

**CEDAW PRISMS**  
**PERSPECTIVES SERIES ON HOW TO PROMOTE**  
**TRANSFORMATIVE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S**  
**ADVANCEMENT IN NIGERIA**

**THEME: ORANGE THE WORLD BY UNITING TO ADDRESS**  
**WOMEN'S INTERSECTING RIGHTS CONCERNS**

**RAPPORTEUR REPORT**

**13-14 December, 2018**

**WOMEN ARISE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN**  
**INITIATIVE (WADHI)**





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
GOODWILL MESSAGES.....	4
INTERPRETATION OF VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT & NON-CONFLICT SITUATIONS FROM A CEDAW PERSPECTIVE .....	5
Reactions.....	7
WORKING GROUP SESSION.....	8
Group 1 .....	8
Group 2 .....	9
Group 3 .....	10
Group 4 .....	11
Group 5 .....	11
UNPACKING CEDAW HUB .....	12
Questions .....	13
INTRODUCTION- DAY 2 .....	13
LINKAGE TEST.....	14
SHADOW REPORTING .....	14
Feedback.....	17
WORKING GROUP SESSION.....	17
Group 1 .....	17
Group 2 .....	18
Group 3 .....	18
Group 4 .....	18
Group 5 .....	19
Group 6 .....	19
Group 7 .....	19
Group 8 .....	19
Group 9 .....	20
Group 10 .....	20
Group 11 .....	20
Group 12 .....	21
CLOSING .....	21



ANNEXURES ..... 22

1. Attendance..... 22

2. Training Materials ..... 22

3. Templates..... 22



## BACKGROUND

The Women Arise Development and Humanitarian Initiative (WADHI) is a Non-Governmental Humanitarian Organization committed to finding customized solutions to inequalities and social exclusion, particularly, women's continued exclusion from financial markets. It has been established to facilitate platform and management systems that harness and expand development opportunities to equip targets to progressively grow their entrepreneurial capacities and economic standing in society.

The two day event is convened in order to enlighten participants on the CEDAW and its articles; the relevant stakeholders that will use the articles and the inter-relating function of the articles to each other and other pieces of legislation.

Although a lot of advocacy has been carried out in various states and at the Federal capital, there is still an urgent need for continued advocacy, trainings and education and a deep knowledge of legislations that will ease the work for stakeholders.

## INTRODUCTION

Registration for the event commenced at 9am and the event kicked off at 10:28 am with Eni Ohiani as the compere. Opening Prayer was done by Rosemary Chikwendu. The National and Women's Anthem quickly followed and guests introduced themselves to each other.

The convener of the event, Mrs Esther appreciated everyone for coming out early and apologized for any inconveniences faced by participants. On the reason for convening the event, she posited that though the official 16 days of activism on violence against women is over, there is continuous need for advocacy on women's rights and activism around gender based violence all year round. Stating that a meeting was convened a few months ago on the need for implementation of CEDAW Articles with relevant actors, state and non-state alike in attendance, the outcomes from the meeting was to focus on 5 core areas which encapsulated what articles are being implemented by the actors, how the actors are delivering on the articles that they are implementing and what the results are from the articles being implemented. There was also a call to open up a space in which actors can engage with other communities and to respond to perceived gaps, hence the establishment of the CEDAW Hub which contains the Dashboard. Although actions in the Hub space have been diminishing, there is an urgent call for revival and treatment of cases already on the dashboard.

The core principles on which the CEDAW Articles rest on include the de-facto principle which deals on the reality of implementing the articles; de-jure principle which expatiates on the laws available; the principle of transformative equality and the principle of equality of opportunity.

## GOODWILL MESSAGES

### **Priscilla (*please insert full name*) (Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme)**

The ROLAC program and the Gender desk department have a life time commitment to the struggle of gender equality. Although the 16 days of activism has ended, it is of great interest to note the response from individuals to identify with the activism on the stop of violence against women and girls. Still in a struggle to domesticate CEDAW, it should be noted however that some elements in CEDAW Articles have been captured in local legislations like the VAPP Act, National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security and the various Gender equality law in states, etc.

