

## **WILPF NIGERIA ANNUAL REPORT**

### **1. STAFF MEETING**

To kick start the year's activity, WILPF Nigeria had a one week staff retreat/ training from the 11<sup>th</sup> of January to 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. This has always been the tradition of the organization to have a staff retreat at the beginning of each year and plan for the remaining months of the year. The retreat was held towards strengthening capacities in delivering of programmatic activities for the year. The meeting further highlights the list of ongoing projects and designed proposed activities for the year with roles and responsibilities assigned to each team members. Additionally, the meeting was to serve as a system of reviewing and appraising staff activities.

### **2. MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON THE SAP ON WPSA IN ENUGU STATE**

WILPF Nigeria organized a one day stakeholder consultative dialogue in the month of February 2021 as part of activities towards designing and adoption of a state action plan on women peace and security in Enugu State. The meeting was a follow up to the last dialogue session held with stakeholders in the month of December 2021 on the implementation of a SAP on WPS in the state. Welcome address was read by the program officer of WILPF Nigeria Jane Siesi. Participants who attended the meeting were well represented from various Ministries, Agencies, CSOs and Security Agencies across the State.

Keynote address was read by the representative of Hon. Commissioner of Gender Affairs and Social Development Mrs V.U. Okenwa and the honorable commissioner for health Dr Emmanuel Obi. In their address, they implored all participants to see the project as a task for all stakeholders in order to achieve the essence of Women Peace and Security in Enugu State.

Further to the keynote addresses, the technical session of the meeting started with the country director of WILPF Nigeria Prof Joy Onyesoh who gave an overview of the framework for developing a State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions. She listed the objectives of the meeting and took the participants through an introductory session of what a SAP framework, the processes of developing a framework. The group work section was done to serve as a guide in the design of the state action plan for the state. Upon presentation of each

groups work, the meeting came to an end with action points stated and responsibilities shared to each partner.

### **3. THREE DAYS RESIDENTIAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR OBANLIKU/EZZA SOUTH COMMUNITY WOMEN ON STRENGTHENING THEIR CAPACITIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR**

In strengthening capacities of women's right organizations at the community level, WILPF Nigeria organized a three days residential training for women's group from Obanliku LGA of Cross River state in Calabar and Ezza south LGA of Ebonyi State in Abakaliki. The training came as a result of the identified gaps on the training modules used at the community level which didn't allow for a seamless flow of knowledge hence the need for a training where these can be better broken into more simpler terms for the community women. The training objectives were to enlighten the women on basic concepts on gender, build the capacity of the women on effective communication and public speaking, build the capacity of participants on advocacy and social accountability tools and to strengthen the participants, knowledge on basic terminologies as regards to monitoring and evaluation, steps to M/E, importance of M/E.

Through the training the participants had an increased understanding thus achieving the objectives of the three days residential training. This we identified through the pre and post test conducted. The women also designed a training work plan which will be used to run step down training for other women at their various communities thereby strengthening capacities of other women on gender based violence.

### **4. TRAINING ON M& E FOR WILPF STAF ORGANIZED BY UN WOMEN**

WILPF Nigeria participated in a two days residential training on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 in Lagos state as an implementing partner on the joint U-UN spotlight initiative project. The training was organized by UN Women to strengthen capacities of implementing partners on result based reporting result based monitoring and evaluation. The Spotlight Initiative is a global

partnership between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The Initiative aims to achieve a Nigeria where all women and girls particularly the most vulnerable live free from all forms of violence. The training came as a result of the importance of result based reporting for the Spotlight Programme.

During the two days training, participants were taught on what M& E is all about, how to monitor and evaluate programmes from a result based perspective, how to measure progress of a program using key indicators alongside other terminologies on monitoring and evaluation. The participants were also trained on the new reporting template for implementing partners and also on filling of the jot form which was a result frame work. On the group work session, participants were shared into groups of six which indicated the six pillars of the spotlight program and each group where expected to work on the pillars assigned to them. This was to strengthen understanding on what was expected of implementing partners on each pillar in measuring success/results.

## **5. CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR WOMEN VOLUNTEERS ON EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE**

To ensure that women play a key role in the election process and report from a gendered perspective, WILPF Nigeria organized one day training for women volunteers in Anambra state. The training was held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Anambra state. The training had participants who were selected from different local government areas of the state. The objectives of the training were;

- To enhance the understanding of volunteers on the WSRN platform
- To build capacity on early warning and response
- To build capacity on effective data collection

As a result of the training, the participants had an understanding on EWAR and EWAR systems which prior to the training 95% identified not having an idea on. The participants were also told what was expected of them which were to share on weekly base reports of incidences in the state to the EWAR center.

## 6. LAUNCH OF THE EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE CENTRE IN ANAMBRA STATE

Ahead of the Anambra State gubernatorial elections, WILPF Nigeria on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021, officially launched the early warning and response centre on preventing violence against women in elections in Anambra state. The launch had representatives from stakeholders who joined both virtually and physically. The launch had representatives from diplomatic commissions, development partners such as UN Women, ECOWAS, ministries, security agencies and CSOs working on peacebuilding.

