



**LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION**
FOR AFRICAN GIRL CHILD AND WOMEN

LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION FOR AFRICAN GIRL CHILD AND WOMEN'S

10th Anniversary Event E-MAGAZINE



Date: December 1, 2024 | **Time:** 12:30pm

Venue: Today's Exclusive 188 Egbe Road, by Ori Oke B/Stop,
Opp. NNPC Filling Station before Cele Egbe / Ikotun Ejigbo, Lagos State



African Family

— Support Foundation Ltd. —

www.afsf.org.uk

Congratulates

MRS. STELLA OKEKE

&

MRS. CAROLINE IKEH

on DIASPORA AWARD given to them by the

**LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
FOR AFRICAN GIRL CHILD AND WOMEN**

on the occasion of their



of **Verifiable
Impact**

December 1, 2024

keep soaring higher!



10 years
of VERIFIABLE IMPACT



LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
FOR AFRICAN GIRL CHILD AND WOMEN

Leadership Foundation For African Girl Child And Women



Celebrates

10 years
of

VERIFIABLE IMPACT

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Venue: Today's Exclusive - 188 Egbe Road,
by Ori Oke B/Stop, Opp. NNPC Filling Station
before Cele Egbe / Ikotun Ejigbo, Lagos State

Chairman of the Occasion

Mazi Emmanuel Mbaraonye Okorafor
CEO
EMMAK Trading Company Ltd.

Guest Speaker

Comfort Obot Nwankwo fnipr
Seasoned Public Relations Expert,
Sports Administrator & Entrepreneur

Father of the day

CHIEF GODWIN UMEUGOJI
CEO of Today's Exclusive Hotel
Chief Chidera 1 of Uga
Okubata ihe adi na Umuomaku
Serikin Yaki of Hadija jigawa State
Bsc, Political Science and Business Management

Mother of the day

Mrs. Catherine Uju Ifejika (OFR)
Chairman / CEO
Brittania-U Group

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ.
In brotherhood, we stand,
Nigerians all, and proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honour
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request.
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed.
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.

NATIONAL PLEDGE

I pledge to Nigeria my Country
To be faithful, loyal and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity
And uphold her honour and glory
So help me God.

POSTHUMOUS RECOGNITION

TO OUR LATE HERO & HEROINES

Late Mrs. Patricia Adebambo
Late Mrs. Ezinne Magdaline Duru
Late Pharm Mazi Emmanuel Nwagugor Okorafor (Naira)
Lady Amaechi Ozurumba



OUR VISION:

Our organisation's vision is to produce generations of African girls and women who would excel in leadership skills and be able to compete effectively in both local and global settings and contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

OUR MISSION:

Our organisation's mission is to be one of the most effective N.G.O.s in Africa that would lead outstanding numbers of girls and women to discover their leadership potentials and maximize them.

BELIEF: We strongly believe that pulling experiences, resources, and sharing our success secrets with our girls and women in a collaborative manner would enhance their development and make them future competent leaders.

Advisory Board Members

Chidinma Ngozi Okereke

Nsude Elizabeth Ifeyinwa (Mrs)

Ohaneme Favour Chinonso

Chinonso Roseline Okereke

Flourish Ogechukwukanma Okoro

Obed A. Awowede

Comfort Obot Nwankwo fnipr

Okoye Ben Okechukwu.

Dr. Bessie Fletcher

Frank N. Osogbue

Isikwe Chiedu Colins

Elizabeth Anaero-Nweke

Engr. Ogheneovo Anthony

Nze Longinus I. Duru

Mrs. Charity Alimi U.

Chief Godwin Umeugorji

Silvi Razzaque

Engr. Chinedu Oti

Dr. Gabriel C. OTUKWU

Omaliko Patrick N.



OPENING WORDS - *Early Beginnings*

I am Mrs. Viola Okoro, married to Mr. Sampson N. Okoro, and blessed with three delightful children, one of whom is a daughter. As the youngest offspring of my parents, the Late Honourable Paulinus Anochiam and Mrs. Florince Ugochi Anochiam Uwazurike, I was instilled with a sense of compassion from an early age. In our household, which comprised both employed individuals and domestic helpers, everyone was treated with parity. My parents exemplified equity by distributing responsibilities evenly, cultivating an environment free of bias. This upbringing taught me to provide assistance to those less fortunate rather than perpetuate prejudices against them. Unlike my elder siblings who were born during my parents' prime years of employment, I came into existence as the retirement child, the tenth in the birth order and the seventh in terms of gender. Growing up in a rural milieu, I learned the value of earnest endeavor and the satisfaction of earning my father's approval. My father's philanthropic disposition influenced my own, as he showcased the significance of sharing with others, underscoring that possessing more than necessary serves no purpose when others are in need. He set a precedent by returning to the teaching profession after his political tenure, embodying a modest and unassuming approach to life. My upbringing in the village brought me into closer proximity with those in need, as we shared communal spaces such as the stream, market, church, and even the same school where we combined academic pursuits with practical work on teachers' farms. Despite attempts to involve me in their labor, I politely declined, realizing that my upbringing as a teacher's child set me apart, a principle silently endorsed by my father. This early assertion of my voice was nurtured by my parents, who fostered my self-assurance, ensuring that societal expectations would not stifle my uniqueness. Carrying this adventurous spirit into adolescence, I harbored a desire to champion the marginalized, though uncertain of how to translate this aspiration into action given my limited exposure as a Village Star. Upon completing my tertiary education in Nigeria with an MBA in Marketing from Lagos State University, an opportunity to pursue further studies abroad materialized, thanks to the support of my husband and elder siblings. Pursuing my heart's calling, I embarked on an educational journey to the UK, enrolling in an MBA program in Leadership at

the University of East London (UEL). Despite initial challenges stemming from my lack of computer proficiency, I persevered, demonstrating my dedication to personal growth and community impact. Throughout my academic tenure at UEL, I remained steadfast in my pursuit of knowledge, immersing myself in diverse learning experiences and engaging in charitable endeavors at the NOON Centre. Upon graduation, I sensed a divine directive to return home and serve, albeit uncertain of the specific mission. Reflecting on my studies abroad, I realized that my intended beneficiaries were the oppressed, the underprivileged, widows, and most significantly, the girl child. Prompted by a friend's poignant inquiry about the Chibok Girls upon my return from the UK, I felt compelled to address the plight of young girls, leading me to decline lucrative job offers and establish the Leadership Foundation For African Girl and Women. Grateful for the opportunity to serve without constraints, I initiated programs that empowered girls and women, fostering financial independence and literacy among low-income individuals. My literary works have not only enriched parenting practices within families but have also contributed to the betterment of our society. The amalgamation of my UK academic background and professional experiences has honed my skills, enabling me to sustain the organization through a multifaceted approach. With over thirty thousand girls impacted by our initiatives, the Foundation's decade-long journey stands as a testament to collective success and unwavering dedication. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering the marginalized and fostering a brighter future for all.

Mrs Viola E. OKORO,
Founder, Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women.



