

PROFILE OF THE WIDOWS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
(WiDO)

Name: Widows Development Organisation (WiDO)

Motto: Unity, Love & Industry

Address: WIDOW SUPPORT CENTRE

84 NZA STREET

P.O.Box 11602

INDEPENDENCE LAYOUT, ENUGU, NIGERIA

Phone: 234-8057671071

E-mail:

elenwad@yahoo.co.uk

Web site:www.widoafrica.org

Date of Establishment: October 1996

REGISTRATION: Corporate Affairs Commission No: 9797

Enugu State Welfare Council No: ESWC/EN/901

Associated with the Department of Public Information (DGC) of the United Nations July 2010

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To sensitise the general public on the plight of widows.

To bring about improvement in the social status of widows

To create awareness on the rights of widows and other women in the areas of basic education, legal awareness, income generating activities ;(small scale industries, trading arts and crafts),health and population, agriculture and environment

To encourage educational support programmes for children of widows.

To provide counselling and support centres.

To source for funds and mobilise resources in order to carry out the objectives of the organisation

To lend support to and cooperate with local, national and international organisation with similar purpose.

Trustees:

Dr. (Mrs) Eleanor Nwadinobi- PRESIDENT

Mrs. Pat Okoye

Mrs. Angela Otaluka

Membership is open to men and women who are committed to the objectives of the Organisation.

PAST ACTIVITIES

- APRIL 1996 "Symposium on Improving the Social Status of women and widows" in collaboration with British Council.
- November 1996 "WiDO enlightenment day " and drama presentation titled "Lamentation "
- Working with FIDA and Ministry of Women Affairs on the Widows Welfare Committee set up to research in to the current widowhood practices in 12 local government areas of Enugu State 1998
- Working as consultants to CFC in collaboration with TVE for the filming of a documentary titled "TILL DEATH DO US PART" November 1998
- Interview of Trustees for the BBC Worldwide service 1999.
- Presentation at AWID conference Virginia USA November 1999
- Interview on VOA world service 1999
- Research in 6 Local Government Areas of Enugu State in collaboration with UNDP
- Feature in the MARIE CLAIRE women's magazine February 2000 UK Edition
- Gender empowerment activity in Ugwu-ogo community to mark the International Women's day. March 2000
- Participation by one of our Trustees as a panelist at the Beijing+5 meeting, New York, June 2000
- Interview for the "Carte Blanche" programme by M-NET August 2000
- Research on "THE HEALTH OF WIDOWS AND THEIR CHILDREN" in collaboration with Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) August 2000-March 2001
- Widow Friendly Day November 2000
- Participation at First International Conference on Widows Rights - February 2001
- Presentation of research findings At Medical Women's International Congress, Sydney, Australia. 2001
- Drama production and awareness on bill on widows' rights in collaboration with Canada Fund for local initiatives.
- Presentation at AWID conference Guadalajara, Mexico 2002

- Awareness drive in secondary schools, International Women's Day 2003
- Presentation at UK House of Commons June 2003
- Presentation at Commonwealth Peoples Forum Abuja December 2003
- Setting up of Widow Support Centre and skills training for 10 widows in collaboration with Irish Women's Group, Lagos 2003
- 6-month radio Jingles on FRCN and ESBS on bill on widow's rights June –December 2003 in collaboration with Mama Cash of the Netherlands.
- Legislators Consultation, International Women's Day 8th March 2004 in Collaboration with Global Fund for women
- Follow-up on Legislative Advocacy Consultation 8th March 2005
- Fighting fund for free legal AID services for widows whose rights have been violated
 - in collaboration with Widows Rights International, UK 2006
- Support for widows whose rights have been violated in collaboration with the European Union 2006 -2007
- Presentation Panels at CSW 2008, 2009 & 2010
- Training of Trainers on Will writing in collaboration with Commonwealth Secretariat, UK May 2009

RECENT ACTIVITIES AT THE UN

WiDO was also represented at the United Nations 2014 Universal Children's Day Celebrations at Medgar Evers College, CUNY on November 20th and at the United Nations Headquarters' Trusteeship Council Chamber on November 21st honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

WiDO had a panel in partnership with Lehigh University at the UNDP/PI annual conference New York on August 26th through August 30th at the UN . Dr. Marie Umeh attended this forum where Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi gave a presentation on the tragedy of the Chibok School Girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria while preparing for exit exams on the school grounds. After her speech, Dr. Nwadinobi entertained all questions and comments from the audience.

WiDO participated at the 2014 FIRST LADIES HIGH LEVEL FORUM AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY where

Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi's key recommendation, was for a special rapporteur on Widows' Rights be appointed and for the Secretary General, H. E. Ban ki-moon, to commission an international study on widows.

WiDO has held parallel sessions at UNCSW 2011,2012,2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

- Data base of widows, cause of death of their husbands, change in economic status as a widow etc.
- Enlightenment campaign to organisations and groups
- Revolving fund for small scale businesses
- Support for widows whose rights have been violated
- Yearly Commemoration of International Widows day 23rd June
- Skills acquisition training for 5 widows through the Marie Nwandu fund
- Launch of the Umuagungulori Oil mill value chain
- Launch of the Umuagungulori WISLA widows Loans scheme Abia State December 2019 to date - Supported by the Global Fund for Widow

NOTABLE BENEFICIARIES OF WiDO

Widows organisation of Emene awarded garri processing factory through WiDO's contact with British High commission
Widow presented with wheel barrow for her business
Widow reinstated in quarters following eviction
10 widows given scholarships for skills training in collaboration with Irish Women's Group, Lagos
3 widows received scholarships from the Barr Uko skills acquisition fund

NETWORK AFFILIATIONS/PARTNERS

GLOBAL FUND FOR WIDOWS
MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (MWAN)
ASSOCIATION OF FEMALE LAWYERS (FIDA)
CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE AND PEACE (CIDJAP)
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MWIA)
IRISH WOMEN'S GROUP , LAGOS
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND PROTECTION
ALTERNATIVE (WRAPA)
WIDOWS RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL, London, U.K.
CANADA FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES
SJG/DFID
MAMA CASH, The Netherlands
GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN, US
EUROPEAN UNION
SIGRID RAUSING TRUST, UK

PUBLICATIONS

Book titled "Widowhood: A Natural or Cultural Tragedy "by Pat Okoye
Book titled "Widows and Daughters " by Patience Ifejika
Book titled "Customary marriage Laws &Rights of widows " by Angela Otaluka
Paper titled "Widowhood in Nigeria: the case of four Eastern States "by Eleanor Nwadinobi
Book titled "Widowhood Practices: The case of Enugu State "
Book titled "Summary of Enugu State of Nigeria, 2001 Bill No. 3 - The prohibition of Infringement of a widow's and widower's fundamental rights law 2001"
10th Anniversary. Achievements of the Widows Development Organisation
WIDOWHOOD:FACTS FEELINGS AND THE LAW 2008
"BUILDING BRIDGES: FAITH, CUSTOMARY PRACTICES AND LAW IN NIGERIA" 2009
Towards. Just peace 2014. Springer Jan Fritz