognised that there were Nigerian survivors of these forms of violence some of whom are willing to share their experiences publicly and have turned to advocates against some forms of violence against women and girls. However as a result of travel constraints particularly the difficulty in obtaining visa to the United States these survivors were unable to attend the CSW and give their personal testimonies.

In order to ensure that the voices of these survivors were heard and to enable them share their experiences with the World, WOCON embarked on the production of a documentary of testimonies from survivors which was shown at the CSW.

The Moderator of WOCON parallel event was Her Excellency Madam Sire Dionne Conde, Ambassador of UNESCO center for peace & President and founder of African women for. Good

governance, Chairwoman African trade and industry expo. After the welcome address by Chief Mrs. Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi executive director of WOCON, there was a 20 minute abridged video clip of a documentary on the testimonies of survivals put together by WOCON with materials from partner organisations such as Girls Power Initiative ( GPI) in Benin on human trafficking , ACTS Generations based in Lagos on Domestic Violence. The video clip was followed by a panel of discussants namely (i) Adekemi Ndieli, National Programme Officer UN Women in Nigeria whose presentation on “**Overview of Violence against women in Africa with particular focus on Nigeria**” was delivered by Dr. Abiola Akiyode Afolabi. Other discussants were Pearl Osamudiamé, GPI graduate, facilitator and project manager entertainment education whose presentation was on **Human trafficking in Nigeria and socio-economic implication on the women and the girl child**. Hon Opeyemi Akindele: Vice Chairman Mosan Okunola Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Alimosho Lagos State and Chair Lagos State Association of Council Vice chairmen who spoke on “**Violence Against women and the impact on women’s political empowerment.**”

The last speaker Hajia Mairo Bello: Executive Director Adolescent Health and Information Projects (AHIP) made a presentation on “**Health Implication of violence against women**” Some of the over 90 Participants from various countries around the globe made comments and contributions to enrich the event and share global experiences with each other. Amongst the participants were women leaders from Africa, Government office holders from Nigeria Nigerians in Diaspora as well as students from different countries.

#### ***Stakeholder’s forum on return migration and development in Nigeria organized by human development initiatives (HDI) on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> may 2013***

The meeting was held at the Human Development Initiatives office in Sabo Yaba. It had in attendance NGOs and organizations involved in and working with migration and trafficking in persons. Papers were delivered by various speakers and it was noted that a lot of sensitizations should be done for persons migrating into the country. Also for returned migrants whether nationals or foreigners, all should allow a smooth re-integration into the society or system of our country.

In conclusion having realized the important role of Migration in an increasingly globalizing world, the participants stressed the importance of harmonizing with the ECOWAS commission of 2008, which defined a common approach on migration and focused on the following six key principles:

- i. Free movement of persons within the ECOWAS zone.
- ii. Promoting the management of legal migration.
- iii. Combating irregular migration and human trafficking, especially of women and children.
- iv. Harmonizing migration policies of member States.
- v. Protection of the right of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.
- vi. Recognizing the gender dimension of migration.

#### **WOCON rescue mission to save a 13 year old girl from child marriage**

On Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup> WOCON got an anonymous call from a Barrister that a 13years old girl would be given out in marriage on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Staff immediately wrote a letter to the following offices; NAPTIP, Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty

Alleviation and Office of the Public Defender. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, WOCON lead the team to the address of the girl in Ketu area in Lagos and we were able to rescue her. When we got there preparation was on top gear and like Hausas women were all around the bride to be including her mother and grandmother.

The girl was handed over to the ministry officials who later took her to the shelter in Ayobo area of Lagos state. WOCON was commended for their swift and prompt action.

**WOCON team and NAPTIP received MISS NANCY IGHO a trafficked victim repatriated from UK on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

WOCON's executive director got a mail from EAVES shelter UK that one Miss Nancy Igho would be returning voluntarily from UK on board Arik airline. We sent a mail to NAPTIP office Lagos and they promised to join the WOCON team at the airport. Miss Nancy Igho arrived Nigeria and was handed over to the immigration officials at the airport. She was asked to fill a form and was interrogated by the immigration officials and documented a procedure which is detrimental to the process of reintegration of returning victims of trafficking. She was handed over to the NAPTIP officials where she. Stayed for 3weeks after which she was re-united with her family.

***Nigeria Universal Periodic Review (UPR)***

The process for the Universal Periodic Review for Nigeria started in October 2013. WOCON in collaboration with ECPAT International on of its partners made its submission on the Nigeria UPR in October 2013. The Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review at its Seventeenth session in Geneva, (21 October – 1 November 2013) included WOCON's submission in its summary of stakeholders.

WOCON proposes to solicit the support and collaboration of IMADR to follow up on the NIGERIA UPR slated for 2014.