The decision to establish an early warning and response centre came as a result of the reports we received from our observers during the Ondo and Edo elections. We identified the need to have an EWAR system that helps inform peace and development stakeholders on emerging gendered violence. The welcome remark was done by Jane Siesi, the program officer for WILPF Nigeria who welcomed the guest and appreciated them for gracing the event and also appreciated the funders of the project (NORAD). Keynote address was read by Iyom Josephine Anenih former minister women affairs and the founder/President General Nkata Ndi Inyom Igbo. This was followed by Goodwill messages which were given by HRH Onyesoh the Eze of Nri alongside representative of some key ministries CSOs, security agencies and national orientation agency.

A paper presentation on the topic “**The Relevance of** Early Warning in Mitigating Violence against Women in Elections” was read by Barr. Ebere Ifendu, the President Women in Politics Forum.

Prof Joy Onyesoh the country director of WILPF Nigeria gave an overview of WSRN/ Early Warning Centre on Preventing Violence against Women in Election. She also highlighted the achievements of the WSRN network while stating the objectives of the EWAR centre which will be launched in the state. The vote of thanks was taken by the coordinator of WSRN Philomena Zamani and group photographs/interviews of key personnel present at the launch which officially brought the meeting to an end.

## **7. TRAINING ON DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS ON ENDING VAWG/SBGV/HP AND PROMOTING SRHR**

It's no new fact that having a well designed and implemented multisectoral programmes targeted at response and prevention of GBV and related cases is important to ensure that all survivors of GBV (domestic and sexual violence) receive a comprehensive response from service providers such that meets their needs from the first point of contact onwards. It was on this premise that WILPF Nigeria, an implementing partner of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative organized a 2-day training to build the capacity of the relevant institutions to have a better understanding in their design and implementation of multi sectoral programmatic interventions on ending VAWG/SBGV/HP and in the promotion of SRHR. The training was held for over 50 participants from relevant institutions and took place in Ebonyi and Cross River State in the month of March 2021.

The training was also delivered using relevant methodologies that included group exercises and case studies. The training goals were achieved following participants understanding of the concept of gender and related terminologies associated with SGBV, VAWG/HP and SRHR, understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various Institutions in the response and prevention of SGBV, VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR thereby strengthening a for coordination system. Participants were acquainted with the referral pathways for women and girls who were survivors of GBV cases and referral pathways for other forms of GBVs such as forced marriages or denial of resources, properties or services

## **8. TRAINING OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOCUSED CSOS/WOMEN GROUPS, AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS ON GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING AND DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY OF MDAS FOR SUSTAINABLE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OF VAWG/SBGV/HP AND PROMOTION OF SRHR**

As part of activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of women's rights focused CSOs/women groups, and media organizations on gender responsive budgeting and demanding accountability of MDAs for sustainable prevention and response of VAWG/SGBV/HP and promotion of SRHR, WILPF Nigeria, an implementing partner on the Spotlight Initiative organized an intensive training to acquaint and equip 60 participants with the requisite knowledge and skills they would need towards achieving this aim. The training took place in Ebonyi and Cross River State in the month of March 2021.

At the end of the training participants level of learning and appreciation of the training were assessed through a post training assessment questionnaire. The pre and post test showed participants having a greater understanding on gender budgeting and accountability tools and ways of demanding accountability of MDAs for sustainable prevention and response of VAWG/SGBV/HP and promotion of SRHR.

#### **9. CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING OF WOMEN GROUPS ON RELEVANT SKILLS TO ENGAGE WITH MDAS AND INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION PROCESSES AT THE NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR INITIATIVES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VAWG/SGBV/HP, AND PROMOTE SRHR FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

WILPF Nigeria organized this capacity building training for participants in Ebonyi and Cross River State in the month of March 2021. The objectives of the training was to build the capacity of women groups on relevant skills set on how to engage with MDAs in the response, and design of programs that prevents issues of SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR, build the capacities of CSOs and sensitize groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination on coordination mechanisms at ministerial level to be able to demand accountability on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR and to build the capacity of women in social accountability tools.

The delivery of the training was done through case studies, group exercises and plenary sessions which enhanced learning and experience sharing. At the end of the training participants level of learning and appreciation of the training were assessed through a post training assessment questionnaire. In conclusion the feedbacks before and after the training and quality of interactions provides sufficient indication that the training enhanced the capacity of women groups.

#### **D TRAINING OF WOMEN GROUPS/NETWORK, CSO ON PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION, PROPOSAL WRITING, AND SECURING FUNDS FROM PARTNERS**

As part of activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of women groups/ network, CSOs, on project monitoring and evaluation, proposal writing and securing funds from partners WILPF Nigeria, an implementing partner in the Spotlight Initiative organized a 2- days intensive training in the month of March 2021 in Ebonyi and Cross River State to equip Participants' with the requisite knowledge and skills on proposal writing, M &E etc. This was on the premise that having relevant knowledge on proposal writing is a major way CSOs get funding for project and once funding opportunities are provided, the ability to effectively deliver an evidence result based programmes which can be monitored and evaluated was also important hence the importance of the training.

The training covered:

- Project Monitoring and Evaluation in SGBV/VAWG Interventions
- Proposal Writing; and
- Securing Funds from Partners

At the end of the training participants level of learning and appreciation of the training were assessed through a post training assessment questionnaire. At the end of the training, the level of participation and experiences shared alongside feedbacks before and after the training served as indicators of the positive impact the training on participants.

