

*Women Against Rape, Sexual Harassment  
and Sexual Exploitation  
(WARSHÉ)*

**WARSHÉ Programmes and Activities  
1998-2013**

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# **WARSHE Programmes and Activities 1998-2013**

## **Section 1**

### **WARSHE Programmes and Activities**

#### **A) Education Programmes/Activities and Education/Sensitization/Advocacy/Mobilization Materials**

##### **7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 1998**

In October 1998, at the formal inception of the organization, WARSHE held a three-day workshop for members of the organization, and other women and men whose brief touch on the issues of rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation. This workshop became necessary after the conception and birth of the organization in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1998. The organization had committed to: 1) providing support for victims of sexual violence and abuse; 2) preventing sexual violence and abuse; and 3) alerting all men and women of conscience, relevant organizations and policy makers to the causes, incidence, manifestations, consequences and all the ramifications of sexual violence and abuse. The workshop served the purpose of equipping members of the organization, lecturers and students of Obafemi Awolowo University, teachers and guidance counselors, a few medical doctors and the media practitioners who were present with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to carry out the work of the organization, and it also helped to sensitize members of the public to the key issues around the problem of sexual violence and abuse.

At the opening session of the workshop, after the presentation of the concerns that led to the formation of the organization, WARSHE, there was a harvest of advice and expectations on what the organization should focus on, and how it should conduct itself. There were also straight talks about the kinds of hurdles it would have to scale to ensure sustainability. The papers presented were: “Some reflections on human nature and sexual oppression”; “The sociological perspectives of sexual violence and abuse”; “The gynaecological implications of sexual violence and abuse on girls and women”; “The position of the law on sexual violence”; “The basis and challenges of feminism in the understanding of rape, sexual harassment and exploitation”; “Mental health aspects of sexual abuse and violence against girls and women (theoretical perspectives)”; and “The art of counseling (Activities – Practical)”. The resource person who was invited to discuss the investigative procedures in sexual violence and abuse could not attend the workshop. The tally of persons who attended the workshop was between 90 and 100 from the first day at the opening ceremony till the end of the workshop. The media men and women who were present at the workshop reported the programme adequately. We were of the opinion that that workshop, which was the formal outing of WARSHE, opened the lid on the subject of sexual violence, and the public discourse of sexual violence and abuse in the part of Nigeria where we are located, which is the Southwest of Nigeria.

##### **December 1998**

- WARSHE produced her first Sexual Violence Alert (Sexual Violence Alert No. 1) being our reaction to the arrogant display of wealth and power on the Obafemi Awolowo

University campus by an alleged sexual offender. The alert was essentially a sensitization material.

### **27<sup>th</sup> January 1999**

WARSHE was one of the groups that spoke to fresh undergraduates about “survival strategies on Obafemi Awolowo University campus”, during the orientation programme held for fresh undergraduates in the 1998/1999 session, between 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 1999.

WARSHE participated in the orientation programme for fresh undergraduates in her host institution for at least two consecutive sessions after the 1998/1999 session, and intermittently after.

### **January 1999**

At the point of **registration of fresh female students into Mozambique Hall of Obafemi Awolowo University** in the 1998/1999 session, WARSHE was given **a desk through which she interacted on a one-on-one basis with fresh female students** and gave them verbal and written tips on how to prevent and cope with sexual violence and abuse. A staff and a volunteer were at the desk for one week.

WARSHE mounted this desk for at least four consecutive sessions, and intermittently thereafter.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> March 1999**

WARSHE held a symposium for girls in the senior classes in Moremi High School, located on the Obafemi Awolowo University campus.

### **17<sup>th</sup> March 1999**

A widely publicized symposium that was to hold on Obafemi Awolowo University campus was aborted by students’ unrest.

### **November 1999**

- WARSHE produced her second Sexual Violence Alert (Sexual Violence Alert No 2) being our reaction to the threats of sexual attacks on WARSHE Volunteers by accused sexual offenders and their relatives. This alert was designed to checkmate the ones who issued the threats, but was also a sensitization material.

