Hello Friends,

Great to have you here for another weekly edition of our NFF newsletter.

Last week, Nigeria joined the rest of the world to commemorate the International Day of Rural Women observed every October 15th, we at the Nigerian Feminist Forum lent our voice to call for the enactment of policies to allow women own and manage land for agricultural purposes.

NFF Communications Officer, Angela Nkwo made the call in a statement to commemorate the 2021 edition of the Rural Women’s Day with the theme “Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All”.

The day was set aside by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, to recognise the critical role and contributions of rural women, including indigenous women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

Rural women and girls in Nigeria have suffered varying degrees of gender-based violence as a result of insurgency, violent herdsmen attacks, biased customs and tradition, absence of good policies and legal framework to own land, poverty, low level of education, poor health facilities, and poor yield.

Others include discrimination, lack of access to mechanized farming equipment, oppressive widowhood practice that has stripped women of lands and properties, bad roads, exorbitant transportation costs that snatches profits, poor storage systems, and stable power supply.

We called for urgent measures to address growing insecurity to protect women and girls as they contribute their quota to feeding the nation and for government at all levels to ensure the safety of Nigerian women and girls.
In another development, the NFF in commemoration of the Day of the Girl Child has called for measures to combat gender discrimination and promote empowerment of girls.

The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls’ empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

The NFF expressed deep concerns about the challenges girls face, called for increased pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and promote gender equality and diversity in leadership and democratic processes and empowerment of girls in every facet of life.

Other demands made include measures to combat gender discrimination in education and prevent such violence, because the NFF envisions a future where Nigerian girls can live free from violence, discrimination, and bias.

We had raised concerns over gender bias and discrimination Nigerian girls face, which subject them to harmful circumstances that impede their safety, stability, education, and opportunity.

No doubt, the outbreak of Covid-19 has increased the disproportionate challenges girls face because the pandemic has worsened pre-existing public health, economic, political, and caregiving crises, which disproportionately have its impact on the Nigerian girl. As health systems become more strained, girls face increased barriers to accessing basic health care. In some parts of the country, those who are part of vulnerable and marginalized communities continue to face challenges in accessing routine childhood immunizations, preventative screenings, and sexual and reproductive health services.

The pandemic had resulted in a surge of sexual crimes as well as a rise in other forms of gender-based violence and mental health of girls who suffer as a result of high incidence of reported anxiety and other mental health issues.

Unfortunately, girl education is undermined by the threat of sexual assault, harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence, with 1-in-4 young women today facing sexual assault, while girls with disabilities face inequitable access to education.

NFF restated the call that adolescent girls have the right to a safe, educated, and healthy life, not only during their critical formative years, but also as they mature into women, because if effectively supported, girls have the potential to change the world, empowered to become today and tomorrow’s workers, mothers, entrepreneurs, mentors, household heads, and political leaders.

That's the size of our newsletter for the week.
Remember, you can reach out to us with questions or suggestions. See you next week.

Cheers!

**Angela Nkwo,**

**Communications Officer**

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**NFF in the News**


NFF Calls for Change in Policies to Enable Women Own Land

NFF seeks policies to allow women own, manage land

https://expressday.ng/nff-seeks-policies-to-allow-women-own-manage-land/

Girls deserve more protection, empowerment, says NFF on Girl-Child Day

https://expressday.ng/girls-deserves-more-protection-empowerment-says-nff-on-girl-child-day/