

SISPIRATION

**She Came to O.W.N.:
Inside WIMBIZ 2025
and the Energy of
Unstoppable Women**
*An unforgettable gathering
of women redefining
influence*

EMERGE 2.0:
Women of Impact
Global Inspires a New
Breed of Marketplace
Leaders

The Art of Impact

Chief Nike Okundaye's

Journey of Creativity, Heritage
and Empowerment



The Heritage
Renaissance Issue



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Editor's letter

Thank You

If I got a nickel for every time I heard the word "Congratulations" in the past month, I'd probably be cashing out by now!

But truly, each message, call, and post meant the world to me. Some of you even took it further; offering ideas, sharing feedback, and spending time on the phone brainstorming how we could make Sispiration even better. Fam, I didn't expect this level of excitement, but you showed up and I'm so grateful.

Your support reminded me of the power of community, and the beauty of gratitude.

So as we journey into this next edition of Sispiration, I want to challenge you to do the same. Pause. Reflect. Write down the things you're grateful for, even the ones you consider small or ordinary. Trust me, gratitude has a way of multiplying what's good, softening what's hard, and reminding us that we are, indeed, surrounded by grace.

Thank you for being part of this growing movement. Thank you for reading, sharing, and believing in what Sispiration stands for.

With Gratitude and love,



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Sispiration Magazine is a monthly digital and print publication from Social Impact Steward (SIS), dedicated to celebrating the achievements, voices, and impact of women across the globe.

Each issue blends insightful features that inspire women to lead with purpose, create meaningful change and connect with opportunities for growth.

LIFE HACKS FOR CHANGE AGENTS



Unsubscribe from COMPARISON

The Only Person You Need to Outgrow Is Who You Were Yesterday

It's easy to scroll through social media and feel like everyone else is miles ahead: more successful, more confident, more something. But comparison is a silent thief; it steals gratitude, blurs your growth, and tricks you into thinking your journey isn't worth it or your efforts are enough.

Here's the truth: your growth doesn't have to look like anyone else's. Every woman's story unfolds differently. Some bloom early, others take time. What matters is that you're growing; even if it's quietly, even if no one sees it yet.

Instead of measuring your progress against

someone's highlight or reel, start tracking your own milestones. What did you handle better this month than last? What used to scare you but now feels doable? That's growth - real, unfiltered evolution.

Celebrate small wins. Unfollow accounts that trigger comparison. Surround yourself with people who remind you of your worth, not your "not enough."

When you stop competing and start evolving, peace replaces pressure. You begin to appreciate the rhythm of your own becoming; one step, one lesson, one day at a time.

The goal isn't to be like someone else, it's to become you, fully and fearlessly.

Your only real competition is yesterday's you

Funding Forward



The NGO Illusion:

When We Look Funded but Feel Broke (Part 1)
By Chidera James Edeh

The Funding Mirage: When Visibility Looks Like Riches

In today's African nonprofit landscape, an NGO's value often seems tied to how frequently its logo appears on flyers, the glamour of international conferences, or the perfection of its digital graphics. Beneath the polished surface, however, lies an irony: many founders celebrated online for their "impact" are quietly struggling to fund basic logistics for their next outreach.

The New Optics of Impact

Every Monday, when you look through social media, you will notice a common theme: a ribbon-cutting event, a smiling crowd of schoolgirls, a backdrop that is expertly branded, and a caption that starts, "We're thrilled to announce."

It looks inspiring, doesn't it? It looks funded. It appears to be motivating. It appears to be sponsored. But is it?

However, behind the camera, reality often tells another story. To print the t-shirts, the founder took out a loan or personal pocket. A discount was given "for visibility" by the photographer. The volunteers left hungry because the feeding budget did not make the final donor approval.

In today's ecosystem, visibility has become a substitute for validation. Donors say, "Send us proof of impact," and what they often mean is "Show us pictures." Funders reward the organizations that look the most structured, not necessarily those that are most effective. The result? NGOs pour energy into aesthetics because aesthetics now determine access.

The Hidden Work Behind the Shine

Let us call it what it is, performative sustainability.

For three months, an NGO in Lagos creates an annual report that includes polished narratives, slick infographics, and rehearsed success stories because that's what gets the next grant. Desperate to look "partner-ready," a youth-led program in Anambra forgoes stipends in order to stage an eye-catching outreach.

The actual work, such as capacity building, community follow-ups, and founder rest, is delayed "until funding comes in."

A close friend of mine who is a founder once told me, "If we post a behind-the-scenes video of us struggling to buy materials, people will

think we have failed. But if we post the final picture with branded boxes, they will think we are thriving."

That is the paradox of the nonprofit sector of our time, you must look rich to stay relevant, but you must stay broke to prove you are authentic.

The Human and Structural Fall-out

This illusion has consequences that cut deep. People begin to believe that NGOs are rich. A grassroots team requesting hall space was allegedly told by a school principal, "You people are funded by foreign donors." They hesitate to provide overhead or administrative support, because the branding suggests "you already have capacity."



Funding Forward



Employee morale declines within these companies. For months, facilitators are not paid. Breaks for mental health are viewed as luxury. Burnout turns become a badge of honor. Founders go through a quiet cycle of exhaustion and guilt because they are too proud to acknowledge their difficulties and too reliant on the appearance of success to take a backseat.

It's an emotional economy, not simply a financial one. The loss of empathy occurs when impact turns into a performance. Innovation dies when keeping local integrity is subordinated to being "global-ready."

Redefining What It Means to Be Funded

We need to start being truthful with our audience, beneficiaries, funders, and ourselves in order to end this cycle.

Real investment is about endurance, not branding and launches. When an organization can take a break without

becoming bankrupt, when its employees are paid decently, and when it is able to refuse a grant that goes against its principles, it is said to be funded.

We need a cultural shift from "impressing funders" to "educating funders." Donors must understand that administrative costs are not waste, they are infrastructure. That capacity-building and care are part of impact, not distractions from it. Founders must embrace vulnerability as leadership, sharing the behind-the-scenes truth: impact is messy, emotional, and often underfunded.

The instant we talk about it, the mirage vanishes. What keeps movements going is transparency, not perfection, because more "picture-perfect" NGOs are not necessary in the future. We require genuine ones that are resilient, transparent and supported.

We do not need to look funded. We need to be sustained.

Final Words: Why I wrote this

I started The NGO Illusion series be-

cause I have lived it and I am still living it. The pressure to appear successful, the exhaustion behind every polished post, and the quiet guilt of choosing branding over wellbeing.

I have also seen what happens when we speak up: funders begin to listen differently, communities respond with empathy, and collaboration becomes honest again.

This series is not about exposing failure rather it is about reclaiming truth. The future of African nonprofits won't be shaped by filters or hashtags. It will be built on courage, care, and candor.

Next in the Series:

Part 2 - NGO Founders Are Rich: The Community vs. Founders

Why do people assume NGO leaders are rich? We will unpack the class perceptions, unpaid labor, and invisible costs that shape how the public views nonprofit work and how founders can reclaim their narrative without apology.

Chidera Sandra James-Edeh

Chidera Sandra James-Edeh is a social innovator and global health advocate dedicated to empowering communities across Africa. With a background in Human Physiology from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and additional training in Project Management in Global Health from the University of Washington, USA, she blends community-driven innovation to bridge gaps in health access, digital equity, and social impact. A three-time grant winner, Chidera is the Founder and Executive Director of Her Period Slay Care Initiative and Laurenxia Global, where she has led cross-sector programs and campaigns impacting over 10,000 adolescents and women.



The CHANGEMAKERS PLAYBOOK

The Power of *Community Leverage*



In Nigeria, no changemaker thrives alone. The challenges we face come in different forms and are too big for one person or one organization to solve. The real power lies in community leverage: the networks, partnerships, and collective action that multiply impact.

First, tap into shared resources.

Many times, what you need already exists within your network: the skills, spaces, contacts, even funding opportunities. Instead of carrying the full burden, ask: *who already has what I need, and how can we collaborate?*

Second, build credibility through partnerships. In a space where trust is currency, partnerships signal legitimacy. When people see respected organizations or individuals standing with you, they are more

willing to listen, support, or fund your cause.

Third, **mobilize collective voices.** One voice may be dismissed, but a chorus is harder to ignore. Whether it's petitions, campaigns, or community dialogues, unity amplifies pressure and accelerates change.

Finally, **invest in relationships, not transactions.** True leverage comes from relationships built on trust and shared values, not quick gains. Communities give back most to those who show up consistently and genuinely.

As a changemaker, your strength isn't only in your vision, it's in your ability to gather people who believe in it too. With community leverage, impact stops being a solo struggle and becomes a shared movement.

Playbook Rule:

“Your network is your impact multiplier.”



COVER FEATURE



In a world where art often imitates life, **Chief Nike Davies-Okundaye** has mastered the rare gift of using art to transform lives. Fondly called *Mama Nike*, she stands as one of Nigeria's most celebrated cultural icons, a woman whose creativity weaves together heritage, empowerment, and hope.