### **8<sup>th</sup> March 2000**

- Dr Olutoyin Mejiuni represented WARSHE as a speaker at the Society for Women and AIDs in Africa’s (SWAN Osun State Branch’s) celebration of the International Women’s Day, held at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC).

### **June 2000**

- WARSHE produced her third Sexual Violence Alert (Sexual Violence Alert No 3) being our reaction to the threats on WARSHE Staff and Volunteers by faceless individuals. It was designed to checkmate the ones who issued the threats, but was also a sensitization material.

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2001**

WARSHE held a symposium, conceived as the first in her series of Faculty Focused Education Programmes for the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assaults in the Faculty of Social Sciences of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2001**

Held the second in her series of Faculty Focused Education Programmes for the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assaults for the Faculties of Arts and Education in the Humanities Auditorium 1, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

**8<sup>th</sup> August 2001**

WARSHE held a symposium at the University of Ibadan. This symposium marked WARSHE's formal entry into the University of Ibadan

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

WARSHE Coordinator, Dr Olutoyin Mejiuni was a guest speaker at the seminar entitled: Ethical Issues in Secretarial Profession, organized by the National Association of Secretarial Students, the Federal Polytechnic, Ede Branch. She spoke on: "Sexual Abuse in the Workplace and in Secretarial Profession".

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

WARSHE held a symposium for students and a few lecturers in the Federal Polytechnic, Ede.

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

WARSHE held a symposium for Obafemi Awolowo University students at the Humanities Auditorium I.

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

Held an intensive training workshop for Ife WARSHE Volunteers at the Conference Centre and Guest Houses of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

**6<sup>th</sup> August 2002**

WARSHE Participated in a **community wide health education programme** in Ipe-Akoko in Ondo State.

**10<sup>th</sup> August 2002**

**WARSHE held an Intensive Training Workshop (ITW)** for University of Ibadan WARSHE Volunteers at the Conference Centre, University of Ibadan.

**9<sup>th</sup> December 2002**

Held a symposium for female student nurses of the School of Nursing, Seventh Day Adventist Hospital, Lagere, Ile-Ife.

**Between 4<sup>th</sup> November 2002 and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2003**

12 No. Awareness Raising Talks (**ARTs**) for Mothers in Child Welfare Clinics in **Ile – Ife** (Osun State ); **Akure** ( Ondo State) and **Ibadan** (Oyo State ).

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2003**

**Symposium** at Adeyemi College of Education **Ondo** (Ondo State )

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

**Intensive Training Workshop** for WARSHE Volunteers at the Federal Polytechnic **Ede**, Osun State at the Pastoral Centre in Ede.

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2003**

**Symposium** at Obafemi Awolowo University, **Ile Ife**, Osun State

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2003**

Held an intensive training workshop for inductees at the Union of Campus Journalists (UCJ) Induction 2003, organized by the University of Ibadan branch of Union of Campus Journalists.

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2003**

**Symposium** at the School of Nursing, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex, **Ilesha**, Osun State

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2003**

Had to Call off a symposium scheduled for the University of Ibadan at the last minute, due to violent clashes on the campus.

**December 2003**

Gave a health talk at the Urban Comprehensive Health Centre (UCHC), Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC) end of year programme for mothers and health workers.

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

WARSHE held a mini training workshop on sexual violence and abuse for students of Mozambique Hall of Obafemi Awolowo University in the Hall Common Room. Mozambique Hall is a female Hall of Residence.

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

A **Symposium** was held at the University of Ibadan

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2004 - One – Day WARSHE Workshop/Roundtable titled: *The Survivors of Rape and Other Sexual Assaults: The Search for Justice***

This programme held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004 at D`Rovans Hotel in **Ibadan**, Oyo State. The objectives of the Workshop/Roundtable were: (1) To sensitize key persons within the institutions concerned with the Administration of Justice to: a) the environments in which rape and other sexual assaults take place; b) the potential victims of rape and other sexual assaults; and c) the medical (Gynae and mental health) and sociological implications of rape and other sexual assaults. (2) To share WARSHE's experience in handling cases of sexual violence and abuse in the last five years with participants and to learn from key persons in institutions concerned with the quest for justice about how to better help victims in the search for justice. (3) To bring key persons in the search

for justice for victims together so that they can jointly respond to the array of questions that has been agitating our minds (at WARSHE) for sometime. The answers will serve as the basis for a handbook that WARSHE intends to produce and distribute widely.

