

VOICE GRANTEE UPDATES

Newsletter






Highlights:

Grantees Activity
Update

Overview of Grantees

Upcoming Events

Rightsholders groups

-  Persons with disabilities.
-  Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI)
-  Women facing exploitation, abuse and/or violence
-  Age-discriminated vulnerable groups, (young and the elderly)
-  Indigenous groups and ethnic minorities



Greetings!!!

Greetings dear readers,

As we begin a new month, we reflect on the work that has been done and look forward to what is yet to come. This edition of our newsletter highlights the continued efforts of Voice grantee partners in Nigeria as they work towards promoting social inclusion and advancing human rights especially for vulnerable populations.

From commemorating World Autism Awareness day to implementing initiatives geared towards combating sexual harassment on campuses, the stories we share showcases the tireless efforts of individuals and organizations in bringing about positive change.

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of these organisations and the individuals they serve. Through their work, we are reminded of the resilience and strength of the human spirit, and the power of collective action to effect change. Remember, “nothing about us without us.”

So, grab a cup of your favourite beverage and enjoy reading about the inspiring work being done in our communities.



IKE Foundation for Autism (IFA) Calls on all Stakeholders to support the Autism Community.

World Autism Awareness day was celebrated globally on April 2nd with the theme "Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World." IFA and other partner organisations embarked on a road walk to create awareness, promote inclusion in all spheres of life for those with Autism and Special Needs, and advocate for support from stakeholders. The campaign urged empathy and advocated for necessary platforms for those affected by the condition.



Female Student Leaders Unite to Combat Sexual Harassment on Campus: Gender Mobile's Innovative App Leads the Way!

Gender Mobile, a Voice grantee partner in Nigeria, recently facilitated a training session for female student leaders aimed at amplifying their voices and supporting them to mobilise action to combat sexual harassment prevalent in Nigerian campuses. The organisation also held a Town Hall Forum to pitch their CampusPal app, a safe platform for students to report incidents of sexual harassment and ensure their voices are heard. The app was successfully launched during a hostel drive at the University of Abuja. You can download the app here ([Apple Store](#), [Play Store](#))



Unlocking the Power of the Arts for Global Transformation: ARTvocracy and CognitoNINE's epic global Twitter Space Event!

The Street Project Foundation (SPF), in collaboration with Cognito & NINE, hosted a global Twitter Space event featuring speakers from within and outside Nigeria to discuss "Leveraging Creative Arts for World Peace and Youth Transformation." The event aimed to emphasize the importance of the arts in maintaining peace globally and highlight opportunities available to creatives worldwide. ARTvocracy project lead, [Zakari Emmanuel](#), co-hosted the event with Cognito's [Kim Dashong](#), engaging speakers and discussing challenges and avenues for accessing opportunities. The Twitter space had about 199 listeners, was recorded, and is available for playback [here](#).



Gender Mobile Initiative Launches Campus Safety Tour with Major Inauguration at Chrisland University.

Gender Mobile Initiative (GMI) has launched a campus tour aimed at improving safety measures for all students on campus under its campus safety initiative. The tour began with a town hall meeting with the students and management team of Chrisland University in Abeokuta, Ogun State. During the event, the Independent Sexual Harassment Prohibition Committee was established, with the responsibility of prioritising the leadership of women and girls in addressing sexual harassment on campus. The Campus Safety Initiative team is delighted to partner with Chrisland University to ensure that the campus remains a safe space for all students to learn and thrive. This partnership demonstrates a renewed commitment to prioritising student safety and well-being on campus.

Learn more at these links:

[Voice Naija Platform](#)

[Cognito - Link & Learn](#)

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Youth-led “Street Foundation” Project, “Artvocacy” Takes Nigeria by Storm, Inspiring Positive Change Through Creativity.