ASSESSING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE GIRL CHILD IN NIGERIA

By: JOSFYN UBA

In recent years, the issues concerning the girl child in Nigeria have experienced significant progress, particularly in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nonetheless, there is still much work to be accomplished.

1. **Access to Education** - The issue of providing quality education for the girl child and young women has been a prominent concern for several years. Efforts have been made to enhance girls' enrollment in primary and secondary schools, especially in regions and states where female education is not prioritized. Stakeholders, international organizations, NGOs, and governmental agencies have diligently worked through various initiatives to address the gender disparity in education.
2. **Government Policies and Legislation** - The Nigerian government, at various levels including state, local, and federal authorities, has implemented policies and laws aimed at safeguarding the rights of girls and women. Laws such as the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act

and the Child Rights Act serve as a legislative framework for tackling issues like child marriage and gender-based violence, which disproportionately affect girls and hinder their access to education and empowerment.

3. **Awareness and Campaign Programs** - The media in Nigeria has significantly boosted the visibility of various campaign programs aimed at raising awareness about the significance of girls' education and empowerment. Many of these programs advocate for girls' rights and challenge harmful cultural practices that restrict young women from realizing their full potential.
4. **International Support** - Programs supported by international organizations such as WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank have focused on promoting gender equality and providing resources for girls' education and health in Nigeria.

Areas for Improvement Gender Disparities - Despite the progress made, disparities in access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for Nigerian girls and young women still persist. Many girls remain out of school, particularly in northern Nigeria, where factors like insecurity, poverty, and cultural practices hinder their education.

Child Marriage and Early Pregnancy - Nigeria is among the developing countries with a high prevalence of child marriage. Numerous girls are coerced into marriage at a young age, truncating their education and potential. This harmful practice exposes them to health risks and lifelong challenges, making them dependent on their families or husbands for sustenance.

Gender-Based Violence - Violence against girls and women, including domestic violence, sexual abuse, and trafficking, continues to be a pressing issue in Nigeria. The recent escalation of attacks by armed groups, particularly in the northern regions, has exacerbated these challenges.

Lack of Support Services - Many cases of gender-based violence and rights violations go unreported due to stigma, fear, and the absence of support services for victims.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthening Educational Programs** - It is crucial for stakeholders, governmental bodies, individuals, and NGOs to continuously promote and provide scholarships, mentorship programs, and incentives to encourage families to keep their female children in school. Efforts should be intensified to raise awareness about the value of girls' education, as educating a girl translates to educating a nation.
2. **Policy Enforcement** - The relevant authorities must ensure the effective enforcement of existing laws designed to protect girls and women. This includes delivering justice to victims of gender-based violence, holding perpetrators accountable, and providing support and protection to survivors.
3. **Awareness and Campaign Programs** - Enhance community engagement to address harmful cultural practices like child marriage. Utilize grassroots organizations to drive change and promote positive narratives about the role of girls in society.
4. **Access to Health and Support Services** - Improve access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services, for girls and young women. Provide counseling and support services for survivors of violence.
5. **Partnerships** - Foster continuous collaboration between government entities, NGOs, and international organizations to pool resources, conduct seminars, and share knowledge periodically to educate the public about the benefits of empowering and educating girls.

Our Story



This is a story of resilience, confidence, and trust, rooted in strong relationships. Our journey began with a dream that resonated with many: the girl child, women, friends, colleagues, family, church members, and local and international collaborators, including you, who are reading this brochure. I salute you all.

Our story is one of time and action, marked by excitement and the pressure of anticipated impact. The essence of the Foundation can be summarized as: Start where you are and learn as you grow; with God, all things are possible. Had we waited for everything to be perfect, the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women might never

have been established. A step taken ten years ago has transformed the lives of many girls and low-income women. We have provided scholarships to promote girls' education, built homes for homeless girls, registered candidates for WAEC, empowered low-income women with training and revolving funds to reduce poverty, all while prioritizing impact over high overhead costs. Our visible and verifiable impacts have led many to inquire about our funding sources.

I extend my gratitude to our dedicated team, especially Mrs. Stella Okeke for her unwavering support, and to our donors and sponsors for their trust in our leadership. I acknowledge the contributions of the African Family Support Foundation, CWAY Group, government and private primary and secondary schools in Lagos, Imo, Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Ogun, and Enugu States, the Lagos Ministry of Social Development, MOUUAU schools, media outlets, NAPTIP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, TREM Ejigbo, and local community leaders for their steadfast collaboration on this journey.

The Foundation's innovative approach breaks barriers, providing opportunities for girls to learn and empowering low-income women at no financial cost. This unique model relies on the sacrifices of our leadership, donors, sponsors, and volunteers, who offer unpaid services and donations. We have positively impacted thousands, with many beneficiaries spreading their skills to others in different locations. To date, we have empowered over six thousand girls across Ogun, Abia, Enugu, and Lagos States, fostering the belief that empowered girls grow into empowered women.

Our programs began in 2014 with the theme "Building Winning Attitudes for Girl Child Development," held at the Purple Event Centre in Okota, where we welcomed fifteen government and three private secondary schools. The Foundation aims to cultivate generations of girls prepared for leadership roles that foster growth. Every girl is essential to this mission, which is why we collaborate at various levels and offer our programs free of charge to encourage participation and achieve our goals. Empowering women is a key focus of our work.

For the past decade, the Foundation has led advocacy, education, and community development efforts, making a lasting impact to help girls and women maximize their potential in Africa and beyond.

Through our initiatives, we provide scholarships for underprivileged girls, sponsor examinations, and implement better accommodation and support systems to enhance their quality of life and security, prioritizing children's rights and welfare.

Our Journey So Far...

In 2014, the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women began its mission to uplift, educate, and empower African girls and women. Over the past decade, we have led advocacy, education, and community development efforts, making a lasting impact in rural and urban communities across Nigeria, with plans to expand to other African countries. Founded by Mrs. Viola E. Okoro after earning her MBA in Leadership from the University of East London, the Foundation started as a challenging endeavor due to its capital-intensive nature and the need for philanthropic support. Despite initial skepticism from her family and funding challenges, Viola drew on her academic and professional skills, as well as her network of friends, colleagues, and supporters, to sustain the Foundation.

As her commitment became evident, more people joined her cause, inspired by her resilience and optimism. Viola's fulfillment comes from witnessing the transformative impact of the Foundation on the lives of the less privileged. To keep the dream alive, she actively engaged volunteers during times of financial constraint.

Through our programs, we have reached thousands of girls, helping them unlock their potential, pursue education, and become community change makers. We believe that educating a girl empowers a nation. This commitment has earned Viola numerous awards and recognition, as well as the publication of her book, "Effective Approaches to Parenting a Super Girl," emphasizing the importance of raising focused and capable girls for national development.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we take pride in our achievements and look forward with renewed determination. The work is far from over, but together, we can continue to create a brighter future for African girls and women.

We invite you to explore our journey through this magazine, reflect on the stories of those we've impacted, and join us in celebrating these memorable achievements. The future is bright, and together, we will shape it.