Thirty six persons attended the workshop/roundtable. Present were: Chief Magistrates; Consultant Gynaecologists; Police Officers, including an Assistant Commissioner of Police; lawyers, including a representative of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA); University Teachers and their students; and Journalists from the broadcast and print media.

The Lagos State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice was represented by the Director of the Directorate for Citizens` Rights, Ministry of Justice, Lagos State. She chaired the opening ceremony. The Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Development and Social Welfare in Oyo State, also sent kind words to the workshop through a delegation. The workshop, which started at about 10.15am, ended (with reluctance) at 9.00pm.

#### *Education and Advocacy Materials*

- Produced **5,500 copies of leaflets** that contained tips for girls and women about how to prevent and cope with sexual violence and abuse;
- **500 posters** that gave a summary of the environments in which sexual violence and abuse occur and
- **1, 000 copies of WARSHE Alert Cards.** The WARSHE Alert Cards (Yellow and Red) were designed to assist those who have them to warn girls and women about potentially dangerous situations. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last girl in a class full of boys at night is going to leave the class, she could, discreetly, leave either of the two cards with the sister who is going to be left alone in that class with many boys. The dangerous environment might not be a classroom. It could be a bus, a party, a home, or an office.

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> September 2004**

As part of the Centennial celebrations of the Rotaract Club of Molete, **Ibadan**, Oyo State, WARSHE was invited to give a talk on: The Challenges of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation for Nigerian Youths. The talk held at the Rotary Club House, Iyaganku Ibadan.

#### **\*10<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

The students of the School of Nursing, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC), Wesley Guild Hospital, Ilesha, had invited WARSHE to give a lecture as part of the activities scheduled for the students` week. In spite of communications between the students and WARSHE staff, firming up the date and the theme of the lecture, the students failed to show up for the lecture because according to their leaders, they had gone on excursion the day before, and were tired.

\*Earlier, on **3<sup>rd</sup> September 2004**, the talk that WARSHE would usually give to Fresh Undergraduates of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile - Ife during their orientation week, which had been scheduled for **3<sup>rd</sup> September** could not hold because of students` strike action.

### **26<sup>th</sup> October 2004**

WARSHE held a symposium at a male hall of residence (Awolowo Hall) at our host institution, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) on this day, after we had re-scheduled the programme from the previous week, due to students' strike action. The symposium was titled: Preventing Sexual Assaults and Sexual Harassment.

### **13<sup>TH</sup> November 2004**

We held a One-Day Intensive Training Workshop with Student Nurses at OAUTHC, Wesley Guild Hospital in **Ilesha**. Apart from the group works, the workshop explored the relations of power that are central to the socio-cultural factors that result in, and perpetuate sexual violence and abuse, and also block successful intervention efforts. It also explored empowerment as the interface of empathy, community and leadership. Given that the participants at the workshop were nurses in training, and we wanted to key our subject of interest to their profession and personal lives, we got them to explore the medical implications of sexual violence and abuse in groups. We have to put it on record that we got the long list of the repercussions of violence on women that we then printed out on fliers for the 2004 16 Days of Activism Campaign, from this workshop. We moderated the list slightly, and showed it to our Consultant Gynaecologist who assured us they were okay for the repercussions of the different kinds of violence on women that we wanted to highlight.

### **24<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

We held a lively and stimulating interaction with a few lecturers and almost a hall full of students of the University of **Ibadan** during a symposium with the theme: Confronting Sexual Violence and abuse – The Issues and the Challenges.