The Artvocacy movement held their second physical meeting of the year in Abuja to discuss their goal of creating a new Nigeria where youths are actively involved in governance, using art for civic engagement and meaningful youth participation in governance. During the meeting, a new member named Sublime shared a poem that encouraged members to continue using their creativity for positive change. The Artvocacy movement recognises the power of art as a tool for advocacy and is dedicated to using it to promote positive transformation in various sectors. They also use their art to raise awareness on critical issues such as mental health awareness, environmental sustainability, and social justice. The movement is becoming a beacon of hope for Nigerian youths looking to make a positive impact in their society.

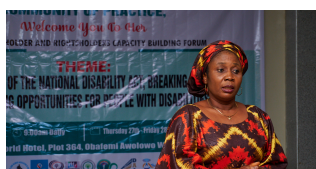


Empowering People With Disabilities (PWD): The Game-Changing 2-Day Capacity Strengthening Program

The Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Community of Practice (CoP), with support from VOICE Nigeria and Cognito/Nine, organised a 2-day Capacity Strengthening Program to encourage persons with disabilities to be more knowledgeable about disability issues and disability laws in order to challenge any violation of their rights. The event had presentations on relevant topics such as disability laws, accessibility and inclusion, and strategic advocacy, and was attended by stakeholders from various organisations and clusters of disabilities. [Here](#) is link to an article reporting the event.



PWDs COP Meeting Gallery



Learn more at these links:

[Voice Naija Platform](#)

[Cognito - Link & Learn](#)

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● Old Grantees

● New Grantees

SPF

- Street Project Foundation
- Project title: Artvocacy
- Goal: mobilize young people to become social change influencers through their arts

PPDC

- Public & Private Development Center
- Project title: Inclusive governance through civic engagement
- Goal: promote civic engagement in government by creating opportunities for public voices to be represented in conversations around policy reforms especially as they relate to judicious use of public resources

Y-SDG

- Network of Youths for Sustainable Initiative
- Project title: Speak up, Stand Out!
- Goal: promoting the push for accountability and greater participation of young people in decisions that affect them, by providing them with tools to be engaged

CAPIO

- Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organization
- Project title: Polrite 23
- Goal: Ensure participation of inmates in 2023 election

CARE

- Center for Ability, Rehabilitation & Empowerment
- Project title: Access for All
- Goal: a campaign challenging discriminatory practices against PWD in the aviation sector

CODE

- Connected Development
- Project title: SABl
- Goal: stimulating nationwide movement to end VAWGs; campaign led by men

YIAGA

- YIAGA Africa Initiative
- Project title: Run to Win
- Goal: supporting young people with competence and character to run and win elections in 2023

CCD

- Center for Citizens with Disability
- Project title: Justice & political participation for PWD
- Goal : access to justice, democratic governance & political participation for PWD

CC

- Citizen Common
- Project title: 'From Protest to Action- Activating our New Nigeria'
- Goal: Equipping young people with tools to lead local change within their communities and demand accountability from government at all levels

CSAAE

- Center for Social Awareness, Advocacy & Ethics
- Project title: 'Soro Soke OR Park Well'
- Goal: Mobilizing young people to monitor and track compliance of relevant policies by security personnel, an effort to end police brutality & human rights violations of young in South East

FOSER

- Foundation for Societal Empowerment & Rejuvenation
- Project title: 'Know your Rights'
- Goal: civic education & engagements to sensitize citizens on their rights and strengthen their capacity to hold security agents accountable for any human rights violations against citizens in Bauchi State

INTEGRITI YWC

- Integriti Technologies
- Project title: Politracy
- Goal: capacity building for young people in rural communities, with digital skills and encourage them to lend their voices on social issues via the digital space

YOUTH HUB

- Youth Foundation for Development, Education & Leadership
- Project title: 'You Matter in this Matter'
- Goal: Tracking the promises of government to young people, Nigerians particularly victims of #EndSARS; and also monitoring the judicial processes set up to address #EndSARS complaints

COGNITO NINE

- COGNITO & NINE
- Project title: 'Connecting Voices in Nigeria'
- Goal: Facilitate, motivate and support grantees Linking & Learning activities in Nigeria