From humble beginnings in Ogidi-Ijumu to building one of Africa's most renowned art empires, Mama Nike has become a living symbol of what it means to honour the past while inspiring the future. Through her gallery, workshops, and global exhibitions, she has preserved Nigeria's artistic traditions and also given thousands of women and youths a platform to find their voice through creativity.

In this exclusive interview, Mama Nike shares her journey and the transformative impact of her work across Nigeria. She speaks on how her foundation has empowered countless women, equipping them with skills, restoring their confidence, and giving them the financial freedom to build better lives.

You speak so passionately about resourcefulness. What makes Nigeria such a unique place for creativity and innovation?

Our ability to create something extraordinary out of almost nothing makes us unique. Nigerians are naturally inventive. Look around: we've taken something as simple as garri and turned it into **smoothie garri!** Who would have imagined that?

Here, if you want to host a party and you don't have plenty of money, you will still celebrate, and with small creativity, you've hosted your guests. We don't let limitations stop us; we reimagine what we have and make it beautiful.

You've witnessed Nigerian art rise globally. What moment stands out for you?

Ah! Let me tell you the moment that touched my heart. There is this young lady, the daughter of the late Dora Akunyili. Her name is Njideka. Her mother used to bring her to my gallery when she was still growing. Back then, her paintings were selling for just seven hundred dollars... and even then, people were not really buying.

But I believed in her. We believed in her. So we sent her work to a London auction. My dear, the first piece sold for **\$1.2 million**.

The second, **\$2.4 million**, and another **\$3.4 million!**

Today, she is the **highest-selling African artist**. That is the power of Nigerian talent. That is the rise of our art. Nigerian art is not just coming, it has arrived, and the world is finally paying attention.

You've been a voice for a cleaner Lagos. How has your

work contributed to environmental change?

The change has been remarkable. Before now, Lekki used to flood every time rain fell. Water everywhere. But things have improved, not by magic, but by work. All that waste people used to throw around carelessly, we began to collect it.

The cleaners pick it up and we pay them. The people who crush and wash the plastic, we pay them too. Suddenly, the same things everyone called "useless" started putting money in people's pockets.

Now the community understands the value. They see that waste can become wealth, and that protecting the environment is really essential.

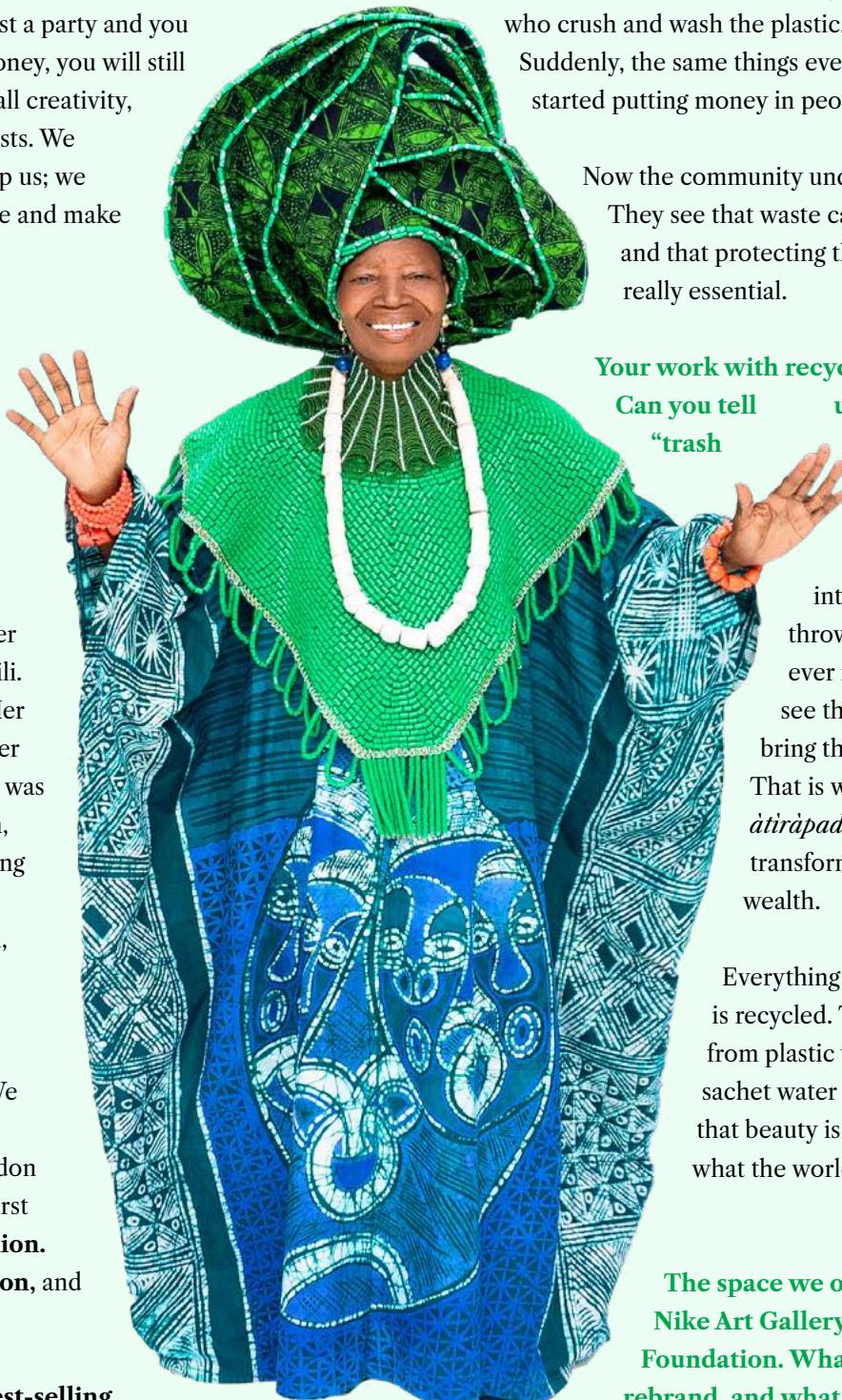
Your work with recycling is inspiring. Can you tell us more about this "trash to treasure" movement?

Yes, we take waste and turn it into art. Many people throw things away without ever imagining they will see them again, but we bring them back to life. That is what we call *irápada*; *àtirápada* - restoration and transformation. Waste to wealth.

Everything I'm wearing right now is recycled. This piece is made from plastic water bottles and sachet water bags. We show people that beauty is everywhere, even in what the world has discarded.

The space we once knew as Nike Art Gallery is now Nike Art Foundation. What inspired this rebrand, and what message does this transition represent?

I began this journey in 1967 in Osogbo. That was where the first Nike Art Gallery was born. Over time, people started calling me "Nike Gallery", some did not even know my real name again!



But when I moved to Lagos, I noticed people were no longer travelling to Osogbo. The road was not good and the journey was long. So I said to myself, "If they cannot come to the art, let me carry the art to them."

That was how the **Nike Art Foundation** began. I wanted a place where people could come freely, learn freely, and leave with something in their minds; knowledge, inspiration, and skills - something that would benefit them for life.

And truly, art can come from anywhere. This portrait of the King of Morocco you see there? We used *pangolo* (metal scraps) to create the powerful art piece. You see what I was saying earlier? What people throw away, we can transform into something meaningful. That is the spirit behind the Foundation; taking creativity to the people and proving that greatness can rise from the simplest materials.

You have empowered thousands of women through the Nike Art Foundation. What drives your commitment to women's economic independence?

People see me as established today, but my journey has not always been easy. In my first marriage, my husband had fifteen wives. There was not enough money to go round and we were all waiting for one man to decide our destiny. I had seen how many women around me were suffering. Then I got the chance to travel to America, and there I discovered that our own Nigerian craft can put money in your hands and change your life. When I returned, I said, "Let me train others." I went to the motor park, picked twenty young girls, and begged their parents to let me train them: "This work has taken me to America. Give me the chance to do the same for your daughter. Let me train her. Instead of her hawking kola nuts under the sun.

My passion comes from my own story. I lost my mother at six, my grandmother at seven. It was my great-grandmother who raised me. After primary six, I told myself, "If I can read and write, that is enough to feed me." I saved money and moved to Osogbo, where my aunt was training a European woman, in adire making. And that was the beginning of my journey.

So when I saw the power of this work, how it can lift a woman, feed a family, and give dignity, I made a vow. I would train as many women as possible, and every woman I trained must train another. That is how empowerment grows.





"Ehn, look at my work! My children have passed me.

Many young people today are caught up in social media. How do you encourage the next generation to value culture, craft, and skill?

That is exactly why we have teachers. In Abuja alone, I have about a hundred students. And when I train one, I always insist that they train another. That is how knowledge spreads. Some of them are models, some are painters, some do beadwork.

What I tell young people is simple: if this work can carry you abroad, it can also bring you back home to make an impact. Look at the recent London show, over **2,000 Nigerians** attended! Access Bank even sponsored it. Our culture is traveling, and our youth are the ones carrying it forward.

And very soon, when Nigerian banks start accepting artworks as collateral, the value of our craft will rise even higher. So I encourage them: don't abandon your culture for social media alone. Combine both. Use your phone to show the world what your hands can create.