## **11. WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE EWAR CENTER**

Following the launch of the WSRN early warning center on preventing violence against women in elections held in Awka, Anambra State on the 31st of March, the EWAR center was officially opened on the 8th of April 2021. Part of the activities of the center is the weekly updates of incidences/events as they occur in various LGAs of the state.

The trained teams of WSRN volunteers were to collate data on activities and incidences happening in Anambra State and send in to the center on a daily basis for analysis. This reports sent in by the volunteers were analyzed and sent out to stakeholders on a weekly basis to guide and inform the stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities in promoting peace and security in the state from the recommendations made from the analysis. The weekly newsletter omened from the month of April 2021 to the month of October 2021 where we had a stakeholders validation meeting ahead of the Anambra state gubernatorial elections.

## **12. WPP MEETING AHEAD OF CONSTITUTION REVIEW**

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, a strategic meeting of esteemed members of the Women's Political Participation Working Group (WPP-WG) consisting of government and multilateral partners was called to discuss action toward the imminent zonal public hearings on the Constitutional Review process. The meeting became imperative further to the announcement on the zonal public hearings announced by the Chair of the Senate Constitution Review Committee, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege which was slated to take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May across 12 states of the Federation.

The objectives of this meeting were to: i. Decide on key asks of the WPP-WG in relation to the constitutional review process; ii. Identify strategic next actions to ensure a strong concerted front in mobilizing public support and harmonization with key groups for women's increased political participation and representation.

Previously, efforts to push issues of women's political representation have been curtailed and misconstrued with other contentious issues particularly sexual and reproductive health rights



which conservative groups have strong reservations on. At the meeting, one of the outcomes was the resolution of the group that it was not realistic to ask women's constituents and groups to agree on all issues relating to women's rights and development – to present one voice for all Nigerian women. Therefore, it was important to have initial informal interactions with a range of women's groups across states where the WPP-WG are in operation to ascertain the position of these groups on the issue of women's representation and specifically, affirmative action and reserved seats.

### **13. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF NIGERIA 1999 CONSTITUTION**

WILPF Nigeria was active in collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs through the working political group established in providing opportunities for women groups in Cross River, Ebonyi, Enugu, Plateau, Imo and Ondo state of Nigeria to participate in the review of the Nigerian 1999 constitution which was held in May 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 simultaneously in each state.

WILPF Nigeria made provisions for a total of 10 women from Cross River and Ebonyi state to participate in the zonal hearings at Rivers state and Enugu state. WILPF Nigeria also made provisions for 30 women each in Plateau, Enugu, Imo and Ondo state of Nigeria who visited the state's National Assembly and House of Representatives calling for a change in the constitution on issues of women's participation in elections and politics. Some of the agreed summits were on equitable women representation in government, through at least 35% women representation in appointive offices at the Federal and State levels, having gender-neutral and sensitive language in the constitution amongst others.

### **14. MINISTERIAL MEDIA BRIEFING ON THE REVIEW OF THE NIGERIAN 1999 CONSTITUTION**

WILPF Nigeria was active in collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in organizing the national press briefing exercise in Abuja on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. The media briefing was held ahead of the national assembly public hearing on the review of the Nigerian constitution. The media briefing had the Minister of Women Affairs Hon. Dame

Paullen Tallen, members from CSOs, media groups among other women groups working towards the promotion of gender equality. The media briefing was held to further amplify voices of women groups on their summit ahead of the constitution review.

## **15. TRAINING ON DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING INTERVENTIONS TO END VAWG/SGBV/HP AND PROMOTE WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' ACCESS TO SRHR**

WILPF Nigeria organized this training for CSOs, women's groups and individual advocates in Ebonyi and Cross River state in the month of June 2021, being an implementing partner on the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. The training objectives were;

1. To strengthen CSOs, women's groups and individual advocates on how to design, implement/manage interventions to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG), and promote SRHR's for women and girls including engagement with women.
2. CSOs/ Women's groups, Individual advocates to have a better knowledge on how to monitor interventions to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG), and promote SRHR's for women and girls including engagement with women.
3. CSOs, women groups and individual advocates who might be potential recipients of small grants are better informed on basic grant application tips on how to access and seek for funds on interventions on ending VAWG, and promote SRHR for women and girls in the states.

The delivery of the training was done through case studies, group exercises and plenary sessions which enhanced learning and experience sharing. Through the training, the participants had an increased knowledge on ways of designing programmatic interventions towards EVAWG and to promote their engagement with men group.

## **16. TRAINING ON ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS TO END VAWG AND PROMOTE WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESS TO SRHR**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global pandemic that affects one in three women in their lifetime. It is disproportionately perpetrated by men against women, and is deeply rooted in gender inequality and women's lack of power relative to men. Although change is slowly taking place, men and boys must be increasingly involved to work alongside women and girls to support gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The training on engaging men and boys being part of efforts towards ending violence against women and girls was organized and implemented by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Nigeria, being an implementing partner on the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. The training was facilitated for women and girl's rights CSOs and took place in Calabar, Cross River State and in Ebonyi State in the month of June, 2021.