Since 2014, the *Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women* has been committed to uplifting and empowering women and girls across Nigeria. Over the last ten years, we have organized numerous events and initiatives focused on education, leadership, and self-reliance in various communities.

We have prioritized creating platforms for girls and women to express themselves and advocate for their rights. Our initiatives, including workshops, seminars, and outreach programs, have addressed pressing issues, promoted leadership development, and enhanced community engagement, all aimed at raising awareness about the importance of education and girl child empowerment.



A Brief Recap Of Two Years Of Girl Child, Women Activism

Coping Mechanism During the Pandemic Years (2020-2022)

The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges that tested our Foundation's resilience and adaptability. Prior to the pandemic, we conducted some of our work virtually, facilitating a smooth transition to online platforms. We introduced online learning opportunities and resources to mitigate the pandemic's impact and promote education for girls.

We also distributed relief materials, including food, to enhance the lives of our target audience. Additionally, we launched virtual counseling sessions to support their mental health during lockdowns.



Rural Events

Our rural interventions have successfully reached underserved communities, ensuring that we leave no girl or woman we encounter behind. Community-based self-awareness education programs have increased access to basic education and literacy classes.



Local community health outreach initiatives provided essential health services and education on family nutrition to rural families. Our scholarships for underprivileged girls further enhance their educational access, enabling them to focus on their academic goals despite financial challenges.

Not Leaving Any Girl Child Behind

We have established a tradition of celebrating significant events that align with our vision and mission. Each year, we observe the International Day of the Girl Child and International Women's Day by organizing events that promote girls' and women's rights and opportunities for self-expression. These events include workshops, panel discussions, and community engagement, encouraging all participants to take ownership and engage actively.



The program activities aim to empower girls by raising awareness of their issues and equipping them with self-confidence-building skills to help them reach their full potential.

We actively involve every girl, removing barriers to ensure that disadvantaged girls in the orphanage can express themselves during and after our humanitarian service, care, and support.

By: Emmanuel N. Nmaju - Staff



Empowered to Empower:

My Journey with The Leadership Foundation For African Girl Child and Women -

As we commemorate the anniversary of The Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women Foundation, I contemplate the profound impact this organization has had on my life.

Volunteering with LFAGCW has been a transformative experience that has not only shaped my leadership acumen but also ignited a fervor within me to advocate for the rights and empowerment of African girls and women. A Life-Altering Encounter I still vividly recall the day I stumbled upon LFAGCW. Their mission to educate, empower, and support African girls and women resonated deeply with me. Growing up, I witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by women in my community, and I knew I wanted to be part of the solution. LFAGCW provided a platform for me to make a difference.

Forging, honing my leadership skills

I've had the opportunity to develop invaluable leadership skills. As a volunteer, I've been entrusted with responsibilities that have pushed me out of my comfort zone. From organizing community events to mentoring young girls, I've learned to communicate effectively with diverse groups; build and lead teams; I learnt problem solving creatively; I learnt the value of empathizing with others. These skills have not only benefitted me personally but also equipped me to make a more significant impact in my community.

Personal Growth and Empowerment

LFAGCW has also had a profound impact on my personal growth. Working alongside strong, resilient women and girls has inspired me to challenge societal norms and stereotypes; advocate for gender equality; develop confidence in my abilities; pursue my passions with purpose. The foundation's emphasis on education, economic empowerment, and health has broadened my understanding of the complex issues affecting African girls and women. I have gained a deeper appreciation for the resilience and strength of women in the face of adversity.

I must acknowledge the exemplary leadership of MRS Viola Okoro, whose vision, passion, and dedication have been instrumental in my growth. Her unwavering commitment to empowering African girls and women has inspired me to strive for excellence. Under her guidance, I've learned the importance of strategic thinking; Effective communication; Collaborative leadership; Empathetic mentorship and so on.

Lady V, as she is fondly called, has been more than just a leader; she's been a mentor, a role model, and a source of inspiration. Her influence has helped shape me into a confident, purpose-driven individual.

As we celebrate LFAGCW's anniversary, I urge others to join us in this critical work. The foundation's impact extends far beyond the individuals we serve; it contributes to a more equitable society where everyone can thrive. To my fellow volunteers, donors, and supporters, I express my gratitude for your tireless efforts. To Mrs Viola, I thank you for creating a platform that has transformed lives, including mine.



Favour Ohaneme, Girl Child Ambassador

LFAGCW Is A Gift To Girl Child, Women Empowerment

By Mariam Idris-lawal - *Girl Child Ambassador*



Being a female child is indeed a precious gift bestowed upon us, a blessing that should be cherished and celebrated. It goes beyond just a matter of gender; it encompasses a profound sense of identity and empowerment. I vividly recall the time when I stumbled upon an enlightening assignment titled "The Significance of a Girl Child's Voice in Pursuing her Life Aspirations" under the theme "HER VOICE IS HER STRENGTH" while browsing through my mother's messages on the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women WhatsApp group. This theme struck a chord within me, igniting a passion for advocating the empowerment of young girls and highlighting the importance of embracing one's girlhood.

The platform not only provided a space for women and girls to come together but also served as a beacon of inspiration and support. I eagerly expressed my interest in participating and was warmly welcomed into the esteemed Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women. This newfound membership opened up a world of opportunities for me to contribute meaningfully to the cause that resonated so deeply with my beliefs and values. Through engaging discussions, shared experiences, and collective efforts, I found a sense of belonging and purpose within this community dedicated to uplifting and empowering girls across the African continent.

As I delved deeper into the various initiatives and projects undertaken by the foundation, I was struck by the resilience, determination, and unwavering spirit displayed by these young girls in pursuit of their dreams. Their voices, once stifled by societal norms and expectations, were now amplified and celebrated, serving as a powerful force driving positive change and transformation. Witnessing firsthand the impact of mentorship, education, and advocacy on these girls' lives reinforced my commitment to standing up for their rights and amplifying their voices in every possible way.

In essence, the journey of embracing and advocating for the girl child's empowerment is not just a personal mission but a collective responsibility that requires unwavering dedication and passion. It is about fostering a supportive environment where girls can thrive, express themselves freely, and pursue their aspirations with confidence and courage. The Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women stands as a testament to the power of unity, solidarity, and empowerment in shaping a brighter future for girls everywhere. I am honored to be a part of this transformative journey and look forward to making a meaningful impact alongside fellow advocates and change makers dedicated to championing the rights and voices of the girl child.