Some people once sent the police to arrest me! What was my offense? I was empowering women "too much." I said, "Okay, bring the men too!"

For women who want to make an impact but don't know where to start, what is your advice?

That is exactly why my workshop in Osogbo is free. I have **180 students** right now. Accommodation, materials, and workshops are all free. If you can afford materials, that's fine. If not, we will still teach you.

Look at Kogi, women there are teaching weaving, and our weaving is back in fashion. You see the youth wearing **aso-oke** instead of jeans? That is progress.

Many women think they need a salary to survive, but they don't. You can start with your hands. Make five T-shirts in a week, sell each for **₦10,000**, and you have a livelihood. No office needed, no salary required, just your backyard and your creativity.

Even cow bones, we turn it into jewelry. Nothing is a waste. Everything can become something beautiful, something valuable. That is the power of hands, skill, and imagination.

You've also trained returnees from Italy and other countries. How did that begin?

Yes, that project is very close to my heart. When Nigerian women were being deported from Italy, many were struggling to rebuild their lives.

One gets deported today, and by tomorrow she was already planning to go back because she had the impression that there was no alternative.

The government invited men to step in. We taught them adire, clay work, terracotta, weaving, and beadwork; skills they could use anywhere in the world. Over five years, we trained **3,000 women out of 5,000**, and I placed fifteen teachers there to support them.

Today, some of those same women are the ones printing the beautiful adire you see coming from Holland. Yes, Nigerian women did that!

You started with women, but eventually began training men too.

Yes, I started with women, oh, minding my business. Next thing, some people sent the police to arrest me! Why? Because I was empowering women "too much." Can you imagine? I said, "Okay, no *wahala*, bring the men too!"

One of the boys I trained, Jide Batik, I am sure you must have heard of him. He now runs one of the biggest adire shops in Lagos. He even supplies Her Excellency, Senator Remi Tinubu and other big names. When I see him, I say,

LEVEL UP

Beyond the Title:

Building a Life That Feels as Good as It Looks

By Seun Gbadamosi

You know how everyone on LinkedIn seems to have upgraded their bios lately? “Global Strategist.” “Chief Visionary Officer.” “Founder, Dream Architect & Chief of Vibes.” *It’s giving soft life meets hard titles.* Don’t get me wrong; there’s nothing wrong with owning your achievements. I’m a fan of celebrating progress. But the truth? Sometimes, the life behind those fancy titles isn’t nearly as glossy as the profile suggests.

I remember chatting with a friend who had just updated her profile to “Senior Partner.” It sounded so sleek, so executive. But over brunch, she laughed and said, “I’m still the one making PowerPoints at 1 a.m. and replying to clients who think deadlines are suggestions.” The glow-up looked great online, but offline? She was exhausted. And that’s when it hit me. So many of us are chasing aesthetics instead of alignment.

Because what’s the point of a beautiful title if you’re burning out behind it?

Many women are carrying titles that look like success but feel like stress. We’ve become experts at curating appearances, perfect captions, flawless work bios, and achievements that sound impressive but deep down, some of us are just trying to keep it together.

This isn’t a call to drop your ambition (please, keep slaying!). It’s a call to ensure your peace grows as your profile does. To remember that success isn’t about what it looks like; it’s about what it feels like.



So, how do you build a life that feels as good as it looks?

both accomplished and evolving.

1. Redefine Achievement

Not every milestone has to be public. Some of your biggest wins will be the quiet ones healing from burnout, setting boundaries, or finally saying no to projects that drain you. Those count too.

2. Stop Performing, Start Living

Don’t live for applause or “congratulations” comments. Live for peace of mind. The soft life isn’t about luxury alone, it’s about balance, ease, and joy in your daily rhythm.

3. Check Your Alignment, Not Just Your LinkedIn

If your title doesn’t match how you feel, it’s time for a review. You can be a CEO and still crave rest. You can be “Head of Operations” and still be figuring life out. There’s no shame in being

4. Unlearn the Hustle Guilt

Resting doesn’t make you lazy. Saying no doesn’t make you unambitious. You don’t have to prove your worth through constant output. Sometimes, your next level comes from doing less, not more.

At the end of the day, let your title reflect who you are becoming, not just what you do. The real glow-up should not focus on your job description, rather it should focus on purpose, and the fulfillment that doesn’t need a caption.

So yes, update your LinkedIn if you must. Add the new title. But remember: the ultimate promotion is becoming a woman whose life feels as good as it looks.



She Came to O.W.N.

Inside Wimbiz 2025 and the energy of unstoppable women

An unforgettable gathering of women redefining influence

When I stepped into the grand ballroom of Eko Hotels & Suites on the morning of November 6th, 2025, for the 24th Annual WIMBIZ Conference, I felt something utterly uplifting. We can call it anticipation, or excitement, or a blend of both.

Over 3,000 women, in person and online, had come together for the 24th WIMBIZ Conference under the theme **O.W.N – Own. Walk. Nurture**. And from the first moment, it was clear that this was going to be a deeply personal experience for many of us.

OWN. WALK. NURTURE. A Theme That Felt Like A Mirror

The message of the conference was inspirational.

It asked us to pause.

To reflect.

To be honest with ourselves.

As the Executive Director, Omowunmi Akingbohungbe, shared in her address, the theme represented leadership, resilience, and the intentionality required to build true community. It was about personal success and more importantly about legacy.

Conversations That Shifted Something Inside Us

The opening remarks from Hon. Justice Amina Augie (JSC, Rtd.) set the tone: dignified, grounded, powerful.

The first plenary brought together some of the country's most brilliant minds in finance and enterprise: **Sola Adesakin, Richmond Bassey, Dr. Folasade Femi-Lawal, Natalie Beinisch, Olaitan Martins, and Adetumi Atayero**. If we want to shape the future, we must understand the wealth playbook.





Arunma Oteh's Keynote: A Masterclass in Courage and Clarity

There are speeches, and then there are shifts.

Dr. Arunma Oteh delivered the latter. She challenged women to step boldly into spaces that shape nations, innovation, policy, finance, and leadership. Her words carried weight that reminded us that transformation begins with ownership.

Ambition, Vulnerability & Purpose

The Real Talk

The Deep Dive session featuring **Iphie Chuks-Adizue, Dr. Soromidayo George, Hilda Manyo-Dickson, and Dr. Busola Tejumola** shared truths without holding back. They talked about power. They talked about the courage to be ambitious while remaining human.

Thriving Outside the Spotlight

Not every woman leads from a stage. Some build empires in quiet corners.

atmosphere shifted into a lively, humorous but deeply insightful dialogue about mentorship and generational synergy.

The Debate: Access vs Certification: The Session That Charged the room

If there was one session that electrified the entire conference, it was the debate on **Access vs Certification**; a conversation that pushed everyone out of their comfort zone and into deeper reflection.

Team Certification, led by Toyosi Etim-Effiong had their solid facts, backed by professional reality.

Team Access led by Dr. Glory Edozien, countered with bold conviction: Networks, opportunity, connections open doors that degrees alone never will.

The audience reaction was a whole experience on its own.

The hall felt like a courtroom, a classroom, and a battleground all at once.

Everyone was in it. Everyone had an opinion.

Hearing Chioma Ude, Ruqayya Tofa-Basheer, Nonye Nweke, and Oreoluwa Atinmo

share their stories reminded us that influence has many faces. All powerful.

The Healing We Didn't Know We Needed

Wellness as a Leadership Strategy

If there was one session that opened emotional floodgates, it was the wellness plenary featuring **Ebunoluwa Collins, Mosunmola Dosunmu, Bunmi George, Dr. Agility Obi-Ihesie, and Unoma Grant**.

They spoke about burnout.

- Menopause.
- Mental health.
- And the sacred responsibility women carry.

Bridging Generations

When personalities like **Eni Adeoluwa, Olusiji Adeyinka, Dr. Morenike Molehin, Adesuwa Onyenokwe, and Iroghama Ogbeifun** took the stage, the

What WIMBIZ 2025 Left in Our Hearts

1. To Own Is to Lead

Responsibility. Courage. Accountability. Ownership is the beginning of transformation.

2. Purpose Matters More Than Perfection

Leadership isn't flawless, it's intentional.

3. Economic Power Is Non-Negotiable

To influence society, women must master wealth.

4. Legacy Is Built Through Collective Strength

Mentorship is not optional. It is essential.

5. Wellness Is a Leadership Assignment

You cannot pour into others from an empty vessel.

In the End, This Is What WIMBIZ 2025 Proved

Women are no longer waiting for permission.

We are stepping into rooms with our stories, our scars, our brilliance, and our power.

We are leading differently with heart and nurturing the next generation with intention.

Bola Oyedele

The WIMBIZ Scarf:

The Iconic Signature Accessory That United the Room and Redefined Power Style



"Ladies, have you checked your bags? There's something special inside!"

With that cheerful prompt from **Temi Badru**, host of the 2024 WIMBIZ Annual Conference, a quiet buzz swept across the hall. Moments later, hundreds of women unfolded a beautiful scarf from the signature conference bag; bold, elegant, and impossible to ignore.

