Ogun Groups Rally Against Rape and Sexual Abuse

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A coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations on Saturday hit the street of Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, to demand a stop to rape and all forms of sexual abuse against women.  
  
According to a statement issued on Sunday, the Ijebu Ode City campaign with the theme “We Condemn Rape and All Forms of Abuse,” spearheaded by Teen Girls Enlightenment Initiative, also had the backing of about ten other NGOs.  
  
Some of the members of this coalition include the International Federation of Women Lawyers, Less Privileged Children Encouragement Initiative, DM Photography, Teen Boys Enlightenment Initiative, Pishon Initiative for the Less Privileged, Serve and Support Community Initiative, Balkeem Security Services Limited, Ijebu Rewa among others.  
  
The two-and-a-half-hour sensitization rally, which commenced from Ibadan Garage, Ijebu Ode, took the participants to the Lagos Garage, during which loads of informative fliers and pamphlets were shared with the people to further drive home the essence of the campaign.  
  
To ensure the message resonated widely, communication was facilitated in five different languages: English, Pidgin, Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa, utilizing megaphones.  
  
This multilingual approach underscored the campaign’s commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in disseminating its vital message  
  
Speaking during the event, Dr Adebusola Okedele, the founder of TGEI, said, “The aim of this exercise is to ignite public awareness, provide crucial education, and galvanize collective action against the pervasive societal ill of sexual violence.  
  
“With this campaign, we are also seeking to foster community unity and amplify the voices of survivors of sexual violence to ensure that they get significant support from relevant quarters”,  
  
Dr. Okedele while thanking all the collaborating NGOs, emphasized the critical need for sustained advocacy and robust community engagement in the ongoing fight against rape and all manifestations of sexual abuse.  
  
She added that beyond raising awareness, the campaign also served as a valuable networking platform for stakeholders, community members, and advocacy groups in their united mission to end sexual violence.  
  
Okedele urged the participants to take the knowledge gained back to their respective communities and continue advocating for justice and prevention.  
  
Mrs.Taiwo Olusesi, the Chairperson of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, in her enlightenment lecture, stressed the critical importance of preserving potential evidence when there is any sexual assault while such cases must also be reported to the police immediately.  
  
So as not to distort evidence of sexual violence, Mrs Olusesi said that such a victim might refrain from bathing or changing clothes until such an incident has been reported to the police.