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ANNUAL REPORT



**EMPOWERING WOMEN
FOR
EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE
(EWEI)**



Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) is a Non-Governmental Organisation founded in April 2008. EWEI was officially registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria (CAC/IT/28137) in June 2008 and has been actively working to achieve her aims and objectives.

EWEI is also registered with the Kaduna State Government through the Ministry of NGOs, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Kaduna State Budget and Planning Commission.

EWEI's mission is to provide multi-sectoral interventions for the development and empowerment of girls and women in communities through the following programmes: Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (CEPWOP), Economic Empowerment Partnerships (EEP), Educational Subsidy Programme (ESP), Empowerment Seminars (ES), EWEI NEWS, EWEI Online (EO), Getting Involved (GI), Know and Say No (KSN) and Our Safe Spaces (OSS) amongst others.

We believe that sustainable development is achievable through investment in human capital and providing girls



Mission and Vision Statement

Our **mission** is to provide multi-sectoral interventions towards the empowerment of girls and women and our **vision** is to achieve empowerment through enlightenment. We work towards this through Capacity Building, Information Dissemination, Advocacy and Cross Cutting Community Service Projects.



Our Values

- Excellence in service beyond business as usual
- Generous in sharing knowledge and resources to enhance learning
- Investing In and grooming leaders of change and Impact



Our Objectives

- Inspire girls and women to be the best they can be and aim for excellence through capacity building and mentoring.
- Support the development of social and emotional skills including self-esteem, leadership and assertiveness in our beneficiaries.
- Provide information and capacity building on health, political, economic and social issues through various information dissemination platforms and spaces.
- Advocate for and encourage Girl-Child education to relevant stakeholders.
- Advocate for and encourage higher enrollment, retention and completion rates for girls and women in education and specifically science and information technology.
- Encourage civic participation of girls and women and contribute to both political and legislative processes through capacity building, civic education and advocacy.
- Work towards accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Advocate for progressive state budgeting practices and gender mainstreaming in legislation.
- Support UNSCR 1325 and 2250 recognizing and promoting the role of women and youth in peace



Our Structure

EWEI is governed by a 5-person Board of Trustees and a structured hierarchy of operations. Our 5-person Board of Trustees (BOT) are seasoned professionals in their respective fields and strong supporters and advocates for girls and women's empowerment. EWEI's BOT consists of 3 women and 2 men.

EWEI has a four departmental structure namely, Communications, Finance and Supplies, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and Organisational Development and Partnerships, with two departments currently headed by Senior Programme Officers and the other two departments lead by Technical Advisers, all under the supervision of the Programme Director.

EWEI is also supported by Technical Advisers in the areas of Finance, Legal Matters, Organisational and Human Resource Development and Programming and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL).

In 2020, EWEI activities benefitted **1,665** girls, women, boys and men and from 2008 to 2020 EWEI **Direct Beneficiaries reached the 25,482** mark.



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EWEI Programmes in 2020

Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (CEPWOP)

In 2020, EWEI carried out the endline survey for the 2018/2019 project. Due to lockdown restrictions, surveys had to be carried out remotely. The report of this project and other activities will be disseminated and carried out in 2021-22. The project is supported by Inti Raymi Fund (IRF).



International Day of the Girl Child

[In 2011](#), the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution adopting 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child, recognising girls' rights and the unique challenges girls around the world face realising them.

The [International Day of the Girl Child](#) focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

Adolescent girls have the right to a safe, educated, and healthy lives, not only during these critical formative years but also as they mature into women. If effectively supported during the adolescent years, girls have the potential to change the world – both as the empowered girls of today and as of tomorrow's workers, entrepreneurs, mentors, household heads, political leaders, and mothers.

Progress for adolescent girls has not kept pace with the realities they face today, and [COVID-19](#) has reinforced many of these gaps. This year, under the theme, [“My Voice, Our Equal Future”](#), we seized the opportunity to be inspired by what adolescent girls see as the change they want, the solutions- big and small- they are leading and demanding across the globe.

EWEI strongly believes that when boys and girls work as equals, they can be the best they can be and do amazing things.

To Mark the 2020 International Day of the Girl Child. EWEI organised an event with the theme " Art to Amplify an Equal Future ". The event featured our Educational Subsidy Programme (ESP) girls.

“My voice,
our equal future”

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the EWEI 2020 Annual General Meeting was held online via zoom.



Educational Subsidy Programme (ESP)

The lockdown affected the interactions with the ESP girls, therefore we were unable to hold the usual activities with the beneficiaries.

However, in March 2020, they were invited to be a part of the International Women's Day.

Highlights of the seminar include: -

- A gallery celebrating Nigerian Women of renown and workshops on "Equality," and "Safety & Security."
- There was also a breakout session on four topics: "Information Technology at your Service" "Turning Waste to Wealth" "Leadership" "Self-management and Resilience"



EWEI News

At the end of 2020,.... 12,180 copies of EWEI NEWS, our free newsletters that provide resources on political, educational, health, financial and other topical issues were distributed free.

Since 2009, the distribution of EWEI NEWS has covered Edo



EWEI Online

EWEI Online was initially hosted on the Slack in 2019, and was moved to Facebook in 2020 due to problems with downloads and accessibility. In order to make it easier for our users to participate in activities we moved to a closed group on Facebook, where requests have to be approved before you can join the group. EWEI grew on the Facebook platform to a total number of **178 members** we have had interactions on different topics ranging from:

- Gender in equality
- Domestic Violence
- Personal Branding
- Stereotypes and Today's Woman

We also post funding opportunities to help our members' businesses and help them grow as individuals, articles to help keep them updated and conversant of the tremendous changes women are making in all their fields.

You can join EWEI Online by visiting this link: [Join EWEI Online.](#)

Getting Involved (GI)

EWEI's Getting Involved has evolved to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, raise awareness about the SDGs among youth and communities at large, equip beneficiaries on how to effectively share this information with others in their communities, and to determine their own roles within this framework.

For Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative, the World Hepatitis Day is significant because it raises awareness of a disease that kills 1.34 million people a year.

A disease that 290 million people live with unaware and a disease that can be eliminated by 2030.

World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes place every year on 28 July, for 2020 the theme was "Find the Missing Millions." Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, EWEI could not hold a physical event to mark the day, so we focused on awareness-raising across all our online channels.



Know and Say No (KSN)

Our Know and Say No (KSN) Programme raises awareness on gender-based violence and strengthens institutional capabilities to address the pandemic of gender-based violence.

November 25 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a day designated to highlight the issue of violence against women and girls and to call for more action to combat it. Over time, the day has evolved into a global, widespread initiative that now incorporates 16 Days of Activism and the UNITE campaigns. The 2020 theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was 'Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect.'

EWEI's call to action asks all to take concrete steps to question, call out, and speak up against acts of gender-based violence (GBV) in the communities and the society at large. Violence against women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfillment of women and girls' human rights.

EWEI kick started the 2020 16 Days of activism with changing all our social media profile and cover photos to orange. The Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) is an annual international campaign that kick starts every year on 25 November, the international day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and runs till 10 December, the Human Rights Day. The Sixteen Days of Activism is aimed at calling for action to eliminate violence against women with the 2020 theme "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, and Collect".

To mark the Sixteen Days of Activism for 2020, EWEI carried out a poll to understand how people view violence against women and girls. The poll was carried out with 240 respondents in two communities, on 26, November 2020 in Ungwan Romi a community in Chikun Local Government Area and 27, November 2020 in Ungwan Dosa a community in Kaduna North Local Government Areas of Kaduna State. See our [Studies](#) page on our website to view the report.



Our Safe Spaces (OSS)

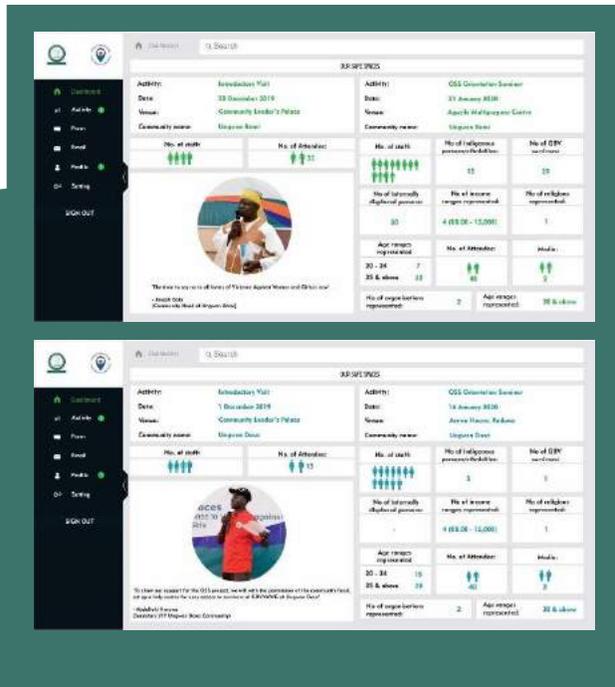
From December 2019 to November 2022, EWEI, with a grant from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), is implementing “Our Safe Spaces” a project to support women and girl survivors of gender-based violence, physical, economic violence and sexual exploitation in Kaduna state, Nigeria.

Our Safe Spaces promotes beneficiaries’ access to psychosocial support systems and economic empowerment opportunities to facilitate normalisation of their lives and will benefit over 450 beneficiaries across two communities in Kaduna.

