

Women Against Rape,
Sexual Harassment
And
Sexual Exploitation
(WARSE)

MEET WARSHE

Women Against Rape, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation (**WARSHE**) is a Non-Governmental, not-for-profit making organization, which was inaugurated in October 1998, and is headquartered at Obafemi Awolowo University, in Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The idea of an organization to assist victims of sexual violence and abuse came about as a result of the increased (1) whispered instances and (2) human rights and media reportage of incidents of rape, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in institutions of learning; in workplaces; on the streets in both rural areas and urban centers; in gynaecology clinics; in religious places; in prisons; in conflict situations and in some homes. The trustees, the Co-ordinating Council, the staff and the volunteers of WARSHE are convinced that victims of sexual violence and abuse need an organizational structure that is unencumbered by deeply held convictions and or prejudices that: consider victims as deserving of their ordeals; consider certain matters unworthy or too private to be pursued; or consider that certain matters are “normal” male-female interactions. WARSHE provides the much needed organizational structure for victims of sexual violence and abuse. WARSHE is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission, under the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 1990 (part C-Incorporated Trustees). Her registration No. is: CAC/6/INTC/7768.

At WARSHE, Our vision is to see many more Nigerian Women and men giving support to survivors of sexual violence and abuse so that these survivors can reach their full potential as human beings, in spite of the cruelty already meted out to them. It is the vision of a Nigerian society that has unveiled the silence around the subject of sexual violence and abuse. It is also the vision to have many more Nigerian women and men attack the oft overlooked and taken for granted cause of sexual violence and abuse-the socio-cultural factors.

Our mission is to contribute to efforts aimed at improving the social position of Nigerian women, and by so doing, reduce considerably, sexual abuse and violence against women and children in Nigeria.

The Goals of WARSHE are to:

- Provide human, material and emotional support for victims of rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation;
- Assist victims of rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation to obtain justice;
- Educate girls and women on the subject of rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation; and what to do when they happen;
- Help girls and women to prevent rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation;
- Publish rape, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation reports and other relevant documents, and distribute widely;
- Carry out research studies that are directly related to the work of the organization

WARSHE Activities

- Through her **intervention work**, WARSHE helps survivors to obtain **medical** and **legal** services. The organization provides counselling services and the much needed **emotional support** to survivors

- WARSHE provides **legal assistance** for court and out-of-court settlements, as well as the necessary **personal support** to survivors during the court, formal and non-formal procedures to reduce humiliation
- WARSHE provides and disseminates **information** on the profile of potential rapists and sexual abusers, on situations and circumstances that can lead to sexual violence and abuse, and on the action to take when they occur
- WARSHE gives **training in the martial arts** to enhance the capability of girls and women to resist sexual violence and abuse
- WARSHE provides **technical support** to educational institutions' investigating panels (on rape and sexual harassment) and persons working on seminar/ research papers, through consultations/ discussions and use of materials in the WARSHE resource centre
- WARSHE undertakes **research** into the prevalence, causes, manifestations and effects of sexual violence and abuse
- WARSHE **provides training** for professionals (health/social workers, judiciary and law enforcement agents) and stakeholders (teachers, parents, communities) on best practices in preventing sexual violence and abuse, in handling cases, and in providing care for survivors of sexual violence and abuse.

The Scope of **WARSHE** Activities

Since inception

- WARSHE has held **15** intensive training workshops; **23** symposia; and at least **115** awareness raising and sensitization talks and exercises. WARSHE also honoured at least six (**6**) invitations to give talks on SVA, GBV and women's status on campuses and in community settings
- WARSHE has **produced 13No. education, sensitization and mobilization materials which included posters, fliers, stickers, a DVD and a booklet**
- WARSHE education and survey took place in **25** towns, cities, and suburban and rural areas in four of the six states in Southwest Nigeria. The states are: Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti States. The towns, cities and rural communities reached are: Ile-Ife; Ibadan, Ede; Ipe-Akoko; Akure; Ondo; Igbado; Ilesha; Oshogbo; Iree; Ogbomosho; and Ikire. Others are: Ikere-Ekiti; Oyo; Ofa-meta Oyo; Idi-Araba Ogbomosho; Saki; Eruwa; Lanlate; Sekona; Kirun; Osu; Okinni; Iwo; and Ile-Ogbo
- WARSHE has received and documented at least **71** cases of sexual violence and abuse and other forms of gender based violence in her office in Ile-Ife. This does not include the girls and young women that WARSHE supported during the survey of the incidence of sexual violence and abuse that she carried out in 2011/2012.
- Beneficiaries of WARSHE intervention efforts resided in Osun, Oyo, Ondo, and Zamfara States, at the time they sought help from WARSHE
- The categories of persons WARSHE has reached include mothers, fathers, teenage girls and boys, young women and men, state and non-state actors, and everyday people.

Funding

WARSHE has received financial support from: her volunteers and well-meaning Nigerians; The Ford Foundation (West Africa Office); The Global Fund for Women; and the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

The Structure of **WARSHE**

The key organs of WARSHE are: 1) the **Board of Trustees** comprising of 5 women and 4 men who have zero-level tolerance for sexual abuse and violence; 2) the **Coordinating Council (CC)** which comprises the Coordinator, the General Secretary and the Treasurer; 3) the **WARSHE Staff**; and 4) the pool of WARSHE's registered and unregistered volunteers, among whom are doctors, nurses, lawyers, journalists, social workers, education officers, and students.

The Board of Trustees of **WARSHE**

Dr. Olutoyin Mejiuni (Chairperson)
Prof. Oluyemisi Oluremi Obilade (Treasurer)
Dr. Adeolu Ademoyo (Founding General Secretary)
Prof. Sumbo Abiose
Prof. Ibiyemi Mojola
Prof. Abiodun Odu
Engr. Richard Adebola Akande
Mrs. Laadi Olorunyomi
Barrister Olasupo Ojo (Pro tem Secretary & Legal Adviser)

Co-founders

Dr. Olutoyin Mejiuni
Prof. Oluyemisi Oluremi Obilade
Dr. Adeolu Ademoyo

WARSHE Full-time Staff

Mrs Titilope Olanrewaju (Intervention Officer & Resource Centre Manager)
Mrs Bola Jesuloju (Office Manager)

Please read and download **WARSHE Beliefs and Core Values** on the WARSHE website: www.warshe.org

Contact

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EXPLOITATION (**WARSHE**)**

...a shout for honour