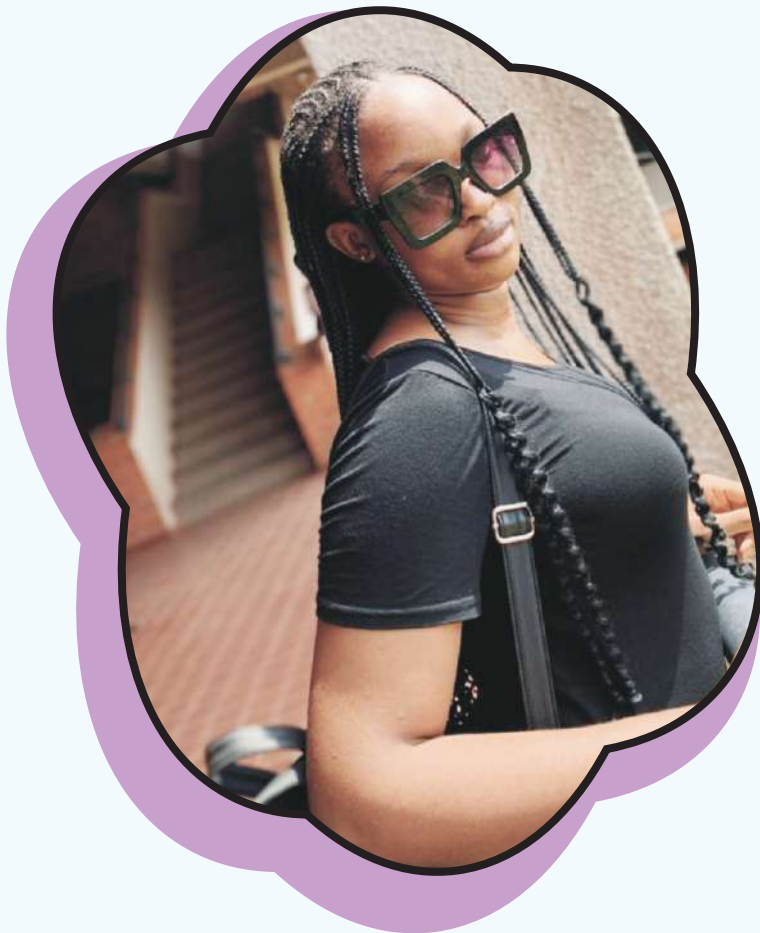
LFAGCW is a foundation that supports the African Girl child and women, it also cares and lookout for the welfare of its members and ambassadors. The organization encourages and appreciate the effort of every girl and woman. Mrs Viola Okoro is a very sweet, supportive, loving, encouraging and an intelligent woman. I love her so much and she is a very good leader and preaches this to everyone. She calls me randomly to check up on me and always encourage me. However, after gaining direct access to the platform, I started working on the assignments and instructions which came with every assignment. I had to gather girls to explain the topic to them in order to execute the tasks together. It was hard gathering these girls but Mrs Viola followed me up every step of the way. She gave me short lectures on Leadership and encouraged me to face the challenges and not give up. I faced the challenges and I was able to gather the Muslim girls of the mosque I go to every Sunday. I went with the theme of the topic and I explained the topic to the girls, followed the rules and made videos of the tasks and sent it to Mrs Viola Okoro. The assignment stretched me so much and I am so glad to have dedicated myself to the process.

I became an ambassador in 2024 which I am so grateful to God for Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women. I've learnt to believe in myself, my gut, facing my anxiety and chasing my dreams. I am a better person, all thanks to Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women.



My involvement with LFAGCW

- Hanson Gabriella, serving ambassador



My Experience

My initial engagement with the foundation took place on the 11th of October 2020, during a rally where we advocated against rape and the killing of the girl child. It was a profound experience for me, as it marked my debut in such activities. Despite facing criticism from some individuals along the way, suggesting that girls should modify their attire to prevent assault, we also received positive reinforcement from others who defended our cause. Another significant event occurred on February 14th, 2021, when we visited the Ighalo Orphanage Home to celebrate Valentine's Day with the children. Additionally, we engaged in various activities such as school visits, our 10th-anniversary celebration, and participation in events.

The Impact

Throughout my upbringing, I tended to avoid social interactions, disliked marketing, and felt uneasy in public settings. However, the Leadership Foundation has played a pivotal role in my personal growth. I have learned to confidently advocate for our foundation,

irrespective of the outcome. Under the guidance of Mrs. Viola, I honed my ability to address crowds without succumbing to social anxiety. I acquired skills in creating personalized stamps and grasped the essence of altruism. Encouraging young girls in my community became second nature, and I developed leadership proficiency through Mrs. Viola's mentorship. Above all, I realized that with dedication, any goal is attainable, and I remain committed to continuous learning and growth. Being associated with an organization dedicated to empowering African girls has been a transformative experience. Over eight years of volunteering with the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women, I have evolved significantly. Initially serving in general capacities, I transitioned to becoming a media volunteer, telling compelling stories for the organization. Despite grappling with self-doubt, LFAGCW instilled in me the importance of consistency and problem-solving, essential traits in the competitive realm of visual storytelling. Today, as an ambassador for the foundation, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities and support that have propelled me towards my aspirations.

In conclusion, the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women stands as a beacon of change in our society. I am a testament to its transformative impact, and I am confident that many others, present and future, will benefit from its noble endeavors.

MENTORSHIP AWARD

Mentorship Award - Honouring your valuable contribution towards the Foundation's growth.



Rev. Segun B. Akingbuwa



Mrs Ehimwenma Enoma Adenuga



Okoye Ben Okechukwu

MOTIVATOR AWARD

Honouring your inspiring support towards the birth of the Foundation.

DIASPORA AWARD

Diaspora Humanitarian Award - Honouring your sponsorship and financial contribution to the Foundation programmes from outside Nigeria.



Mrs. Stella N. Okeke



Lady Nikky Emelike



Dr. Bessie Fletcher



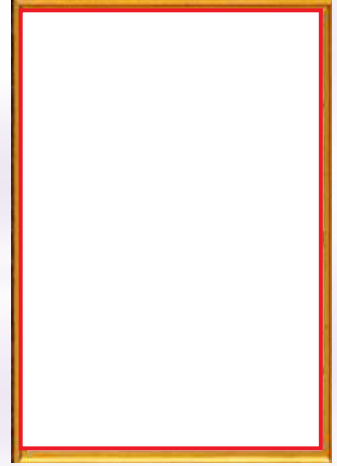
Chief Mekus Paulinus Anochiam



Mrs. Caroline Ikeh



Mrs. Angela Ejinih



Professor Amaka

GIRL CHILD AWARD

Girl Child Education Award – Honouring your contribution towards girl child education advancement.



Mr. Amos Akinpelu

**IDEAL AFRICAN WOMAN AWARD
(ELITE CATEGORY)**

– Recognising your exemplary leadership to African women.



Mrs. Catherine Uju Ifejika (OFR)
Mother of the Day

**IDEAL AFRICAN MAN AWARD
(ELITE CATEGORY)**

Recognising your exemplary leadership to African men.



Mr. Chinedu Nwankwo

APPRECIATION AWARD

Honouring your commitment and sacrifice to promote the Foundation's growth



Mazi Emmanuel Mbaraonye Okorafor
Chairman 10th Anniversary



Chief Godwin Omeugoji
Father of the Day



Comfort Obot Nwankwo fnipr
Guest Speaker

LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP AWARD

Long Standing Relationship Award – Honouring your long-time support of the Foundation's growth.



