PROJECT ALERT
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

FOUTH QUARTER

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PROJECT ALERT COMMENCED SENSITISATION OF STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN AKWA IBOM AND CROSS RIVER STATE



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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: 234-08180500788; 08180091072

FINANCIAL & DIGITAL INCLUSION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE WORKSHOP



Cross section of participants at event

Project Alert was represented at the 3-day workshop on Financial and Digital Inclusion and Climate Resilience workshop for women's organisations and Networks in Africa organised by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) in partnership with Open Society Foundation on the 14th-16th November 2023.

The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of women's organisations and movements to access digital and financial inclusion services to promote equality, economic justice, and development. Participants included women and feminist movements from West, East, Central, and Southern Africa. Key highlights emphasised the need for creativity in civil society organisations (CSOs), forming women-led brands, creating value chains, and exploring innovative revenue-generating strategies.

Financial inclusion was underscored as a tool for economic growth and poverty reduction, recognised by the G20. The importance of financial inclusion in upholding the dignity of women was emphasised, aligning with the government's responsibility. The World Bank highlighted how financial inclusion facilitates daily living, business planning, and overall quality of life improvement. The workshop agreed on the necessity of financial inclusion, resource-sharing, and networking, focusing on areas for improvement.

Methods of financial inclusion discussed included Village Savings and loans (Osusu) and Digital Financial Services, emphasising the potential of digital opportunities for women. A session on "Unlock the potential of women-led Micro & Small Enterprise" showcased a case study of Ignite, which exceeded goals in reaching entrepreneurs and unlocking access to loans.



The training left participants energised and equipped with insights to advance gender equality, economic justice, and women's rights in Africa.

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SENSITIZATION OF STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN AKWA IBOM AND CROSS RIVER STATE

Project Alert commenced sensitisation workshops and club meetings addressing Sexual Violence and Young Persons in Academic Institutions, supported by the African Women Development Fund (AWDF). Sensitisation started in the first week of October (2nd 4th & 11th 2023) in Akwa Ibom and the second week of October (10th 12th & 17th 2023) in Cross River State. This effort aims to tackle issues identified through field research and advocacy visits to selected Cross River State and Akwa Ibom schools.



The sensitisations were conducted at the following schools in Akwa Ibom State:

- St. Columbanus Secondary School,
- University of Uyo,
- Cardinal Ekanem Seminary,
- Adiahaobong Secondary School and
- Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic.

In Cross River at:

- Government Girls Secondary School,
- Hope Waddell Training Institute,
- Government Technical College,
- College of Education and
- Arthur Javis University.

The sensitisation serves as a platform to help prevent and effectively address sexual violence in schools, both from peer influence or sexual violence perpetrated by persons in authority. It also provides an opportunity to engage with students, gather their insights, offer solutions, and present available services for survivors/victims.

After the sensitisation workshop, volunteers for the "KASA" club were selected; Club meetings were organised shortly after to ensure sustained support and empower these young students to become voices for change within their schools and beyond.





REPRESENTATIVES FROM OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION PAYS PROJECT ALERT A VISIT



Project Alert is set to commence "An Integrated Response to Advancing Justice and Accountability for SGBV Survivors in Lagos State funded by Open Society Africa. This is a two-year project that will facilitate access to justice for SGBV survivors and their families through a functional service delivery system that will ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

In preparation for this project, Open Society Africa's team led by Afia Asantewaa paid a visit on the 24th of October, 2023, at our office in Ojodu Berger, Lagos State, to conduct a routine monitoring and strategy planning, which served as an opportunity to discuss and carry out contextual analysis to begin the project. In attendance were Afia, Sharon and Dzimbabwe of OSA, the Executive Director of Project Alert, Barr. Samuel (partner & legal officer) and all staff of Project Alert.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PROJECT ALERT HONORED AS A DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVER.



On the 25th of November, 2023, the Mbaise's People Congress, in their annual professionals together, presented a distinguished achievers award to Mrs Josephine Effah-Chukwuma, the Executive Director of Project Alert on Violence Against Women, for her continuous efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls and the elimination of violence against women and girls.



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