Utmost attention needs to be paid to development. With the CEDAW Hub and the Dashboard, cases and its progress will be tracked efficiently and easily. The local laws and achievement need to be taken into account as the drive for the CEDAW progresses. The synergies involved, information needed and coordination of action is of utmost priority.

ROLAC is committed to the process, the idea and actions that take us closer to our goal. At the end of the conversations, it is indeed hoped that the refining of tools, actions, processes to achieve a greater result is attained.

### **Dr. (*please insert full name and organization*)**

Advocating for the need to support one another, Nigeria has to have 365 days of activism, even though she has participated in the 16 days of activism. Nigeria's position as it relates to gender equality is 118 out of 134 and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> worldwide for the absolute numbers of children married below the age of 18, number of women and girls who have undergone female mutilation after Egypt and Ethiopia and this is a negative standing.

There is however the need to seek opportunities in which to improve. Laws and policies, regulations and plans in Nigeria have to be implemented by individuals. Actions need to be taken by individuals and not just by the government. Quoting Oprah Winfrey, she stated that 'when the society is wounded, we all bleed'.

### **Ojolie (University of Abuja, Gender Policy)**

The University of Abuja's Gender Policy Department has a mandate to train the actors that are relevant in the gender based drive and this has been mandate has and is being fulfilled to the letter. Reduction of violence and inequality in Nigeria is a core issue, and although it cannot be eradicated totally, needs to be drastically reduced.

Women and children are highly vulnerable to the ills of violence, inequality and discrimination. There is need for women to be equipped in the fight against the violence perpetrated on them, hence, collaboration and synergy between all actors is essential. The University is committed to



aiding research and development of data, and though will not be in the forefront of advocacy will do all that is necessary to assist.

### **Rosemary Chikwendu (IBA)**

The subcommittee of the IBA collates data by mapping and online questionnaires. The IBA works with the regional and national legal associations of countries to promote its agenda at all levels. In Nigeria, the association is the NBA. The NBA is expected to do advocacy with the government but in her opinion, this is not so. The question then is how long do we continue in the vicious cycle of always being at international conferences but doing nothing about implementation of all that was learnt.

She urged participants to make themselves available for persons who suffer such violence and be of aid.

### **Mary Ekere Ita (Exec.....)**

Lagos, Ekiti and Anambra states are the only states that maintain a register of gender based violence. In a bid to improve documentation, the National Women Centre has pledged that it would provide evidence on gender based violence in the Hub's Dashboard.

As there are no effective measures for implementation of laws in Nigeria, the dashboard will provide an avenue for persons who are perpetrators of gender based violence to be brought to book.

## **INTERPRETATION OF VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT & NON-CONFLICT SITUATIONS FROM A CEDAW PERSPECTIVE**

### **ESTHER EGHOBAMIEN (UN CEDAW MEMBER & CONVENER, WADHI)**

In a case at the Supreme Court of Spain, a provision of the Convention was quoted to wit; "...every state is obliged to respect, promote and fulfil the articles of the Convention". This establishes the weight of the Convention and the de-facto and de-jure principles and the equality of opportunities were recognized in that case.

The cost of violence encapsulates the police who carry out investigation, the CSOs, the welfare officers, the medical care, the medication the victim needs, shelter that has to be provided in some cases. When all these are out together, the cost of one violation requires a huge amount of productive man-hours. The question then is why such productive hours should be wasted on a person who chooses to break the law as violence against other persons is a criminal act.

The CEDAW Committee focuses on more issues as there are intersecting rights to every article of the CEDAW. From the angle of the Convention, looking through the prisms of the

Convention, there are certain practices that behave on criminality. One of such is allowing the perpetrator to marry the victim. This absolutely compounds the problem and the victim is now an accomplice to a criminal act. The fact that this act is not accommodated for in the law books does not remove its criminal nature. There is need to address the fundamental issue: is there need for psychological help, training and education for the victim as chances are that if the victim is left to marry the perpetrator, the victim will suffer a life-long violation. Families need to recognize the adverse effect of this act, thus the requirement to speak up against such act, train and educate families that from the perspective of the Convention, marrying somebody as compensation for raping or violating them is not right because the human body is inviolable. Once violated, such perpetrator needs to face the penalty and when this happens, such perpetrators will pass it across to other people who will learn from such penalty. The act of learning from such is another aim of the Convention. Beyond penalizing perpetrators, the Convention seeks to make the offenders learn and be made advocates because once they are penalized, they can teach other persons. Once one person is violated, there is the belief that all other human beings can be violated, thus the necessity to make offenders, advocates.