Mrs Chinyere Obiako



Mazi Moses I. Okoro



Mrs Chinyere Nwosu



Josfyn Uba

COMMUNITY AWARD

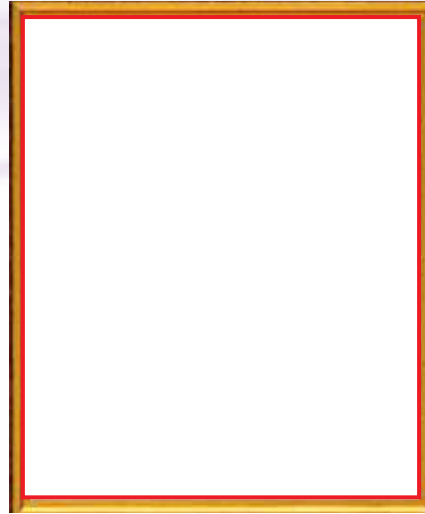
Honouring your selfless services at the local community level.



Mrs Bunmi Akani

MEDIA AWARD

Honouring your media collaborations/partnerships.



Anthonia Amosu

WOMEN ADVANCEMENT AWARD

Honouring your contribution to the course of women.



Pst. Princess Ngozi Olugbemiga



Engr. Tony Ogheneovo



Engr. Patrick Omaliko



Rtrn Cajetan Awuja

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AWARD

Honouring your programme collaborations with the Foundation



CWAY GROUP



AFSF

IMPACTFUL SKILL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Honouring your free skills training in our programmes.



Pst. Ngozy Doris Onyemah



Mrs. Comfort Okeke

PIONEER VOLUNTEER AWARD

Honouring your long-standing selfless service to the Foundation



-Mrs. Alimi Charity



Favour Ohaneme



Isikwe Chiedu Collins







Health Advisory: Managing your mental well-being during challenging times

There is no more opportune moment than the present to discuss the management of our mental health. We find ourselves at a pivotal juncture in the history of our nation and the world at large. The cost of goods and services has soared, yet incomes often fail to keep pace. Consequently, purchasing power has significantly diminished. As a result, maintaining a balanced lifestyle and ensuring proper nourishment have become formidable tasks, exerting pressure that can detrimentally impact mental health.

But what exactly does mental health entail? Mental health encompasses an individual's psychological, emotional, and social well-being. It influences cognitive processes, emotional responses, behavioral patterns, and coping mechanisms for stress. It encompasses interpersonal relationships and decision-making abilities. It is imperative to recognize that mental health is crucial at every stage of life, from childhood through adulthood. Mental health encompasses various conditions such as depression, anxiety, stress, suicidal thoughts, and severe disorders. Sustaining good mental health leads to a harmonious and gratifying existence. It is vital to address factors that have the potential to influence one's mental well-being.

Numerous factors can precipitate mental health challenges, often in combination, though individuals may vary in their susceptibility. Genetic predispositions, societal pressures, occupational demands, dietary habits, sleep patterns, substance abuse, medical conditions, childhood trauma, neglect, abuse, and isolation are among the contributing factors. Recognizing the signs of mental health issues is crucial. These may include fatigue, cognitive befuddlement, diminished focus, loss of interest, tardiness, insomnia or hypersomnia. Symptoms may vary depending on the specific challenges faced, but there are strategies to mitigate them.

How can one effectively address mental health challenges?

- Cultivate meaningful relationships
- Educate yourself on health-related matters
- Resist peer pressure and avoid detrimental environments
- Acquire skills to decline harmful influences
- Concentrate on positive aspects
- Establish personal boundaries
- Exercise discipline

Obioma Agoziem

*Founder and Executive Director of Centre for Corrections and Human Development.
A non profit organization that redirects the youths and empowers women.*

PERSPECTIVE/IMPACT

- Mrs. Alimi Charity

The issues facing the Nigerian girl child remain substantial and complex, and in many ways, they have been increased by the current economic hardships. Poverty, limited educational access, early marriage, and a lack of adequate healthcare are still prevalent challenges, especially in rural areas.

While some progress has been made, it is difficult to say these issues are decreasing, especially with the current economic situation, which makes it even harder for families to prioritise education and well-being for their daughters.

The Nigerian government has made some strides towards closing the gender gap, but much more work remains to achieve a significant, lasting impact. If I were to rate the government's efforts, I would place them at around a six out of ten, acknowledging the progress that has been made but recognising that without stronger enforcement and broader implementation, these policies are unlikely to reach the majority of girls and women who need them most.

To make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievable in Nigeria by 2030, a concerted effort must involve the government, the private sector, civil society, and local communities. Education should be prioritised, legal frameworks that protect girls from child marriage and exploitation need to be strengthened and enforced across all regions, and partnerships with non-governmental

organisations (NGOs) can provide the resources and expertise necessary to support sustainable change.

The Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women (LFAGCW) has been a beacon of change in promoting gender equality and reducing the gap girls and women across Nigeria face.

Through their efforts, the foundation has provided thousands of girls with educational support, and mentoring opportunities, encouraging them to pursue their dreams despite societal challenges.



My ten years of volunteering with LFAGCW have been deeply rewarding, and the skills I have gained through this experience have empowered me to make an impact at my community level.

Working with LFAGCW taught me the importance of communication and leadership, which have been invaluable as I organise local workshops, mentor young women, and mobilise resources to support women's empowerment in my community.

Volunteering has also shown me the strength of community-driven change; by empowering other women, I have witnessed how one voice can inspire others to take action.

Together, these skills have allowed me to lead and empower others, fostering a ripple effect that I hope will continue to drive change for years to come.

'I believe in Karma, it's real

- Mrs **Ehimwenma Enoma Adenuga** Director,
Binta International Schools

*Interview with Mrs Ehimwenma Enoma Adenuga,
the Director, Binta International Schools*

Can you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

My name is **Mrs Ehimwenma Enoma Adenuga**. I am a pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God. I was Born in April 19, 1950. I'm a lover of children who always wanted to have thousands of children as a growing child.



How has being born into your family helped you in your life journey?

Both parents were hardworking and always taught us that the only way up was through hard work. My father became a farmer after pensioning as a police officer. Mother was doing some trading despite being a nurse. So, they modeled hard work to us.

What did your parents do that present-day parents are not doing?

My parents were more present for us the children. Present-day parents don't create time to be with their children. They don't listen to them neither do they show enough care to these young ones. My father arranged his home and had strong leadership skills in the home.

What's your experience in life?

I believe so much in karma. What ever you do bounces back at you. Sow good seeds anywhere you find yourself in life; if you don't reap it, your children will reap it.

Did marrying your husband affect your mind set about gender equality?

No

How can we achieve gender equality in Nigeria?

If we continue to excel as females, gender inequality will die naturally. We don't need to fight about it.

Can you tell us why domestic violence is on the rise?

Young girls get carried away with emotions so they fail to have the right discussions with their man before marriage. They should put emotions aside and see the red flags before entering marriage. Also, women should have something doing to make money for themselves.

What is success to you?

Helping as much people as possible.

What do you call fulfillment?

I feel fulfilled when I see the children I raised become successful in life indifferent spheres of life.

Last words?

The girl child should define what she wants from here arly life. She should have the dream of being great and should strive/focus on achieving it. Women should be more patient with their husbands.

