Feminist
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Images from NFF Consultative meeting on the development of a State Action Plan on women peace and security in Owerri, Imo State.

Images from NFF Pearl Lily Wellness Psychosocial and Trauma Retreat for Feminist Frontline Service Providers in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Images from NFF candle light for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Owerri, Imo State.

• The NFF is seeking to employ a Research and Policy Officer. All applications should be sent to nff@nigerianfeministforum.org Click Here to Apply.

• 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.
NFF Pearl Lily Wellness and Psychosocial Retreat

The Nigerian Feminist Forum held the Pearl Lily Wellness and Psychosocial Retreat for Feminist Frontline Service Providers. #NFFPearlLilyRetreat2021.

The two-day retreat held at the serene International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Oyo State for feminist activists who work in the areas of violence against women and girls.

The two-day wellness retreat focused on holistic mental, and psychological healing, as well as provided a structured initiative that supported activist wellbeing and rejuvenation, as participants were allowed to go through a healing and rejuvenation that enhanced lots of self-reflection and a healthy pause from the stress of their feminist activism.

It wasn’t the regular retreat; it was strictly therapeutic, with lots of music, games, and healing sessions for the Feminist frontline providers who left the Ibadan venue rejuvenated to continue with their services but without the baggage of hurts accumulated over the years.

Towards developing a State Action Plan for Imo State

The Nigerian Feminist Forum (NFF) working with partners in the state has begun discussions for the adoption of a State Action Plan (SAP) for peace and security of women and girls in the State.

A two-day stakeholders’ forum to foster the adoption of a SAP composed of critical state actors, representatives of the traditional ruler’s council, community leaders the Ministry of Women Affairs and Vulnerable Group, CSOs, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), media organizations, and selected female politicians, which featured different presentations.

Following the invasion of the Owerri Correctional Centre in April 2021, over 1800 inmates were let loose on the State and its environs. The result is evident in the surge in criminality, killings, shootings, and more. Furthermore, the invasion and destruction of Police formations across the State resulted in an opportunity for criminals to cause additional havoc and criminality.

A communique was developed at the end of the two-day consultative meeting. Resolutions reached include the need for the establishment of community Mediators Committees/Ambassadors to involve men, women, and youths to quench communal conflicts.

16 Days Activism to End Gender-based Violence

During the just concluded 16 Days Activism to End Gender-based violence, the NFF brought sisters to hold a solidarity walk against sexual and gender-based violence in Abuja.

The NFF alongside Imo Peoples Action for Democracy (IPAD), Centre for Health Education, Dorothy Njemanze Foundation, and Squad with a Goal, held a candle light for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Owerri, the Imo State capital.

Survivors drawn from the Albinism community, physically challenged persons, widows, rape, disinherition, spousal violence amongst others, gathered to share their pains and amplify the call to end all forms of violence.
In the last one year, there have been 15 incidents of jailbreaks, (eight successful) while 5,238 inmates have escaped from various Correctional centers formerly called prisons across Nigeria, according to a Premium Times analysis. While it may appear as cheering news for the fleeing inmates, it is a huge concern for women and girls as we are exposed to crime and attacks. From Benin, Ondo, Lagos, Abia, Delta, Imo, Bauchi, Kano, Kogi, Oyo, and Plateau states, inmates have escaped and are roaming free.

Until the invasions, the inmates were confined to long walls, and regimented lifestyle. In the book “The Effects of Imprisonment” by Alison Liebling and Shadd Maruna, some of the pains of imprisonment include loss of liberty, deprivation of goods and surfaces, deprivation of automation and routine activities, deprivation of personal security, and sexual deprivation and frustration. For the fleeing inmates, 10 most common adverse psychological effects of prison include: delusions, paranoia, claustrophobia, depression, panic and stress, denial, nightmares, night terrors, insomnia, substance abuse, increased levels of hostility, and self-destructive behaviors, amongst many others. The implication is that there are increased chances of unprovoked attacks on women and girls which may be as a result of:

**Inability to Get Good Jobs**

Most fleeing inmates lack access to well-paying jobs and may have to take on menial jobs which they may find unpleasant. It may also trigger in them anger issues which they may prefer to take out on women and girls, especially when engaged in menial jobs and they suddenly want higher pay.

**Rape, Molestation, and Harassment**

With the influx of about 5000 inmates walking free without access to family and decent homes, many quickly take to rape, molestation, and harassment of hapless women and girls.

**Repeat of Crime/Violence**

Fleeing inmates tend to return to crime by joining gangs through which they unleash violence, arson, robbery, and other violent crimes.

**Substance Use/Abuse**

Further, to mask the pains of rejection (sometimes by family and community), fleeing inmates take to substance use like cannabis, cocaine, amphetamine, heroin, diazepam, codeine, cough syrup, tramadol, alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, marijuana, steroids, methamphetamine (mkpuru mmiri), and ketamine amongst others.

**Home Safety (Tips to stay safe)**

- Close and lock all doors even when leaving for a short period of time. This includes garages and connecting doors.
- Use automatic timers to cut lights on and off if you are gone for an extended time.
- Illuminate the yard, especially doorways and the rear of the house.
- Trim trees and shrubs around the house. These provide concealment for burglars.
- Install good locks on doors and windows and **USE THEM**.
- Don’t hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a trusted neighbor or friend.
- Use deadbolt locks that require a key from either side (double cylinder).
“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 >>>

#womenInPeacebuildingResolution&Negotiation
#HerVoicesValid
#HerStoryOurStory
#NigerianWomenMatter
Would you like to follow up on our activities and be part of our movement?

Visit www.nigerianfeministforum.org

or send us an email
nff@nigerianfeministforum.org

We would love to read from you.

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Dear Sister’s & Partners,

The journey with you all through 2021 has been amazing. The Nigerian Feminist Forum (NFF) expresses gratitude for your support and trust.

We look forward to a better 2022.

Happy New Year.

In solidarity
The Nigerian Feminist Forum – Secretariat

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OUR PARTNERS