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Meet Gorretti

“I’m Elated NFF!!! Let’s work.
She is the storm, Not the kind you run from,
the kind you chase.

- Ms Gorretti Ezihe
Programmes/Administrative Intern
Nigerian Feminist Forum

Photo Reel

Images during the NFF
FM101 training, Gender studies,
Consultative Meeting, and National Press Conference
• The NFF is seeking to employ a Research and Policy Officer. All applications should be sent to nff@nigerianfeministforum.org **Click Here to Apply.**

• We have a new Programmes/Administrative Intern, Ms. Gorretti Ezihe.

• The NFF will hold the Pearl Lily Wellness Psychosocial and Trauma Retreat for Feminist Frontline Service Providers on September 25th to 27th, 2021 in Ibadan, Oyo State. The retreat will bring together 20 feminists to rest, unlearn, and equip themselves with skills that will help them in the discharge of their frontline services.

• New ideas for NFF to research on? Please share by sending us an email via nff@nigerianfeministforum.org.
The Nigerian Feminist Forum (NFF), is a network of individual women who publicly self-define themselves as feminists and are recognized to ‘walk the talk’ in fundamentalist or other extremely vulnerable contexts. This Forum became a reality in 2007, and have been in existence since 2008. The African charter on feminist principles is our guiding document, written by us for us. Read it and become familiar with it. Read the charter here>>>>> CLICK HERE.

The feminist movement, as an ideological and political space, is made up of the many individuals and organisations committed to challenging and dismantling patriarchal oppressions in all its manifestations. It is a space for feminists to claim for themselves and to use, through networks, organisations, personal friendships and collective feminist energies. This space is used to mobilise around feminist principles, to hone analytical skills, and seek (and sometimes find) answers to many questions. What makes the space work is faith. The belief that this space is needed to make a difference in the lives of women. This is manifested in our processes of self-discovery, our hopes, our dreams, our aspirations, our yearning for more knowledge and revelations.

The two, space and faith are inter-dependent, and cannot survive in and of themselves. We need our space as feminists to walk the road together, and we need the faith that will keep us together in good and in bad times. It is very difficult to create and sustain feminist space in Nigeria for many reasons, but we need to be bold, vigilant, intentional and proactive about promoting and defending women’s rights in Nigeria. We NEED this feminist space for these very reasons, to:

• Develop conceptual clarity and the politics of naming;
• Access our relationship with contemporary Nigerian states and state structures;
• Repolitise the movement;
• Harness and create feminist knowledge;
• Strengthen feminist institutions;
• Develop feminist principles;
• Replenish our ranks;
• Protect the integrity of feminist space;
• Take care of ourselves

Who are we?

We are Feminists, No If’s, No But’s, No Maybe’s!!!
To improve knowledge and form bonds between older and young feminists about feminism, the Nigerian Feminist Forum has held a three-day Feminism 101 workshop for 25 participants.

During the workshop in Abuja, the facilitators shared feminist knowledge; deepened participants knowledge of feminism,

To improve knowledge and form bonds between older and young feminists about feminism, the Nigerian Feminist Forum has held a three-day Feminism 101 workshop for 25 participants.

During the workshop in Abuja, the facilitators shared feminist knowledge; deepened participants knowledge of feminism,

its definitions and theories in a constructive manner, developed strategies towards promoting a feminist and gender sensitive culture, and an internalized document (African feminist charter) as a binding principle for feminists.

The Nigerian Feminist Forum in July brought together heads of Gender Studies Departments of various tertiary institutions for a one-day consultative meeting and critically reviewed the studies, concept and curriculum, analyzed gender identity, gendered representation, including ideas and theories of women’s studies concerning women, feminism, gender and politics.

The meeting brought together 20 Gender department heads, who brainstormed and developed a communique towards promoting the study on analyzing gender identity and gendered representation, with inclusion to ideas and theories of women’s studies concerning women, feminism, gender and politics. (General studies).

