

## Nigerian Police Force Commends Voluntary Policing Group in Kano State

J4A has been providing support to Voluntary Policing Sector groups in Kano State in order to improve their internal and external systems and processes, leadership qualities and respect for human rights in the discharge of their duties.

As a result of this effort the Nigerian Police Force in the Sabon Gari Division of the State has recognised and commended the Sabon Gari Vigilante group for its discipline, commitment, dedication and hard-work in fighting crime in the community. A letter of commendation from the Sabon Gari Divisional Police Officer, CSP Shuaibu Bello was presented to the VPS Commandant, Sabon Gari, Mrs. Christy Adebayo.

In further appreciation of their work office space was donated by three government officials they include; the Special Adviser to the Kano State Governor on South-South Relations, Mr. Christopher Anayo; the Special Adviser to the Chairman Fagge Local Government Area, Hon Chuks Vincent; and the Counsellor in charge of Sabon Gari West Ward, Hon Etiebat. The group has since relocated to their new office space.



The Sabon Gari VPS commandant Mrs. Christy Adebayo

## Multi Agency Support for Victims of Gender Based Violence in Enugu State

On the 24th of September 2014 a multi-agency network day, which comprised all of the justice institutions in Enugu, was held in the state.

This network was set up to establish a linkage between the police, non-governmental organisations and governmental Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that provide support services to the victims of gender based violence (GBV). The aim was to ensure that victims of GBV receive holistic support.

Forty NGOs, trained police officers, representatives of the Tamar Sexual Assault Referral Centre and the Ministry of Gender Affairs were in attendance. Participants introduced their organisations and highlighted the services they provide. This created mutual understanding and awareness on the range of services available and the providers in the state.

For some participants, it was their first meeting with police officers and government agencies. The action based learning exercise amongst members emphasized and established the benefits of 'working together' to resolve identified problems.

A directory of support services available in the state has now been compiled and made available in all the Juvenile, Women and Children's (JWC) Units in the Model Police Stations (MPS).

The event also created the opportunity to sensitize citizens of the state on the newly improved JWC practices in the designated MPS sites.



Participants in an action based learning exercise during the Enugu workshop

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## Lagos Speaks on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

As part of this year's 16 days of Activism on Violence against Women, the Justice for All programme (J4A) organised a conference to mobilise support for a more coordinated response to the scourge of sexual assault and rape. The conference held in Lagos on 4 December also targeted stakeholders to provide support for the continuation and expansion of the Mirabel Centre and similar Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) across Lagos.

Lagos State policy makers and officers were out in force, led by the Attorney-General. Also present were police officers, lawyers, medical practitioners, gender activists and many civil society organisations on behalf of citizens.

In his address, Lagos State Attorney-General & Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Ade Ipaye, reassured the audience that “the Lagos State Government takes the matter of SGBV very seriously” and charged everyone to “break the culture of resolving this criminal act privately within the family ... because if we do not bring offenders to book the culture of silence will be perpetuated”.

**“We don't want to read about cases of rape in the paper, we want to read about convictions of perpetrators”**

Alex Muoka,  
Nigerian Bar Association



Lagos State Attorney-General & Commissioner for Justice, Ade Ipaye with Lola Rhodes-Vivour, Lagos State Ministry of Justice

A host of personalities from the entertainment industry including Ice Prince, Bimbo Akintola, Koffi, Queen Uba and Wana Udobang, all of whom are Goodwill Ambassadors of the Mirabel Centre, also put in an appearance. The celebrities publicly pledged their support and commitment to the campaign against sexual and gender-based violence in Lagos State.

The Conference focused on the critical need for all those involved in the fight against SGBV to work together in a coordinated way. Each agency / organisation was given the chance to speak about their own contribution. It was notable from the police and Ministry of Justice presentations that they are taking the issue of SGBV much more seriously. The number of cases being charged to court has multiplied and the Ministry has created a special team to focus on gaining convictions for sexual assault.

The Mirabel Centre and its sister SARC from Enugu spoke about the experiences that some victims go through and CSOs from the Lagos sector showed what they are doing to help. The CSO coalition “WG8 on Violence Against Women” briefed the conference on how they were working together and with the authorities to combat SGBV.

The day ended with short presentations from DFID sister programmes Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Programme and Voices 4 Change who are also doing important work on Violence against Women. DFID itself pledged continued support for Nigerian efforts in this area.

