

NEWSLETTER



YOUTHCARE DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPOWERMENT
INITIATIVE

APRIL 2025

www.ycdei.org

Dear
**PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS,
AND CHANGEMAKERS,**

We are filled with gratitude to God for how far He has helped us as an organization this month. When we look back at our achievements, we thank God for the gift of you our partners, who are always solidly behind us to bring our dreams to reality.

At Youthcare Development and Empowerment Initiative (YCDEI), we remain committed to advancing the rights, safety, and well-being of children, youth, and women. Thanks to your unwavering support, we continue to break barriers, inspire transformation, and expand our reach in communities that need it most.

This new month, I encourage us all to stay inspired, stay engaged, and continue to be a voice for equity, protection, and empowerment. Let's keep the momentum alive as we build safer, stronger, and more inclusive spaces for every young person and women in our society. Together, we can do more.

*With warm
regards,*



PROF. ADEFUNKE EKINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YCDEI

STEPDOWN SENSITIZATIONS BY FEMALE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



**CHAMPIONS
MOVED
FORWARD
WITH A VISION
TO SENSITIZE
THE RELIGIOUS
SPACES IN
THEIR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
AREAS ON
ENDING
GENDER BASED
VIOLENCE.**

● THE MOVEMENT IS ON

YcDEI trained female religious leaders from different churches under CAN (Christian Association of Nigeria), PFN (Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria) and CCN (Christian Council of Nigeria) on how to use their influence to end gender based violence in their local government areas.

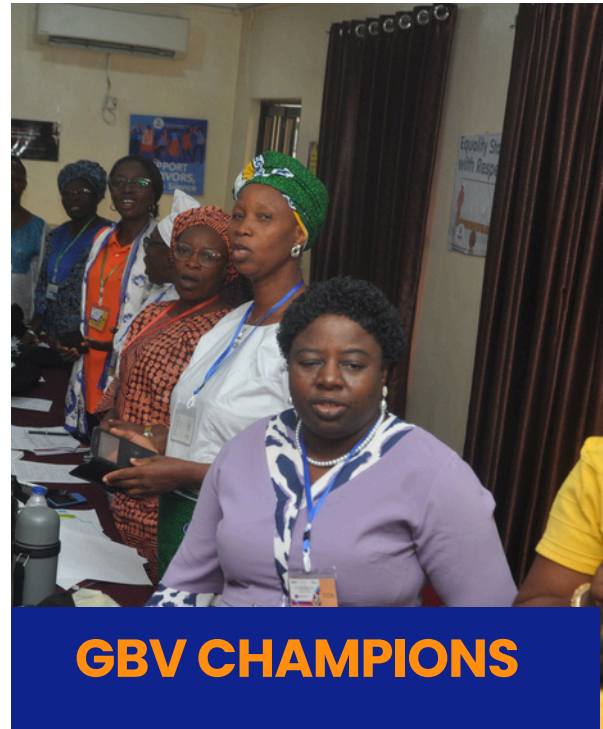


CAN
PFN
CCN



Champions Taking the Lead Against GBV

Following the successful Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Capacity Building Training for Female Religious Leaders in Ibadan, organized by the Youthcare Development and Empowerment Initiative (YCDEI) with support from The Ford Foundation, the trained participants referred to as GBV Champions have been actively conducting step-down trainings across their various churches and fellowships.



GBV CHAMPIONS

The champions commenced their sensitizations in April 2025 by visiting churches, holding awareness sessions and meetings with church leaders.

These step-down trainings have provided a vital opportunity for grassroots engagement within faith communities, equipping church members with knowledge about the dangers of GBV, strategies for prevention, and the role of religious institutions in creating safer and more inclusive environments.

Methodist Church Nigeria, Ekotedo, Ibadan

We recorded a vibrant and reflective session led by one of the trained champions, The Rev. Bola Ilesanmi. Church members participated actively, asked important questions, and expressed gratitude for the awareness on GBV. The message was well received and opened up conversations with a final commitment by the participants to create more awareness about GBV in their various parishes and environments.



The Rev. Bola Ilesanmi at Methodist Church Nigeria

ECWA Church Joins the Fight Against GBV

One of our trained champions, Mrs Mary Ibitoye, held a successful step-down training at ECWA Church.

The session was well attended, with members actively engaging in discussions about GBV, its impact on families and society, and how the church can play a vital role in prevention and support for survivors.



Mrs Mary Ibitoye at ECWA Church

Participants appreciated the biblical approach to addressing abuse, and many expressed a desire for continuous learning and deeper involvement in advocacy efforts. The church leadership also commended the initiative, encouraging more faith-led conversations around protection and justice.



Mrs Ayodele Olufunmilayo Alao at RCCG Redemption Parish

RCCG Redemption Parish Takes a Stand Against Gender-Based Violence

The session at RCCG Redemption Parish, led by a dedicated GBV champion, Mrs Ayodele Olufunmilayo Alao, engaged congregants in a discussion on the realities of GBV and the role of church's in addressing it. With scriptural grounding and practical insights, the training emphasized compassion, accountability, and community protection. RCCG Redemption Parish shows how faith communities can lead the fight against GBV.



El Shaddai Baptist Church Champions the Call to End GBV

At El Shaddai Baptist Church, the message was loud and clear: there's no room for silence in the face of gender-based violence.

The atmosphere was one of purpose and passion, with questions flowing and hearts committed to being part of the change.

The church committed to start awareness creation on GBV among its congregation and various church groups.