There is need to identify linkages in the CEDAW procedure. The CEDAW procedure makes sure that all users capture their practices, link practices to the articles of the Convention, participate in the reporting processes and form partnerships in terms of intersecting rights as what is practiced links to other sectors. The CEDAW hub will allow for more partnerships which will address and expose violence in conflict and non-conflict situations.

The big question is when in conflict situations; are there equality of opportunities in preparation, participation, post-conflict construction and partnership? If the answer is in the affirmative, then, the Convention is being implemented. There are obligations for the government as a state actor and individuals who are non-state actors in every capacity of life, whether personal, social or professional life and the role is to respect human rights and protection of the rights. One of the gaps in the implementation of the VAPPA is the provision of an offenders register. However, it does not mandate professionals or any 'social' individual to record any violence of cases against women. The Act needs to be amended to cover the capture cases of violence against women by anybody and a penalty clause for where one fails to do so. Lagos State mandates people to report and this should be adopted by other states in their gender state laws. This provision has allowed for about 680 reported cases in just six (6) months.

Conclusively, the DG of the Women's Centre, ROLAC, and the IBA need to work together to make revisions and amendment to the law for the dashboard to work properly.

### *Reactions*

The following questions and comments were made by participants:

- Omowunmi with Gender Mobile Initiative on how the dashboard will function and how those who are limited in access to technology will take advantage of the hub, the convener said that the a session on how to use the dashboard will be carried out showing a central space where people can interact, promote conversations and partnerships and good models can be posted there for people to work with.
- Another participant asked how those in the rural areas will get access and in answering this question, it was highlighted that there is a need to let people know about the general recommendations, then simplify it and translate it to local languages. Participants should first get the knowledge, own it and simplify it in a way that it can be understood and then shared with others at the local and grass root levels.
- On the question of what the police is doing for the violence against women cause, Dr stated that the police are trained to be able to respond more appropriately on issues of gender based violence. Is there incentive for people to feel comfortable to report? What is the situation of any police station where cases are reported, how friendly is the person to whom the case is to be reported to and how confidential will he or she be? She stated there is need for the police to take the report and have a quick response time, investigate, and apprehend the violator. There should be continued advocacy by the government, legislators and individuals to break the silence. Lagos and Enugu States have a sexual assault referral centre. There is Religious police in Kano State who are quick to respond to reports of sexual violence. There, the dignity of the survivor is maintained.

Priscilla stated that the FCT has a response team that ROLAC has helped to set up based in the Secretariat. There, information is received on cases of violence and they are equipped to provide services that are inclusive and also respond to the needs of people living with disabilities. Sexual assault and referral centre is in the process of establishment. The services are more than legal, and include counselling- listening avenues away from the criticisms.

Stigma is still a bane to reporting of violent cases meted out on victims. On this issue, there are centres springing up to help survival of violence deal with the issue of stigma. Rape, violation is not the end of the world and where the victim builds life skills, they can move beyond the point of rape. A good and effective gender based centre and one-stop centre will look into this and help.

A hashtag was suggested: **LifeDoesNotEndWithRape**

- Ann Ade, a participant asked on how the mechanism can be co-ordinated at the national level and whether there is a collation of the data going out to the international society.

In answer, Nigeria has been reporting on the CEDAW. However, no country has achieved gender equality based on the 4 principles of the Convention. The Convention is not descriptive as how each country deals with the above. All it asks is reporting.

In Mauritius, no one can get a job without getting a certificate of clearance from the gender based centre. Reporting is open to the government, Human Rights institutions and the civil societies at the CEDAW Committee.

