

Increasing access to mediation and legal services for the poor in Enugu State

J4A is working to increase access to mediation and legal services for poor people. In 2012 the Community Paralegals and Village Mediators Programme (CPVMP) was launched in two rural communities in Enugu State: Ogwuogo and Nara. The purpose of the programme is to complement existing dispute resolution mechanisms by offering an alternative option for poor people especially women, to access affordable justice within their own communities.

Mediators and paralegals have been trained in each community. The paralegals have started work and are able to mediate and provide advice on land disputes, breach of contract, assault, as well as infidelity, disinheritance, child labour, domestic violence and family disputes. A group of trainees have been identified to act as trainers of future paralegals after successful completion of a Certificate Course in Paralegal Assistance; some trainees have also been identified to be trained as trainers of village mediators.

In addition to the CPVM Programme, J4A is also supporting the Umuada project, a traditional conflict resolution / mediation mechanism that exists in Igbo communities. Working in partnership with the Women Action Research Organisation, J4A organised a series of seminars for the Umuada on human rights and the principles of fairness and equity in dispute resolution. Since the training, some of the Umuada are already reporting changes in the way they handle disputes. Rebecca Ozor, an Umuada, resolved a land dispute between her family and a neighbouring village by applying some of her newly learned skills such as ensuring a good rapport between parties and encouraging compromise.

“The training has helped me better understand the concepts of mediation, paralegalism and the legal framework for village mediation...I now understand human rights and mediation better.”

*Sarah Nnamani
Community Paralegal and secondary school teacher
in Ogwuogo, Enugu*



Umuada at a gathering in Ochima community, Enugu

WHAT IS AN UMUADA?

Umuada means native daughters, the daughters of a common male ancestor or “daughters of the soil.”

Umuada is a collective of all first daughters of a particular clan, village, town, or state... whether old, young, single, married, separated, or divorced.

It is the inalienable right of every daughter of a particular place, without exception whatsoever, to belong to *Otu Umuada*, the society of native daughters.

As a collective, *Otu Umuada* is a powerful sociopolitical setup in Igbo culture, a functional forum for females.

WHAT IS THEIR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Umuadas are often recognised by community members as the first level of conflict resolution mechanism where complaints should be taken prior to seeking resolution, if necessary, through the traditional ruling council. Umuadas mediate disputes on a variety of issues, from land to domestic matters.

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Coordinating advocacy for the passing of key legislation

In December 2012, J4A in partnership with the Human Rights Agenda Network, a national network of Nigerian non-governmental organisations, hosted a three-day workshop for civil society to discuss pending justice bills.

The event aimed to raise awareness on the current status of key legislation pending before the National Assembly and to discuss how civil society can better communicate and collaborate to ensure a wide range of perspectives and interests of ordinary Nigerians are considered in the drafting of Bills, promoting their speedy passage through the National Assembly and final enactment into law.

Over 80 stakeholders (civil society, government representatives and members of the legal profession) from all parts of the country attended the event. The Bills discussed included the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill, the Administration of Criminal Justice Bill, the Nigerian Prisons and Correctional Services Bill and various draft Bills relating to anti-corruption.

J4A will continue to provide capacity building and other forms of organisational development support to coordination groups working on civil society-led legal advocacy efforts relating to various justice Bills discussed at the workshop.



At the workshop: L-R: Juliet Ibekaku (Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit; Zacchus Senbajo (Prisons Committee on Constitutional Review and Prisons Act); Olawale Fapohunda (Legal Resources Consortium); Senator Olufemi Lanlehin (Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters)

“...take full advantage of this golden opportunity and tap into the expertise of the best brains in the intelligence discipline...my conviction {is} that this training will go a long way in opening up whole new vistas in our reengineered and result-oriented policing.”

Inspector General of Police, MD Abubakar, at the Intelligence Analysis Training Course in Abuja organised by J4A

Top performing DPOs in Lagos State



CSP Oliver Amaechi

Allvoices, a global, open-media news site recently published a news report on seven top performing Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) in Lagos. The DPOs were selected based on the public's opinion of their performance, crime statistics and media reports on crime in Lagos. Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Oliver Amaechi and CSP Monday Agbonika were named as two of the seven top performing DPOs in the state.

CSP Agbonika was the DPO in-charge of the Isokoko Police Division, J4A's Model Police Station (MPS) in Lagos. He is now leading the replication of MPS processes and principles in his new position as the head of the Adeniji Adele Police Division.



CSP Monday Agbonika

In 2012, a survey carried out by Practical Sampling International showed that the public's level of satisfaction with police response at the Isokoko MPS was 63% (an increase from 47% in 2011). CSP Amaechi is currently the DPO at Isokoko and is leading the work there.

J4A's work with the police in Isokoko and its other Model Police Stations in Enugu and Kano aims to change the style of policing in Nigeria so that it is more responsive to community needs. It aims to improve the standard of basic police services through better training and leadership.

