



•L-r Kate Henshaw-Nuttal with the founder, Sophia's place, Mrs. Josephine Effah-Chukwuma

Kate Henshaw condemns violence against women

“JUST speak out by the time you keep on doing that people must listen to you and know what you are passing through and that means you have broken the silence”.

These were the words of Kate Henshaw-Nuttal during her courtesy visit at “Sophia’s place - temporary home for battered women in Lagos.

To Mrs. Henshaw-Nuttal opined that battered women should not shy away from reporting cases of violent melted against them by their spouses adding that it would only break the silence but also further inform the society about the dangers associated with violence against women.

She condemned the age long menance saying, “Violence against women and violence against young girl is not what I said No No to, It is something I have experienced in my relationship many years ago and I will always like to give strength to the women because I know in a society where a woman is treated as a second class citizen, she is not suppose to be heard but expected to be in the kitchen, I will always like to give my support to them”.

On the other hand she expressed her willingness to partner with the founder of the battered home as to her quota in the elimination of

doing that, so I felt that it will be better for me to lend my support to my voice to what is really in existence, what I am very passionate about”.

However she maintained that violence against women is something silence has perpetuated adding that most battered women do not speak out.

Advising women, she stressed the need for them to be proud of themselves even as she said that women should not anyone to put them in a place they did not want to stay.

She lauded Nigerian women of substance such as World Bank Director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, NAFDAC Director, Dora Akunyili, Ndi Okeke and a host of them adding that they have excelled in their various field of endeavour.

In response, founder of Sophia’s place, Mrs. Josephine Effah - Chukwuma commended the effort of the artress for identifying with her establishment which came on board in 2001.

Speaking on the objective of the home, Mrs. Effah-Chukwuma said it was established to serve as a safe place for battered women and young girls who are running away from abusive environment.

Explaining further she said: “before setting up the home I interviewed some women battered women and the gloomy picture I got was, like “where will I run to, I have gone to my parents and they send me back to him and said I should manage the man but I don’t want to go back to him because he will kill me”.

Continuing she said that it was based on that she set up the home.

Sophia’s place also she said aimed at helping women especially those in marriages.

In addition she said it was a temporary place where battered women are kept for a period of two or three weeks before they are reconciled with her husbands if they choose to.