In minutes, the entire room was transformed. A seemingly simple accessory became the event's unofficial uniform. Draped around necks, tied gracefully over shoulders, or styled with effortless flair, the scarf blended seamlessly with everything: **power suits, flowing dresses, and even traditional attire.**

It wasn't just a scarf anymore; it had become a **shared statement of class and power.**

No one saw it coming, that a small item tucked inside a souvenir bag would steal the spotlight at one of Lagos' biggest gatherings of influential women. But in true WIMBIZ fashion, where inspiration meets innovation, that's precisely what happened.

And that and then there sealed Lifestyle media was the moment its status. influencer

personality **Eniola Adeoluwa**, one of the Day 2 panelists, couldn't help but acknowledge its charm, noting right there on stage that he wanted one too. When Eniola Adeoluwa comments on your fashion accessory, you know it's officially a trend.

So, what made this scarf so irresistible? Was it the colour story - red symbolising bold passion, power, confidence, and energy; yellow representing joy, optimism, creativity, and vibrancy; or the blend of both, anchored by white - the perfect balance, evoking festivity, empowerment, and high energy? Together, the blend created presence. A statement.

And now Lagos is asking the real question:

Will the WIMBIZ scarf become the next boardroom trend?

Picture it: you walk into a high-stake business meeting and spot that same scarf worn proudly as a bold badge of leadership and power. Will it create FOMO for women who missed the conference? probably.

In a city where style is power and every detail speaks volumes, the WIMBIZ scarf might just become the most talked-about accessory of the season.

So, if you didn't get the scarf this year, don't worry the next edition might be your chance. And if you were fortunate to have one... hold on to it tightly. Just saying.



QUOTE WALL

Inspiring words from women making bold impact



Maya Angelou, American memoirist and poet

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."



Shirley Chisholm, former United States Representative

"Service is the rent that you pay for room on this earth."



Melinda French Gates, American philanthropist, businesswoman

"If you want to lift up humanity, empower women. It is the most comprehensive, pervasive, high-leverage investment you can make in human beings."



Brené Brown, social worker, author, and podcast host

"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform."



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia

"To girls and women everywhere, I issue a simple invitation. My sisters, my daughters, my friends; find your voice."



Yawa Hansen-Quao Ghana, Social Entrepreneur

"Leadership is not about position; it is about taking responsibility to impact lives and communities."



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, (Nigeria, Author & Feminist)

"Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is true that the full humanity of women is not our culture, then we can and must make it our culture."



Joyce Banda, former President of Malawi

"The seeds of success in every nation on Earth are best planted in women and children."



Maya Angelou, American memoirist and poet

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."



Michelle Obama, Former American First Lady

"Success isn't about how much money you make, it's about the difference you make in people's lives."



Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Laureate and Education Advocate

"I raise up my voice—not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard."



Bilikiss Adebiyi-Abiola

"Be unreasonable, strong-headed, and stubborn about eliminating any obstacle that stands in your way."



Abimbóla Adebakin

"You must have something that keeps you going, something that is reserved inside you and helps you to know who and whose you are. You must have an identity."



Ibukun Awosika, First Female CEO of First Bank of Nigeria Limited

"There are challenges everywhere. You must have tenacity; you must have the strength of character not to cheat."



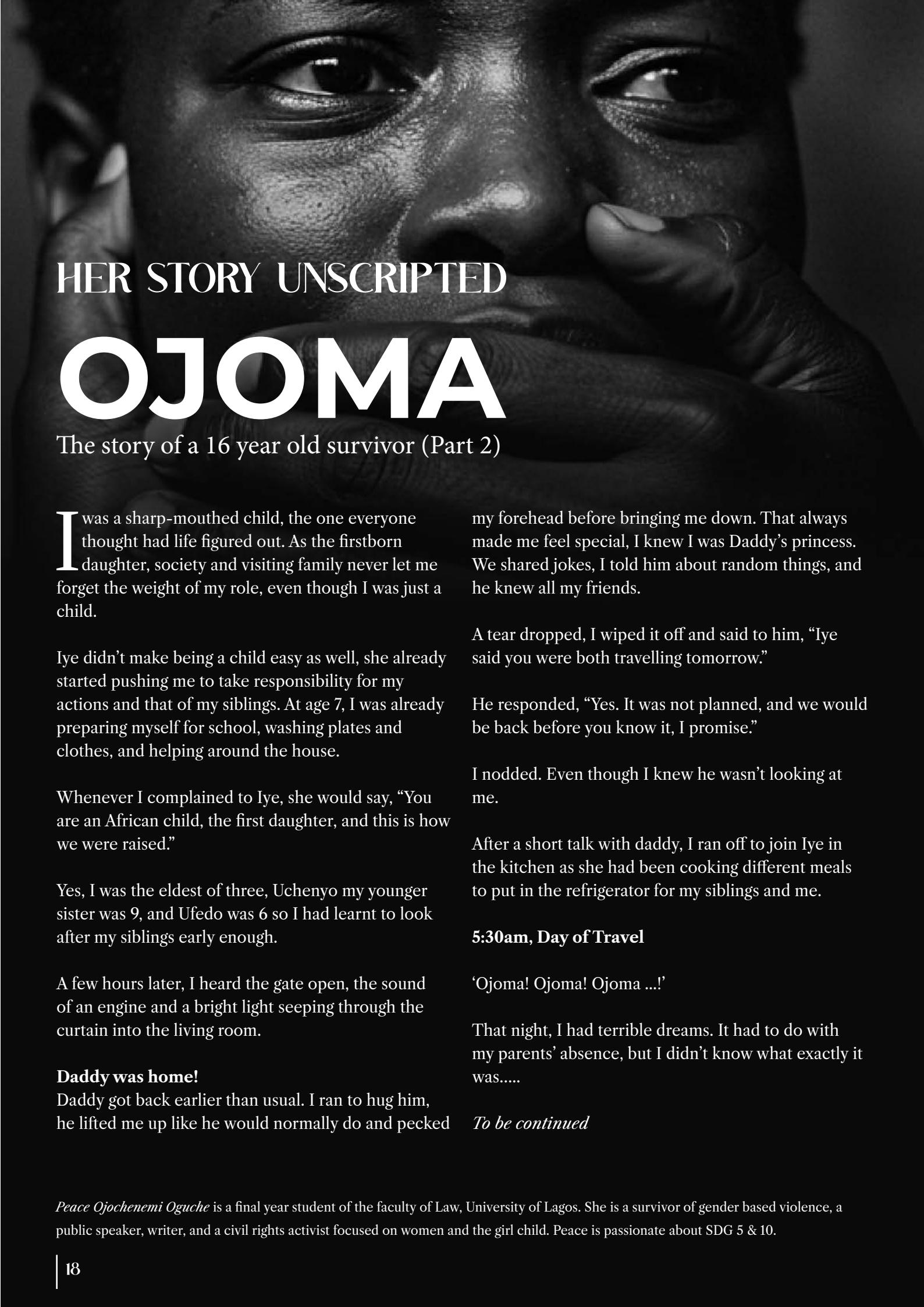
Uche Pedro, Founder, BellaNaija

"Cut out the noise, focus on doing the right thing, making an impact on opening doors for others to come."



Madam C.J. Walker, American entrepreneur and Philanthropist

"Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them."



HER STORY UNSCRIPTED

OJOMA

The story of a 16 year old survivor (Part 2)

I was a sharp-mouthed child, the one everyone thought had life figured out. As the firstborn daughter, society and visiting family never let me forget the weight of my role, even though I was just a child.

Iye didn't make being a child easy as well, she already started pushing me to take responsibility for my actions and that of my siblings. At age 7, I was already preparing myself for school, washing plates and clothes, and helping around the house.

Whenever I complained to Iye, she would say, "You are an African child, the first daughter, and this is how we were raised."

Yes, I was the eldest of three, Uchenyo my younger sister was 9, and Ufedo was 6 so I had learnt to look after my siblings early enough.

A few hours later, I heard the gate open, the sound of an engine and a bright light seeping through the curtain into the living room.

Daddy was home!

Daddy got back earlier than usual. I ran to hug him, he lifted me up like he would normally do and pecked

my forehead before bringing me down. That always made me feel special, I knew I was Daddy's princess. We shared jokes, I told him about random things, and he knew all my friends.

A tear dropped, I wiped it off and said to him, "Iye said you were both travelling tomorrow."

He responded, "Yes. It was not planned, and we would be back before you know it, I promise."

I nodded. Even though I knew he wasn't looking at me.

After a short talk with daddy, I ran off to join Iye in the kitchen as she had been cooking different meals to put in the refrigerator for my siblings and me.

5:30am, Day of Travel

'Ojoma! Ojoma! Ojoma ...!'

That night, I had terrible dreams. It had to do with my parents' absence, but I didn't know what exactly it was.....

To be continued

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SISTERLY

FROM **TRASH** TO **TREND**

The Beauty of Upcycled Fashion

By Andrea Adimora

In a world redefining beauty and value, sustainable fashion takes center stage, transforming discarded materials into timeless statements. Patchwork pieces, upcycled denim and recycled jewelry are being appreciated. Creativity is proving that conscious choices can still be effortlessly chic.