Read the Our Safe Spaces Press Release [here](#):

Please click on the links below to view media Coverage of Our Safe Spaces activities

- [UN, NGO partner to Empower 450 Gender-Based Violence Survivors](#)
- [EWEI, UN Women, Launch ‘Our Safe Spaces in Kaduna](#)
- [Nigeria: EWEI, UN Women partner on Our Safe Spaces in Kaduna](#)
- [UN, NGO Partner to empower 450 Gender-Based Violence Survivors](#)



EWEI carries out studies to inform and drive our interventions. We are also happy to share this information to support others’ effort at empowering girls and women. Please remember to add a citation when using this information this way: **EWEI/Date of Publication/Name of Study**. Check out our studies on our website at: <http://www.eweing.org/research/>



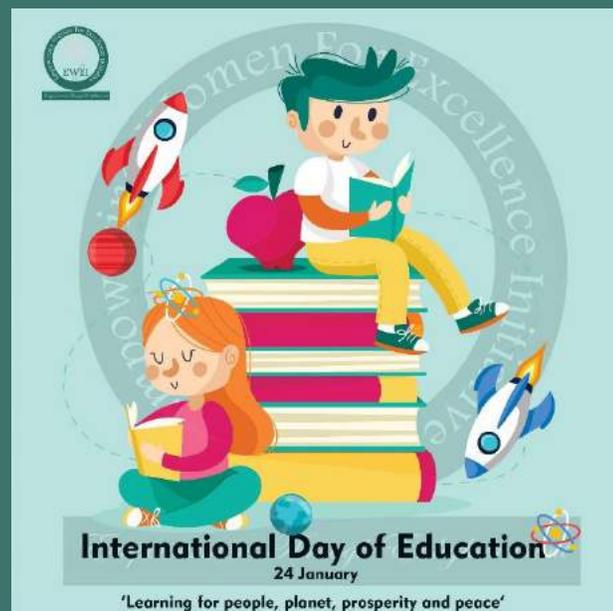
2020 Observance Days Activities

International Day of Education

Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January every year as International Day of Education in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind.

Today, 262 million children and youth still do not attend school; 617 million children and adolescents cannot read and do basic math; less than 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school and some four million children and youth refugees are out of school. Their right to education is being violated and it is unacceptable.



The United Nations observed the International Day of Education for the first time in 2019 to emphasise actions required to achieve the global education goals and targets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The celebration raised awareness on the key role of quality and relevant education for peace and development worldwide, including its contribution to poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and building peaceful and resilient societies.

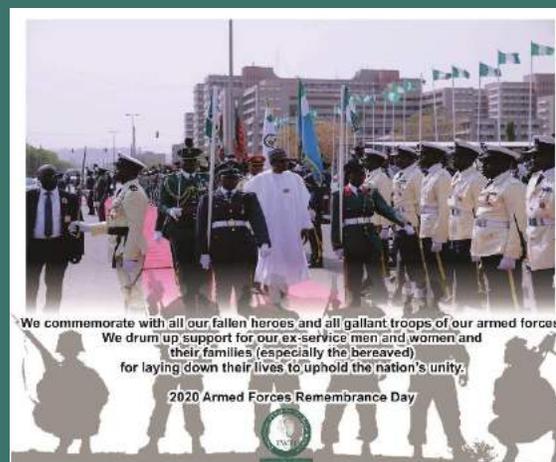
At EWEI, we strongly believe that education is a human right with immense power to transform and on its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.

We marked the day through posts on all our social media handles.

Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day

The Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day is a special day set aside for sober reflection on the significance of the Armed Forces to Nigeria. It is marked nationwide 15 January each year.

EWEI drums up support for all our ex-service men and women and their families (especially the bereaved) for laying down their lives to uphold the nation's unity.



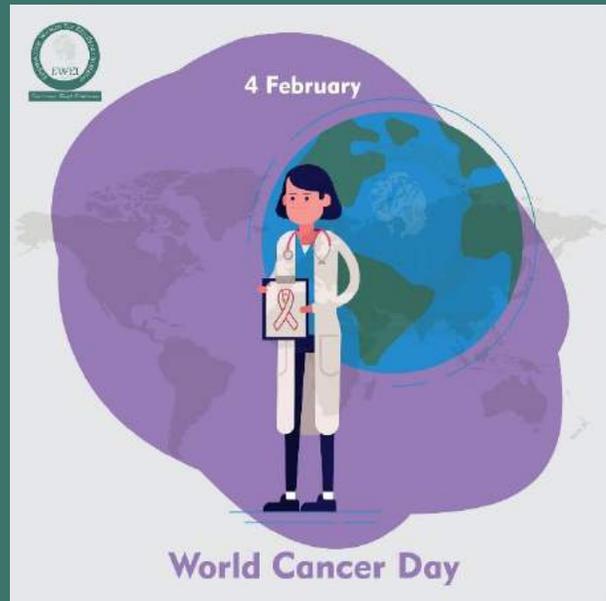
World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day, is organised by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and celebrated each year on 4 February, is an opportunity to rally the international community to end the injustice of preventable suffering from cancer.

World Cancer Day aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness and education about cancer and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the disease.

This year's theme, 'I Am and I Will', was all about you and your commitment to act.

Statistics on Cancer by the World Health Organization (WHO)



International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

Each year, 6 February marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. The day is observed as a way to raise awareness about female genital mutilation (FGM), and to galvanise support to end the practice.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a procedure performed on a woman or girl to alter or injure her genitalia for non-medical reasons. It most often involves the partial or total removal of her external genitalia. In some communities, FGM may be commonly referred to as 'female circumcision'. However, this term has been criticised as it can normalise the practice by drawing parallels with male circumcision without distinguishing its serious physical and psychological harm.

The 2020 theme for FGM Day was "Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation." focusing on mobilising youth around the elimination of harmful practices, including female genital mutilation.



For EWEI; International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is a clarion call to eliminate this harmful practice from our society. To mark the day, EWEI: -

Generated a petition calling for the implementation of the law banning Female Genital Mutilation in Nigeria on "Change.org" for youth around the country to sign and forward same to the appropriate authorities for necessary action.

Shared statistics and key messages on all our social media platforms

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

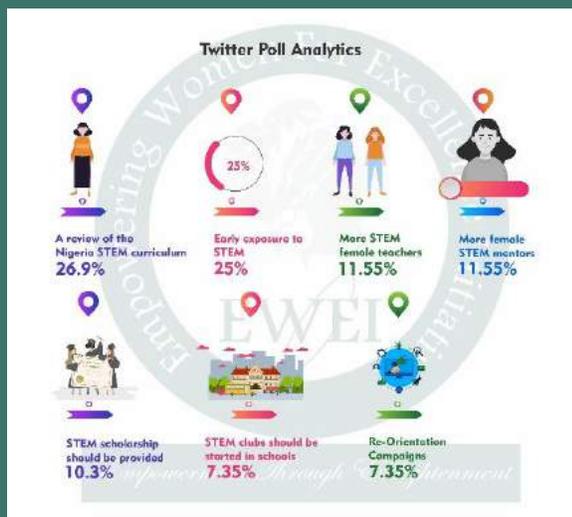
In order to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, and further achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [resolution A/RES/70/212](#) declaring 11 February as the [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#).

The 2020 theme was '[Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth](#).'

To mark the day, We [appointed our first STEM Ambassador, Grace Ajibola Okunola who was a beneficiary of our Educational Subsidy Programme, gained employment with us and this year gained admission to study Science Laboratory Technology at Kaduna Polytechnic.](#)

In addition, We launched [a poll on our twitter platform](#) asking, "[what can be done to encourage Women and Girls in Nigeria to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics \(STEM\) related fields?](#)"

See responses below



As part of EWEI's efforts to further the cause of more women and girls in science, we will be embarking on a one-year study on the prevalence of female students in their final year of secondary school who progress to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields in higher institutions.

The study aims to surface the contributing factors that either support or challenge the students' expected advancement into STEM careers; the first step is their enrollment into STEM fields in higher institutions. It will be conducted among 1,000 female students currently in senior secondary school three (SS3) across five Local Government Areas in Kaduna state, Nigeria starting on the [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) 11 February 2020.

EWEI made a press statement which was featured on some Nigerian Online Newspaper platforms. You can read some of this on the EWEI in the News column below.

We made a call on everyone in the science inclined sector for partnership and collaboration particularly to promote women and girl's involvement in inclusive green growth; agriculture facilitated by science and technology.

We also marked the day through [enlightenment posts](#) on all our social media platforms.

[Read more about our first ESP STEM Ambassador here.](#)
[What Girls Say about Science Technology, Engineering and Math](#)
[Ten Historic Female Scientists You Should Know](#)
[12 Women Whose Names You Should Know](#)
[For the Future of Women in Science, Look to the Past by Nathalia Holt-TEDxPasadenaWomen](#)
[The 15 Most Amazing Women in Science Today](#)

Zero Discrimination Day

[Zero Discrimination Day](#) is observed each year on 1 March. This year, UNAIDS is challenging the discrimination faced by women and girls in all their diversity to raise awareness and mobilise action to promote equality and empowerment for women and girls.

[Discrimination](#) continues to undermine efforts to achieve a more just and equitable world and causes pain and suffering for many. Discrimination has many forms, from racial or religious discrimination,

to discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation or age, and to bullying at school or work.

The 2020 theme was 'Zero Discrimination against Women and Girls.'

Although some countries have made laudable progress towards greater gender equality, discrimination against women and girls still exists everywhere. Intersecting with other forms of discrimination—based, for example, on income, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity—these rights violations disproportionately harm women and girls.