- Kate Pam, a participant commented on the complete breakdown of trust for the authorities in the community where she works as they are the perpetrators of the violence. The challenge in some cases is that the impact of the social care services is lax. This makes the family the determinant of what happens to the victims and as they come from a background where the stigma needs to be kept a secret, there are hardly completed cases against gender based violence.

The Convention has articles that are solely on the family. This needs to be accessed well, in conjunction with the work the civil societies are doing in every community.

- A participant suggested the need for state representation. All activities done at the global stage and the central level should be transmitted to the local and state level for implementation as most issues happen at the grass-root level.

### WORKING GROUP SESSION

Participants were divided into groups to look at all aspects of the CEDAW Articles. Five (5) groups were formed as the Articles of the Convention were categorised into 5 sections namely:

1. Legislative (Articles 1-3)
2. Measures to protect (Articles 4-6)
3. Public and political life (Articles 7-9)
4. Development and technology (Articles 10-14)
5. Culture and family life (Articles 15-16)

The aim of this session was to allow participants dissect the Articles, identify problems and suggest recommendations on what should be done to implement the articles of the Convention. A representative of each group was selected to present the findings of each group.

#### *Group 1*

(Oreoluwa Tosin)

Problems identified:

- Lack of understanding of what discrimination is. An example is women are not allowed to eat a particular type of meat. The culture has made us not understand what it is.
- Problem of information: no idea if there's any law that guard women's rights. The grass-root areas do not know what discrimination is. There is need to give the right information.
- Problem of empowerment: women remain victims of violence due to the fact that they are dependent on their husband for financial upkeep; thus, keep silent where he violates their children or their person.
- Problem of social structure: no adequate structure for addressing all the problems. There is need for more structures like social counselling centres.
- Problem of enforcing laws: where the penalties are strict and fear is instilled, there will be a change.

### *Recommendations*

- Education: it is of utmost necessity to sensitize and train women, including women at the grass-root level of their rights.
- Advocacy: this should be carried out vigorously at all levels.
- Enforcement of laws: the VAPPA, NAPTIP Act, CRA, ACJA and other laws should be implemented.
- Constitution: the Constitution should be amended to accommodate the rights of women and penalties for violation of such rights.

### *Group 2*

(Elizabeth Ewssiene)

Problems identified:

- Low equality at workplace/schools: women are not given opportunities to occupy some positions. This should be changed. Awareness should be done through the media to equalize opportunity and treatment.
- Weak implementation of laws: laws like the gender policy law, CRA and other gender based laws are hardly implemented.
- Lack of good education and unequal access to education: men and women are educated from an early start on stereotyping. The female gender is generally denied education, sometimes, with the excuse of financial restraints but this does not affect the male gender.
- Lack of strict penalty for trafficking offenders: there is a need to inculcate strict penalties for such offenders.

### *Recommendations*

- Implementation of gender policy and enforcement of such and enforcement of the CRA.
- Engagement of both sexes in household chores without discrimination and the need to eliminate stereotyping should start from homes, schools and religious organizations. Equal access to education must be prioritized.
- Sensitization of maternity as a social function to see the importance of the role of women in nurturing and birthing.
- Equal access to inheritance.
- Banning of trafficking and prostitution, penalty for such offenders and the strengthening of the NAPTIP Act to accommodate rehabilitation and re-integration.

### **Group 3**

#### Problems identified:

- State of origin: although women are generally allowed to vote and be voted for, marriage presents a problem. They suddenly no longer have a state of origin as the one foisted on them at birth has been stripped by reason of marriage and the one in which they are married into, do not legally recognize them.
- Funding: this is a major problem for women who want to go into politics.
- Culture and religion: cultures promote the subjugation of women by the men they are married to and religion does not favour women to be at the forefront of politics.
- Women support: women hardly support each other.
- Education and participation: women have a paltry 6% commitment level at the ministerial level. This is an impediment for female representation at the international level as men are at the helm of affairs,
- Patriarchy: this presents an impediment to the issue of nationality as children bare the name of the man and not the woman, and the man is the sole determinant of the nationality of the children. The issue of married women choosing either state of origin presents a lack of consistency and discipline, hence, the difficulty in attaining anything of value.