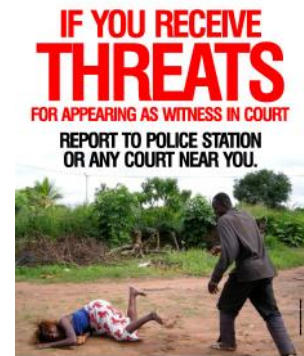
Speeding up criminal justice through advocacy

As part of the *Speeding Up Criminal Justice* Project in Enugu State, an advocacy and awareness campaign has been launched to encourage witnesses to testify in order to speed up the prosecution process.

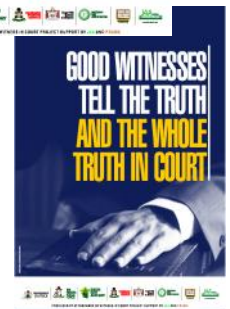
The poster campaign is a direct response to a serious problem plaguing the State’s justice system, whereby witnesses do not present themselves in court. The idea stemmed from the Attorney General of the State who felt there was a need to educate citizens on the importance of witnesses attending trials as this had been identified as a major hindrance to the speedy resolution of cases by justice sector institutions.

“The posters came at the right time... and will help to change the attitude of Nigerian witnesses especially in criminal cases.”

The poster campaign aims to raise awareness about the key issues (such as threats, lying under oath, etc.) and reduce the negative stigma of being a witness. Seven posters with key messages have been produced to date (in English, in Pidgin English and in Igbo). The *Speeding Up Criminal Justice* Project is a J4A initiative managed by Prisoner Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA).



These posters, and more are available on our website and can be reproduced without our permission.



According to Ebere Amaraizu, State Public Relation Officer for the Nigeria Police Force, “The posters came at the right time. The messages are clear and concise and will help change the attitude of Nigerian witnesses especially in criminal cases.”

“The war against corruption in this nation is a noble one and the fight is real. Corruption can be curbed by targeting the assets of corrupt individuals.”

Justice A. A. I. Banjoko, High Court Judge, the Federal Capital Territory

New Money Laundering Act Enacted

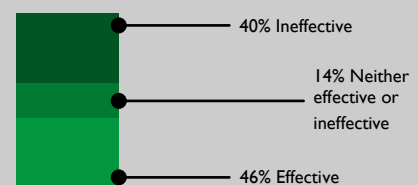
J4A supported the Federal Ministry of Justice in preparing the Money Laundering Prohibition (amendment) Act 2012 which has just received presidential assent. This significant piece of legislation amends the 2011 Act. The newly worded Money Laundering Prohibition Act meets the best international standards, will simplify the prosecution process and make it harder for corrupt Nigerians and money launderers to hide their ill gotten gains.

The Act serves to protect the economy of Nigeria and provide tools to effectively deal with men and women who try to move stolen money out of the country. Under the old legislation, any person caught taking money worth more than \$10,000 out of the country could expect to lose only a quarter of this amount as penalty for failing to declare the export.

In the new Act money smugglers will lose all the money they fail to declare, making carrying stolen money out of the country far less attractive than before. The amendment also aims to reduce suspicious financial transactions by addressing some of the technical considerations required by banks when customers open accounts. These changes will make a big impact on the war on corruption.

Winning the war on corruption

Transparency International reports that the percentage of Nigerians who feel their government’s effort to fight corruption are:



Source: Transparency International website

Nigeria Police Force Trained in Intelligence Analysis

Intelligence analysis is the collection and examination of information, understanding what is known and from this drawing likely conclusions. Organisations such as the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) benefit from its use in tackling crime in villages and cities, and in decision making in State Police Commands and at the Police Headquarters in Abuja.

In January 2013, the Police in partnership with J4A, held its first of three training events on intelligence analysis — one of the components of the intelligence-led policing strategy developed by the NPF last year with support from J4A.

The course trains police intelligence officers on gathering information that will lead to properly identifying and preventing crime. At a strategic level, the course aims to help senior managers recognise emerging crime trends and allocate resources accordingly.



Intelligence officers at the event

Highlights from our work on gender

Since its inception in 2010, J4A and its partners have...



- Encouraged Voluntary Policing Sector groups to increase the participation of women in their operations
- Advocated for the inclusion of gender sensitivity into police strategies including opportunities for female police officers
- Promoted a gender sensitive approach to policing through the creation of Family Support Units in Model Police Stations
- Worked to reduce the time female Awaiting Trial Prisoners spend in prison through the *Speeding Up Criminal Justice* Project
- Encouraged gender representation in the selection of mediators and paralegals for the Community Paralegal and Village Mediation Programme
- Created opportunities for both men and women running small scale businesses to air their views on the challenges of doing business
- Gender elements incorporated into the strategic plans for the Code of Conduct Bureau, the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
- Enhanced the capacity of civil society organisations to perform better and their services to include disadvantaged groups such as women

J4A DFID Department for International Development
JUSTICE FOR ALL

**Happy New Year
to all our partners
from the J4A team!**

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