### **Training Objectives:**

1. To strengthen capacities of women and girl's rights CSOs advocating for SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR to better engage with the male counterpart and discuss ways of EVAWG in the state/communities.
2. To build the capacities of these groups on how they can engage with the men and establish a strong alliance with them on issues of SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR.
3. To strengthen participants knowledge on masculinity, power relations and how to engage with the men in the advancement and promotion of activities that prevents SGBV/VAWG/HP

At the end of the training the participants were better informed that s concluded that full gender equality will not be achieved in the world at large, until violence against women is eradicated. And also the importance of effective engagement with men in the work they do towards achieving gender equality.

## **17. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE ON THE DESIGNING OF A STATE ACTION PLAN IN PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING VAWG**

WILPF Nigeria held a two day stakeholders consultative meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May and 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021 on designing a state action plan (SAP) on preventing VAWG in Cross River State. The meeting had representatives from key MDAs institutions, security agencies and CSOs in the state.

The meeting started with the facilitator setting the tone of the meeting and the objectives for the two days stakeholders meeting. This was followed with a welcome address and presentation by the program officer of WILPF Nigeria the organizers of the event who gave an overview of the spotlight initiative project, the baseline reports which formed the basis of the need to have a SAP in the states that addresses and prevents VAWG and also activities/impacts of the implementing partners on project recorded so far.

The facilitator took the participants through the importance of having a SAP in the state adding that with the increase in GBV cases there is the need for laws and policies addressing VAWG in the state. The facilitator explained what a SAP is which was explained as an operation plan which is critical in the work in GBV. The facilitator also spoke on the process of a SAP, guiding principles in developing SAP and responsibilities of each stakeholder in achieving the process. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the group work section which serves as a guide to the facilitator in the design and drafting of the document.

## **18. REPORT OF TRAINING ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GBV REFERRAL PROTOCOL**

Considering the prevalence of GBV in Nigeria and its limited and comprehensive response in terms of necessary support services, WILPF Nigeria an implementing partner of the joint EU-UN spotlight initiative project on ending violence against women and girls had earlier in the year 2020 developed a GBV Referral Protocol that aids ease of referral and coordination among key responders of GBV in the state. The guide describes minimum actions to be taken to respond to and assist GBV survivors. It outlines some guiding principles, procedures, and roles and responsibilities of major actors for the response to and prevention of GBV. It was on this premise WILPF Nigeria organized the training to strengthen stakeholder's capacity on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the referral protocol while also striving to achieve a simple and effective referral pathway and follow-up mechanisms at the local/national/community level in states on issues of gender based violence for all women and girls including the most marginalized. The training was held in the month of June 2021 in Ebonyi and Cross River State.

### **Training Objectives:**

- Identify and strengthen capacities of stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the GBV referral protocol
- Promote stakeholder engagement with and ownership of the of GBV Referral Protocol in the state
- Improve the referral pathway for a multi-sectoral response for survivors of GBV in the state
- Develop a monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanism.

The training objectives was delivered by training participants in two relevant modules. The participants also expressed that coordination of GBV cases would be easier now because all the relevant stakeholders that participated in the group exercises have gained some practical insights on the need of collaboration and not working in silos which the referral protocol will help to achieve.

### **19. TRAINING FOR STATE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS TO BUILD CAPACITY ON DEVELOPING CONCEPT NOTE, PROPOSAL WRITING AND M & E**

The ministry is a pivotal tool in the fight towards ending /eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls by getting involved in the design and implementation of programs addressing GBV which one key way is through their access to funds from funders, through the type of proposals they write and in the monitoring and evaluation of programmes. It's on this premise WILPF Nigeria organized a capacity building training for members of the State Ministry of Women Affairs in Ebonyi and Cross River State to strengthen capacities on effective proposal writing, M/E, and on how to secure funds from partners through proposal.

The course employed an 'action learning approach' that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application to the realities and working environment of the participants. The

participants were involved in elaborating specific exercises and tools (case studies and role plays) in small working groups' thereby developing knowledge and skills for direct application in their projects and programs. Based on the training evaluation tools (pre/post tests and general questionnaires) administered, majority of the participants showed remarkable improvements in their knowledge of the courses. The participants stated their readiness to apply knowledge learnt on their job immediately while also being hopeful that more of such capacity enhancement opportunities will be accorded them often as possible.

## **20. MEETING WITH NWM MEMBERS TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION**

The meeting of the Nigerian women mediator's network members was held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 at treasure suites hotel and conferences Abuja. The objective of the meeting was for members to extensively discuss on ways of bring their expertise on mediating across their various states/geo political zones given the current security tensions across the country, what is expected of each member, the governance structure of the network, decentralize the network, mapping of strategic partners and establishing collaborations, and also identify ways of moving the network forward. The meeting was a hybrid one as there was provision for members to also join virtually. The co-coordinator of the network, Hajiya Lantana Abdullahi started by giving a brief overview of key activities/achievements of the network since its inception.

The national co-coordinator, Prof Joy Onyesoh also added by mentioning the need to have an annual meeting with members once a year especially with the security tension in the country while the state and zonal holds sub meetings frequently. She also spoke of the invitation from IPCR (institute of peace and conflict resolution) who had invited the network to partner for the forthcoming peace day.