ACHA

- Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance
- Project title: 'Celebrating Inclusion in Nigeria'
- Goal: facilitate and celebrate inclusive practices of Voice rightsholders in Nigeria

YSAD

- Youth & Students Advocates for Development Initiative (YSAD)
- Project title: 'No Dey Give-Follow Traffic Rules'
- Goal: ending police extortion against road users within the south east region through sensitization and facilitating strategic partnership between citizens and security agents

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MDF

- Mother Hen Development Foundation
- Project title: 'I am Female and more'
- Goal: Comprehensive programs that lead to empowerment and livelihood including mentoring and Microfinance training (e.g., information on rights, conflict resolution, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and financial literacy training- including business planning and budget management etc.)

COSROPIN

- Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria
- Project title: 'Older Persons Hangout'
- Goal: This intergenerational and gender-based initiative is aimed at including and re-integrating indigenous, marginalised and vulnerable older persons, especially older women, into the society through social gatherings that will rejuvenate and empower them mentally and psychologically to continue to fully participate in the society.

GMI

- Gender Mobile Initiative
- Project title: 'Campus Safety Initiative'
- Goal: Bridging existing gaps an approach that centres the voices of women, girls and young people including persons with disabilities, increases reportage, holds perpetrators accountable to further deter potential perpetrators and improves institutional accountability.

DDF

- DEWDROP Foundation
- Project title: 'Women Empowerment and Inclusive Governance'
- Goal: To strengthen the economic capacity, voice and participation of women in governance through access to land resources for cooperative farming and sustainable income generation.
To reduce the economic vulnerability of women, enhance their self-reliance, amplify their voices in the community and advocate for their protection from sexual exploitation and violence.

CAPRIGHTS

- Centre for the Advancement and Protection of the Rights of Vulnerable Persons
- Project title: 'Reclaim Our Future.'
- Goal: To empower women with knowledge, courage and tools to take charge of lives and live life to the fullest.

FIRC

- Female Inmates and Returned Citizens Cooperative Society of Nigeria
- Project title: 'Enhancing Access to Self-reliance for Female inmates and ex-inmates'
- Goal: Enhanced access to self-reliance opportunities and healthy rehabilitation of incarcerated women and female ex-inmates in Nigeria.

NAYA

- Novel Association for Youth Advocacy
- Project title: 'Creating hope among Nigerian girls through enterprising (Change - Project)'
- Goal: Reduce poverty among adolescent girls and young women through livelihood empowerment and life skills education

ICEHD

- International Center for Environmental Health & Development
- Project title: "
- Goal: To improve economic empowerment for marginalised women and improve their access to skills

TAF

- The Albino Foundation
- Project title: 'We live to shine'
- Goal: To create self-awareness and build more confidence among PWA about their rights and sharpens up strategies for demanding them through capacity building of rights holders and advocacy engagement with power brokers

MAMA CENTER

- Mothers & Marginalized Advocacy Center
- Project title: 'Accountability for Empowerment (A4E)'
- Goal: Government completes abandoned road projects to improve the rightsholders livelihood.

IFA

- IKE Foundation for Autism
- Project title: 'HEAL AUTISM PROJECT'
- Goal: To improve the capacity of stakeholders in the Autism community through training

HOOMSEN

- HOOMSEN Women Farmers, Shepwan
- Project title: 'Mu ma a yi da mu'
- Goal: Women representation in decision-making at the traditional council in Shepwan village, Shendam LGA of Plateau State.

Upcoming Activities



Cognito on behalf of Voice Nigeria will be hosting a virtual session at #RISEAfrica2023 on 24 May 2023 at 15-16:45 CAT (2pm-3:45pm Nig. time). Register now & join a network of thinkers, doers & enablers from across the continent, making commitments toward urban African sustainability!

Click here to register riseafrica.iclei.org/2023-programme

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the newsletter. We hope you found it informative and engaging. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Finally, we urge you to stay curious, stay connected, and as always, stay awesome!

Until next time,
Cognito/NINE Team
(Linking and Learning Facilitator)