What once was discarded fabric now makes a bold statement. Patchwork fashion proves that creativity can turn waste into wearable art.

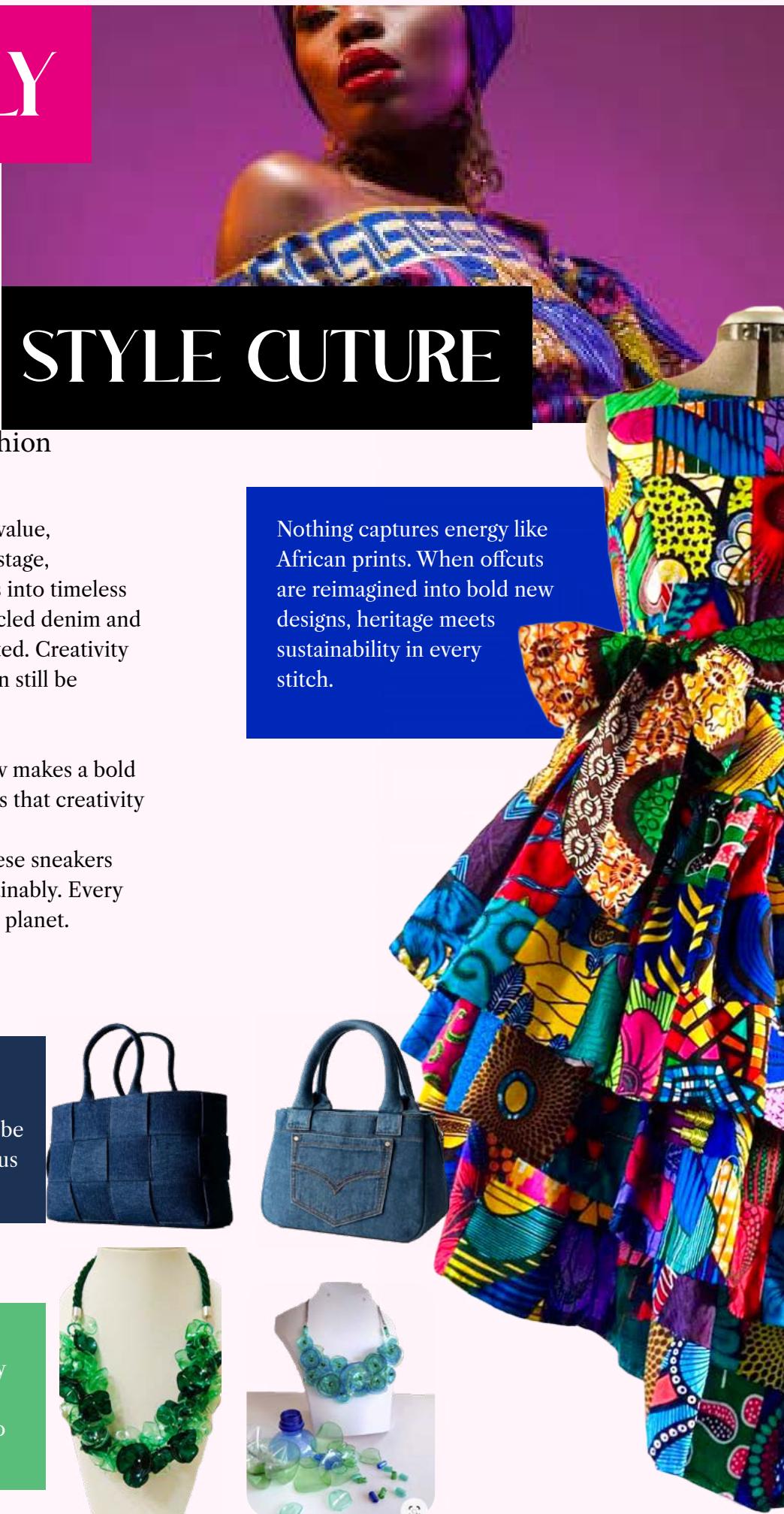
From plastic waste to street style these sneakers redefine what it means to walk sustainably. Every step leaves a lighter footprint on the planet.

Nothing captures energy like African prints. When offcuts are reimagined into bold new designs, heritage meets sustainability in every stitch.

Denim never dies, it simply reinvents itself. This upcycled handbag is proof that fashion can be timeless, trendy, and eco-conscious all at once.



Shattered glass, melted metal, reborn as beauty. Recycled jewelry celebrates resilience, a perfect reminder that nothing truly goes to waste.



10 MUST-HAVE APPS EVERY MODERN WOMAN NEEDS ON HER PHONE

In today's digital age, having the right apps on your phone can make all the difference in managing your life, staying connected, and prioritizing your well-being. Whether you're looking to boost your productivity, track your health and fitness, or simply stay organized, there's an app out there for you. In this article, we'll be sharing 10 top apps that every woman should consider having on her phone.

Period Tracker:
(e.g., Clue, Flo) Track menstrual cycles, ovulation, and fertility.



Financial Management: (e.g., Cowrywise, PiggyVest) Budgeting, expense tracking, and savings.



Meditation and Mindfulness: (e.g., Headspace, Calm) Stress relief, guided meditations, and sleep improvement.



Travel and Navigation: (e.g., Google Maps, TripIt) Route planning, travel guides, and booking management.



Social Support: (e.g., Facebook Groups, Meetup) Community connection, event discovery, and networking.



Safety Apps: (e.g., bSafe, Life360) Emergency SOS, location sharing, and safety alerts.



Wellness and Fitness: (e.g., Fitbit, Calm) Workout routines, nutrition planning, and wellness tracking.



Career Development: (e.g., LinkedIn, Coursera) Professional networking, online courses, and skill-building.



Shopping and Deals: (e.g., Jumia, Konga) Online shopping, discounts, and price comparisons.



Productivity: (e.g., Evernote, Trello) Organise your life, tasks, goals.



These apps can help women manage various aspects of their lives, from health and wellness to career and personal growth.



All right, let's talk about something that too many women silently struggle with - endometriosis.

What exactly is endometriosis? Simply put, it's when the lining of your womb (the uterus), you know, that tissue that normally grows inside starts growing outside where it shouldn't. Yup, it's as wild as it sounds.

This misplaced tissue can show up in different parts of the body; in the muscles of the womb, on the outer surface of the womb, on the fallopian tubes, the ovaries, and even other organs. In rare cases, it can travel as far as the chest. Yes, really! Endometriosis can be that serious.

Now, endometriosis isn't new, it's just that more women are finally finding the courage to talk about it. And the main reason? Pain.

We're talking about that next-level kind of menstrual pain, the kind that makes you curl up and cancel your plans. Sure, mild cramps are normal, but when the pain becomes so intense that you can't go about your day, that's a big red flag.

Some women also experience heavy bleeding, while for others, it's the unbearable pain that steals the show.

What's worse, the usual painkillers don't seem to work. That's when many start relying on stronger medications and even those sometimes don't bring relief.

But here's the real issue; the diagnosis.

Too many women think "oh, it's just period pain," and try to power through it. Girl, it's not normal. If your pain is unbearable or worse than before, it's time to see your doctor - specifically, a gynecologist who understands endometriosis. Diagnosis can take time and sometimes requires surgery, so finding the right specialist is key.

Now, if it turns out to be endometriosis, what's next?

The answer lies in lifestyle management, because the way you live can actually help you manage the condition.

Here's what happens in your body: each time you get your period, that misplaced tissue also bleeds — no matter where it is. When the bleeding stops, it leaves scars, causing inflammation and pain month after month.

So, managing inflammation and preventing further scarring can help reduce pain. And that's where the **DREAMS** lifestyle plan comes in:

Girl, That Pain Isn't Normal! Let's Talk About Endometriosis

Dr. Olufunmilola Mojoyinola

D – Diet: Eat clean, whole foods that fight inflammation.

R – Restful Sleep: Quality sleep helps your body heal and balance hormones.

E – Exercise: Gentle movement can ease cramps and improve blood flow.

A – Avoid Toxins: Stay away from harmful chemicals and processed junk.

M – Mental Health: Manage stress - it plays a huge role in hormone health.

S – Social Connectedness: Stay connected; support makes healing easier.

It might sound simple, but you've got to be intentional. Ask yourself: do you really want to live pain-free? Then it's time to take charge of your lifestyle.

Sure, some cases may still need medical or surgical intervention, but the foundation starts with how you treat your body every day.

Remember, a stitch in time saves nine. Don't wait until it gets worse. Don't make pain part of your identity.

Choose relief. Choose wellness. Choose the lifestyle way. You deserve a life without pain, period.



Dr. Olufunmilola Mojoyinola (Dr. Mo)

is the Founder of Smood Feminine Consult, ABOCare Initiative and GynoglowwithDrMo. A sought-after speaker, consultant gynaecologist and board-certified lifestyle medicine physician with over 20 years of expertise, she has transformed the practice of preventive medicine into an art. As the pioneer of the Lifestyle Medicine Clinic at the Maternal and Child Centre, she has set the standard for integrating lifestyle medicine into women's healthcare.