Nigeria ranks 122nd among 144 countries on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index.

EWEI commit to challenging discrimination, wherever and whenever it happens.

We marked the day through enlightenment posts on all our social media handles

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

International Women's Day (IWD) has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not a country, group or organization specific.

The theme of the 2020 International Women's Day was "Each for Equal"

To mark the day, EWEI held an IWD Event for 115 secondary and tertiary students and female professionals at Kabir Gymnasium on 7 March 2020.

The event featured a gallery celebrating past and present remarkable women champions who have made and are still making a positive impact in their various fields. 111 women were featured to celebrate the 111 years of IWD.

Highlights of the event were: -



Breakout sessions discussing Leadership, Self-management, ICT, Entrepreneurship and plenary sessions on Equality and Safety and Security.

We will never relent in celebrating women and girls, their limitless imagination, their joyous dreams and their boundless strength.

Watch our 2020 International Women's Day Photo Slide of the 111 women EWEI celebrated [here](#).

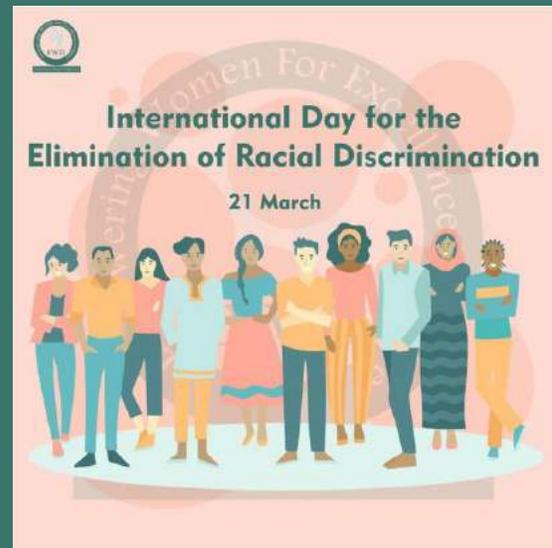
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

“We were all humans until race disconnected us, religion separated us, politics divided us and wealth classified us.” - Pravinee Hurbungs

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was established six years after an event, known as the Sharpeville Tragedy or Sharpeville Massacre, which captured worldwide attention. This event involved police opening fire and killing 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid “pass laws” in Sharpeville, South Africa, March 21, 1960. The UN General Assembly called on the international community to increase its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination when it proclaimed the day as a UN Day of Observance in 1966. It also called on all world states and organisations to participate in a programme of action to combat racism and racial discrimination in 1983. It held the World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001. The UN continues its work to fight against all forms of racial intolerance. The theme for the 2020 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was “Recognition, Justice and Development: The midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent”

According to UNESCO, Racial discrimination is a poison that diminishes individuals and societies, perpetuates inequality and feeds anger, bitterness and violence.

There are around 200 million people identifying themselves as being of African descent living in the Americas. Many millions more live in other parts of the world, outside of the African continent.



Whether as descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade or as more recent migrants, people of African descent constitute some of the poorest and most marginalised groups. They still have limited access to quality education, health services, housing and social security and their degree of political participation is often low. In addition, people of African descent can suffer from multiple forms of discrimination based on age, sex, language, religion, political opinion, social origin, property, disability, birth, or another status.

The fight against racism and all forms of discrimination is a mainstay of peace and social cohesion, especially in our increasingly diverse societies.

We marked the day with posts on all our social media handles.

World Autism Awareness Day

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognised day on 2 April every year, encouraging the Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the world.

Autism is a developmental disorder and people with ASD are characterised by difficulties with social interaction and by restricted and repetitive behavior. The problem is associated with a combination of environmental and genetic factors. The first signs usually appear before a child is three years old.

The theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2020 was “The Transition to Adulthood”. When we grow, the society expects us to become a participant in the social, economic and political life of our community. However, people with autism face challenges in doing so. There are not many schools or institutes for an autistic person and as a result of which they fail to keep pace with this fast-moving world.

The theme for 2020 focused on issues related to the transition to adulthood. It drew attention to the importance of participation in youth culture, decision making and making them independent by providing access to post-secondary education and employment.

This year, World Autism Awareness Day was being observed amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has spread to over 150 countries and killed thousands of people globally.

Autism affects girls and boys of all races and in all geographic regions and has a large impact on children, their families, communities and societies. The prevalence is currently rising in many countries around the world. Caring for and educating children



“The rights of persons with autism must be considered in the formulation of all responses to the COVID-19 virus. On World Autism Awareness Day, let us stand together, support each other and show solidarity with persons with autism”. — António Guterres

Amidst the public health crisis, EWEI stands with persons with autism.

We marked the day with posts on all our social media handles.



World Health Day

World Health Day is a day observed annually on April 7 to draw the attention of the world to the health global human populations and the diseases that may impact these populations.

To address global health concerns, the World Health Organization (WHO) was established on April 7, 1948. That year, the WHO held its first assembly for its 55 member states. It was at that assembly that it was determined that World Health Day would occur every year on April 7.

The theme for World Health Day 2020 was 'Support Nurses and Midwives.' This theme recognised the vital role of nurses and other health workers. World Health Day every year also promotes healthy living. A healthy lifestyle and diet are the two most efficient ways to control the risk of several diseases.



Nurses and other health workers are at the forefront of COVID-19 response - providing high quality, respectful treatment and care, leading community dialogue to address fears and questions and, in some instances, collecting data for clinical studies. Quite simply, without nurses, there would be no response.

A few simple changes can help boost your overall health. This World Health Day let's take a pledge to make all necessary changes in your lifestyle for a healthy life. Here are some healthy practices you can adopt this World Health Day.

1. Eat a balanced diet
2. Maintain a healthy weight
3. Give equal attention to your mental health
4. Remember smoking kills
5. Make water your most important drink of the day

Without nurses and other health workers, there would be no response. We say a big thank you to all nurses and other health workers around the world for been at the forefront of COVID19 response.

Download and read the World Health Organization's 2020 State of the World's Nursing Report [here](#).

We marked the day with [posts](#) on all our social media handles.

World Malaria Day

World Malaria Day is an international observance day marked every year on 25 April and recognises global efforts to control malaria. Globally, 3.3 billion people in 106 countries are at risk of malaria. In 2012, malaria caused an estimated 627,000 deaths, mostly among African children. Asia, Latin America, and to a lesser extent the Middle East and parts of Europe are also affected.

The theme for the 2020 World Malaria Day was 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me'. World Malaria Day is meant to empower individuals across the world to make a personal commitment to saving millions of more lives and help communities and economies to thrive by ending malaria.



Malaria is a preventable and treatable infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes that kills more than one million people each year, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, where malaria is the leading cause of death for children under five. Because malaria is a global emergency that affects mostly poor women and children, malaria perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty in the developing world. Malaria related illnesses and mortality cost Africa's economy alone USD 12 billion per year. However, by 2020, global estimates indicate that USD 6.4 billion would be needed each year to fully fund the fight against malaria.

The WHO estimates that in 2018, there were 228 million cases of malaria in 89 countries, with 405,000 resulting deaths. No significant gains were made in reducing malaria cases from 2014 to 2018. As of April 21, 2020, globally 2.2 million SARS-CoV-2 cases and 170,000 COVID-19-related deaths have been reported. The COVID-19 pandemic is causing morbidity, mortality, anxiety, and an economic free-fall that has never been seen before. It is difficult to predict the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on malaria research and prevention. Over the last weeks, several critical uncertainties have been identified. On World Malaria Day, EWEI is making a call on everyone to be accountable and take responsibility in the fight against malaria. No matter where we live, no one should die from a mosquito bite. "Zero Malaria Starts with Me." It is encouraging however to know that there are ongoing trials for a malaria vaccine.

We marked the day with posts on all our social media handles.

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

May 23, was the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula. The day promotes actions towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula.

In 2003 the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its partners launched the global Campaign to End Fistula, a collaborative initiative to prevent fistula and restore the health of those affected by the condition. In 2012, the UN announced that it would observe International Day to End Obstetric Fistula on May 23 each year, starting on 2013. Obstetric Fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth. It is a hole between the birth canal and the bladder or rectum caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without treatment.

According to the Nigerian National Strategic Framework, 2008, about 6,000 fistula repairs are performed every year in Nigeria but more than 148,000 women are on the waiting list for surgery. It added that some of the VVF centres do not have enough beds or adequate electricity to operate.

Due to COVID-19, it is expected that 13 million more child marriages could take place by 2030 than would have otherwise. Families are more likely to marry off daughters to alleviate the perceived burden of caring for them, especially in the anticipated economic fallout of the pandemic.

The pandemic is also expected to cause significant delays in programmes to end female genital mutilation (FGM) - something that could lead to a spike in FGM cases, according to UNFPA, which is a contributing factor for obstetric fistula.



As the virus advances in these countries, health services become overloaded or provide a limited set of the services that women need. At the same time, many women and girls also skip important medical check-ups for fear of contracting the virus.

The 2020 theme spoke a clear message: "End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!"

Women and girls at risk of living with fistula faced structural and systemic barriers to care before the pandemic. As health systems across the globe struggle to cope with the COVID-19 response, sexual and reproductive health services risk being sidelined. Denial or lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services is especially devastating for women and girls who are already dealing with economic, social, cultural, and logistical barriers.

The pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities (including gender inequalities), exposing vulnerabilities in social and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic.