I Acquired Invaluable Insights From LFAGCW -- *Flourish Okoro*



It is one thing to be aware of an organization that is deliberate in maximizing the potential of an African female child, and another to embody that very "GIRL CHILD". Indeed, I am that female child, and I am immensely grateful to be a recipient of this remarkable humanitarian endeavor in society. I have dedicated over 8 years as a volunteer for the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women, and my journey continues. The organization has propelled me to excel in any community I am part of.

Initially, I served as a volunteer in a general capacity, ensuring the smooth execution of tasks for the organizers and enhancing the experience for the women. I acquired valuable leadership skills and a deeper understanding of serving my community effectively. It has become almost instinctual for me to seek solutions when faced with challenges, thanks to the guidance of LFAGCW in instilling a problem-solving mindset.

Furthermore, I transitioned into a media volunteer role, where I had the opportunity to learn on the job and craft compelling narratives for the organization. This experience has allowed me to shine in my community, leading to individuals seeking my services—a testament to LFAGCW for providing me with the platform to explore my potential. Despite initial self-doubt and anxiety regarding my capabilities, the organization consistently affirmed and supported me throughout my journey. While I may not have reached my ultimate destination yet, each day brings me closer to my aspirations with the unwavering support system I have.

In today's society, establishing oneself as a visual storyteller is highly competitive, given the abundance of skilled individuals and extensive networks. LFAGCW emphasized the importance of "CONSISTENCY" and being a "SOLUTION PROVIDER" to remain relevant in one's community—a lesson that continues to guide me through the dynamic landscape of the media industry.

Fast forward to 2024, I have become an ambassador for this organization that has played an integral role in shaping my path. It is a divine blessing that I hold in high regard, as I am humbled by the journey that led me here, guided by the impactful work of Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women in reaching marginalized communities. The founder, Mrs. Viola Okoro, embodies a sense of renewal and inspiration. My admiration for her transcends mere words, as her unwavering love and support have been instrumental in my growth. Volunteering for LFAGCW has been a transformative experience that I cherish and will continue to do so.

Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women stands as a beacon of change, already making significant strides. I stand as living proof of their impact, alongside many others who have been and will be touched by their mission.

Life of mothers more demanding than fathers- Mr. Chinedu Nwankwo



Can you provide us with some background information about yourself?

My name is Chinedu Nwankwo, hailing from Nanka in Anambra state. I am a businessman and a proud father of three children.

How have you addressed the issue of gender inequality within your household?

Having been brought up in a family that valued equality between male and female offspring, I have carried forth the same principle in my own home.

In your opinion, which parental role presents more challenges - that of a mother or a father?

The complexity of each role varies depending on the family dynamics, but personally, I find the responsibilities of a mother to be more demanding.

What are some of the unique difficulties associated with raising a daughter?

I strive to bridge any perceived disparities for my daughter's upbringing.

Do you anticipate a reduction in gender disparity in Nigeria in the near future?

I believe that the potential consequences of a rapid closure of the gender gap could be detrimental.

How do you define the concept of submission?

Submission, to me, equates to demonstrating respect.

What message would you like to convey to women and young girls?

Resp. Embrace your intrinsic worth as uniquely crafted by the divine. There exists no disparity between the capabilities of males and females.

LFAGCW: My Expedition in Volunteering - Roseline Okereke



Since my formative years, I have harbored a profound aspiration to enact positive transformations in the lives of individuals, particularly females. As I matured, this aspiration burgeoned, and I yearned to discover a pathway to actualize it. This yearning led me to acquaint myself with the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women. Engaging in voluntary service with this foundation has profoundly impacted my life, facilitating significant enhancements in various facets, particularly in the realm of leadership. This expedition has illuminated the profound realization that the gratification derived from effecting change in people's lives transcends mere pecuniary rewards. I have imbibed the ethos of contributing my share towards ameliorating the circumstances of girls and women, one individual at a time.

Throughout the span of my volunteerism, I have discerned that the triumph of every initiative transcends the commendable intentions of the organization. It necessitates meticulous deliberation, strategic delineation, impeccable execution, and judicious resource allocation. The amalgamation of these elements has profoundly honed my leadership acumen, rendering me more efficacious and productive in my professional endeavors. While collaborating with this foundation, I have borne witness to the potency of purpose and have

internalized the realization of my privileged position. Consequently, I am compelled to channel this privilege towards enhancing the lives of girls and women in my vicinity. I am in a phase of continuous learning, growth, and enlightenment regarding the essence of fulfillment. Together, through collective efforts, we can endeavor to cultivate a more auspicious world for all denizens.

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Chief Godwin Umeugorji the C.E.O of the company
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The family of
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Congratulates their Son & Daughter
on the **DIASPORA AWARDS** conferred on them
and also rejoice with



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ICON



Mrs. Catherine Uju Ifejika (OFR)
Chairman / CEO
Britannia-U Group

When corporate discussions of women who have broken the glass ceiling in the rear fields of the global Oil and Gas Industry, Mrs Uju Ifejika comes to mind. A lawyer and legal expert in the Nigerian and global oil subsector, this exceptional and ethical leader broke the glass ceiling by becoming. So far, the first and only woman to own and operate as the Chairman and C.E.O. of a global cutting-edge upstream E & P company in Nigeria. A graduate of Ahmadu Bello University - Zaria. Catherine obtained a Diploma in Law in 1982 and an LLB (Hons.) in 1985 and was promptly called to the Nigerian Bar in 1986. She is a member of the Nigeria Bar Association and the International Bar Association, a fellow of the institute of Arbitration and Conciliation, as well as a member of the Institute of Chattered Secretaries and Administrators.

Her career in the Petroleum Industry started when she was admitted into Texaco Nigeria Plc Marketing Department to serve her National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) from 1986-1987. Thereafter, she was retained at Texaco's Legal Department as Junior Counsel. She rose to become Senior Counsel in 1989 and Acting General Counsel from 1991 to 1993. Thereafter, she was promoted to the position of Company Secretary/ Public & Government Affairs Manager in 1997 (the first and only person to hold three key positions in one in the company and industry). In 2001, when Chevron Inc. and Texaco Inc. merged to become one entity, her portfolio for Government and Public Affairs responsibilities were extended

to cover West Sub-Region i.e. Nigeria, Cameroun, Togo, Benin Republic, Cote D'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On 30th September, 2007, she elected to take voluntary early retirement after a career spanning over 21 years. Thereafter, in October of the same year, she joined Britannia-U Nigeria Limited as Chairman/CEO and has since steered the indigenous oil and gas company to its current market leading position. Formerly on the Board of Directors of the Federal Ministry of Arts and Culture (2001-2003). Catherine's leadership of Britannia-U has brought a number significant 'firsts'. She is the first female owner and operator of an indigenous Oil & Gas Exploration & Production Company. Britannia-U is the first indigenous company to construct Britannia-U1 Floating Production Storage Unit, (FPSO) in Houma Louisiana USA in 2009, which is 100 percent owned and operated by the company (The Construction took 71/2 months). The company built its own wellhead platform and produced its first oil (from drilling to fabrication of the FPSO & Oil Production in 17 months) a feat yet to be equaled by any other company of its kind in Nigeria. She has set up six subsidiary companies in twelve (15) years. In addition, she has received numerous awards for good governance and management in Nigeria, Ghana, Turkey, USA, UAE and Europe, to mention but a few.