#### *Recommendations*

- Promotion of best practices and success stories. Women have to be active in promoting and protecting themselves.
- Functional literacy. Women should be re-oriented and made aware of their capability to participate at the national and international level.
- Mentoring and early exposure. Groups here should mentor a younger group so that they can be relevant.
- Increased advocacy. There should be fervent advocacy for implementation of relevant laws and policies.

#### **Group 4**

(Anne Ade)

Problems identified:

The group did not identify problems with the implementation of the CEDAW Articles but rather emphasized on what is been done to implement such articles to include:

- On education: adult education for women who missed out on basic education, scholarships for indigent girls and vocational training for rural women.
- Sexuality and reproductive health: raising awareness on all aspects of development and technology on through the media.
- Healthcare: facilitation of community PHC centres providing HCT services, immunization and ante-natal care and providing support to rape victims.
- Finance: providing micro grants to community foe family economy improvement, setting up of women development centres in states for empowerment of women and training women in religious vocation and advocacy for platforms to function equally as men.
- Male education: holding focus group discussions with men in communities to unpack gender equality in all areas.

#### *Recommendations*

- Adequate funding of education in the national budget to at least 18%; sensitization and awareness creation and advocacy to policy makers on provision, budgeting and implementation on education.
- Encouragement of employers to train more women and establish crèches in their organizations.
- Encouragement of women participation in entrepreneurial competitions that boost social and economic status.
- Laws and Penalties: child marriage laws and penalties need to be formally established outside religion and culture.
- Encouragement of CSOs to work in the rural areas and improvement of security in rural areas to enable the NGOs and CSOs work in safety.

#### **Group 5**

(Omowunmi Ogunrotimi)

Problems identified:

- Employment contracts: such contracts ask whether the female is married or not and whether they want to continue having children.

- Housing: landlords often do not rent houses to single women or women who do not have formal jobs.
- Inheritance: repugnant laws that are still in existence bar women from inheriting property.
- Place of residence: women often relocate to where the men live even though they have the better jobs.
- Child bride and religion: different laws in Nigeria have varying definitions of who a child is. The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, thus, those who practice sharia law have the right to child marriage.
- Emotional and psychological abuse: Presumption that rape cannot happen in marriage, thus, women cannot establish the element of rape in marriage.
- Family planning: women cannot decide on whether to do family planning and what type to use due to the patriarchal nature of the society.
- Cultural background and belief: an example of this is where an (osu) in the Igbo culture cannot marry a free born but only an outcast.

### *Recommendations*

- Gender policy in workplaces that allow women to take on jobs should be established.
- Customary laws against inheritance should be repealed.
- Uniform legal framework like the VAPPA should be adopted in all states.
- Effective child - parent relationship: where this is used, communication will improve and parents can easily monitor the experiences of their children.
- Harmonization of conflicting laws in respect of child marriage.
- Promotion of education for children by relating with the community to work closely with such families that have a child who is a victim of violence, and integrating education on violence into the school curriculum.
- Reporting channels and sensitization.

### **UNPACKING CEDAW HUB**

The key features of the CEDAW Hub were explained to participants. The essence of the Hub-dashboard is to showcase the work of actors and allow for interaction with other actors. Registration is compulsory but free for now. Uploading of report in member area should be tied properly to the CEDAW articles. If video report, it needs to be compressed and in high quality. There are 5 communities on the CEDAW hub. e.g. community on health and education. Where participants are not active, they would be removed. The platform is to share what Nigeria is doing with the global audience. The CEDAW hub will be a home for tools and templates which actors can make use of.

### *Questions*

Participants were allowed to ask questions and one of such questions was if audio could be uploaded. Although audio is not provided for as a form of report, it is allowed in the discussion forum. All reports must be easy to read and a summary that captures the entirety of the report must be done.

The convener explained what work will be done the next day, work plans and priority issues that need to be presented to the Minister.

**Day 1 came to a close at 16:25pm.**

## **DAY 2**

### **INTRODUCTION- DAY 2**

Registration commenced at 9am and the event started at 10:56am with Kate Pam as the compere leading participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stanza of the national anthem as the prayer and the singing of the national anthem.

