PROJECT ALERT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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E-Newsletter

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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: +2348180091072, +2347070467832

Community Surveillance Team

Outreaches in Lagos



At the grassroots level, our 15 Community Surveillance Teams (CSTs) in Lagos have continued their monthly outreach programs under the Open Society Africa-funded project on Integrating Access to Justice for SGBV Survivors.

These outreaches took place across different neighborhoods with each outreach session focusing on:

- Raising awareness about sexual and gender-based violence, its signs, and available support systems.
- Encouraging survivors to seek help and report cases without fear of stigma.
- Building community trust in justice systems by linking survivors to legal aid, health services, and psychosocial support.

The CSTs are more than volunteers; they are community watchdogs and allies of survivors. By supporting survivors and facilitating access to justice, they are bridging a critical gap between survivors and state institutions.

Their continued work ensures that survivors do not walk alone and that justice is not an abstract concept but a lived reality within communities.





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BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ACADEMIC SPACES



On the 24th & 26th of September, 2025, Project Alert, in collaboration with partners in Akwa Ibom and Cross River State, Hallowed Hand Initiative for the Rehabilitation of GBV Survivors and Girls Power Initiative respectively, organized a One-Day Capacity Building Workshop on Sexual Violence Response in Academic Institutions in both states.

The program which is a result of the scale-up grant from African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) brought together key stakeholders in the education sector, school administrators, guidance counselors, law enforcement agencies, healthcare and frontline workers. The goal was clear: to build stronger institutional capacity for preventing and responding to sexual violence within learning environments.

Participants were taken through sessions on identifying early signs of abuse, reporting mechanisms, survivor-centered response practices, and the legal frameworks protecting students. They also had the opportunity to examine existing institutional policies and identify gaps that make students vulnerable.

The most powerful moment came from the schools assurance that no survivor in their institutions would be silenced or shamed. "We cannot speak of quality education without addressing sexual violence in schools. Our students deserve safe learning environments, and today we are equipping ourselves to make that a reality."

This workshop represents a step forward in ensuring that academic spaces in Nigeria evolve into safer, more responsive environments, where survivors are supported and perpetrators are held accountable.



Feminism and Human Rights Across Generations

In September, Project Alert joined the Intergenerational Conversation on Feminism and Human Rights, hosted by ICCEF, under the theme: "Feminism & Human Rights Across Generations: Successes & Challenges."

The dialogue gathered seasoned women's rights activists alongside a younger generation of feminists, creating a platform to reflect on the gains of past struggles, the persistence of old challenges, and the new battles emerging in today's context.

Discussions highlighted how landmark victories; such as women's political participation, advocacy against harmful practices, and legislative reforms, were hard-won through decades of advocacy. Yet participants acknowledged that deep-rooted patriarchal systems, shrinking civic space, and the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence persist and remain barriers to true equality.



Young feminist leaders added their voices, emphasizing the transformative power of digital activism, storytelling, and grassroots mobilization. The older generations were challenged to continue mentoring and supporting the young ones through conversations like this. This gathering was more than a conversation; it was a reaffirmation that feminism is not bound by age or time. It is a continuum, where each generation strengthens the next. The dialogue proved that by sharing wisdom and harnessing youthful energy, we can sustain momentum for human rights and gender justice in Nigeria and beyond.

Symposium on Survivor-Centered SGBV Response in Lagos



Project Alert participated in a critical symposium convened by the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), in partnership with International IDEA and funded by the European Union. The symposium was titled: "Enhancing the Role of Government and Civil Society Organizations in Survivor-Centered SGBV Response."

This event drew together representatives of government, civil society organizations and survivor advocates. The dialogue centered on a crucial truth: the government cannot end SGBV alone. Only through strong partnerships with CSOs and communities can effective, survivor-centered solutions emerge. Partnerships among similar organizations was also emphasized, as we all have same goal.

The symposium stressed the importance of breaking the culture of silence that discourages survivors from speaking out, while also calling for stronger referral pathways to ensure survivors receive timely psychosocial, medical, and legal support. The symposium ended with renewed commitments to co-create and continuously re-strategize survivor-centered interventions, ensuring that support systems respond not only to immediate needs but also to the long-term healing and empowerment of survivors.



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Scaling Policy to Action
South-West Regional Conference



On 21st August 2025, Project Alert was part of the South-West Regional Conference in Ibadan, Oyo State, hosted by Global Rights, in partnership with the European Union and Community of Practice, under the theme "Scaling Policy to Action."

The conference provided a rare opportunity for CSOs, policymakers, and regulatory agencies to sit together and confront practical issues affecting civic space in Nigeria. Among the key discussions were:

- The need to strengthen regulatory frameworks that enable CSO operations.
- Assessing state-level compliance and accountability using the 2025 State Ranking Dashboard.
- Exploring innovative strategies for funding sustainability in the face of shrinking donor support.
- Identifying opportunities to translate existing policies into concrete actions that protect rights and strengthen accountability.

As an organization, we left with actionable resolutions and a deeper understanding of the shared responsibility of government and civil society in building stronger democratic institutions. The conference underscored the power of collaboration, transparency, and collective action in scaling policies into meaningful change.

Reflections

From campuses in Akwa Ibom to community streets in Lagos, from intergenerational dialogues to high-level policy conversations in Ibadan, this quarter has demonstrated that the fight against SGBV and the struggle for women's rights cannot be won in isolation. It takes institutions, communities, governments, and generations working together to create lasting change.

 We thank our partners, funders, and alliesthe African Women's Development Fund, Open Society Africa, Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, ICCEF, Global Rights, and many others for believing in this vision.

Together, we are not only responding to violence but also reshaping systems, shifting mindsets, and protecting futures.

Support Our Work

To partner, donate, or volunteer, please reach out via email or visit our website. Every action brings us closer to ending violence against women and girls.

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