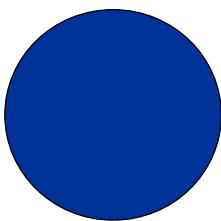


WOMEN SAFE HOUSE SUSTENANCE INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024





MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear community, partners, and allies,

As we reflect on another year of amazing progress, on behalf of my team and the board of directors, I am deeply honored to share the journey and accomplishments of Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative (Women Safe House).

In 2024, amongst several challenges, our challenges, our team was resilient and committed to ensuring that women and girls can live in safe and equal communities without experiencing violence, abuse of their rights, fear and oppression. From advocacy to psychosocial services, research and healthcare, our collective work is rooted in solidarity, empowerment, and intersectionality.

Through our partnerships, we have expanded our reach, ensuring that justice is achieved and the rights of women are upheld across Nigeria. This report reflects our milestones and the promise that we will continue to build, a future where women live and lead in a safe and equal society

I look forward to the year 2025 as one of collaboration, action, and transformation as we remain committed to advancing the rights, voices, and visibility of women across Nigeria.

*In solidarity,
Wuraoluwa Ayodele Esq.
Executive Director,
Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative, Nigeria*

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative is a feminist, women-led, non-profit organization that rehabilitates women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The vision of the organization is to create an equal, safe, and non-violent community for women and girls experiencing gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria while the mission is to provide non-judgmental and non-discriminatory protection and response for all women and girls experiencing GBV in Nigeria. Since the inception of the organization in 2016, we have been actively working towards empowering women and girls who are survivors of rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, child marriage, and sex trafficking by providing shelter, legal aid, healthcare, counseling programs, community, and policy advocacy.

1.0 THEMATIC AREA 1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS, DIALOGUES, AND ADVOCACY

1.1 SAFE

The Safe Community Engagement is a quarterly event organized by Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative (WOMEN SAFE HOUSE). The event is focused on engaging relevant stakeholders in marginalized communities on pertinent issues surrounding laws, harmful traditional practices, and criminalizing violence against women. In 2024, through the fund from Pray4Me Ministries, WOMEN SAFE HOUSE held 12 SAFE community events that engaged 389 community members across various rural communities and schools in Ibadan, Oyo State, and Port Harcourt, Rivers State.



Agbowo Hairdresser Association, Ibadan.



Community Life Savers (COMLIFE), Moniya, Oyo State.



Teenagers from Abundant Life Cathedral, Rivers State.



Keke Riders, Gate, Ibadan, Oyo State.



Primary Healthcare Center, Oluwo-nla, Basorun, Ibadan, Oyo State



Primary Healthcare Center, Ashi-Bodija, Ibadan, Oyo State.



Isabatudeen Girls Grammar School, Ibadan,



Livingstone College, Akobo, Ibadan, Oyo State.

WOMEN SAFE HOUSE also collaborated with HERLEAD NETWORK, a UK-based organization, to provide empowerment support to women facing violence during the 16 days of activism.



Nigerian Union of Tailors, Ibadan, Oyo State



Traditional Birth Attendants, Ibadan, Oyo State.

2.0. THEMATIC AREA 2: PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

2.1. 24-HOUR HELPLINE

WOMEN SAFE HOUSE has a registered helpline which became recognized as one of the top three helplines for survivors of GBV in the country under Throughline and findahelpline.com. The focus areas which the helpline supports are: sexual violence, domestic violence, anxiety, suicide, self-harm, depression, loneliness, trauma, pregnancy & abortion, family, gender & sexual identity, relationships and parenting. In the year 2024, there were over 324 calls received by Women Safe House helpline and 135 messages on Whatsapp, Google maps and social media platforms; 131 cases of domestic violence, 35 cases of physical violence, 77 cases of sexual abuse, 52 cases of verbal/emotional abuse, 96 cases of suicide attempts, 5 cases of stalking, 11 cases of unwanted pregnancies and abortions, 28 GBV survivors requiring shelter services, 7 cases of financial assistance and 17 other cases that encompasses child neglect, cyberbullying, and basic Women Safe House inquiries. All cases were provided adequate psychosocial support in the area of counseling, support, and empowerment which were tailored to meet their needs.

2.2. SISTERS' CIRCLE

Sisters' Circle is a support group that meets quarterly and which provides psychosocial support to survivors of sexual and domestic violence



Sisters Circle 1st edition.



Sisters Circle 3rd edition.



Sisters Circle 4th edition.