The objective of the day's event was explained by the convener to participants to wit: looking at the tools that will help actors in their fight against gender based violence and discrimination, case studies from different countries and how to use such studies and tools to look through the CEDAW prisms. How to access violence, respond to it and how what is being done is packaged in a way others can learn from it; differentiating between direct and indirect discrimination was also categorized as the learning outcomes from the day's event.

She reminded participants of the cost of violence to a society, opining that until there is the knowledge of the cost of violence, we may not fathom the purport of violence. When there is focus on the cost of violence, the way advocacy is done will change, our attitude will change and de-jure will be translated to de-facto.

The overview of yesterday was taken by Kate Pam after a participant shared what she learnt from the sessions yesterday. A participant observed that the DG made clear commitments of the centre being open to use as a hub and indicated interest to be on the dashboard. A motion was moved for adoption of the Overview by Eni Ohiani and seconded by Anne Ade.

**The Convener brought** to participants notice that bags should not be put on the table.

Videos were played to describe discrimination and instances that can be categorized as either direct or indirect discrimination.

## LINKAGE TEST

Participants were given a test to link CEDAW Articles to the work each participant and their organization does.

### *Cross-section of Answers*

- A participant's work cuts across advocacy on changing attitude on the value attached to a woman. This was linked to Article 12.
- Christiana Nnaji, a participant from Mary Evergreen Foundation offers free legal services. The tool used is Articles 1-4, 6-14.
- The Mary Evergreen Foundation helps women deal with trauma and after effect. The tool used is Articles 3,6,7,8,10.
- Buhari Adolescent Network works in security and reproductive health, peace building and sanitization. Articles 12,15,10 are the CEDAW tools used.
- Asman Usani from Capital FM. A radio presenter, she focuses on issues and problems women face and create awareness about such. Breaking silence and encouraging women to speak out are part of the drive of the organization and the tool adopted is Articles 1,7,9,10,11,12,15,16.
- Nneka with Partnership WestAfrica which deals with Rule of law and citizen security. Articles 7,8,1,5 are the tools used.
- Emem with University of Abuja. The work done at the University deals with all the articles but special focus on Articles 3 and 6.
- Rosemary Chikwendu with IBA Crimes against Women sub-committee of the Criminal Law Committee. The work of the sub-committee is to map crimes against women that are prevalent pro-bono and work with law societies of every country. The whole Articles is the tool used to facilitate the work done.
- Ocholie with University of Abuja. The university is being an academic environment deals with data generation and research. They work with all the articles as training of actors in all areas is continually carried out.
- Anne Addeh with women and youth.... The organization focuses on men, women and youth. Wit focus in education, the Articles used are Articles 10,5,1; for training and granting of micro grants- Articles 14,13; building of health care facilities- Article 12; local environmental sanitation- Article 3 and empowerment of men- Articles 3,7.

## SHADOW REPORTING

### **DR ABIOLA**

A lot is being done on the drive against gender based violence but it is still marginal. Responding to such cases one after the other is a major concern; there is need to take a more

strategic look at the exacerbating factors that affect lives of women beyond gender based violence; CEDAW is very expansive in nature; it talks of health, political participation, family, repugnant practices, etc. If the trend is still advocating against gender mutilation, then as a country, we are lagging behind in the drive for the CEDAW Articles. On the part of CEDAW, anytime a report is sent to them, and there is a need for us to do more, we are kept abreast of the situation.

The rights of women should be guarded and a lot has been done. A great stride is the establishment of VAPPA. Although it took 13 years, the lesson learnt is consistency to achieve the desired effect. The work of CSOs is to keep pushing. Ogun State has adopted the VAPPA because of consistent push and it's the second state after Anambra to sign the VAPPA in Nigeria.

Shadow reporting has shown that a lot of work is being done at the state level to engage stakeholders and the legislators than at the national. This is due to the work being carried out by CSOs at the state level. An example is the Electoral Act where there are no provisions that a woman can lay claim to on issues affecting them except where men and women should queue.