EWEI stands with the fact that prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, which is ensuring healthy lives; in this case, improving maternal health.

To mark the day, we shared statistics and key messages on all EWEI's social media platforms tagging stakeholders and organisations like the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with #EndFistula #EWEIEndFistula as our official hashtags.

We also joined the Twitter Online engagement organised by UNFPA Nigeria In collaboration with Fifth Chukker and the Kaduna State Government.

International Children's Day

Children's Day is annually observed in Nigeria on May 27. The holiday is celebrated by government and non-governmental organisations. The standard practice is to select children from each school to participate in a march-past to salute the state leader in the stadium in competition with other schools.

May 27 is traditionally the Children's Holiday in Nigeria. First established by the United Nations in 1964, the day remains important in the lives of many Nigerian kids.

A child in Nigeria is any citizen between the ages of 0 to 17 years. During that period, the individual is not responsible for her/himself, and therefore must be taken care of by parents or guardians.



It cannot be debated that children are the future of every country. They are the future of a great nation only if given a solid foundation on which a better society can be built. The direction of a nation, therefore, can be gauged by the importance that nation places on its children and youth.

Articles 12 and 14 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child say that children have the right to form their own views and to express their views freely through the media on matters affecting them.

As we celebrate this year children's day, we should have this at the back of mind that the greatest asset we can ever invest for our future is to make champions out of our children by giving them the best gift they would ever imagine – Education.

We marked the day with posts on all our social media handles.

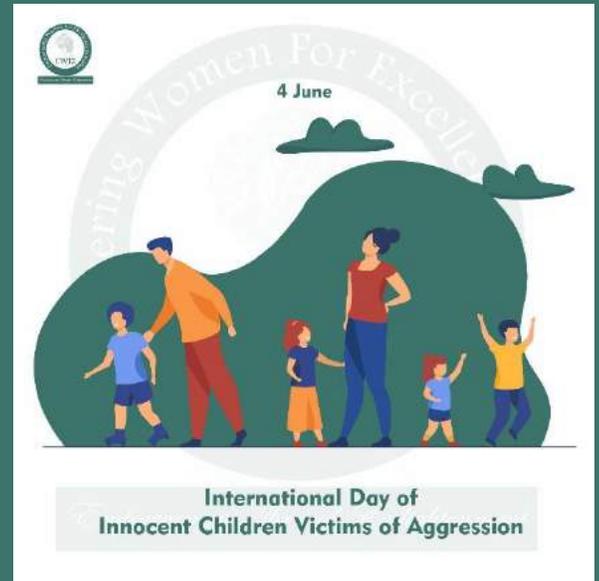
International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed on June 4 each year. The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protecting the rights of children.

It is a sad reality that in situations where armed conflict breaks out, it is the most vulnerable members of societies – namely children, who are most affected by the consequences of war. The six most common violations are recruitment and use of children in war, killing, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression celebrates the millions of individuals and organisations working to protect and preserve the rights of children. It is a time for people all over the world to become aware of the impact of the monstrosity of abuse, in all its forms, against children. It is also a time when organisations and individuals learn from or take part in awareness campaigns centred on protecting children's rights.

EWEI believes that the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is a time for individuals and organisations all over the world to become aware of the impact of the monstrosity of abuse, in all its forms, against children. It is also a time when organizations and individuals learn from or take part in awareness campaigns centred on protecting children's rights.



We marked the day through posts on all our social media handles.

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is marked on 5 of June each year and is the United Nation's principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment. First held in 1974, it has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

The foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all come from nature. For instance, each year, marine plants produce more than half of our atmosphere's oxygen, and a mature tree cleans our air, absorbing 22 kilos of carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen in exchange. Despite all the benefits that our nature gives us, we still mistreat it. That is why we need to work on that. That is why we need this Observance.



Humans are both creatures and moulders of their environment, which gives them physical sustenance and affords them the opportunity for intellectual, moral, social, and spiritual growth. In the long and tortuous evolution of the human race on this planet a stage has been reached when, through the rapid acceleration of science and technology, humans have acquired the power to transform their environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale.

The theme for the 2020 World Environment Day was " Biodiversity" – a concern that is both urgent and existential. Recent events, from bushfires in Brazil, the United States, and Australia to locust infestations across East Africa – and now, a global disease pandemic – demonstrate the interdependence of humans and the webs of life, in which they exist.

World Day against Child Labour

Every year on June 12 the World Day Against Child Labour is observed to raise awareness of the plight of child labourers worldwide. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

World Day Against Child Labour 2020 focused on the impact of the current crisis on child labour. The COVID-19 health pandemic and the resulting economic and labour market shock are having a huge impact on people's lives and livelihoods. Unfortunately, children are often the first to suffer. The crisis can push millions of vulnerable children into child labour. Already, there are an estimated 152 million children in child labour, 72 million of which are in hazardous work. These children are now at even greater risk of facing circumstances that are even more difficult and working longer hours.



The time to protect children from child labour is now more than ever. Children are humans too.

EWEI joined the rest of the world to mark the day through posts on all our social media platforms. Together lets #StandUp4HumanRights and say #NoToChildLabour

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

In 2015 the United Nations adopted 19 June as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. The day aims to “raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.”

The term “conflict-related sexual violence” refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilisation, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. The term also encompasses trafficking in persons when committed in situations of conflict for sexual violence or exploitation.

A consistent concern is that fear and cultural stigma converge to prevent the vast majority of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence from coming forward to report such violence. Practitioners in the field estimate that for each rape reported in connection with a conflict, 10 to 20 cases go undocumented.

Combatting impunity for sexual violence is a central aspect of deterring and preventing such crimes. It is also a central element of providing redress for victims. In this regard, COVID-19 has a significant and detrimental impact on all aspects of the rule of law response including accountability for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV).

With the immense support of the [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](#), Women and Girls



Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Kaduna State, are provided access to psychosocial support systems and economic empowerment opportunities to facilitate normalisation of their lives through [Our Safe Spaces Project \(OSS\)](#).

EWEI marked the day through [posts](#) on all our social media platforms.

International Widows' Day

The United Nations observes 23 June as [International Widows Day](#), to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanise the unique support that they need.

The loss of a partner is devastating. For many women around the world, that loss is magnified by a long-term struggle for basic needs, their human rights and dignity.

The pandemic has just worsened the situation during the past several months with a devastating human loss, and one that is likely leaving tens of thousands of women newly widowed at just the time when they are cut off from their usual socio-economic and family supports.

Experience from past pandemics, for example, HIV/AIDS and Ebola, shows that widows are often denied inheritance rights, have their property grabbed after the death of a partner, and can face extreme stigma and discrimination, as perceived 'carriers' of disease. Worldwide, women are much less likely to have access to old-age pensions than men, so the death of a spouse can lead to destitution for older women. In the context of lockdowns and economic closures, widows may not have access to bank accounts and pensions to pay for healthcare if they too become ill or to support themselves and their children. With lone-mother families and single older women already particularly vulnerable to poverty, this is an area that needs urgent attention.

There are an estimated 258 million widows around the world, and nearly one in ten live in extreme poverty. As women, they have specific needs, but their voices and experiences are often absent from policies that impact

International Widows Day is an opportunity for action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows. This includes providing them with information on access to a fair share of their inheritance, land, and productive resources; pensions and social protection that are not based on marital status alone; decent work and equal pay; and education and training opportunities.

Empowering widows to support themselves and their families also mean addressing social stigmas that create exclusion, and discriminatory or harmful practices.

In October 2018, with the support of IntiRaymi Fund, Mrs Jemima Adamu (a widow) was among the 4 new beneficiaries who received zero-interest loans to boost/start new small and medium scale businesses.

#WidowsDay #WidowsDay2020

EWEI marked the day through posts on all our social



International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as 'World Drug Day,' is celebrated annually on 26 June. The theme of World Drug Day 2020 was "Better Knowledge for Better Care." emphasising on the need to improve the understanding of the world drug problem and how in turn, better knowledge will foster greater international cooperation for countering its impact on health, governance, and security.

The field of addressing the drug problem has been 'plagued' by the misinformation of many kinds, hence the need for better knowledge to counter the menace posed by drug abuse and illicit trafficking.



On #WorldDrugDay 2020, EWEI strongly believes that better knowledge about drug abuse and illicit trafficking can lead to greater international cooperation for countering its impact on health, governance and security. We marked the day on our social media platforms through posts using the official hashtag #FactsForSolidarity

Read the 2018 drug use in Nigeria survey by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) here.

Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day.

Since 2017, June 27 each year is the Micro-, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day.

Micro-, small, and Medium-sized businesses celebrate their day in recognition of their work in local and global economies. These enterprises, which generally employ fewer than 250 persons, are the backbone of most economies worldwide and play a key role in developing countries.

Small businesses, including those run by women and young entrepreneurs, are being hit hardest by the economic fall-out of the pandemic. Unprecedented lockdown measures enacted to contain the spread of the coronavirus have resulted in supply chain disruptions and a massive drop in demand in most sectors.



To continue playing their crucial role in creating decent jobs and improving livelihoods, small businesses depend more than ever on an enabling business environment, including support for access to finance, information, and markets.

