

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF NIGERIA

"No Child was born to be a destitue, a prostitute or even a criminal or drug addict. It is society that makes them what they becoem and same society in turn get's what it deserves" - Abdul Dewale Mohamed Esq. Executive President, Child Welfare League of Nigeria (CWLN).

Over the years, the problem of the development of our society, has been that of lack of care and concern for Children, - The Father of Man

Family and Community participation has continued too disintegrate.

In Lagos alone there are liver 100,000 boys and girls living in the streets.

Under very harsh condition, they live virtually in slums, market places, bye refuse dumps and under fly over bridges, while some abandoned ones at the tender age of 4 and above are kept in cells.

The consequence is the daily increase in crime waves, drug additional-prostitution and destitution.

Hence today, haunted and living in cages like birds, we all live with fear of violence perpetuated by the same children once neglected and abused to become kid armed robbers, area boys and destitutes.

Condemned they grow up with hatred for Society that detest them. Killing at will they molest and rob people of their hard earned investments.

In July 1994, CWLN decided to direct focuson the influx of Street Children, the must forgotten and condemned Children in society and to date, has sent some of these kids back to school, re-united and reconciled many with their families, provide food, improve their health and even supported some parents financially.

While providing vocational job opportunities and shelter, emphasis is on making farmers and sports men and women out of the children.

With your co-oporation under the "Save the Child National Campaign Fund" CWLN intends to reform thousands of these vulnerable kids. If only we care, collectively, we can Save Children and thereby create a peaceful, progressive and harmonious soiciety for ourselves and future generations.

No matter how hard life could be, you concern, material and financial contribugions will go long way in reforming Children classified under triple D "Displaced, Distressed and the Disabled.

For more information and support contact:

Child Welfare League of Nigeria (CWLN)
Children Rehabilitation Project,
Quanbarni House,
32, Olufemi Road, Off Ogunlana Drive,
Surulere, Lagos.
Tel: 01 - 836065, 837878
CWLN
MARKET WOMEN & MEN
SAVE THE CHILD
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FUND

October 17, 1995.

NGO Group for the Convention on the
Rights of the Child,
c/o Defence for Children International,
P.O.Box 88, 1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland.

Founded in 1991 and officially inaugurated on Jan 18, 1992, CWLN was established after the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As a pioneer in Child Rights and Welfare Advocacy in Nigeria, a pressure group set up to ensure government's compliance to the administration of justice and protection of the rights of the child in consonance with the World Summit Convention, CWLN was in 1991 invited by government to collaborate with UNICEF to recommend and advice government ont he implementation of the UN Convention and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

The League was later appointed as a member of the National planning Committee for the International Year of the Family by the Federal Ministry of Health and Human Services and in the following year, was appointed a member of the National Task Force on the Education of the Girl Child. In 1992 and 1993, the League played prominent roles in the formation of Nigeria's Network of Non-Governmental organizations (NNGO), the Non-Governmental organizations in Education (NGOSED) Network and lately, initiated the "Network of African Child Development Organizations (NACDO) of which a draft position paper on Child Survival Environment and Development in Africa, as theme for a proposed Conference, "Pretoria '96" was produced.

In December 1992, the Board of Directors of CWLN met officially with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and tendered recommendations as to the effective implementation and enforcement of the Children's Convention.

Similarly on March 17, 1994, the board was received by the Chief of General Staff, who welcomed the idea of the establishment of a National Commission for Children and the enactment of some protective laws for vulnerable children.

A letter dated 21st, March 1994, was later received from the Presidency indicating the first lady's acceptance to serve as a Patron of CWLN, and went further to admit her interest and support for the establishment of a National Commission for Children as proposed by CWLN.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In an effort to correct the distortions on Child Rights implementation and create awareness due to the ignorance of most families and institutions, the League has on its stable, an authoritative quarterly newsletter "Child Rights Defender", a monthly news flash "Children First" and in 1992 produced "The Child" magazine and quite of recent initiated Child Support Road Campaign Signs for continuous public digest and re-orientation on the need to respect and protect the rights and welfare of children, with the support of Corporate firms such as Mobil Oil and Pfizer.

Features on the protection of child rights are reported and recorded in national dailies, on radio and television on regular basis as effective mediums of creating public awareness.

Starting from August 1995, a daily broadcast of CWLN child rights public education and child survival messages is relayed after the Afrikan World News of Multi Cable Channel (ETV).