In a heartfelt and enlightening session, our GBV champion, Rev. Rachel Folasade Oyedemi, stirred the congregation with case studies, teachings and illustrations to explain the dangers of GBV.

Both the champion and church members reflected on how faith communities can become safe spaces for the vulnerable.



Rev. Rachel Folasade Oyedemi at El Shaddai Baptist Church

Mrs Aworinde Oluyemisi Kemi at Celestial Church of Christ



Our champion, Mrs Aworinde Oluyemisi Kemi, guided the congregation with spiritual depth and practical insight through the realities of GBV, stressing the urgent need for faith-based action. The response was overwhelming as members listened with open hearts, asked thoughtful questions, and pledged to be more intentional in promoting safe and respectful relationships.



The training served as a reminder that the church is not just a place of worship, but should also be a place of refuge for survivors of GBV.

Celestial Church of Christ Speaks Up Against GBV

Church members were encouraged to speak up and break the silence as one of our trained champions led a step-down training on ending Gender-Based Violence at the Celestial Church of Christ.

More Faces of our CHAMPIONS



**Cathechist Fadokun
Christianah at Our Lady of
Fatima Catholic Church**



**Mrs Ayelabola Abosede Doyin
at St Barnabas Anglican
church.**



**Mrs Amaechi-Obi Patricia
Ifeoma at Holy Family Catholic
Church**



**Mrs Sanni Mayowa at Celestial
Church of Christ**



**Mrs Banusomo Funmilayo at
Christ Apostolic Church**



**Mrs Mobolanle Ogunlana at Praise
House Christian Centre**



**Mrs Ogunsola Abosede
at Calvary Testimony
Prayer Ministry**



**Ap. Mth Queen Victoria Adenike
Ogundiran at Cherubim and Seraphim
church Eleseri**



**Mrs Elizabetoh Iyabo Aderounmu at
Centre for the Fellowship for the
Aged.**



**Prophetess Babalola at Cherubim
and Seraphim Church**



**Deac. Alamu M. O. at
Methodist Church**



**Pst Adenike Makanjuola at Premier
City Church**



**Mrs Olufunke Fowler
at Christ Redeeming
Evangelical Ministries**



**Mrs Eleyinmi Deborah Oluwafemi at Christ
Apostolic Church, Oke- Awamaridi**



**Mrs Aworinde Oluyemisi Kemi
at The Sacred C&S Church Mt
Goshen**



**Mrs Eniola Akande at New
Covenant Church**



**Mrs Durojaiye Mary at Christ
Chapel international church**



**Mrs Eniade Elizabeth Funmilola at
Emmanuel Anglican church
Okelbadan**



**Mrs Olagoke Oluyinka at
Bishop Demola Moradeyo
Methodist church, Ayekale**



**Mrs Olagunju Titilope at
RCCG Jesus Palace**

Plans for Community Development

We have commenced early preparations for cluster-level community development initiatives to ensure structured and impactful engagement across our target communities.

The recent sensitization sessions demonstrated commendable commitment from our champions, with teachings delivered effectively.

Follow-up efforts are ongoing to ensure the project's objectives are being met. With consistent effort and structured planning, we are confident that our community development program will continue to deliver meaningful and lasting impact.



Networking



This project has provided a platform for female religious leaders to network, collaborate and share ideas.

It has been a unique experience so far for both the champions and staff of YcDEI.



OUR IMPACT



1,262

Participants sensitized on ending gender based violence across Ibadan.

893 Females

369 Males

25 Churches visited

Across

Ibadan South East
Ibadan South West
Ibadan North East
Ibadan North West
Ibadan North

ABOUT US

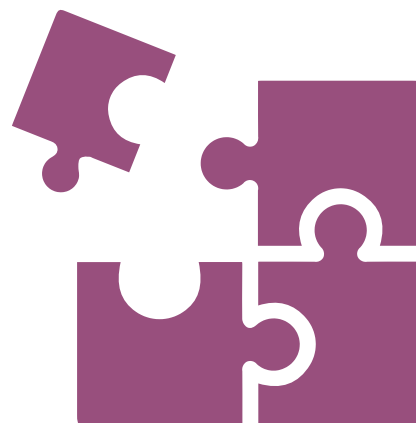


Vision Statement



Ensuring a safe, healthy and equitable flourishing society for children, youth and women.

Mission Statement



Enhancing the inclusivity of children, youth and women through collaboration, helpful interventions, evidence-based research, shared learning, capacity building and supporting quality programming.

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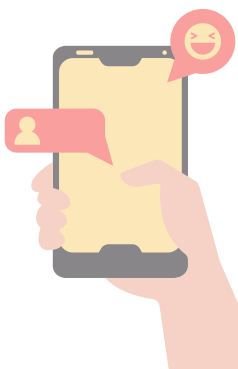
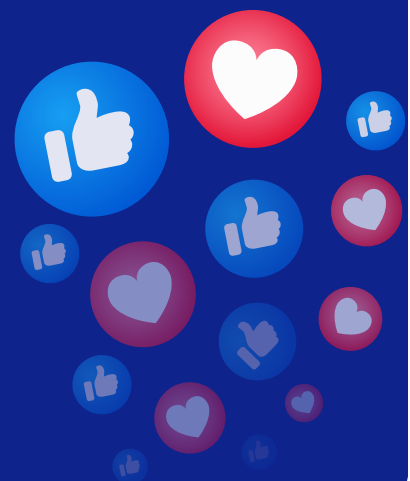
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