She is a member of Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Nigeria (SOGON), Gynae Oncology Society of Nigeria (GOSON), and the Society of Lifestyle Medicine of Nigeria (SOLONg)

Whispers and Words

Ina Tambaya

(I'm asking questions)

By Halima Umar

What was it like calling the road your home?
Family of wanderers, dust softening your steps,
crossing borders as if they were crosswalks,
names shifting with the wind,
your stories stitched to the backs of donkeys and camels.

How did it feel to pack your life by the handful—
just enough to move, never enough to settle?
Did the Earth recognize you each time you left it?
Did the horizon greet you like an old friend?
You saw the world without maps,
untethered by schedules or walls,
your lessons drawn from stars,
your rest marked by the breath of the herd.
Did you feel free, or lost, or both?
The wind must have carried your laughter somewhere.

The sky, endless, must have memorized your faces.
What was it like to belong only to the road
and to one another -
to know every sunrise by a different name,
to be surrounded and alone at once?
Was it isolating? Suffocating? Or both?
Sometimes I wonder if I've inherited your rhythm,
this quiet ache to keep moving.

It's as if something in my blood
still hums to the sound of hooves and distance.
Ina tambaya: kun taba jin dadin bata hanya?
(I ask: did you ever find joy in being lost?)
I wish I could learn it-
not through stories,
but through dust and sky,
through the language of footsteps
that never stops echoing.



Halima is a 3rd year student in the University of Southern California (USC) and is studying Biomedical Engineering. Ina Tambaya was inspired by Fatimah Asghar's "The Women in My Family". Asghar's exploration of lineage helped direct her own commentary on the questioning of her Hausa/Fulani nomadic roots.



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Restoring Dignity, Inspiring Confidence

How Let's Chat International Is Changing the Conversation for the Girl child

On September 7th, 2025, the Let's Chat International Initiative once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to girl child empowerment through its flagship project the **Pad A Life Outreach Program**, held at Ebute Metta. This year's outreach built on previous successes, recording a remarkable **37.4% increase in beneficiaries**, with **235 girls** receiving sanitary pads and comprehensive education on menstrual hygiene and health.

Driving Change Through Menstrual Health Awareness
At the heart of *Pad A Life* lies a powerful mission to ensure that no girl misses school, or opportunities, due to a lack of access to sanitary products or knowledge. Beyond pad distribution, the program created a safe and empowering space for open dialogue on menstrual health, helping young girls gain confidence.

The highlight of the day was an interactive session with **Dr. Lola Mojoyinola**, a seasoned gynaecologist who led discussions on **best menstrual hygiene practices, dos and don'ts during periods, and early signs of health concerns**.

Key Achievements and Impact

- **235 girls empowered**, marking a **37.4% increase** from last year's reach.
- Distribution of over **900 sanitary pads**, ensuring at least four pads per beneficiary.
- Enhanced awareness of menstrual hygiene among participants, as reflected in post-event feedback.
- Strengthened community collaboration through volunteer support and stakeholder engagement.

The event didn't just hand out pads, it handed out knowledge, and self-worth. Many participants shared that for the first time, they felt comfortable discussing their menstrual health openly, a crucial step toward dismantling

the stigma still surrounding menstruation in local communities.

Founder's Reflections

Speaking at the event, **Romoke Ayinla**, Founder of Let's Chat International Initiative, reaffirmed her commitment to menstrual health advocacy:

"Every pad distributed represents a story of restored dignity. Our goal is not just to meet immediate needs but to educate, empower, and inspire a generation of confident, healthy young women."

She emphasized that the *Pad A Life* program will continue to expand its reach, with a vision to make menstrual health education a mainstream topic in underserved communities across Nigeria.

Testimonials

"I used to be shy talking about my period, but now I understand it's a normal part of life. I also learned how to take better care of myself." — Chioma, 14

"This program helped my daughter gain confidence. I'm grateful for what Let's Chat International is doing for our girls." — Mrs. Adeyemi, Parent

Looking Ahead

The initiative plans to:

- Expand outreach to more schools and rural communities.
- Introduce skill-building workshops that empower girls to produce reusable pads.
- Partner with more organizations for sustainable menstrual health campaigns.



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PROGRAM PULSE

Women of Impact Global



EMERGE 2.0

Women of Impact Global Inspires a New Breed of Marketplace Leaders

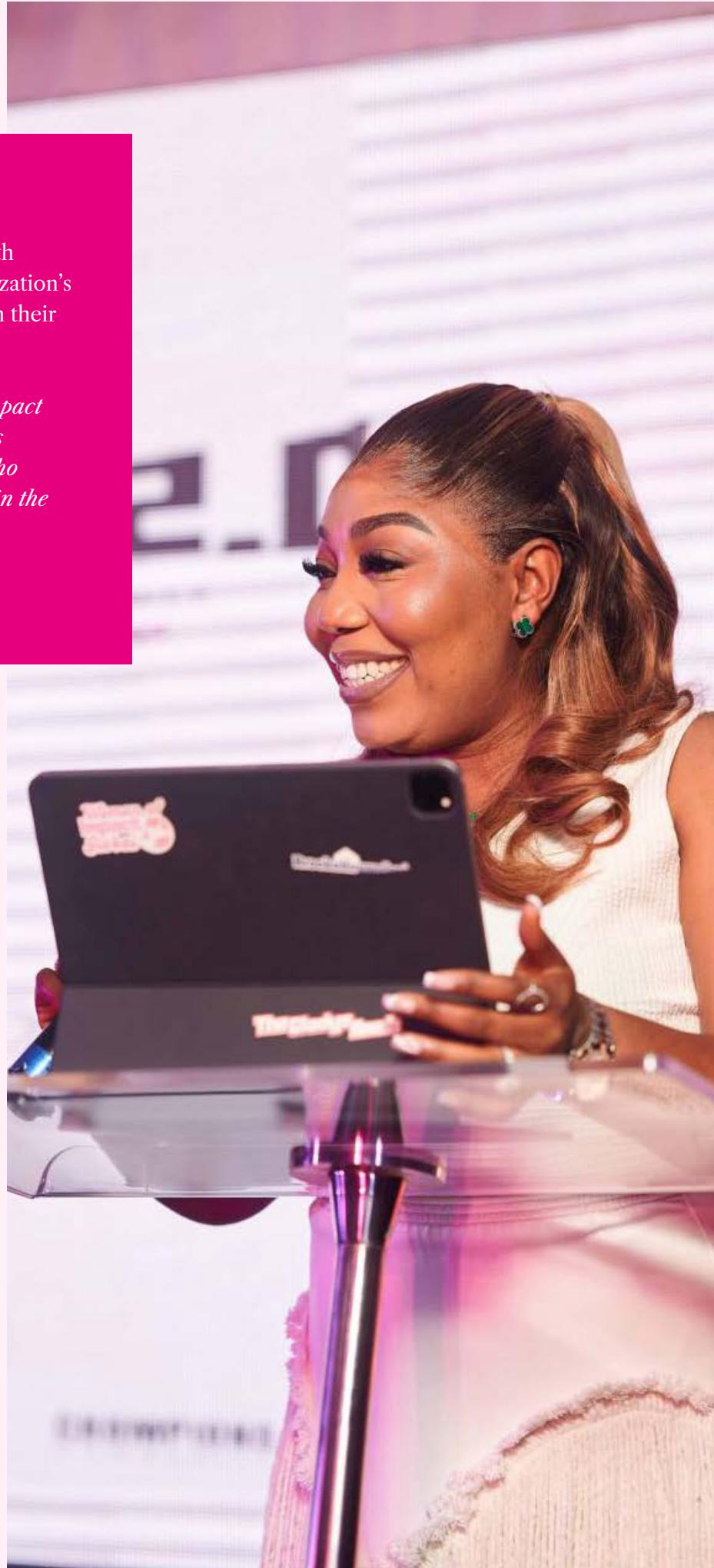
Earlier this year, Women of Impact Global hosted the highly anticipated EMERGE 2.0 conference at Glendale Events Centre in Victoria Island, Lagos, bringing together over 200 women leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals to ignite passion, inspire purpose, and learn about authentic leadership. With the theme *Vessels Unto Honour in the Marketplace*, the event aimed to empower women to embody spirit-led leadership and excellence in the marketplace, providing a platform for growth, networking, and inspiration.



The conference featured notable speakers, including Debola Deji-Kurunmi, Funke Bucknor-Obruthe, Joyce Awosika, and Nnamdi Ezeigbo, who shared their expertise and experiences on key themes such as leadership, entrepreneurship, personal development and accountability. Attendees engaged in interactive sessions, workshops, and panel discussions, and participated in raffle draws, with exciting prizes, including a plot of land, awarded to a lucky winner. Business grants were also presented to deserving recipients.

A highlight of the event was the graduation ceremony of Cohort 3 of the Powered Growth Mentoring Session, a testament to the organization's commitment to empowering women to reach their full potential.

Founded by Mrs. Gladys Ameh, Women of Impact Global organizes the EMERGE conference as a transformative platform to raise women who embody spirit-led leadership and excellence in the marketplace.