The clear message that resonated through the day was that Sexual and Gender Based Violence is an epidemic that can only be slowed with coordinated effort and commitment



**“It is the perpetrators who should be ashamed and not the victims”**

Goodwill Ambassador,  
Queen Uba

**In 16 months, the Mirabel Centre has provided medical and counselling services to 361 victims of sexual violence including 220 under 18 years old. So far, 25 of the alleged perpetrators of these assaults have been charged to court.**

## New Justice Sector Reform Team Established in Akwa Ibom State

Following J4A's support to the meetings of the network of Justice Sector Reform Teams (JSRTs) where lessons and experiences are shared to encourage observers to replicate JSRTs in their states a new reform team has been established. The number of JSRTs now operating in the country is on the rise and with the inauguration of the newly established Akwa Ibom State JSRT the total number of JSRTs in the country has risen to thirteen. The launch was announced by Justice Theresa Obot of the Akwa Ibom State Judiciary at the JSRT Network Conference, which was held in November 2014.

The launch of the Akwa Ibom State reform team was influenced by the state's participation in the May 2014 Network meeting in Lagos where the state participated as an observer. The observation delegation was led by Justice Idongesit, the immediate past Chief Judge of the state who, after listening to the reform initiatives being implemented by the other states, made a commitment to work towards the setting up of a reform team in Akwa Ibom.

### A Snapshot of JSRT Achievements

The recent meeting of the network of Justice Sector Reform Team (JSRT), which was held in Abuja provided the platform for showcasing the reform projects implemented by JSRTs from different states. Some of these projects include:

- The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Clinic, which was established by the Katsina JSRT where young lawyers on the NYSC scheme provide legal services for the indigent Awaiting Trial Prisoners. This initiative has received national commendation and has led to the release of several vulnerable Nigerians that were formerly held in prison.
- The adoption of police personnel as the Ministry of Justice Liaison Officer by several state JSRTs, whereby a police officer is responsible for the submission and recovery of case files from the state Ministry of Justice. This has aided effective and efficient movement of criminal case files and legal advice and has reduced the number of delayed cases caused by missing files.
- The Federal team in conjunction with the Nigerian Prison Service (NPS) revised the NPS standing orders. This is the NPS operating document, which was last reviewed over 50 years ago. This document was outdated and no more in line with the modern realities of the Prison Service. As a result of the collaboration between the Federal Justice Sector Reform Coordinating Committee (FJSRCC) and the NPS the standing orders have now been revised and made operational.

It is worthy of note that JSRTs in Nigeria have initiated a total of 132 justice sector reform projects in several thematic areas including Administration of Criminal Justice, Accountability, Affordable and Accessible Justice, Public Awareness and Education.

## ICPC to Introduce Ethics and Compliance Score Card

As a result of J4A's support to the ICPC a draft Ethics and Compliance Scorecard for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) has been developed. It is aimed at promoting ethical standards in public institutions.

On January 27, 2015 at a two-day validation workshop was held in Abuja, the ICPC stated that it is determined to introduce the Ethics and Compliance Score Card for MDAs.

When operational, the Score Card will enable the ICPC to assess the level of corruption vulnerability of public offices in Nigeria and also help to strengthen their systems, processes, procedures and mechanisms so as to ensure that there is reduced vulnerability and risk of corruption within the ministries.

## Securing the 2015 General Elections

In collaboration with the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) the Justice for All programme organised a one-day strategic level discussion on the 18th of December 2014, which was targeted at preparing NPF officers to police the forthcoming 2015 general election.

At the event Prof. A. M. Jega, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) revealed that policing is significant to the success of any election. He thanked J4A for providing a platform for discussing this important national issue.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Suleiman Abba reassured the general public and the stakeholders that the police will do their best to ensure that the election is peaceful and fair.

As a result of the conference the Nigerian police in collaboration with J4A launched the 'Standard Operational Guidelines/ Rules for Police Officers on Electoral Duties'. This enables police officers to safeguard the constitutional rights of the electorate. The guidelines remind the officers of their legal responsibilities and ethical expectations. The IGP thanked DFID and J4A for their immense support in publishing the guidelines for the officers of the NPF.



The IGP addressing media houses and stakeholders at the one-day conference

## CSP Minna Raising Awareness on the Effects of Drug Abuse and Crime in the Society

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) a J4A initiative, which was established in Minna, is enabling the reduction of crime in communities in Niger State. The CSP under the jurisdiction of the 'B' Division of the Nigerian police in the state, organized an awareness raising campaign on the effects of drug abuse and the desirability of a crime free society. In attendance were representatives of the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Police Officers and community members.

The Community Policing officer in the state, Assistant Superintendent (ASP) Bala Elkana, while addressing the participants noted that the CSP serves as a mechanism for curbing crime in the state. He stated that the awareness raising was based on the survey carried out in collaboration with the Community Policing Department of the police division on problems affecting the safety and security of communities. He stressed that the five communities that fall under the division will benefit from the campaign programme.

Other participants revealed that they found the campaign very timely and advised parents and community leaders to take home the message to their children and educate them on the dangers of drug abuse. They agreed that the fight against drug related offences should be collective and not left for the police alone.

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