Through the shadow report, it has been noticed that the government has not done enough, thus, more needs to be done. The government must have the political will to support the gender cause. 6 concerns from the shadow report that need to be addressed:

1. Institutions that do not fully recognise women's rights.

There is paucity of institutions that fully recognize women's rights and this presents a problem as drawbacks when women want to report issues. The Constitution have some areas that could mean the government supports child marriage, that women are not full citizens, or in terms of nationality where a woman marries from a different state from her original state, she becomes stateless. If a Nigerian citizen, one has to have an identity. There is need to work together to address these issues.

Amendment has been done to the Constitution although on issues that they think is important which do not support women. There is need for a legal document that speaks to us and recognize us. The GEO Bill even though passed is a lesser law to the Constitution. While we advocate for this law to be passed, agitation for the amendment of the Constitution still needs to go on.

2. Lack of application.

Where there are laws, there is no application. An example is the Gender Law of Cross River State established in 2003; only in paper but no implementation. The passage of the VAPPA, although now a law, is still not implemented.

Contradictions in law and enforcement of such laws based on culture and discretion of the judges is an issue. An example is where the law, say in Lagos State provides for that a man can be sent out of the house as a penalty until he 'repents'. Although this is provided for by the law, judges are sceptical to enforce such law. There are issues de-jure and de-facto that are in conflict. An example of such is Section 5 of the Penal Code which says you can beat your wife in so far as it does not cause grievous harm. Proponents think that it is bad to hit the woman but do not think that the law should be changed.

### 3. Women representation on equal terms with men without any form of discrimination.

In terms of appointment, women are not interested. The political class does its own permutation and as women are not important to them, they do not provide for women representation. Every organization should talk about participation.

### 4. Girl child education.

As we speak, 13.5 million people are out of school and about 50% of these statistics are women. If women are illiterate and ignorant, not knowing how to push their issues and agenda, how will they take over in any sphere? This will present a vicious cycle of poverty. This should be a major concern for everyone.

The issue of safety is very broad in schools and in homes.

### 5. High maternal mortality.

Nigeria is second to India in the number of women who die during child birth. The National Health Act that was passed to do much more for women to have free or affordable, accessible health services is still not in place.

### 6. Social economic issue.

Access to credit, access to land is still an issue. Even if women want to farm, they do not have access to land. Women constitute over 70% of people who contribute to agriculture sector. The question then is why the bulk of people who contribute to the sector do not have a voice in issues that concern them.

In terms of leadership, the only position is woman leader. This is pathetic. All articles need to be adhered to as where one article is not done appropriately, it affects other articles.

The use of the general recommendations is an additional and helpful tool, an instrument that can help us affirm ourselves.

### *Feedback*

There is need to set up a working group on the Human Right Institution. American embassy has agreed to beam trainings to 9 locations in the country.

The following resolution was passed at the event: “every woman will speak up for any girl or woman who they see that are going through any form of violence. Every participant present will talk and engage 3 other women, training them on speaking out against violence”.

The action plan following the resolution is that every participant should think about the 3 women they will talk to and how to help them bring their own 3 women into the fold.

A participant enjoined the gathering to look for how to engage and inculcate the first ladies of each state and the national 1<sup>st</sup> lady on lending their voice and action in stopping gender based violence.

Until we have enough women in politics, we cannot have legislations that would be in favour of women.

The INEC, although have a gender provision, the various political parties do not make provision for the gender.

### **WORKING GROUP SESSION**

Participants were divided into smaller working groups to use the tool, CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol Template in order to cull out reported issues by state parties, challenges of implementation and possible recommendations. Participants were also given in their groups, different countries as case studies to work on later.

#### *Group 1*

(Presented by Victoria)

Reported issues by state parties:

- Solidarity men express for themselves; keeping numb on violence that men perpetrate.
- Sexual abuses within the families and the communities.

Challenges:

- Fear of reprisal.

*Recommendations:*

- Constitutional amendment need to be specific and inclusive.
- Enlightenment and community sensitization.

- Increase right of expression.

### **Group 2**

(Cynthia Ajunwa)

Reported issues by state parties:

- Unequal education opportunities.
- Vulnerability of the female child.

Challenges:

- Brotherhood with men.
- Difficulty in accepting change.