2.3. FEARLESS 10th EDITION

Fearless is an annual program hosted by Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative. It is a serial storytelling event for women facing any form of gender-based violence which includes but is not limited to rape, domestic violence, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence. The 10th edition was held between the 18th - 19th of October, 2024, and was keen on inspiring and igniting survivors' paths to recovery and leadership in a relaxed and serene environment.



Sisters Circle 2nd edition.



Fearless 10th edition.

3.0. THEMATIC AREA 3: SHELTER

In the year 2024, 16 survivors of domestic and sexual violence were accommodated in the shelter. 3 of the survivors were teenage girls, 6 were adult women and 7 were children.



4.0. THEMATIC AREA 4: PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATIONS

In 2024, Women Safe House collaborated with several governmental and non-governmental agencies in training GBV advocates, participating in GBV seminars and workshops, and attending various meetings that fostered the GBV alliance.



Amuludun FM, Ibadan



Women Safe House meeting with JDPC.



Civil-Military Relations, 2024



United Nations Summit of the Future, 2024.



Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project



The center stage 1.0 political matters.



Oyo State maiden civil-society week.



World Bank Women, Business, and the Law (WBL)

5.0. THEMATIC AREA 5: INTERNSHIP AND MENTORING FOR STUDENTS

As part of the WOMEN SAFE HOUSE's initiative to build the capacity of the young generation of women to identify and respond to all forms of gender-based violence, three students from the University of Virginia, U.S interned with the organization in 2024 as the fourth set of interns from year 2020-2024.



UVA Interns

6.0. THEMATIC AREA 6: RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

Following the UVA internship program and other research activities, WOMEN SAFE HOUSE produced research paper titled 'The Influence of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Against Women in Nigeria and on a Global Scale'. WOMEN SAFE HOUSE has submitted this paper for publication in academic journals. Additionally, under the 'Advocacy for Women In Informal Employment' project funded by

Urgent Action Fund Africa, WOMEN SAFE HOUSE produced a policy brief which covered research on unequal pay for women working in the informal sector in Oyo State.

7.0. THEMATIC AREA 7: TRAINING OF ACTIVISTS/ADVOCATES ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES.

7.1. TRAINING

WOMEN SAFE HOUSE worked with Inclusive Friends Association during the second phase of the Amplifying Voices project aimed at strengthening the capacity of 20 young advocates at the grassroots level to spotlight and innovatively address incidences of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in Oyo State. Similarly, WOMEN SAFE HOUSE trained advocates/peer educators from Onelife Initiative on addressing violence against women in their communities.



Amplifying Voices Fellowship



Amplifying Voices Fellowship



Amplifying voices TASKFORCE, Phase II



Women Safe House training of peer educators

7.2. WOMEN SAFE HOUSE MASTERCLASS TRAINING

Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative manages a WhatsApp group for women with about 200 members. This group serves as a support platform where various opportunities (jobs, fellowships, scholarships, trainings) are shared daily. In 2024, four masterclass series were held, and this aimed to shape and equip members of the group with the foremost life skills.

7.3. WOMEN SAFE HOUSE FACILITATION OF COMMUNITY LIFE SAVERS (COMLIFE) EVENT

On the 6th of December, 2024 the Community Life Savers, Moniya branch invited Women Safe House to facilitate a program on the theme 'The role of mothers in building a peaceful home'. About 30 women attended the event.



COMLIFE, Moniya.

8.0. THEMATIC AREA 8: LEGAL SERVICES AND LITIGATION

In 2024, 2 domestic violence cases were handled and settled by Women Safe House's legal arm in Court. 1 case is currently ongoing by the legal team and has been adjourned for judgment in court.

9.0. WOMEN SAFE HOUSE 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The board of directors had its mid-year meeting for the year on July 13, 2024, at the Women Safe House shelter. Four board members were in attendance. The meeting's focus was to deliberate on the organization's annual activities, update on pending activities and collaborations, and proffer guidance on strategies to improve the organization's working capacity.



Board of Directors Meeting 2024

10.0. WOMEN SAFE HOUSE VOLUNTEER MEETING

In 2024, Women Safe House held 4 volunteer-team meetings (3 physical meetings and 1 virtual meeting). The physical meetings were held in the Women Safe House shelter, while the virtual meeting was held on November 23rd, 2024, via Google Meet. These meetings continue to provide synergy between the staff, volunteers and board members in executing the organization's mission.



Women Safe House Volunteers

CONCLUSION

Through the committed efforts of the Women Safe House team, several interventions have been carried out, and collaborations with other organizations within Oyo and Rivers State have been fostered. In the coming year, Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative is committed to advancing the cause of women survivors of GBV in Nigeria by providing tailored services that align with the organization's thematic areas of operation.