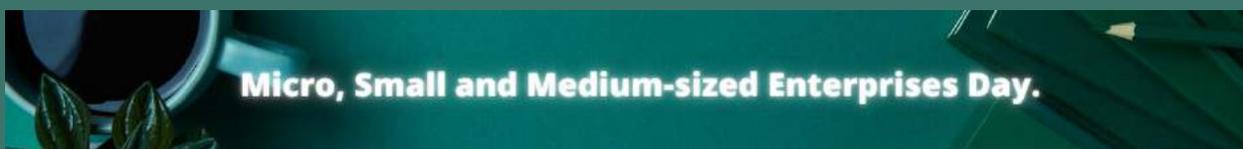
Micro-, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day 2020 Theme was “COVID-19: The Great Lockdown and its impact on Small Business”

The average growth rate of women’s enterprises is still lower than the average growth rate for businesses run by men.

Business analysts, however, have identified that quite a several factors are contributing to the slow growth rate in Nigeria. These factors include limited access to financing, gender discrimination, and lack of career advancement and training facilities. In Nigeria, the major factors that constraint women from starting a business are gender discrimination. When it comes to access to resources for establishing and expansion of a business, women mostly encounter challenges in getting credit and loans.

According to UN Women, Women’s economic empowerment boosts productivity, increases economic diversification and income equality in addition to other positive development outcomes. Women should be given equal chances with men in economic development because there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.

EWEI marked the #MSMEsDay2020 through posts on all our social media platforms.



World Youth Skills Day

Every year World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is celebrated on 15 July to recognise the strategic importance of equipping young people with the skills of employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. The day also highlights the important role of skilled youth in addressing current and future global challenges.

According to UNESCO, it is estimated that nearly 70% of the world's learners are affected by school closures across education levels. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions survey is jointly done by UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank; reported that distance learning is now the most common way of conveying skills with sizable difficulties regarding among others like curricula adaptation, trainee, and trainer preparedness, connectivity, or assessment and certification processes.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, currently, more than 1 in 6 young people are out of work. In such a time where young people are called upon to contribute to the recovery efforts, they must be equipped with the skills to successfully manage upcoming challenges and therefore the resilience to alter to future disruptions.

The theme for the 2020 World Youth Skills Day was "Skills for a Resilient Youth". The theme focused on the impact of COVID-19 crisis on skills development and ways to explore strategies in response to the unfolding economic crisis.

This will help in preparing young people to develop their capacities to respond to rapid changes in employment and entrepreneurship in such sectors that are hardest hit by the crisis. Therefore, we can say that this in the long term is to adapt skills development systems to changes in the economy of the world that the COVID-19 pandemic and recession will bring.

In response to the impact of COVID-19 crisis on skills development, EWEI strongly believes putting more efforts in empowering young people, can better advance lasting peace, sustainable development, and human rights for all.

EWEI marked the 2020 #WorldYouthSkillsDay through posts on all our social media platforms.

World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28 July to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D and E. (commonly referred to as HAV, HBV, HCV, HDV, and HEV).

Together, Hepatitis B and C are the most common cause of deaths, with 1.3 million lives lost each year. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, viral hepatitis continues to claim thousands of lives every day.

The theme for the 2020 World Hepatitis Day was “[Hepatitis-free Future,](#)” with a strong focus on preventing Hepatitis B among mothers and newborns.

EWEI strongly believes that through massive enlightenment campaigns, scale-up in screening, diagnosis and linkage to care, a hepatitis-free future is achievable.

Read the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Hepatitis Risk Assessment Tool [here](#).

Read the World Health Organisation, 2017 Global Hepatitis Report [here](#).

Read the Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016-2021 [here](#):

Watch our 2020 World Hepatitis Day enlightenment video [here](#).

EWEI marked the 2020 #WorldHepatitisDay through [posts](#) on all our social media platforms.



World Day against Trafficking in Persons

The [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#) is marked on July 30 every year to raise awareness about the menace of human trafficking and to protect the human rights of the victims. [Human trafficking](#) is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Since 2003 the UN Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) has collected information on about 225,000 victims of trafficking detected worldwide. Globally countries are detecting and reporting more victims and are convicting more traffickers. This can be the result of increased capacity to identify victims and/or an increased number of trafficked victims. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), around 21 million people are victims of forced labour globally, and of these, a significant number are also trafficking victims. Do you know?

- ❖ People are trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced begging, forced marriage; for selling children and as child soldiers, as well as for the removal of organs;
- ❖ Women make up 49% and girls 23% of all victims of trafficking;
- ❖ Sexual exploitation is the most common form of exploitation (59% share) followed by forced labour (34% share);
- ❖ Most victims are trafficked within their countries’ borders – those trafficked abroad are moved to the richest countries.

Source: [United Nations](#)

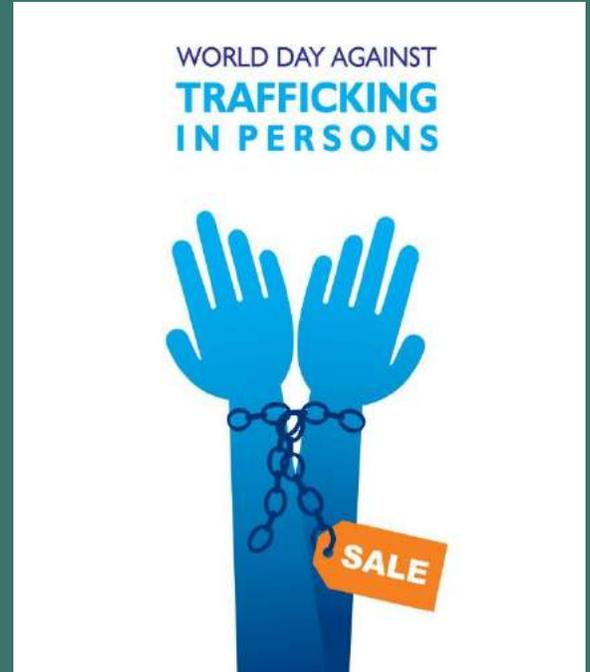
The theme for the 2020 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was ‘Committed to the Cause - Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking.’ The theme focuses on the people who play the role of the first responders to human trafficking. There are several people involved in these activities and they range from people who identify,

support, counsel and seek justice for victims of trafficking. The front-line activities also include people who challenge the impunity of the traffickers.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the essential role of first responders has become even more important, particularly as the restrictions imposed by the pandemic have made their work even more difficult. Still, their contribution is often overlooked and unrecognised.

Wherever there is poverty, conflict and gender inequality, women's and girls' lives are at-risk of exploitation. Human trafficking is a heinous crime that shatters lives, families, and dreams.

EWEI marked the day through [posts](#) on all our social media platforms. EWEI says No to #HumanTrafficking and all forms of exploitation.



International Youth Day

International Youth Day is celebrated on August 12 each year to recognise efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities.

We observed the [International Youth Day 2019](#) with the theme "[Transforming Education.](#)" The year's theme highlighted efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves.



World Breastfeeding Week

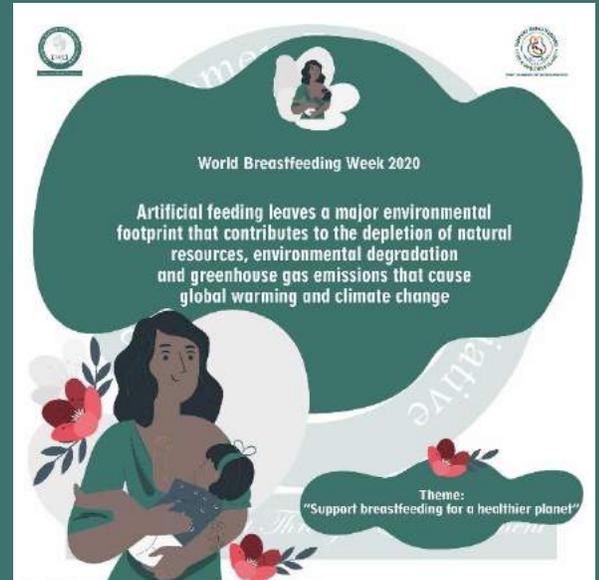
[World Breastfeeding Week](#) or [WBW](#) is an annual global celebration held to spread awareness around the health benefits of breastfeeding infants. Every year this week is celebrated between 1 and 7 August to encourage breastfeeding around the world.

For the first seven days of August 2020 people around the world celebrate and honour World Breastfeeding Week. Breastfeeding promotes better health for mothers and children alike. Increasing breastfeeding to near-universal levels could save more than 800 000 lives every year, the majority being children under 6

months. Breastfeeding decreases the risk of mothers developing breast cancer, ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease. It is estimated that increased breastfeeding could avert 20 000 maternal deaths each year due to breast cancer.

The theme for the World Breastfeeding Week 2020 was “Support Breastfeeding for a Healthier Planet”.

Breastfeeding provides every child with the best possible start in life. It delivers health, nutritional and emotional benefits to both children and mothers. And it forms part of a sustainable food system. But while breastfeeding is a natural process, it is not always easy. Mothers need support – both to get started and to sustain breastfeeding.



Skilled counselling services can ensure that mothers and families receive this support, along with the information, the advice, and the reassurance they need to nourish their babies optimally. Breastfeeding counselling can help mothers to build confidence while respecting their individual circumstances and choices. Counselling can empower women to overcome challenges and prevent feeding and care practices that may interfere with optimal breastfeedings, such as the provision of unnecessary liquids, foods, and breastmilk substitutes to infants and young children.

EWEI believes, if every lactating mother can persuade only another mother to breast-feed her baby, the number of breastfed children will be doubled!

EWEI joined the rest of the world to mark the #2020 World Breast Feeding Week through spreading awareness post on health benefits of breastfeeding throughout the one week campaign on all our social media platforms.