Furthermore the Nigerian Television Authority (Federal Government owned) recently approved a weekly Network TV programme "Children First" for CWLN after careful study of its initial 13 synopsis.

To mark the 4th Annual International Children's Day of Broadcasting Day, come December 11, 1995, CWLN shall establish a Child Rights Media Task Force, constituting a group of Senior Media Practitioners, with the responsibility to monitor and advance the spirit of the Convention.

NACCSHAS FORMATION.

In its deeply entrenched concern for children and its committed effort to promote the ideals of the Convention and thereby compliment government's efforts, CWLN in late last year established a National Committee for Child Support Honours Award Scheme (NACCSHAS), with members drawn from the Private Sector, International Donor Agencies, National Associations, Federal Government Parastatals and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Constituting a 26 Member Group, among those that have officially confirmed their membership are, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Africare/Nigeria, Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM), Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Nigeria Stock Exchange, Population Activities Fund Agency (PAFA), National Commission for Mass Literacy and Adult Education, National council of Women's Societies (NCWS), Federation of Muslim Women

Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Catholic Women Association of Nigeria, Lions, Rotary and Soroptomist International.

CHILD -TO CHILD PROJECT.

In creating the enabling environment for the extensive promotion of the Convention, CWLN on July 4, 1995 under its Child -to- Child Out reach project, based on its 1995 - 2000 Plan of Action, officially launched its first University Chapter at Ogun State University and by its mid 1997 review, all institutions of higher learning would have established their Chapters and strengthen their capacity.

Students Chapters of CWLN drafted on the Child to Child out reach project are primarily, through training of trainers workshops, equipped on the knowledge of promoting, protecting, monitoring and advancing all aspects of the rights of the child as enshrined in World Summit Convention.

SAVE THE CHILD NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

In promoting the Convention through CWLN "Save the Child National Campaign" as part of CWLN decade goal, special focus is on:

- (a) The Market Men and Women Association of Nigeria
- (b) Religious Institutions and
- (c) The Nigerian Labour Congress (labour unions).

This Campaign initiated by CWLN started on August 31, 1995, with the President General of the Market Men and Women leading a cross section of market leaders to the first CWLN Campaign on the Rights, Survival, Social Security and Education of the Girl Child.

In collaboration with regional Market Associations, there is existing plan to hold series of training of trainers workshops for volunteer market men and women, for effective promotion and monitoring of child abuse and rights deprivation in all markets and environs. Extensive promotion of the education of the Girl-Child will be a major focus. Similar programmes shall be drawn for religious and labour groups.

WELFARE CENTRE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

To absorb anticipated backlog of abused and neglected children, the support of the media for mass mobilization/financial assistance and that of government for the allocation of specified area of landed properties for the establishment of CWLN welfare and rehabilitation centres in each state of the federation seems promising.

The centres with model already produced, is estimated to have an intake of 15,000 deprived, neglected and disabled children.

Presently CWLN has over 75 street children under its rehabilitation scheme with about 20 being fully sheltered.

To extensively campaign against child labour and street begging, is most rampant in the North, CWLN intends to use the 4th International Children's Day of Broadcasting on Dec. 11, 1995, to hold a rally in Kaduna with the expectation of a pronouncement or decree by the Federal Government on child labour exploitation and against street begging and trading, particularly where the child is involved. This would serve as a positive and dramatic step to making the North a progressive, productive, enlightened and civilized state.

On our part as an NGO, we shall strive to:

1. Contribute to the improvement of laws, policies, and judicial procedure affecting the child and the family.
2. Promote public awareness of the law and system of justice and enhance the skills of legal professionals, as relates to the child and the spirit of the Convention
3. Advance knowledge through research, music, and the theatre arts for effective dissemination of information on laws and policies, as it relates to the Convention and the Nigerian Constitution.
4. Ensure the protection and management of the rule of law and enhance the observance, protection and maintenance of the rights and welfare of children.
5. Expose and condemn the violation of the rights of the child, provide humanitarian assistance to victims of child rights and expand access to the courts for victims of child abuse.
6. Ensure the rehabilitation and welfare of distressed, displaced and disabled children.
7. Engage in frequent research, data collection, publications, the arts and documentaries, including the production and dissemination of information on the Convention.
8. Education and empowerment of students and the community at large on the protection and observance of the Convention.
9. As a pressure group, reorder national priorities and ensure that national structures and infrastructure for the implementation of the National Goals are put in place by respective government agencies.
10. In the interest of the Child, advocate and campaign for democratic systems of governance, justice, equity and accountability.
11. Revitalize positive traditional and socio-cultural values as well as promote support for the extended family unit as a tool to strengthening the components and integration of the family towards realistic communal development, in the best interest of the child.
12. Take appropriate action to curb harmful traditional practices, affecting the health of women and children and the education of the girl child.
13. Advocate for effective distribution of wealth and the eradication of socially imposed disabilities such as poverty, ignorance, disease and squalor.
14. To establish a National Institute for the Advancement of Child Rights, Welfare and Development Practice in order to fulfil the commitment to excellence in child related matters.
15. Exert pressure on the Federal Government to establish a National Commission for Children and possibly in the nearest future a full fledged Federal Ministry.