The challenges faced by the members of the network were also discussed as a lot of issues were raised on the area. The vote of thanks was done by the national co coordinator Prof Joy Onyesoh who appreciated the members for taking time off their busy schedules to attend the meeting.

## **21. EVALUATION MEETING WITH UN WOMEN TEAM ON THE SPOTLIGHT PROJECT IN CALABAR**

Ahead of the joint monitoring and evaluation visit of the spotlight team WILPF Nigeria had a pre monitoring visit with UN Women team Mr Thomas Akwaji. The meeting with Mr Thomas of UN Women was scheduled 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The meeting started by 11am with Mr Thomas introducing the purpose of his visit and also stated the objectives of the joint monitoring and areas to be evaluated by the team in both Ebonyi and Cross River State. Documents such as attendance and per diem sheets, financial reports were requested to be reviewed by Mr Thomas which he later raised some comments on the financial part asking that invoice and quotations be sent for each vendor we are requesting service.

## **22. EVALUATION VISIT WITH JOINT EU-UN SPOTLIGHT TEAM IN ABAKALIKI**

WILPF Nigeria participated in the monitoring visit of the spotlight team which was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. The team had a representation of two women and seven men. The leader of the team in person of Mr Yinka Akibu started with a formal introduction of his colleagues which WILPF Nigeria team also introduced its team before commencing on the evaluation. Further to the introduction, the leader of the team visit requested that WILPF Nigeria stated their activities, impacts they've have recorded since the start of the spotlight project in the state on both pillars which is pillars 2, 3 and 6. The programs person for WILPF Nigeria commenced by stating how the organization started with the need assessment and baseline survey in the state to better understand the situation and the gaps which are prevalent in the state, then further highlighted some of the success impact stores recorded over time both at the community, institutions and women's organizational level. The programs person of WILPF Nigeria also listed some of the documents /policies designed by the organization in support from the state ministry of women affairs which has also been a way of strengthening their systems to build capacities.

Further to the interactions with the team, the organization was applauded for the work they do but was also told to strengthen activities on women's movement such as engaging in key advocacies with advocacy asks to relevant stakeholders. The monitoring team also requested to see the policy documents developed by the organization which was promised to be sent by mail to the team. The meeting lasted for about 45 minutes and ended with a group photograph.

### **23. TRAINING ON ADVANCING WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN AFRICA**

WILPF Nigeria participated in the ten (10) days virtual training organized by MenEngage Africa, in partnership with Sonke Gender Justice and Women International League for Peace and Freedom in training participants across African countries on advancing women peace and security agenda in Africa. The training commenced from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2021. The objective of the training was;

1. Increase understanding of participants on key concepts of conflict and peace building;
2. Strengthen participant skills and understanding of causes, drivers and analysis of conflict from a feminist and gendered lens;
3. Strengthen participants understanding of women, peace and security international and regional instruments and how to engage with them;
4. Strengthen the capacity of MEA partners to effectively counter militarized masculinities and mobilize men for feminist peace.

The training had modules on gendered dimensions of conflict, war and violence, WPS agenda and peace processes, men masculinities and peace, planning joint advocacy to advance WPS agenda in Africa, using international human rights framework to advance the WPS agenda among others.

The training made use of both individual and group work methodologies to help the participants better understand the modules and strengthen capacities on the training themes.

### **24. TWO DAYS INCEPTION MEETING ON RESOURCING CHANGE: SUPPORTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS (WROS) IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT AFFECTED STATES (FCAS) HELD IN ABUJA**

Further to the mapping and selection of WROs based on the criteria agreed by both implementing partners, an inception meeting was organized to further introduce and strengthen



the understanding of the WROs on the project. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Nigeria and Women for Women International- Nigeria organized a two-days residential inception meeting on the FCDO (Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office) project which is aimed at supporting women's rights organisations (WROs) in fragile and conflict affected states (FCAS) to increase their independent role in leading programmatic and advocacy on Peacebuilding, Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Participation, GBV Prevention, Response and COVID-19 Response and Preparedness. The meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 with a total of twenty (20) participants which were in attendance representing their various organizations from the Northern and Southern region of Nigeria. The WROs came in pairs from each organization thus having a total of 10 organizations (5 from WILPF Nigeria and 5 from WFWI).

### **Meeting Objectives**

The objective of the meeting was;

1. To introduce the project to the selected WROs, agree work plans, update and provide opportunity for WROs to meet – creating a platform for peer learning
2. To design an implementation process in line with the overall project title
3. To support women's rights organisations (WROs) in Nigeria to increase their independent role in leading programming and advocacy on Peacebuilding, gender equality, women's empowerment and participation, GBV prevention and response and COVID-19 response and preparedness.

### **Learning Objectives**

The learning objectives for the WROs are;

1. Increased capacity of WROs in project designing and implementation
2. Increased skills set on monitoring and evaluation of programs
3. Institutional capacity strengthening of WROs on areas that need strengthening

At the end of the two days meeting the participants had a better understanding on the project and expectations from them, an avenue for peer learning was also established which will be strengthened throughout the project implementation phase.