Watch the video slide show of all our campaign messages [here](#).

World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is held every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world. This day was designated in memory of the 19 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people, including the chief humanitarian in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly formalised the day as World Humanitarian Day. The 2020 World Humanitarian Day comes as the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic over recent months.

Aid workers are overcoming unprecedented access hurdles to assist people in humanitarian crises in 54 countries, as well as in a further nine countries which have been catapulted into humanitarian need by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year 2020 has been a disaster to all of us, and yet people who work for saving lives amid COVID-19 deserve to be celebrated. Humanitarians are not only doctors but also nurses, hospital workers, police officers, and many other government employees who are involved in the betterment of the world during this time. In 2020, EWEI's Founder won the **Apostle Hayford Alile Humanitarian Award bestowed by the Community and Human Rights Awards 2020 by SITEL CSR in Action**

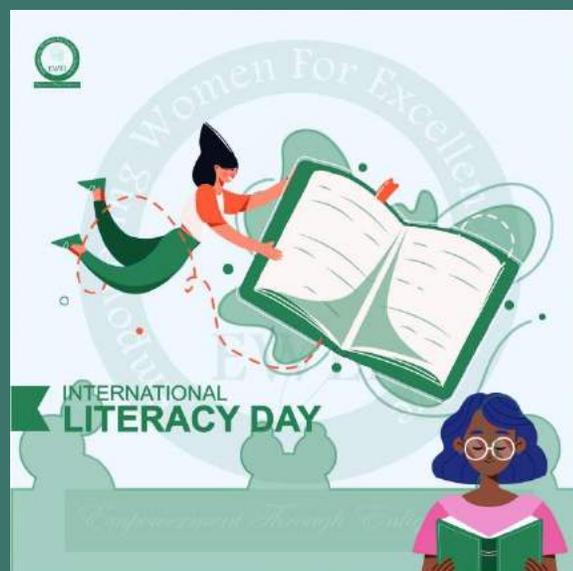
EWEI celebrates all aid workers in the world who strive hard to save lives by risking their own. We marked the day with posts on all our social media platforms.



International Literacy Day

Since 1967, International Literacy Day has been celebrated on September 8 annually around the globe. The day aims to promote the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society.

The world has made steady progress in literacy in the past decades. Yet, globally, according to UNESCO, 773 million adults and young people lack basic literacy skills and more than 617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. The recent COVID-19 crisis has been a magnifier of existing literacy challenges, deeply affecting schooling and lifelong learning opportunities including for youth and adults with no or low literacy skills.



The theme for the 2020 International Literacy Day was 'Literacy Teaching and Learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.' The theme focused on the role of educators and changing pedagogies.

Educators are at the heart of promoting quality lifelong learning. If educators are motivated, trained adequately and consistently, guaranteed decent working conditions, satisfactorily remunerated, and provided career prospects, youth, and adult literacy programmes can be more successful and lead to better learning and development outcomes. However, this scenario is rare, not only because governments and partners tend to focus more on teachers in formal education but also for a range of other reasons at the system and programme levels. The recent COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the fragility of many youth and adult literacy educators, programmes and systems as represented by an abrupt suspension of numerous programmes.

Many educators who were on unstable contracts and/or in the non-formal sector, for instance, are at risk of losing livelihoods. Even if they continue their work, many of them would face multiple challenges in providing meaningful learning due to inappropriate teaching environments, inadequate materials, poor working conditions, and their lower status, to name a few.

EWEI strongly believes that a society void of Literacy is a society void of Learning; “No Learning means No Development.”

Read an article on the Challenge of Illiteracy in Nigeria [here](#):

International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations Resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

The United Nations Member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 because they understood that it would not be possible to build a peaceful world if steps were not taken to achieve economic and social development for all people everywhere, and ensure that their rights were protected. The Sustainable Goals cover a broad range of issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment and social justice.



The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace was “Shaping Peace Together.” which celebrates the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic.

This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other’s enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.

To mark the 2020 Peace Day, Watch the video by Generations For Peace Nigeria in partnership with EWEI [here](#).

Read the UN Secretary-General’s 100 Day Countdown Message [here](#):

We marked the day with posts on all our social media platforms.

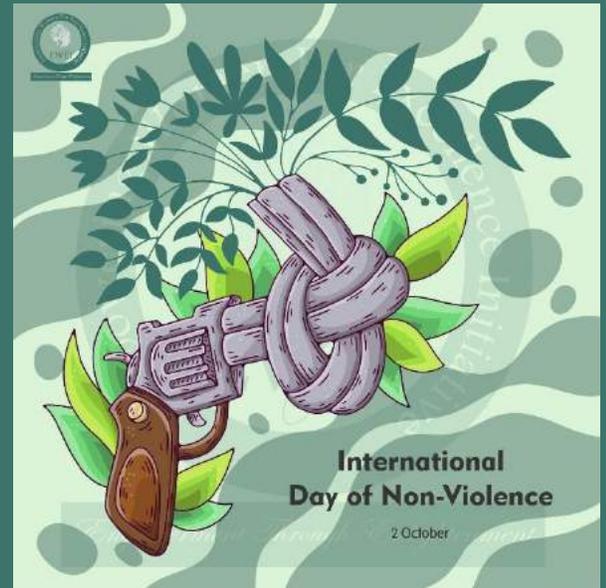


International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

Gandhi helped lead India to independence, inspired the non-violent movements for civil rights and social change all over the world. All his life, Gandhi believed in non-violence, even under oppressive conditions and when faced extreme difficulties.

The non-violence principle, also known as non-violent resistance, disavows the use of physical violence to trigger social or political change. Often described as "the politics of ordinary people," this form of social struggle has been embraced by many populations across the world within the framework of campaigns for social justice.



EWEI believes that the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence should be embraced.

Read the United Nation's General Assembly Resolution on International Day of Non-Violence [here](#).

We marked the day on our [social media](#) platforms.

World Habitat Day

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all, to adequate shelter. The day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. The 2019 theme for the World Habitat Day was "Frontier Technologies as an Innovative Tool to Transform Waste to Wealth."

Frontier technologies, such as automation, robotics, electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies, biotechnologies, and artificial intelligence can transform the social, economic and environmental spheres. They can offer better, cheaper, faster, scalable and easy to use solutions for every-day problems, including waste management.

Our Call to Action on World Habitat Day

Kaduna is the third most populous state in Nigeria with a population of over 7 million people according to the 2006 census. Despite efforts by the Kaduna State government towards ensuring a friendly environment free of refuse and waste products, indiscriminate dumping of refuse has continued.

To mark the 2019 World Habitat day, we put out a call to all environment enthusiasts residing in Kaduna State to become an [#EWEIKDW2W](#) citizen mobiliser. Watch the video [here](#).

After submitting entries and reviews, we now have two EWEI KDW2W citizen mobilisers, one is a resident of [Ungwan Dosa](#) in Kaduna North LGA and the other is a [resident of Kabala Costain](#) also in Kaduna North LGA.

Become an EWEI KDW2W Citizen mobiliser!

Get in touch with us to find out how!

contact@eweing.org

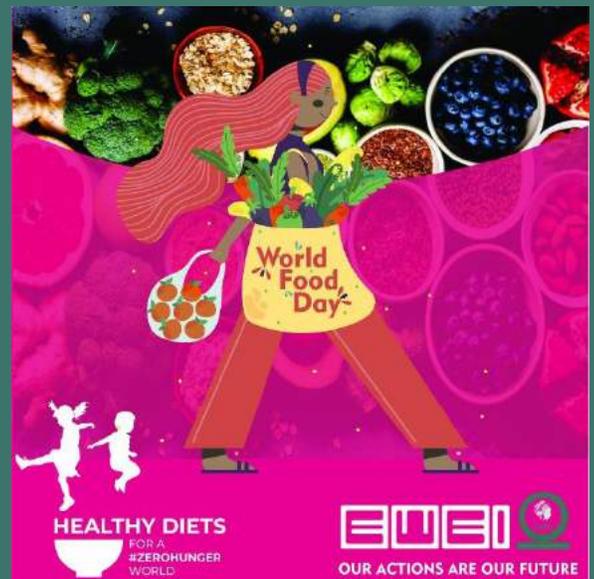
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World Food Day

World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October in over 150 countries to create awareness and action for SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Maintaining access to safe and nutritious food is and will be an essential part of the response to COVID-19, particularly for the world's poorest and most vulnerable, who are being hit hardest by the pandemic and related economic shocks.

The COVID-19 global health crisis has been a time to reflect on things we truly cherish and our most basic needs. These uncertain times have made many of us rekindle our appreciation for a thing that some take for granted and many go without: food.



Food is the essence of life and the bedrock of our cultures and communities. Preserving access to safe and nutritious food is and will continue to be an essential part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for poor and vulnerable communities, who are hit hardest by the pandemic and resulting economic shocks.

The theme for the 2020 World Food Day was "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our Actions are Our Future."

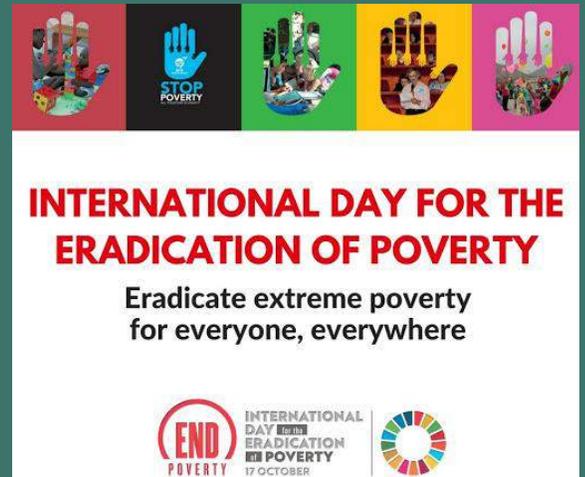
On #WorldFoodDay, amid the current COVID-19 crisis, EWEI recognises and rallies support to farmers and workers throughout the food system. They are our #FoodHeroes.