Following the upsurge of gender-based violence and entrenchment of patriarchy, the Nigerian Feminist Forum addressed a national press conference in Abuja to demand a stop and the inclusion into political spaces.

The NFF demanded that all political party make women their National Chairpersons, especially the top-rated, a 40 per cent quota system strictly for women across the 18 accredited political parties for the 2023 general elections, and that women be fielded as governorship candidates. Further, the NFF called for female Service Chiefs to address growing insurgency and abuse of women because they know where it pinches most, and that the remaining 14 State Assemblies immediately pass the VAPP bill into law to protect the rights of every person, women and girls inclusive.

FM 101: Towards Improved Feminist Knowledge and Movement

Partnering Gender Studies Departments

Promoting the Role of Feminism in Advancing Women’s Rights in Nigeria
Following the outbreak of Covid-19 in Wuhan, China, the virus has spread to every continent, Africa inclusive. Governments in a bid to contain it have imposed lockdown measures including states of emergencies. However, it still spread to every country. Though the disease does not discriminate, it appears women are the worst hit as a result of the virus.

**Loss of Income/Economic Impact**

It is estimated that 74 per cent African women are engaged in the informal sector as street vendors, domestic workers, service providers in the tourism and hospitality sector, farming, traders, education sector, where businesses were shut down to contain spread of the virus. As a result, thousands of women in Africa lost businesses and jobs and are grappling to survive.

**Restricted Access to Food, Water, and Sanitation**

Since the outbreak of the virus, an increased number of women lack access to food, water, and good sanitation. A high number of people are likely to face hunger and malnutrition. Due to decreased availability of food, closure of markets, there have been price spikes which has had serious impact on women and girls who often do not have enough to eat, while the growing need for water has led to an increase in daily workload of women and girls.

**Violence Against Women**

The UN Women estimates that about 243 women and girls aged between 15 to 49 experienced sexual and/or physical violence from an intimate partner in the past one year.

Due to lockdown measures, women and girls were trapped at home with their abusers and are at increased risk of other forms of violence as overloaded healthcare systems and disrupted justice services struggle to respond.

**Online Violence/Restrictions**

Following the outbreak of covid-19, more people including women and girls spend more time online and are now prone to online forms of violence in chat rooms, gaming platforms and more. It is estimated that female doctors, nurses and street vendors are at heightened risk of violence as they navigate deserted urban or rural public spaces and transportation services under lockdown.

**Other Effects**

Covid-19 economic effects have been identified as likely triggers for increase in sexual exploitation, child marriages, and spousal violence in fragile economies and refugee contexts particularly vulnerable. Regrettably, many women have died due to covid complications even as hundreds have turned widows following the death of their spouse due to the virus. While hundreds of children have become orphaned following the demise of one or both parents.

For more Visit: [https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html?gclid=CjwKCAjwhOyJBhA4EiwAEcJdcbKy96kwm7MTr0C95k_Fg0oMhLfxvL_DppHo-vacNAtgLJleXXXOks7RoC-1MQAvD_BwE](https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html?gclid=CjwKCAjwhOyJBhA4EiwAEcJdcbKy96kwm7MTr0C95k_Fg0oMhLfxvL_DppHo-vacNAtgLJleXXXOks7RoC-1MQAvD_BwE)
CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

“Our strategies have included advocacy and innovative campaigns using mainstream and social media”. Dismantling patriarchy and questioning the powers of oppressions, to ultimately achieve a society free from violence against women is an objective. Our strategic programmatic interventions have targeted this objective, and we have recorded positive results.

Click Here to take a look at some of our strategic social media campaigns for this quarter; Click the hashtags to follow the discussions >>>

#SheMatters,
#NigerianWomenMatter
#StateofEmergencyonSGBV
Would you like to follow up on our activities and be part of our movement?

Visit [www.nigerianfeministforum.org](http://www.nigerianfeministforum.org)

or send us an email

nff@nigerianfeministforum.org

We would love to read from you.