### *Recommendations*

- Adequate security should be provided for women and children as they are susceptible to vices.
- Bonding should be inculcated in women.

### **Group 3**

(Angela)

Challenges:

- Nothing on stigmatization.

### *Recommendations*

- Safe housing should be added.
- Health care should be added.

### **Group 4**

(Nneka)

Reported issues by state parties:

- Stigmatization.
- Impact of family structure.

Challenges:

- Lack of enforcement of penalties.
- No proper documentation of harmful practices to women at the grass root.
- No unified data basis.

- Diversity in culture.
- Institutional corruption.

### **Group 5**

(Christiana Nnaji)

#### Challenges:

- NAPTIP is not well funded to eliminate trafficking alone.
- Societal get-rich-quick syndrome.

#### *Recommendations*

- NAPTIP Act needs to be implemented.
- The government agencies, CSOs, traditional and religious organizations need to work on elimination of female exploitation and reparation for victims.

### **Group 6**

(Racheal)

#### Challenges:

- Labels. Women in politics are often labelled as prostitutes.
- Women are harassed by their party members physically, psychologically and emotionally.

#### *Recommendations*

- All the above should be looked at.

### **Group 7**

#### Challenges:

- Citizen by birth should be both sides.
- Rights of women to choose and express her individuality.
- Lack of grass-root sensitization and poor advocacy.
- Difficulty in obtaining dual nationality for children.

#### *Recommendations*

- Advocacy
- Sensitization

### **Group 8**

#### Challenges:

- Nigerian laws on maternity leave. The woman may be allowed to go on leave for four (4) months but without pay. However, even this law is not adhered to by the private sector.
- Huge gap between the laws and implementation.
- Poverty affecting family decisions concerning education.

#### *Recommendations*

- Bridge the gap of perception on female jobs.
- Discrimination of employment due to pregnancy should be stopped.

#### **Group 9**

##### *Recommendations*

- General awareness of existing laws.
- Strict enforcement of laws within organizations.
- Speaking up for those that have been undermined.
- Women empowerment programs.
- Eliminating sentiments within organization.
- Change in people's perception.
- Follow up by organizations in charge of enforcement.

#### **Group 10**

Reported issues by state parties:

- Free widal and malaria test should be given.
- Free maternity kit to pregnant women.
- Emergency health care.
- Education of women on family planning methods.

Challenges:

Women are not allowed to go for treatment in the men's absence.

##### *Recommendations*

- Culture and religion should be altered to accommodate women.
- Creating more awareness.
- Hospital policy.

#### **Group 11**

(Bisola Berkeley)

Reported issues by state parties:

- Lack of payment of social benefits.

- Insufficient social protection centres.
- Inadequate specialised courts and ADR Centres.
- Lack of capacity building and training.
- No entrepreneurial system/education.
- Exclusion of women in family decisions due to patriarchy.

#### Challenges:

- Lack of infrastructure.
- Unfriendly government policies to SMEs.
- Impediments due to cultural and religious beliefs.
- Marital status and resultant issues.

#### *Recommendations*

- Creation of specialised courts and ADR Centres.
- Entrepreneurial education.
- Proper infrastructure.

#### **Group 12**

(Amarachi)

#### Challenges:

- Patriarchy and exclusion based on religious limitations.
- Dependency on the men fold.

#### *Recommendations*

- Enlightenment of women on their rights.
- Organizing skill and acquisition programs.

#### **CLOSING**

The convener explained the difference between direct and indirect discrimination to participants and what to do with the self-assessment tool given to them. Participants were asked to write down action plans and next steps going forward from the event. This, they submitted in order for the convener to follow up appropriately on the work being done by participants and their organizations.

**Day 2 came to a close at 4:23pm.**

## ANNEXURES

PLEASE DOUBLE CLICK ON EACH ITEM TO VIEW

### 1. Attendance

### 2. Training Materials



A Fact Sheet on  
CEDAW.pdf



CEDAW  
Keypoints.pdf



CONVENTION ON  
THE ELIMINATION OF



Direct and Indirect  
Discrimination & other

### 3. Templates



CEDAW and  
MAPUTO Implementa



CEDAW SELF  
ASSESSMENT Tool L