PROJECT ALERT
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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PROJECT ALERT HOLDS RESEARCH WORKSHOPS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS



PG 1
PROJECT ALERT HOLDS RESEARCH WORKSHOPS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

PG 2
JOINT SPOTLIGHT ADVOCACY VISIT IN EBONYI

PG 3
LAUNCH OF RESEARCH REPORT ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND YOUNG PERSONS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

PG 4
SURVEILLANCE TEAM MEMBERS EMBARK ON QUTERLY OUTREACH



Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace

– KOFI ANNAN (FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL)

Break the cycle of violence. Keeping it quiet is participating.
Call the Hotline: 234-08180091072

PROJECT ALERT HOLDS RESEARCH WORKSHOPS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS



Cross section of participants at event

Project Alert, a leading non-profit organization dedicated to fighting sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), successfully conducted research methodology workshops in Cross River and Akwa Ibom states. The workshops aimed to equip field researchers with the necessary tools and procedures for effective data collection on sexual violence within educational institutions.

The first workshop, held at the Channel View Hotel in Calabar on April 11, brought together field researchers from the University of Calabar's Social Work department, led by Dr. Glory Eteng. Participants included media representatives, officials from the Cross River State Bureau of Statistics, NGOs, and the Project Alert team.

On April 26, the team moved to Uyo, Akwa Ibom, for a similar workshop at WatBridge Hotels & Suites. The Uyo workshop welcomed field researchers master's degree students from the University of Uyo's Department of Sociology under the guidance of Dr. Aniefiok Ukommi. Joining them were representatives from NGOs, media outlets, and Project Alert.

Both workshops focused on designing research tools and procedures specific to the Cross River context. Participants agreed on a standardized methodology for data collection across secondary schools in both states:

Mapping: Three secondary schools were selected in each state one mixed, one boys', and one girls' school. At least one school had to be a boarding facility.

Target Population: SS2 and SS3 students aged 15 and above were identified for interviews.

For tertiary institutions, the methodology differed slightly:

Mapping: Two schools were selected in each state one private and one public institution.

Focus Faculties: Six faculties within each school were chosen for the study.

A combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods was adopted. Qualitative data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) using the Kobo Tool app. Quantitative data was gathered through questionnaires. Both qualitative and quantitative instruments, along with the research questions, were thoroughly reviewed and harmonized to ensure consistency across both states.

The workshops also involved a dedicated session on introducing and training field researchers on the Kobo Tool. Practical exercises ensured their understanding and ability to utilize the app effectively during data collection.

Fieldwork commenced on May 16th and ran through May 20th across all selected schools. Interviews were conducted in English using standardized interviewer guides. Each session involved an interviewer, a notetaker (capturing both verbal and non-verbal cues), and the obtainment of written consent from all participants. Interviews were also audio-recorded with prior permission, lasting 30-45 minutes or longer depending on respondent availability.

FGDs were conducted with students, while KIIs targeted relevant school staff. In secondary schools, these included the Principal, School Counselor, Head-teacher, Compound/Boarding Master or Mistress. Tertiary institutions saw participation from the Head of Department (HOD), School Counselor, President of the Student Union Government, Dean of Student Affairs, male and female lecturers, and a representative from an NGO specializing in supporting survivors.

Project Alert's commitment to tackling SGBV in educational institutions is evident through these comprehensive research workshops. By equipping field researchers with the necessary skills and methodologies, the organization is paving the way for reliable data collection, ultimately contributing to informed interventions and improved protection for students and staff within Cross River and Akwa Ibom states.

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JOINT SPOTLIGHT ADVOCACY VISIT IN EBONYI



Cross section of participants at event

In continuation of the implementation of Spotlight Initiative Phase 2 projects in Nigeria, Project Alert and other implementing partners conducted joint advocacy visits to state officials in Ebonyi State. The purpose of these visits was to strengthen existing collaboration and support in addressing sexual and gender-based violence in the state.

The key state actors visited included the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the state security agency Ebubeagu, the Commissioner of Police, NAPTIP (National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons), the Nigerian Correctional Service, and the state GBV (Gender-Based Violence) Taskforce.



The Spotlight Initiative represents a multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations with the aim of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls by the year 2030. It stands as the world's most extensive targeted effort to put an end to all forms of violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative addresses various forms of violence against women and girls, focusing on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices, early child marriage, human trafficking, and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

LAUNCH OF RESEARCH REPORT ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND YOUNG PERSONS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS



Sexual violence (SV) is a global epidemic that is ravaging the world today. Over the years, it has become one of the most prevalent and devastating human rights violations. Sexual Violence is widespread in Nigeria, with many of its victims being children (ages 0-17). It is also common in youths, who are not only victims, but also perpetrators. The continuous high rate of sexual violence has been a result of threats by perpetrators, blaming of the victim, and poor response by state criminal justice and social welfare institutions.

To address this issue, Project Alert launched a research report titled "Sexual Violence and Young Persons in Academic Institutions" in both Cross River and Akwa Ibom States on December 12, 2022 and December 14, 2022, respectively. The launch in Cross River State took place at the Channel View Hotel in Calabar, and the launch in Akwa Ibom State took place at the Emmjm Hotels and Suits in Uyo. In attendance were academics, students, members of the media, and civil society organizations.

The report found that Sexual Violence is a widespread problem in academic institutions in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States. The most common forms of Sexual violence experienced by young persons were sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape. The report also found that many young persons who experience Sexual Violence do not report it, due to fear of retaliation, shame, or disbelief.

The report makes a number of recommendations to address the issue of sexual violence in academic institutions. These recommendations include:

- Increasing awareness of SGBV among young persons and adults
- Providing training to staff and students on how to prevent and respond to sexual violence.
- Developing clear policies and procedures for responding to sexual violence
- Providing support services to young persons who have experienced sexual violence

The launch of the research report is an important step in raising awareness of the issue of sexual violence in academic institutions. The report's findings and recommendations will be used to develop interventions to address this serious problem.

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SURVEILLANCE TEAM MEMBERS EMBARK ON QUTERLY OUTREACH



In continuation of Project Alert's activities, under the Spotlight Initiative project phase, being implemented in Lagos and Sokoto States held quarterly outreaches in 20 LGAs in both states.

The outreaches, which are being organized by the male and female Surveillance Team members in the LGAs, are aimed at further creating awareness on various forms of sexual and gender-based violence in the community; create awareness on the existence of the surveillance teams; and provide information on numbers to call and places to go to for help.

August, 2022 outreaches commenced on the 2nd August, 2022 and ended on the 1st September, 2022 covering Twenty (20) LGAs in Lagos and Sokoto states. These LGAs are Sokoto South, Bodinga, Binji, Dange Shuni, Tangaza, Isa, Goronyo, Lagos Island, Ikorodu, Yaba, Ikeja, Alimosho, Oshodi/Isolo, Agege, Kosofe, Ajeromi/Ifelodun, Surulere, Shomolu and Eti-Osa.

In the same vein, monthly outreaches was carried out by the surveillance team members in Ebonyi State across the two Local Government Areas; Onicha and Ohazara.

The Project Alert Surveillance team visited various markets, motor parks, Streets and strategic points in the communities. At the market, they took to many sections, wearing reflective jackets, holding banners with messages against all forms of sexual and domestic violence. The outreach was very much welcomed by the communities as some people promised to put in their personal efforts in handling issues of SGBV in their homes. It also aroused the interest of the public as people were requesting for the banners to see and read messages. People advised that the exercise should continue due to the impact it will have on the general public.



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