We marked the day on our [social media](#) platforms.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated across the globe every year on 17 October to raise awareness about the people who are struggling and living in poverty.

In a world characterised by an unprecedented level of economic development, technological means, and financial resources, that millions of persons are living in extreme poverty is a moral outrage. Poverty is not solely an economic issue, but rather a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses a lack of both income and the basic capabilities to live in dignity.



Poverty has many faces; it changes from place to place. For some poverty is hunger, lack of shelter, being sick or not having enough money, etc. Poverty is a state or condition in which a person lacks financial resources and not able to fulfil basic needs.

Poverty-stricken people and families live without a home, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention. Therefore, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty highlights the problems faced by the poverty-stricken people or families and work towards eradicating poverty globally in all its forms.

The theme for the 2020 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was “ Acting Together to Achieve Social and Environmental Justice for All.” The growing recognition of the multi-dimensionality of poverty means that these two issues are inseparably intertwined and that social justice cannot be fully realised without aggressively rectifying environmental injustices at the same time. According to the United Nations, “ Most people living below the poverty line belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.”

EWEI towards ending financial/economic poverty through her Economic Empowerment Partnerships.

Read more on Sustainable Development Goal 1 here.

Find out more about poverty levels in the world via the world poverty clock here.

Read the report from Sahara reporters on poverty levels in Nigeria here.

Nigeria Independence Day

Nigeria became an independent state on 1 October 1960 and officially became a constitutional republic in 1963 comprising thirty- six states and a Federal Capital Territory.

The year 2020 is extra special as it marks 60 years since the country declared independence. We celebrated the 60th anniversary through posts on all our social media handles and through a reflection piece via the October 1st Newsletter.



World Diabetes Day

Every year, November 14 is celebrated as World Diabetes Day.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body's ability to produce or utilise the hormone insulin is impaired, resulting in abnormal metabolism of carbohydrates and elevated levels of glucose in the blood. Symptoms often include frequent urination, increased thirst, and increased appetite. If left untreated, diabetes can cause many complications, which include cardiovascular disease, stroke, chronic kidney disease, foot ulcers which may lead to limb amputation, damage to the nerves as well as blindness. As of 2019, an estimated 463 million people had diabetes worldwide (8.8% of the adult population).



The theme for World Diabetes Day 2020 was “The Nurse and Diabetes” . The campaign aimed to raise awareness around the crucial role that nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes. Nurses currently account for over half of the global health workforce; and as the number of people with diabetes continues to rise across the world, the role of nurses and other health professional support staff becomes increasingly important in managing the impact of the condition. They do outstanding work to support people who either live with diabetes or are at risk of developing the condition, through education on the disease condition, complications, and on the importance of medication use. They play a key role in demonstrating and teaching patients on the appropriate technique of insulin administration, as well as ensuring the patients are following dietary recommendations.

There remains a significant need for more education and funding to equip nurses around the world with the skills to support people living with diabetes and those at risk of developing diabetes.

Healthcare providers and governments must therefore recognise the importance of investing in education and training. With the right expertise, nurses can make the difference for people affected by diabetes.

On #WorldDiabetesDay, EWEI strongly believes that diabetes is best detected early through routine screening and best managed early before complications develop.

International Day for Tolerance

The International Day for Tolerance is marked every year on 16 November to create awareness about the principles of tolerance. It is a day for respecting the cultures, beliefs and traditions of others and understanding the risks posed by intolerance.

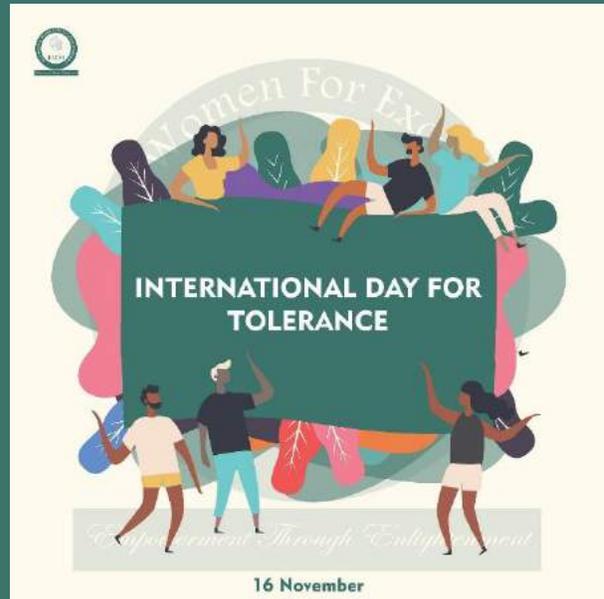
Tolerance isn't necessary if we agree. We are allowed to disagree, but it is the manner and attitude with which we express our views which is important.

Tolerance is a term often used interchangeably with 'celebrating diversity', and whilst both terms complement each other, 'tolerance' is the only concept that gets to the heart of the really difficult work in educating young people on how to address people, practices and perspectives that they do not understand or do not agree with.

Tolerance of intolerance is not tolerance. The two terms are antonyms like light and dark, good and evil. If we allow intolerance, then we are no longer a tolerant society.

EWEI strongly believes that the diversity of our world's many religions, languages, cultures, and ethnicities is not a pretext for conflict, but is a treasure that enriches us all.

We marked the day on our [social media](#) platforms.



World Children's Day

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

Thirty years ago, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – an international agreement on childhood. It has become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives around the world.

But still not every child gets to enjoy a full childhood; too many childhoods are cut short.



Mothers and fathers, teachers, nurses and doctors, government leaders and civil society activists, religious and community elders, corporate moguls and media professionals, as well as young people and children themselves, can play an important part in making World Children's Day relevant for their societies, communities and nations.

World Children's Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children. This year, the COVID-19 crisis has resulted in a child rights crisis. The costs of the pandemic for children are immediate and, if unaddressed, may last a lifetime.

Key facts on World Children Day according to [UNICEF](#)

- 262 million children and youth are out of school.
- 650 million girls and women were married before their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 4 children will live in areas with extremely limited water resources by 2040.

We strongly believe urgent action is needed to make sure every child has every right. It is up to our generation to demand that leaders from government, business and communities fulfil their commitments and act for child rights now, once and for all. They must commit to making sure every child, has every right.

We marked the day on our [social media](#) platforms.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. As the world retreated inside homes due to the lockdown measures introduced to curb the COVID-19 pandemic, reports showed an alarming increase in the already [existing pandemic of violence against women](#).

The 2020 theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is [“Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, and Collect!”](#)

In support of this civil society initiative, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General’s UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign (UNiTE campaign) calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations. Ending gender-based discrimination and violence is a global priority that requires collective action.

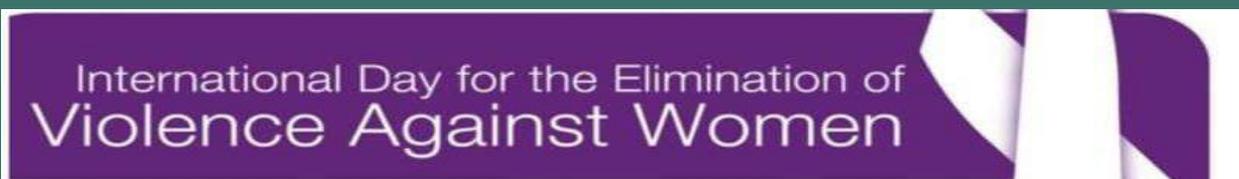
In line with this year’s theme, we carried out some activities lined up to mark the 16Days of activism.

To watch the Day One of our 16 Days of Activism Advocacy campaign video, click [here](#).

Watch the Day two video [here](#).

And Day three [here](#).

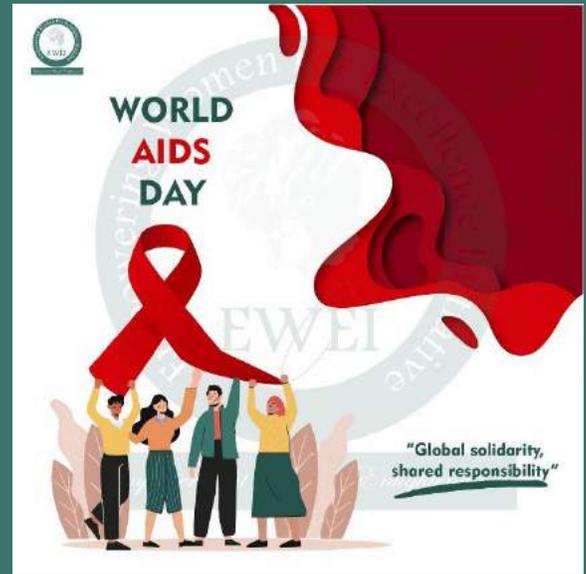
On Friday 27 November 2020, EWEI was part of a Twitter Chat to mark the 16 Days of Activism organised by [Safe Speaks](#). The Chat focused on the topic “GBV Awareness and Prevention during COVID-19.”