## **25. TRAINING OF WSRN OBSERVERS**

Ahead of the Anambra State gubernatorial elections, WILPF Nigeria under its WSRN organized a one day training for its women observers. We had the WSRN gendered observers training on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 where we took the women observers on the gendered perspective of election observation, what is expected of them during the election as regards to reporting of information and what to look out for while collecting information on the field. The training was to help the women observers better observe the election through a gender perspective taking into account indicators contained in the observers check form and also to document any form of violence during the election using the incident reporting form.

The objective of the observers training was to provide women the opportunity to actively participate as observers during the elections reporting from a gender perspective. Also to obtain firsthand information and collate data from the field for documentation of events; to record the participation of women and also take note of INEC efficiency as they conduct the elections.

During the training, the welcome remark was made by Mr Prince Azor the chairman of CSOs in Anambra States who spoke on the need for integrity in the collection of information and reporting of data, the need to stay safe and abide by all rules guiding the process.

Through the trainings we were able to build the capacity of the selected women observers on gender reporting and serving as mediators handling cases which might necessarily result to violence especially at the polling units. The training came to a good end with group photographs.

## **26. ONE DAY STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE IN ANAMBRA STATE AHEAD OF THE STATE'S GUBER ELECTION**

Further to the review of the weekly reports from our EWAR center and trained volunteers, the reports from our analysis identified incidences of violence ranging from gunmen attack, cultist attacks, and abduction, killings of security officers, burning of security offices and vehicles, violent crimes at various locations by gun-wielding men amongst others. With the current security tension in the state and ahead of the state's gubernatorial elections, we saw the need to engage critical stakeholders to support the government in addressing the growing incidences of violence in the state especially as the dates of the state's election draws near. It was on this note that WILPF Nigeria held a one day stakeholders on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 to share the reports of our gendered assessment conducted in the state and our reports from the month of April to October from the early warning and response center ahead of the state's election coming up in few weeks stating the gendered perspective to the possible violence that could occur in the state and how they affect women and girls.

### **Objectives**

- To share reports of violence assessment and EWAR reports conducted in the state with stakeholders.
- To strengthen capacities on the gendered perspective of VAWE especially as the states election draws near
- To enlighten stakeholders on the roles of EWAR center during the elections

The main event commenced with an overview of the program and objectives of the program which was immediately followed by an overview of what EWAR is all about and the EWAR center which was launched by WILPF Nigeria earlier in the year with activities carried out by the center since its inception till date. This raised discussions from the participants especially on the presentation of the weekly EWAR reports. All questions raised from the presentations were duly answered. Further to this, the next session on the violence assessment conducted in the state was presented and a group activity was conducted for the participants.

## **27. ONE DAY RESIDENTIAL CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR WROs ON THE FCDO PROJECT**

Further to the review of proposals sent in by the women's right organization on the FCDO project, we saw the need to run a capacity building training for participants on program designing and result based outcomes. The one day residential training took place on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 with a total of 10 participants who were selected from south east, south west and south south region of the country. The training started with an overview on the project and the result monitoring framework to guide the activities of the WROs.

A section on sustainability work plan and how to achieve sustainable results on the projects was also taught to the participants to assist them in designing result based work plan that is sustainable in the short and long run. Further to this, the country director of WILPF Nigeria took the participants on result based monitoring and evaluation, ways of harvesting result based outcomes and impact and SMART indicators. This led to an individual review of proposals, budget and work plan sent in by the WROs.

As a result of this meeting, this led to the WROs having an increased understanding on how to achieve result based outcomes on the project and how to monitor and evaluate their programmatic interventions.

## **28. MEDIA BRIEFING**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, WILPF Nigeria under the Women Situation Room Nigeria (WSRN) organized a press briefing ahead of the Anambra state gubernatorial elections. The aim of the press statement was to call for peaceful elections given the predictions received ahead of the election. Media present during the press briefing are - the Nigerian Television Authority, Galaxy TV, Pride news, and Seven FM.

The convener of the WSRN, Prof Joy Onyesoh started by giving an overview on the violence security happenings in the state which had created some form of tensions among citizens of the state. She further buttressed what the Women's Situation Room Nigeria (WSRN) is all about which is a network of women organisations focused on promoting women peace and security framework . Additionally, the President of Women in Politics Forum, Barr Ebere Ifendu lent her voice while speaking on the need for all political parties and voters to continue to reject all forms

of violence. In her conclusion, she stated that the WSRN is also working in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, the Women in Politics Forum and the 100 women lobby group to ensure that women play a vital role in promoting peace and security and to ensure equal participation.

The zonal coordinator of WSRN Mrs. Philomena Henry also spoke on the situation room to be officially opened from the 5th of November to the 7th of November 2021 responding to issues of electoral concerns. She called out, the WSRN toll free line which was state that is open to all callers to call in and give reports of happenings in the state with regards to the elections.

## **29. WILPF NIGERIA OBSERVES THE ANAMBRA ELECTIONS**

On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, Anambra state had its gubernatorial election. WILPF Nigeria had 17 women observers deployed in 8 LGAs of the state observing the election. The WSRN collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, the Women in Politics Forum and the 100 women lobby group to ensure that women play a vital role in promoting peace and security and to ensure equal participation from both genders in exercising their electoral rights.