While anticipating your positive response, attached as required is CWLN alternative report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Nigeria, along with other publications of the League.

Please expect from me a copy of the Draft position paper on the proposed ACCSED Pretoria 196, the African Conference on Child Survival, Environment and Development, a document prepared by the newly established Network of African Child Development Organisations (NACDO), an African NGO Network established to advance the works of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the African Continent.

Sincerely yours,

Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed Esq.

Executive President

pp:Child Welfare League of Nigeria.

LIST OF CHILDREN RIGHTS NGOs AND ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE CHILDREN RIGHTS PROJECTS IN NIGERIA

1. African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)
19 Lumumba St, New Haven
Enugu, Enugu State
Nigeria
Tel. 234-42-332594, Fax:234-42-337566
Contact: Prof. Peter O. Ebigbo (president)

2. Anti-Child Abuse Society of Africa (ACASA)
Box 3118, Diobu
Port Harcourt, Rivers State
Nigeria
Contact: Obinna Oleribe (President)

3. Child Action Committee (CAC)
Box 3626 University of Calabar
Cross River State
Nigeria
Tel:234-87-220531
Contact: Dr. Stella Ogbuagu

4. Child Action of Nigeria (CAN)
Plot 593, T. Close, 21 Road
Festac Town, Lagos
Nigeria
Tel.:234-1-880462
Contact: Dr. A.D. Kolawole

5. Child Welfare League of Nigeria (CWLN)
Qunbarmi House
32 Olufemi Street
Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria
Tel.:234-1-836065, 837837878 FAX/TEL

6. Childline Foundation
22 Norman Street
Box 51093
Falomo Ikoyi, Lagos
Nigeria
Tel.:234-1-685728/686217
Contact Mrs. Ify Akelere

7. National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM)
Box 3857, Ikeja, Lagos
Nigeria
Contact: Moses Ahura Matu (Secretary General)

8 National Association Women Journalists (NAWOJ)
3/5 Adeyemi Alakija Street
Victoria Island
Lagos, Nigeria
Tel.: 234-1-615543
Contact: Hanatu Bororo Musa (President)

9. Women in Nigeria (WIN)
12 Yovi Street, Iwaya
Yaba, Lagos
Nigeria
Contact: Mrs G.A. Kilanko (National Co-ordinator)

10. Nigeria Network of Non-Governmental Organisations (NNNGO)
1 Falolu Close
Box 8485 Surulere
Lagos, Nigeria
Tel.:234-1-837506 Fax:234-1-837506
Contact: Dare Abolurin (Secretary General)

11. Nigerian Association of University Women (NAUM)
Box 2382, Lagos
Nigeria
Tel.: 234-1-664236/960318 Pax: 234-1-664206
Contact: Clara Osinulu (President)

12. Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria
224 Ikorodu Road, Palmgroove
P.M.B 1264, Lagos
Nigeria
Tel.: 234-1-820945
Contact: Dr. A. B Sulaiman

13. Constitutional Rights Project (CRP)
18 Awoyemi Close
Surulere, Lagos
Nigeria
Tel.: 234-1-5848498 Fax: 234-1
Contact: Clement Nwankwo (Executive Director)

14. Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO)
24 Mbonu Ojike Street
Surulere, Lagos
Nigeria
Tel.: 234-1-5840288 Fax:5840288/5876876
Contact: Abdul Oroh, (executive Director)

N.B. I copied some of the addresses from a directory of NGOS in Nigeria, published by the Nigeria Country office of UNICEF in 1995.

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