Mrs. Ifejika has been recognized for her various achievements in the energy sector and in different organizations. In recognition of her starling leadership/managerial achievements, she has been recognized and has won many local and international accolades, some of which are:

1. The Nigerian Trailblazers Award - 2011
2. Montage African Woman of Excellence Award - 2013
3. Annual This Day Award - 2012
4. 2012 African Female Energy Leaders of the Year Award in the United Kingdom by The Center for Economic & Leadership Development.
5. US Commercial Services Int'l Partner Award - USA Consulate, Nigeria - 2012
6. WORLDCOB'S Award in Dubai - The BIZZ/2013
7. The European Award for Best Practices Vienna - Dec, 2013
8. 2013 Global Women Leaders Hall of Fame - by Centre for Economic & Leadership Development - Dec, 2013
9. National Award of Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) by President G. E. Jonathan - 2014
10. 2014 Global Partners Award by the 130th General Assembly Ohio, USA - October 2nd, 2014
11. Global Business Leader Ambassador (Nigeria - USA Chamber of Commerce) - Aug, 2015.
12. Patron's Award by Committee of Friends for Humanity - November 2017.
13. A renowned Industrial Award by Department of Petroleum Resources - 2021.

She is married to Mr. Emmanuel Ifejika - Managing Director of DEMAC-E Nigeria Limited and they have six children (three biological and three adopted).

Appreciation Letters

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OKIGWE
MERCY GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, OKIGWE
Building the Best Future for the Girl Child
 Address: P.O. Box 94, Okpara Road, Okigwe, Imo State, Nigeria. | 08050488968, 08128010367, 08178944434 | mercygirlsghschoolokigwe@gmail.com

14-1-2023

Executive Director,
 Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women,
 Lagos Nigeria.

Madam,

Appreciation and Acknowledgement.
 This is to acknowledge the reception of about 250 books named "Effective Approaches to parenting a super Girl" authored by one of our illustrious old girls Dr. Mrs. Viola E. Okoro for each of our students.

This is noble in the history of our school and a great motivation and inspiring event to the staff, P.T.A and students of Mercy Girls High School Okigwe.

We sincerely thank you on behalf of our Proprietor Most Rev. Solomon A. Amatu the Catholic Bishop of Okigwe Diocese. Indeed we are grateful.

I assure you the students will read the book, digest the content and put it into practice to become a super shining diamond in the nearest future. Please accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

Sincerely
 Rev. Fr Ikedi Obikaonu (Principal)

Local Ordinary / Proprietor: Most Rev. Dr. S.A. Amatu (Catholic Bishop of Okigwe Diocese)

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OUR REF: DATE: 9/11/2023

YOUR REF:

The Executive Director,
 Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women,
 Lagos, Nigeria.

Madam,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I write to appreciate your effort in making this year Girl Child celebration a success in our School.

First of all, I thank you for spending your time with my students, delivering a lecture to on the important of knowing the risk ahead of a girl child if not prepared and how to prepared for the future in this Era of internet and information age.

In addition, I and my staff appreciate the gift you presented to the student and the school at large not forgetting the Celebration Cake which all the student partake.

As you will be going back to your base we pray God to grant you journey mercies and bless and replenish your purse.

We hope to see you again in the future celebration.

Thanks,
 Rev. Sr Helen Ezeigbo (Principal)

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OKIGWE FOUNDED 1967
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02/10/2023

Executive Director,
 Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women,
 Lagos Nigeria

Madam,

APPRECIATION

It was Morgan Freeman who said, "How do we change the world? One random act of Kindness at a time!"

I feel elated writing this letter to appreciate you and your team for the kind gesture of paying the WAEC Fee of one of my Students: ANAYO AKUDO PRECIOUS, in the just concluded 2022/2023 Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE).

Anayo Akudo Precious is a poor but inspired and hard working girl who hopes and is working so hard to achieve her dreams in spite of the odds of poverty.

I was so glad when she intimated me that the payment of her WAEC Fee was by your aid. I want to inform you that you have positively changed the world of this little girl and most probably and in extension her family, by this act of kindness. You needed to see the joy radiating on her mother's face when she came to collect her daughter's result seeing that she made her papers in flying colors, even in the rare condition of "NO EXAM MALPRACTICE" of our School.

It was Maya Angelou who once said that "...people will forget what you said, people may forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel". Let me remind you ma, that blessed is the hand that gives than the one that takes. Remain blessed. Our prayers and high regards, at MGHSD, are with you all who helped you do this.

Enclosed is a copy of her result sheet.

Rev. Fr. Remigius Ogu
 Principal, MGHSD.

mercygirlsghschoolokigwe@gmail.com
 Website: www.mghso.com.ng

Motto: Integrity & Knowledge

P.O.X Alvan Ikoku
 College of Education
 Owerri,
 Imo State.
 6th November, 2023

Dear Mrs Stella Okeke

Ma, in respect for sponsoring my academics through Leadership Foundation for African Girl and Women from 2019/2020 – 2023/2024 Academic Session in Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri Imo state in affiliation to University of Nigeria Nsukka.

I am so grateful because I know without your scholarship, paying my fees would have been a difficult task to me. This assistance is for me a warm and bright ray of light representing good and caring people who are attentive to the plight of others.

I wish to thank you for the support and help you provided through leadership foundation for African Girl Child and Woman and your readiness to help with prompt response to my requests.

I am currently done with my studies (Education Economics) and I am in the process of doing my clearance. Thank you for opening a door of opportunity which was a huge step for me, and giving me strength to persist and succeed.

Once again, Thank you ma, for all that you have done for me.

Yours' Sincerely
 Ibezim Sonia Chinyere

St John Anglican church,
 Agbadala achi,
 Oji river LGA,
 Enugu state.
 23rd December, 2023.

Leadership foundation for African Girls Child and Women.

Dear MRS Stella Okeke

LETTETR OF APPRECIATION

Heart full of gratitude, I can't expressed my deepest joy happiness for your kind hearted towards my life, Ma truly your heavenly saint to peaked a poor soul like me, sponsored me all through my studies in federal polytechnic oko, Anambra state.

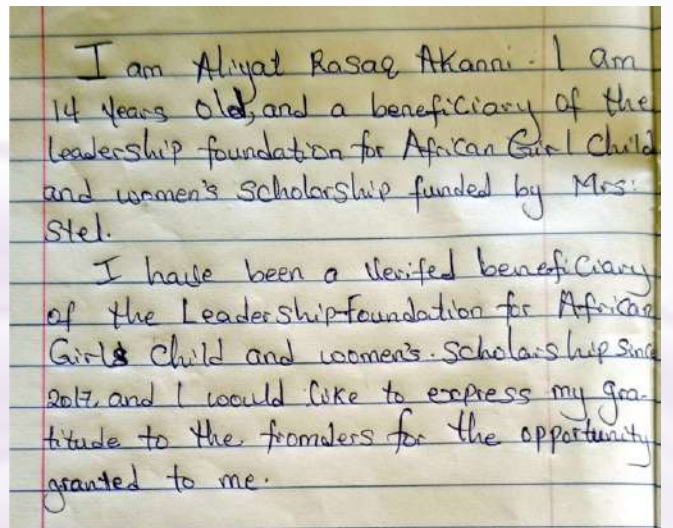
I Sincerely appreciate the Leadership foundation for African Girls Child and Women with a heart full of joy, may Almighty God Continue to Bless you, shower his Love in all that you do.