Rising Force

Efetobore Onyedikachi

The Woman Restoring Safety, Dignity, and Hope to Vulnerable Youth



Efetobore Monika Onyedikachi, fondly known as Efe, is a beacon of resilience, compassion, and bold innovation in community development. Her journey began in hardship. As a child navigating instability, neglect, and limited access to education, she developed a fierce determination to rewrite her story. Drawing from the “street-sense” survival skills she acquired growing up, she created what she now calls her Alternative Styled Education & Developmental Program: an empowerment model that first helped her secure stability and support her siblings. Today, that model forms the backbone of the transformative work she leads for thousands of vulnerable young people.

With over two decades of experience across corporate sectors, Efe blends strategic expertise with lived experience. Her gift lies in transforming adversity into advocacy and building systems of protection for children, teenagers, and youth. Her volunteerism with community-focused platforms, including the **WILD Network**, reflects her belief in collaboration and collective action.

In 2017, Efe founded **Mummy Marho's Children, Teenagers & Youth Foundation**, a long-held dream. Officially registered in 2023, the Foundation launched powerfully: on December 26, 2023, it fed, clothed, and gifted 600 children and teenagers. By December 2024, that number grew to 1,000 beneficiaries, establishing December 26th as an annual celebration of hope.

In October 2024, she achieved a significant milestone with the creation of the Brain Power Hub; a safe space for vulnerable young people aged 5–25, known as the **DAUCTAYS**. Open six days a week and even on public holidays, the Hub offers stability through two daily meals, weekend

dinner packs, clean water, daily baths, clothing, toiletries, medical support, counseling, academic assistance, and social development activities. Most importantly, it provides a consistent, caring community.

The Foundation has rescued 71 children from the streets, strengthened educational resilience, fed hundreds, and restored dignity to young people often overlooked.

Guided by her belief that “Childhood is for a short while; adulthood is for a lifetime,” Efe continues to prove that where others see brokenness, she sees brilliance waiting to rise.



DEAR SIS

Dear SIS, Is My NGO Doomed Without Funding?



Dear SIS,

I recently started my NGO focused on training young girls in underserved communities on dignity and self esteem. My challenge is funding. It feels like without money, I can't do much. Sometimes I struggle to even cover transport for volunteers. People tell me to "look for grants." Most of the donors ask for track records, or impact reports, but I'm just starting out and don't have any of that yet. Sometimes it feels like I need funding to create impact, but I also need impact before I can access funding. How can a small NGO like mine survive?

Dear Changemaker,

First, know that you are not alone. Many great NGOs we admire today started with the exact same struggles you're facing. Passion is the seed, but strategy is the water that helps it grow.

Here's a practical approach:

Start small. Rather than waiting for big grants, focus on low-cost, high-impact projects. For example, host a one-day workshop in a school, partner with a local business to donate supplies, or run a small community sensitization campaign. Document everything: photos, testimonials, numbers.

Leverage partnerships. You don't always need money; sometimes you need collaboration. Approach schools, faith-based groups, or even small businesses for in-kind support. Think of partnerships, not just grants. Local businesses, faith groups, and community leaders are often more accessible than international donors. A barber shop donating free haircuts, a caterer offering meals, or a school giving you space, these are partnerships too.

Build your visibility. Share your activities consistently

online. Even small efforts, when well-documented, show commitment and vision. A simple post on your WhatsApp status shows that, Build credibility. Register properly, create a simple profile of your NGO, and use social media consistently. Donors and partners want to see structure and consistency, not just passion.

Track impact from day one. Keep records, no matter how small the project. These become your "track record" when bigger opportunities come.

Remember, funding follows visibility and consistency. When potential donors see you're serious and already creating change, no matter how small, they'll trust you with more. Keep planting the seeds, the harvest will come.

Finally, remember that impact takes time. Don't let the pressure of "big funding" discourage you. Keep moving, keep showing up. The right doors open for those who are consistent.

Sis is rooting for you, you've got this.

With purpose,

SIS

Building Capacity for Sustainable Impact:

Social Impact Steward Strengthens Capacity Development at the Diageo Learning for Life Programme

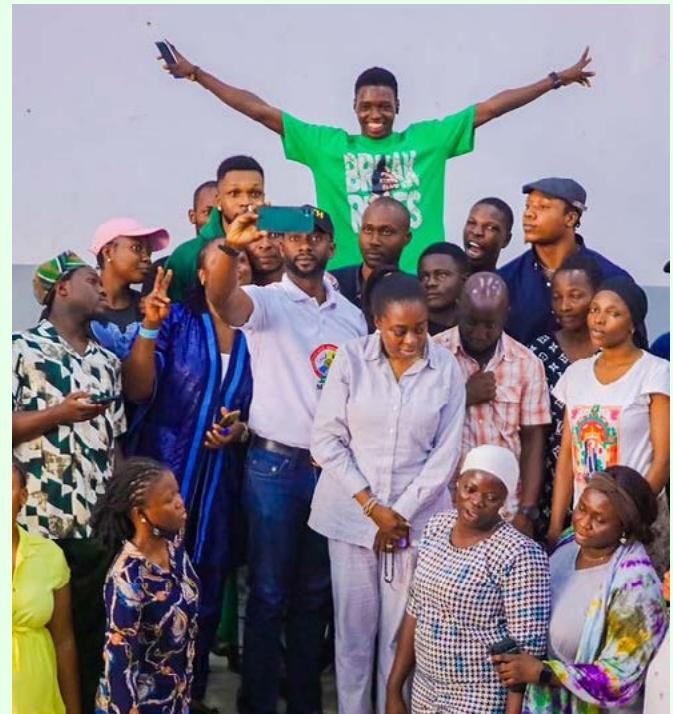
On October 3, 2025, **Social Impact Steward (SIS)** had the privilege of facilitating a session at the **2025 Diageo Learning for Life Programme**, an initiative designed to empower young people with essential employability skills. The programme, implemented in partnership with the **Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF)**, focused on preparing participants for the evolving demands of the workforce while promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods.

The session was facilitated by **Oyebola Oyedele**, a **Social Impact Leader and NGO/CSR Consultant**, whose extensive experience in youth development and capacity building added immense value to the training.

Building Capacity for Sustainable Impact

At Social Impact Steward, we believe that empowering individuals with practical **life skills** and relevant digital competencies is a cornerstone of sustainable development. During the session, we focused on building and strengthening capacity in life skills, particularly emphasizing **communication, adaptability, leadership, and self-management** skills that are crucial for career readiness and personal growth.

Beyond soft skills, participants were introduced to **digital tools and strategies** that can help scale impact and open new pathways for professional and entrepreneurial success. The goal was to inspire a **mindset shift from dependency to empowerment**, helping young people see themselves not just as job seekers, but as **solution providers and changemakers**.



Aligning Purpose with Sustainable Development

The **Learning for Life Programme** reflects a shared commitment between **Diageo, LSETF, and Social Impact Steward** to promote inclusive growth and youth empowerment in Nigeria. By bridging the gap between **education, employability, and entrepreneurship**, the initiative aligns with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** particularly **Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.

Our Mission at Social Impact Steward

At **Social Impact Steward**, our mission is to create systems that **empower people, strengthen institutions, and drive social progress**. We are passionate about supporting organizations and initiatives that prioritize human capacity development, sustainability, and measurable impact.

Through **strategic consulting, training, and partnership development**, Social Impact Steward continues to champion projects that equip individuals and organizations to create lasting change in their communities.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to collaborating with **forward-thinking partners** to expand opportunities for young people and strengthen the **social impact ecosystem across Africa**.

2025 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THEME:

ENERGY TRANSITION:



Energy for All

Inside REEEA-A's 4th International Conference Driving Nigeria's Clean Energy Transition and Empowering Women

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Associations Alliance (REEEA-A) successfully concluded its 4th International Conference in Lagos, themed "Energy Transition: From Rhetoric to Action in Nigeria." The two-day event at the Radisson Blu Anchorage Hotel convened policymakers, investors, and industry leaders to accelerate Nigeria's shift to clean energy through actionable commitments.

A Unified Voice for Clean Energy

REEEA-A President, Prof. Magnus Onuoha, reaffirmed the Alliance's mandate as Nigeria's unified clean energy voice. Formed under the Nigerian Energy Support Programme (NESP II), a partnership between the Federal Ministry of Power, the EU, German Government, and GIZ; REEEA-A aims to consolidate the nation's renewable energy sector into one coordinated platform.

He praised the Federal Government for the Electricity Act 2023, empowering states to lead in renewable energy development, and commended Lagos State for its leadership. Prof. Onuoha also lauded indigenous innovators, the "G13" for driving progress without subsidies. "This conference is not just a gathering, it's a platform for impact," he declared.

Lagos Leads the Subnational Charge

Representing Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Hon. Biodun Ogunleye, highlighted new initiatives: conversion of 42,000 streetlights to solar power, renewable electrification of 32 hospitals, and an additional 2,000 kWh for public infrastructure. "Energy transition is no longer optional, it's an urgent necessity," he said.

\$2 Billion Mobilized for Solar Investments

Delivering the Federal Government's update, Rural Electrification Agency (REA) MD, Mallam Abba Abubakar Aliyu, revealed that over USD 2 billion has been secured to de-risk solar investments and spur private participation.