Contrary to speculations, the Saturday election was largely peaceful, with only a few reports of skirmishes caused by miscreants in some areas. Although this led to voters apathy as a lot of voters did not come out to cast their votes which could be as a result of the security happenings in the state prior to the elections. Women Situation Room Nigeria notes that security agents on election duty were not reported to have harassed or intimidated voters or election observers.

The WSRN observed a low level of violence across the 21 LGAs. Although on the part of INEC logistics, there were high level of malfunctioning of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and the knowledge gap in the INEC adhoc staff showed that INEC wasn't fully prepared for the election exercise. If there was a huge turnout of voters this would have created serious challenges in the accreditation, voting and collation of results at the units.

### **30. WILPF AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

WILPF Nigeria participated in the two days regional virtual conference organized by WILPF secretariat for members sections across African regions. The virtual conference took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 in Enugu State Nigeria with members of WILPF Nigeria converging to participate in the virtual conference. The objective of the conference was to learn from what each African section is doing and ways of strengthening collaborations with each section towards advancing the women peace and security agenda and also strengthen capacities of members on areas of disarmament, militarized masculinity, feminist political economy programme, women peace and security and on monitoring, evaluation and learning. The presentation slides used group work for members to work together in their sections as a group based on the peculiarities in their country. As a result of this conference and the group work section, this deepened the understanding of the inequalities prevalent in the country and ways members can provide support in mitigating them. At the end of the conference, the members had a better understanding on the thematic areas presented.

### **31. CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON DEVELOPING A GBV REFERRAL PROTOCOL**

With the advances in women's rights around the world, violence against women and girls remains one of the most pervasive human rights abuse, and its occurrence in the home or by an intimate partner is its most prevalent form. Considering the prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the country and also commemorating this year's 16 days of activism with theme on Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!. WILPF Nigeria with support from SIDA (Sweden International Development Agency) with the goal of reducing forms of GBV and providing support to survivors identified the need to have a functional GBV Referral Protocol that will be piloted in the state which formed the background of the consultative dialogue held with stakeholders in the state.

WILPF Nigeria had a one day stakeholders meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 in Enugu State with meeting objectives on

- Raise awareness on the need for GBV coordinated response and protocol.

- Identify key/emerging issues and recommendations that will later form the framework for developing the protocol in the state.
- To drive collective ownership of the design and implementation process.

The program officer for WILPF Nigeria took the participants through basic terms associated with GBV to strengthen understanding on why the GBV protocol is key to the situation in the state and also as it will help in stakeholders identifying and in designing the referral protocol for the state given the peculiar forms of violence that exist in the state. Following her introduction, the country director of WILPF Nigeria, Prof. Joy Onyesoh took the participants on what a GBV referral protocol is all about, a referral pathway, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in mitigating GBV etc. The participants were shared into a group for a group work section this was to help in the design of the GBV referral protocol.

### **32. VALIDATION MEETING ON ENIGU STATE ACTION PLAN (SAP) ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS)**

Having engaged in series of consultative dialogues with stakeholders in Enugu state towards having a state action plan on women peace and security, WILPF Nigeria in collaboration with the state Ministry of Gender Affairs held a one day validation meeting with stakeholders on the draft SAP on WPS. The meeting was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 in Enugu State. The analysis from the last meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 where stakeholders identified the emerging and key issue in the state served as guiding pillars in the drafting of the SAP framework on WPS. The analysis birthed the draft framework SAP on WPS which forms the bedrock of the validation meeting to validate the draft document.

The meeting started with a welcome address from WILPF Nigeria, with the program officer for WILPF Nigeria, Jane Siesi. The keynote address was given by the Director of Gender Affairs Mrs. Esther who reassured WILPF Nigeria of the ministry's support to the process and also on the importance of having the document delivered as it is coming at a good time.

Following the keynote address, the overview of the draft SAP was led by the country director Prof Joy Onyesoh who had a break out session for the participants according to the four pillars of the SAP on WPS. Each group was to handle the pillar of the SAP and present what the group had

done by making input on the draft document. She later added that the inputs made by the stakeholders will form the final copy of the SAP on WPS hence it should be well scrutinized by the participants. The country director of WILPF Nigeria also spoke on the need for effective advocacies with the state ministry of gender affairs leading the process to the office of the first lady, the government house and the state house of assembly and representatives on the SAP on WPS.

### **33. CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON STATE ACTION PLAN (SAP) ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS) IN ANAMBRA STATE**

Having identified that Anambra State is yet to have a State Action Plan on United Nations Security Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, WILPF Nigeria in collaboration with the State Ministry of Women Affairs held a one day stakeholders meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2021. The meeting was a follow up on past meetings held in earlier regarding the designing of a SAP on WPS in the state.

The main crust of the meeting was the training on implementation of SAP on WPS which was handled by the country director of WILPF Nigeria Prof Joy Onyesoh. Prof Joy started by explaining what a SAP framework is all about, the process of implementing a SAP framework and the importance of SAP, the Nigerian national action plan on WPS, core strategies for the implementation of SAP etc.

At the end of the meeting, the participants had an increased knowledge on the importance of a SAP on WPS in the state alongside the roles of each stakeholder towards achieving the process. The country director of WILPF Nigeria also spoke on the need for effective advocacies to the office of the first lady, the government house and the state house of assembly and representatives on the SAP on WPS. She added that the advocacy will be held in the month of January 2022 in collaboration with the state ministry of women affairs leading the process.