World AIDS Day

Every year, on 1 December, the world celebrates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS.

In 2020, the world's attention has been focused by the COVID-19 pandemic on health and how pandemics affect lives and livelihoods. COVID-19 is showing once again how health is interlinked with other critical issues, such as reducing inequality, human rights, gender equality, social protection, and economic growth. The theme for the 2020 World AIDS Day was "Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility".



COVID-19 has demonstrated that, during a pandemic, no one is safe until everyone is safe. Leaving people behind is not an option if we are to succeed. Eliminating stigma and discrimination, putting people at the centre and grounding our responses in human rights and gender-responsive approaches are key to ending the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID-19.

EWEI strongly believes that eliminating stigma and gender-responsive approaches are key to ending the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID-19.

We marked the day on our social media platforms.

Watch Video from UNAIDS on World AIDS Day here. [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

Since 1992, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been annually observed on 3 December around the world.

The 2020 theme was "Building Back Better: towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with disabilities."

Disability inclusion is an essential condition to upholding human rights, sustainable development, and peace and security. It is also central to the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind. The commitment to realising the rights of persons with disabilities is not only a matter of justice; it is an investment in a common future.



The global crisis of COVID-19 is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing the extent of exclusion, and highlighting that work on disability inclusion is imperative. People with disabilities—one billion people— are one of the most excluded groups in our society and are among the hardest hit in this crisis in terms of fatalities.

Even under normal circumstances, persons with disabilities are less likely to access health care, education, employment and to participate in the community. An integrated approach is required to ensure that persons with disabilities are not left behind.

Disability inclusion will result in a COVID19 response and recovery that better serves everyone, more fully suppressing the virus, as well as building back better. It will provide for more agile systems capable of responding to complex situations, reaching the furthest behind first.

EWEI strongly believes that persons with disabilities have been amongst the most vulnerable populations during the current COVID-19 outbreak due to many health, social and environmental barriers, discriminatory attitudes, and inaccessible infrastructure.

We marked the day on our [social media](#) platforms.

Watch the video on five things you need to know about living with a disability during COVID-19 [here](#).

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day, is celebrated each year on 10 December. The day marks the anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights empowers us all. The principles enshrined in the Declaration are as relevant today as they were in 1948. We need to stand up for our own rights and those of others. We can act in our own daily lives, to uphold the rights that protect us all and thereby promote the kinship of all human beings.

Human rights are at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as in the absence of human dignity we cannot hope to drive sustainable development. Human Rights are driven by progress on all SDGs, and the SDGs are driven by advancements on human rights.



The theme for the 2020 Human Rights Day was “Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights.” The theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts. We will reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and apply human rights standards to tackle entrenched, systematic, and intergenerational inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination.

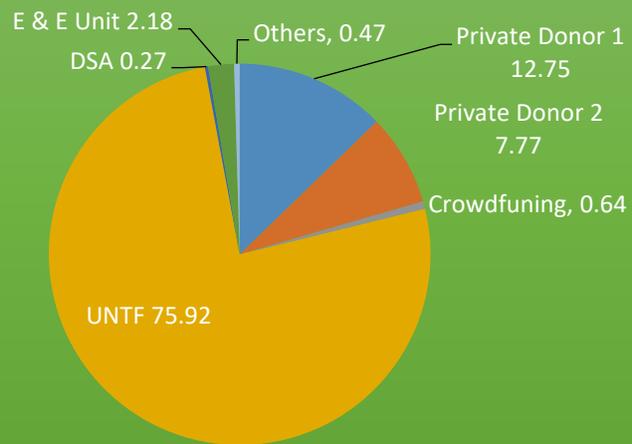
Every human has rights, and it is rightly said by Nelson Mandela, "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity."

We marked the day on our [social media](#) platforms.

Finance

Income by Percentage

2020 Donation(s) - NGN (%) (Restricted & Non-Restricted Fund)



2020 Donors and Partners

GlobalGiving: EWEI was made a permanent partner on [GlobalGiving](#) in 2020 and was awarded a staff favourite organisation badge.

Our “[Educate, Equip and Empower \(EEE\) Project](#)” designed to tackle poverty; retention, enrolment and completion rates of girl child education; networking and mentoring between female students and women professionals around the world and provision of access to opportunities for women and girls in northern Nigeria, is featured on the crowdfunding platform.

In order to achieve the objectives of this project, EWEI participated actively in different fundraising activities on the platform including the GG June accelerator, Bonus Day, September Accelerator and Year-end campaign. This was in addition to disseminating EEE quarterly progress reports and participating in webinars to enhance the effective use of social media tools to attract donor funding locally and internationally.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Organisational Development

Staff Onboarding

In 2020, there was a significant increase in the EWEI workforce, enabling us to reach an 80:20 female to male ratio in the organisation. New staff members were on boarded on resumption. [Meet Our Team here.](#)

12 Year Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating twelve years of consistently working towards the empowerment of girls and women in Kaduna State, Nigeria, On 6 June 2020, we marked TWELVE years of actively empowering girls and women with the support of our friends and partners. The twelve year anniversary edition of EWEI NEWS was published, and our 11th Annual General Meeting was held.

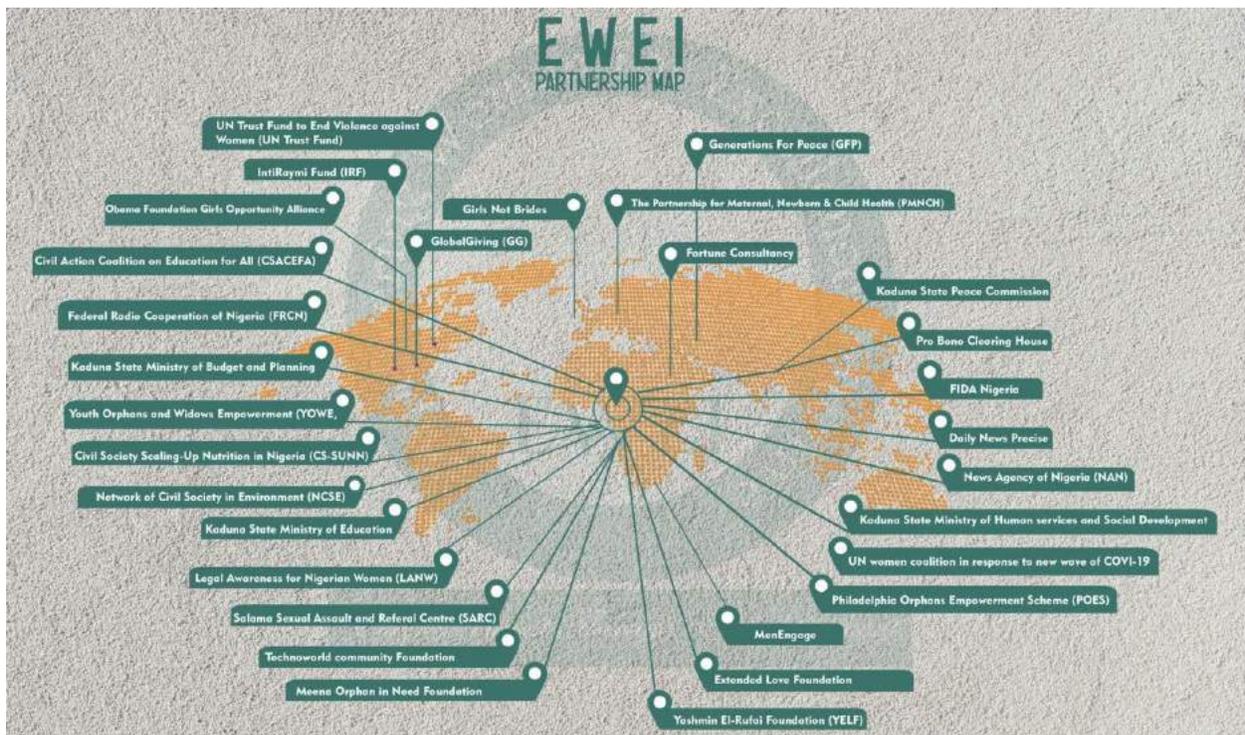
Since EWEI's founding in 2008 till 2020, **25,482** girls, boys, women and men have benefitted from our activities and we are going strong: ready for the next phase of our growth. Thanks to all who have made this possible.

We are indeed surrounded by a genuinely supportive community.

THANK YOU

Thank You to all our Partners and Donors.

Your continued support has led us to achieve huge success over the last 12 years.



Support

EWEI's projects are supported through partnerships and support from well-meaning individuals and organisations. We require such support to deliver on our promises to empower and enlighten girls and women. We ask that you support this initiative and play your part in making a difference in the lives of girls and women in our nation. Since 2008, EWEI has received the support of individual donors and partners to fund her work. EWEI has expanded her funding model to include outreach and fundraising, events, crowd funding and income generation activities. Please contact us for information on how to partner with us and support our work. Send us an [email](#) for more information.



You can support EWEI by:

- Becoming a **mentor** or **volunteer**.
- **Donating:** Let us know if you want to support a specific programme or if support is for core organisational costs.
- **Linking us to a donor** or **telling us** about funding/support opportunities on any scale.
- **Social media engagement** on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#), [Tumblr](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). Please spread word about us online!
- **Sending us** supplies and equipment like stationery, books and relevant resources in simple English, visual aids, laptops, printers and cameras.
- **Sending us** articles or blogs, host and mentor on a live chat.



ANNUAL REPORT



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