

Group Raps Men on Domestic Violence

By Jude Igbanoi



•Chukwuma

The Project Alert on Violence against Women, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) has issued a dire warning to wife batterers, rapists, female child molesters and those who sexually harass their subordinates and colleagues, to desist from such acts or face severe repercussions; in a bid to tackle the social malaise.

Rising from a two-day Male Involvement Consultative Forum on eliminating violence against women, the organisation resolved to collaborate and partner with concerned men drawn from a broad spectrum of the society to take the battle on violence against women to the next level.

At a forum which held in Lagos, Project Alert's Executive Director, Mrs. Josephine Effah-Chukwuma took participants through various forms and guises of violence against women.

In her presentation, Chukwuma defined gender concepts, what constitutes gender-based violence, sexual violence psychological violence and how the trend can be stemmed; and also examined the whole societal concept of masculinity and how it is often used against women negatively.

At the interactive session which was declared open by the Lagos State Commissioner of Women Affairs, Mrs. Joke Orelope Adefulire, participants focused on sub-themes of understanding the meaning of masculinity, identifying underlying 'push factors' of masculinity in our society and why men/boys violate women/girls.

Also, Mr. Kayode Ademuwagun, Project Alert Legal Officer, enlightened the forum on what the position of the law is on violence against women, in his presentation.

Chukwuma identified ten main reasons why male involvement in eliminating violence against women has become necessary. Among these are that men commit most of the violence against men and so, it's up to them to stop it; men are not born violent; they learn violence and become violent because of beliefs and societal norms.

The forum also featured movies, documentaries and drama on the subject matter. At the end, it was resolved that every available avenue would be pursued to ensure that necessary legislation are passed against gender-based violence, including legal representation for victims of gender violence and free counseling services to affected women.

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