### **34. CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON BUILDING ALLIANCES TO STRENGTHEN PEACE & SECURITY IN ENUGU STATE**

To ensure that women's priorities are central to peace and security decisions, WILPF Nigeria identified that one way to achieve this is by addressing the social, cultural practices / barriers that limit women's participation in peace processes and also increase the power imbalances between men and women in the society. It was on this backdrop that WILPF Nigeria held a one day consultative dialogue with stakeholders in Enugu State on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2021. The objective of the meeting was;

- Increase understanding of masculinities and femininities and how the use of power by men over women influence the lives of individuals, families communities etc.
- To help in identifying and shifting some cultural practices, norms and values within the society that causes harm and lead to violence against women and girls.
- To strengthen the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the promotion of gender justice and an equal society.

Kick starting the meeting, Jane Siesi gave an overview on the men engage project and what the project stands to achieve in the short and long run. She further handled a values clarification section which was to introduce the participants to the subject matter on masculinity and how it widens the power gap between men and women in the society. Further to the values clarification, the facilitator took the participants on what masculinity is about, militarism, how militarized masculinities are produced and what militarized masculinity is which. Additionally, she spoke on what feminist peace while linking masculinity and how it affects feminist peace and security in a country. She also stressed on the need to engage with men and boys as drivers in building feminist peace and security.

### **35. THE LAUNCH OF THE SURVIVOR'S GUIDE**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2021, INVICTUS AFRICA in commemoration of the 16 days activism campaign on the theme' Orange the World: End Violence against Women NOW! Launched "The Survivor's Guide" to promote human rights and addresses inequalities affecting vulnerable and disadvantaged people especially women and girls through evidence based advocacies legal reviews, and capacity development. They were dignitaries that grace the

occasion. It was stressed that all organizations collectively join hands with them to make “The Survivor’s Guide” get to the people that really need it because the people in question might not know how to read nor write but with the help of individuals and organization that can read, they will be able to convey the message to the Survivors across the global.

### **36. 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM : CAMPAIGN ON CURBING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS**

Girls and women across Nigeria fall victim of sexual assault, rape and human trafficking. In response to this, Change Managers International Network (CMIN) in collaboration with Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom(WILPF) and University of Abuja organized a one day meeting to discuss the way forward to curb Gender Based Violence (GBV) as it is the theme for this year’s 16 Days of Activism on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2021.

The program started with a welcome speech from WILPF Nigeria. This was followed by a goodwill speech by Mrs Irene Ugbah appreciating the organizers for their good work on working towards curbing gender based violence on campus and many other activities they have done to put an end to violence against women and girls.

To further drive home the point on sexual assault, Ms. Henrietta spoke on understanding sexual assault on campus, she gave a definition of what sexual assault is and encouraged the students to pass on the message that rape is a heinous crime that should not be done to anyone, as many girls are violated and have no voice for fear of stigmatization.

There were questions from the students regarding sexual assault and rape which were rightly answered by the organizations.

### **37. WPP QUARTERLY MEETING**

The quarterly meeting of the women political working group was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. The objectives of the meeting were to help finalize arrangements for the end of the year, to review activities of the group for the year and celebrate the journey so far.

The meeting was a hybrid one as there was provisions for other members to join virtually. The meeting started with the welcome remarks from the chair in person of Prof. Joy Onyesoh the Country Director of WILPF Nigeria who in her remarks appreciated the group members for their commitment to the process while also stating there's room for greater collaborations. This was later followed by introductions of members. Following the introductions by members, the chair commenced by requesting the secretariat to update on the action points of the last meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

Discussions were held with the members on sharing the lessons learnt and recommendations on activities of the working group for the year. It was also stated during the meeting that members should share their planned work plans for 2022. It was also discussed that there is the need to elect new chair of the group by January 2022 when the tenure of the present chair expires. The participants also discussed on ways of expanding the working group and criteria for new members to join. The criteria's for selecting new members were agreed upon and lastly the number of new members to be accepted into the group was also discussed. Having finalized on other pending discussions, the meeting was brought to a good end.

### **38. INEC POST ELECTION DEBRIEFING ON THE JUST CONCLUDED ANAMBRA STATE ELECTIONS**

On Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, WILPF Nigeria participated in the postelection debriefing session for accredited observers on the just concluded Anambra state gubernatorial elections organized by INEC. The objective of the meeting was to enable CSOs who were on the field to share experiences with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) towards future observation activities.

The meeting started with a welcome by the Director, Election and Party Monitoring Mr Aminu K. Idris in his speech, he thanked all CSOs present and for the conduct of the Anambra election which was a success and which couldn't have been achieved by the commission alone but with the collaboration and cooperation of CSOs and other key stakeholders was made possible. The next session was on introduction of participants present and discussion by observers group on Anambra State Governorship elections. This session had a lot of feedback from the participants

in the room regarding the conduct of the elections by INEC. Some of the responses were on inaccessible units for people living with disabilities and the need for CSOs to work more with people living with disabilities to have a strengthened inclusion, issue of BVAS malfunction, having separate lines for women and men the importance of early warning and response amongst other issues raised by participants. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by INEC team and group photograph was taken.