This includes:

- \$750 million from the World Bank (DARES Programme)
- \$200 million from the African Development Bank
- \$190 million from GEAPP
- \$800 million under negotiation with multilateral lenders

He urged banks to finance large-scale renewable projects, noting that Nigeria imported 1,721 MW of



panels between June 2024 and June 2025, second only to South Africa. With 1.7 trillion allocated to energy in the 2025 budget, the government signaled strong intent for implementation.

Empowering Women through Clean Energy

Representing the Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, Prince Xavier Eyamba announced the rollout of 4 million e-cookstoves (creating 40,000 green jobs) and 25,000 electric tricycles for women and youth nationwide. "Women and children are disproportionately affected by energy poverty. These initiatives will reduce emissions while empowering women economically," he noted.

Building Skills for a Sustainable Future

NEMSA's DG, Engr. Tukur Tahir Aliyu, emphasized the need for skilled local technicians to maintain safety and sustainability standards in renewable projects.

From Rhetoric to Action

Closing the conference, Prof. Abubakar Sambo, REEEA-A Board Chairman (represented by Dr. Sunny Akpoyibo), stressed the need for "implementation discipline" to ensure results. The conference ended with a collective pledge: "The solutions are within reach; what Nigeria needs now is the will to act."



The African Widows Summit Namibia 2025:

Widowhood in Africa, Building a Sustainable Culture



The serene city of Windhoek, Namibia, played host to one of the most transformative gatherings of the year, the African Widows Summit (TAWS) 2025, held from the 3rd to the 4th of September. Themed “Widowhood in Africa: Building a Sustainable Culture,” the summit marked a defining moment in the continental movement toward justice, visibility, and sustainable empowerment for widows across Africa.

Convened under the visionary leadership of Hope Ifeyinwa Nwakwesi, Founder and Executive Director of the African Widows Growth and Development Initiative (AWGADI), the summit brought together policymakers, development partners, widows’ associations, and civil society leaders from across the continent. Over two days, Windhoek became a space for deep reflection, collective

action, and policy innovation centered on transforming widowhood from a silent suffering into a platform for strength, leadership, and economic inclusion.

Central to the summit’s proceedings was the official launch of the Pan-African Widows Union and the African Widows Agenda, two landmark initiatives designed to institutionalize advocacy for widows’ rights across Africa and to provide a unified voice that transcends national borders.

Discussions throughout the summit highlighted the multidimensional challenges widows face, from cultural stigmatization and economic disenfranchisement to the absence of legal protections and access to education.

The TAWS Namibia 2025 also served as a platform for the exchange of innovative solutions. Various sessions showcased community-based interventions, digital advocacy tools, and social enterprise models that empower widows to become agents of change within their communities. The summit further underscored the importance of collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, and private sector actors in developing sustainable pathways for widows’ advancement.

The outcomes from Namibia have set in motion a new continental rhythm, one that recognizes widows not as victims of circumstance, but as pillars of resilience, entrepreneurship, and hope.



Zuckerberg, Chan shift bulk of philanthropy to science, focusing on AI and biology

Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan are dramatically shifting the direction of their philanthropy, placing science, artificial intelligence, and biology at the center of their giving. For years, the couple funded a wide range of causes, from underprivileged schools to immigration reform and diversity initiatives. But now, they are channeling most of their resources into Biohub, their science organization founded in 2016, with a renewed focus on using AI to accelerate biomedical breakthroughs.



Their goal is ambitious: develop virtual, AI-powered models of human cells that can reveal how the body works, diagnose disease earlier, and create better treatments. Zuckerberg said Biohub has been the most impactful work they've ever done, prompting them to "double down" and make it their primary philanthropic priority going forward.

Since Biohub launched, the couple has donated \$4 billion to basic science research—excluding the significant cost of running their massive computing clusters. With an operating budget of about \$1 billion a year, they plan to double their scientific investments over the next decade. Zuckerberg and Chan have pledged 99% of their Meta shares to these long-term scientific projects.

Their shift comes amid conversations about wealth and responsibility. At a recent event, singer Billie Eilish challenged wealthy attendees to give more to solve global problems—a comment that resonated widely. Meanwhile, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

has faced criticism for scaling back funding for social issues such as DEI and immigration advocacy, though the couple says this transition toward science began years ago.

Chan, a former pediatrician, says her motivation is deeply personal. She wanted the ability to "see inside a child's cells" and understand exactly what goes wrong in disease. AI, she says, finally makes that possible.

Biohub's next chapter includes hiring the team from EvolutionaryScale, creators of advanced AI systems for life sciences. Led by Alex Rives, the expanded team will focus on building open-source virtual cell systems that scientists everywhere can use to run experiments impossible in physical labs.

Ultimately, Chan says the goal is simple: bring scientific discovery closer to patients and push the boundaries of what medicine can achieve.

Source: abcnews.go.com

Funding the frivolous: The top five most ridiculous nonprofits



unchecked creativity, here are some of the most ridiculous groups that somehow exist:

1. The Okra Project

Framed as an effort to provide home-cooked meals to Black trans individuals, nearly all its programs are mysteriously “closed.” In 2022 it raised \$2.9 million, yet more than half went to salaries and travel including over \$300,000 on group trips. Its former director earned \$327,000 before being removed over allegations of misappropriating funds from a related bail fund.

2. Queer Liberation Library

Not a real library, no building, no librarian. It ships LGBTQ-themed books directly to individuals without age verification, even those containing explicit content. It operates under fiscal sponsorship, avoiding transparency and IRS scrutiny.

3. The Pleasure Project

Nonprofits can be a force for good. I work for one, so I’ve seen how powerful they can be whether exposing Arabella Advisors, the dark-money network of wealthy left-wing donors; uncovering pro-terrorist groups fueling anti-Israel campus protests; or investigating the political influence of teachers unions that operate with little transparency. Many nonprofits truly fill gaps government and business fail to address. But for every organization doing meaningful work, there is another so absurd it feels like satire.

Should these groups be dismantled? Yes and no. Part of me wants accountability. Another part of me thinks: if this is the game, maybe more people should play it. If someone wants to create a nonprofit to protect New York City’s cockroach population out of vegan compassion, who am I to stop them if donors choose to fund it? Only in America can you raise millions in tax-exempt money to push fringe ideology or bankroll drag-queen story hour for toddlers.

So, in honor of our nonprofit system in all its

A global nonprofit promoting “pleasure-based sex education,” integrating erotic material into youth programs. Their guides encourage educators to “talk sexy” with teens far past standard health education.

4. Power Forward Communities

With only \$100 in revenue before 2024, it somehow received a \$2 billion EPA grant. Its ties to organizations linked with Stacey Abrams raise questions about how it leapfrogged established environmental groups.

5. Planned Parenthood

A political and health-care powerhouse receiving over \$700 million in taxpayer funds annually, with a political arm that heavily influences elections. Even its former president was ousted for trying to shift focus away from politics.

Source: capitalresearch.com

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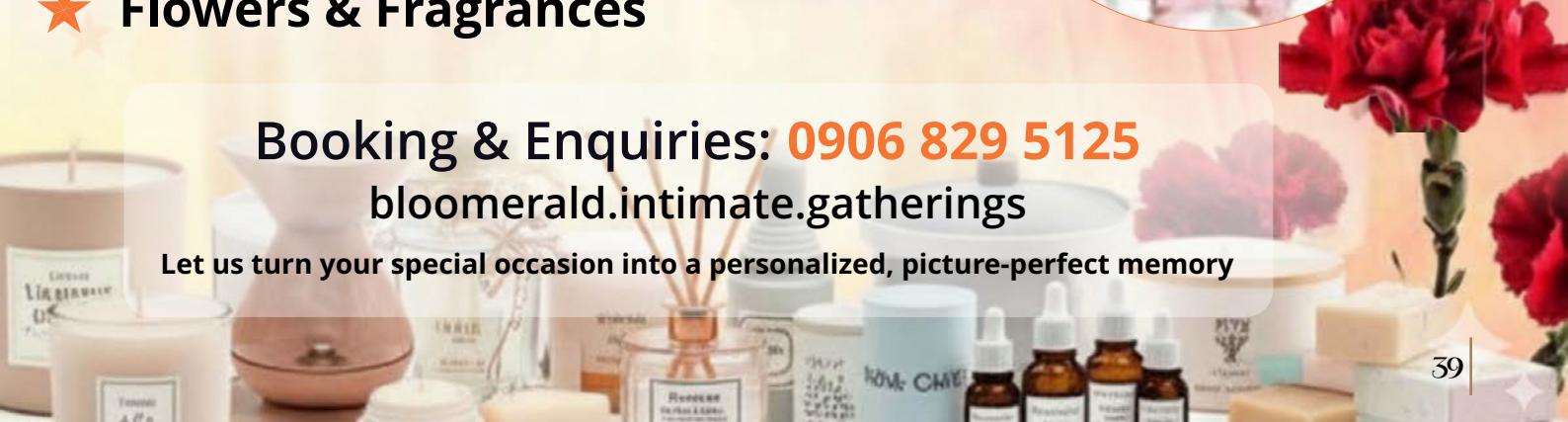
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