Thanks, merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Advance.

I LOVE YOU

Yours sincerely

 Udebuzor onyinechukwu



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The family of
LATE MAZI OKORO NWAORJI,
of Nde Chima Compound, Ugbo Village,
Arochuku L.G.A, Abia State.

Felicitates with



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FOR AFRICAN GIRL CHILD AND WOMEN**

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**University of
East London**

Viola Okoro

**Congratulations on 10 remarkable years of the Leadership
Foundation for African Girl Child and Women.**

**We are so proud to have been part of the foundations journey
and see the incredible impact it has made. The foundations
achievements continue to inspire and uplift communities and
make a real difference to the lives of many, reflecting the core
values of the University of East London.**

Please accept our heartfelt congratulations on this milestone.

-UEL Alumni Team



**MRS ANGELA
EJINIH**

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BACKGROUND LEADERSHIP

Viola E. OKORO: A Development Expert, Author, Parenting Coach, Entrepreneur, and the Founder of Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women.

She holds an HND in Food Science and Technology from Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna in Nigeria, a Master's Degree (MBA) in Marketing from Lagos State University (LASU) in Nigeria and Master's Degree (MBA) in Leadership from University of East London (UEL) in the United Kingdom (UK).

Her local and international work experience is an advantage in achieving collaborative goals in cross-cultural settings. She had over eight (8) years of work experience in SANBATH Nigeria Limited as Public Relations Officer and later Public Relations Manager [Lagos Region]. She had over four (4) years of media work experience in Insider Weekly Magazine in Nigeria.

During her secondary school days, as a teenager in Girls' Secondary School Okigwe now called Mercy High School Okigwe, she led over five hundred girls as their Hostel Prefect.

The teenage leadership experience gave her an early insight into how challenging leadership can be and the plight of the girl child.

Sampson U. OKORO: He is a skilled entrepreneur who nurtured different businesses from the foundation to the production stage. He holds HND in Purchasing and Supply from Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Imo State, Nigeria. He is a Nigerian whose knowledge and experience in business nurturing have helped in the Foundation's organizational growth and the smooth running of projects.

Stella OKEKE: She is a Housing Consultant and holds a master's degree (MA) in Housing Studies from South Bank University, London. She has over twenty (20) years of combined theoretical and practical experience in housing, and at present, manages a property portfolio.

She worked with several UK local authorities in housing management, front line service, housing needs, homeownership, and leasehold services. Skills such as training, PowerPoint presentation, interviewing, assessing problems, report writing, advocacy, lobbying, or negotiating on a client's behalf. She also worked as a volunteer to Housing4women housing association, mentoring vulnerable women who were trafficked and suffered domestic violence.

She hopes to bring her transferable volunteering experience from her previous roles as a non-executive director of Deptford City Challenge (UK Government quango), a management committee member of DSLP and school governor. Alongside this, she is currently working for an organization involved with helping vulnerable young people.

In Nigeria, she has a track record in supporting the vulnerable through scholarships and financial empowerment. She is a Nigerian with a wealth of

experience that supports the Foundation's growth.

Declan OKPALAEKE: He is a multiple award-winning journalist, writer, teacher, media trainer, and communications consultant. In 1999, he became the first Nigerian to win the much-coveted CNN African Journalist of the Year Award. He later became the first journalist on the continent to win in three different categories of the award for his coverage of health, environment, and sports stories. He is a prolific journalist who covers several issues and writes across beats.

Okpalaek began his journalism career at The Guardian in 1995 after previously working in advertising and theatre production. He joined Tell magazine in 2000 for a short spell before teaming up with others to found Insider Weekly news magazine in 2001. He left the magazine in 2008 as Deputy Chief Executive after serving previously as executive editor and deputy editor-in-chief, respectively. He was subsequently co-Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of News Digest International.

He has trained thousands of young and mid-career journalists and mentored several. He is a 2004 Nieman Fellow of Harvard University and a Knight International Journalism Fellow of the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), a media development organisation in Washington DC.

Okpalaek holds a first degree in microbiology and a Master's degree in mass communication. He is a member of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Nigeria Guild of Editors (NGE), and the United States-based Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE). He is also the President of the African Health Journalists Association.

Okpalaek has served in many organisations at decision-making levels and has led many professional teams. He is a Fellow/Part-Time Teacher at the Department of Mass Communication, University of Lagos, and is Principal Consultant/CEO at InterPares Media Limited.

He is married and has children.

Ikechukwu AWA: is a legal practitioner, clergy, and Deputy Director (legal services) in the government of Abia State, Nigeria.

He holds a Bachelor degree in Law (LL.B) from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, a Master's degree in Law (LL.M) from Abia State University Uturu and a Doctor in Philosophy Degree (Ph.D) in law from Abia State University Uturu. He was called into Nigerian Bar in December 1990. He has been involved in numerous pro bono services as legal aid to poor and indigent persons.

He is also a Part time Pastor with The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM). He is an Area Pastor with the commission and presently the Resident Pastor of TREM Market Road branch, Aba, Abia State. He is a teacher, counsellor and he is committed to raising leaders of influence. God has used him greatly to positively impact many lives.

He is actively involved in community and humanitarian activities. He is also a member of Board of Trustees of Onyekachi Ukaegbu Agu Foundation and Igbere Ministers Global Forum.

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On behalf of all the Pupils/Students, Staff, (Teaching and Non. Teaching) Parents and Management Team of Binta International School (Ajao, Ejigbo and Papa Ajao Campuses), we congratulate our **Amiable Proprietress (Mummy), Pastor Mrs. Ehimwenma Enoma Adenuga** on the occasion of **MENTORSHIP AWARD** bestowed on her by the Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Women.

Mummy to say that you truly deserve this award, will amount to an understatement because you have always Played the role of a mentor to everyone that come across you.

We also wish to felicitate with **Mrs. Viola Okoro**, the convener of the **Leadership Foundation for African Girl Child and Woman** on the occasion of her **10th year Anniversary**, with the theme "**Ten Years of Verifiable impact**"
God Bless you richly for all you do for The African Girl Child and Women.

Signed

Binta International School (The School for Child you Love).
Ajao Campus 9-9,10, Princess Bola Jegede Close, Ajao Estate, Isolo, Lagos
Ejigbo Campus: 22,26, 28, Adewale Adenuga Street, Orilowo, Ejigbo Lagos
Papa Ajao Campus: 1, Akinbayo/ Oyesonuga Street, Papa - Ajao Mushin, Lagos.