### **2004 16 Days of Activism Campaign**

#### ***Sensitization, Education and Advocacy Materials (Fliers, Stickers, Posters & T-Shirts)*** **Produced for the Campaign**

- WARSHE produced a **flier** that gave details of the organisation's plan for the campaign. The details given were: the reasons for the campaign; those expected to take part in the campaign; where and when the campaign will take place, and, what will be done and how they will be done. Apart from announcing the details of the plans for the campaign, the fliers were also sensitization materials which we distributed during WARSHE education programmes. We gave extra copies of the fliers to: participants at the education programmes to pass on to their friends and acquaintances that were not present at those education programmes, and to the friends of WARSHE on the campuses that we had targeted.
- The messages on the **stickers** were expected to provoke reflections on the problem of violence against women. There were 6 different messages on the stickers that were produced. Some of the messages include: Oppose all forms of violence NOW!!! The next victim of battery, rape, acid attack, dehumanizing widowhood rites, female genital mutilation, forced prostitution and child sexual abuse could be you, your sister, daughter, mother, grandmother or a toddler; Good girls and women do not have experience of violence? Put your ears to the ground, and, listen especially to the cries for help, and NO MEANS NO!!! Rape is not a crime of passion; it is a hate crime and a crime of power.
- The **T – Shirts** carried 3 of the 6 messages on the stickers.



- There was a second **flier** that contained a long list of the repercussions of violence on women.
- The **poster**, which depicted the interaction of some panelists with people of different age groups, whose ethnic origins vary, and who are of different religious persuasions, challenges every one present in a town hall to make a public declaration of the position of their religions on violence against women. This is indeed a conversation that we think Non Governmental Organizations, especially the women oriented ones are holding, and, ought to be holding more frequently with Nigerians, given the religiosity that Nigerians are displaying.

### **29<sup>th</sup> November 2004 - Ilesha**

**The WARSHE 16 days of Activism campaign** was flagged off in Ilesha on **29<sup>th</sup> November, 2004**. Ilesha is about 30 minutes drive from Ile – Ife, and, like Ile – Ife, Ilesha is in Osun State. The staff of WARSHE and the three members of the Coordinating Council (CC) of WARSHE met 14 female and 1 male Student Nurses of the School of Nursing, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC), Wesley Guild Hospital, on their campus in Ilesha. The students sought permission to take time off their lectures and postings from the authority of their institution, while the WARSHE CC paid an official visit to the Principal of the School. WARSHE got a go ahead from the authority of the institution to go into the Institution’s host community with the Student Nurses.

The campaign team of 19 women and 1 man called first, at the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, who is the Area Commandant for Ilesha Division of the Nigeria Police Force. He was not on seat, and his officers would not allow the campaign team to carry out the campaign at the huge Police formation, until his arrival. The WARSHE team then called at the High Court of Justice, and was given a warm welcome by the Court Registrar, who asked that a staff of the Court should take the team to all offices, so the campaign materials – posters, fliers and stickers – could be distributed to all staff present. He took some of the materials for Judges and Magistrates who were not on seat.

Next, the campaign team called at the office of the Local Inspectorate of Education (LIE), where the team interacted closely with the staff and distributed the campaign materials. The team met two high ranking officials of the Inspectorate who expressed a lot of support for WARSHE efforts, and asked for the campaign T – Shirts which they promised they would wear whenever they go for school inspection.

The attempt to carry out the campaign at the Social Welfare Department failed because a workers’ strike action was on.

The WARSHE team went back to the office of the Area Commander. He was on seat, and he received WARSHE. Good enough, he had represented the Osun State Commissioner of Police at the WARSHE workshop/roundtable that was held in June 2004, and his wealth of experience came in handy at the workshop. He told the WARSHE CC that his strategy in handling rape cases is to ensure that cases are investigated and moved speedily to the Courts or the Judiciary. He addressed the entire campaign team outside his Office, and assured all present that his office will continue to support the efforts of WARSHE and will take a serious view of cases of violence

on women. A female Police Officer led the team round the entire Police formation for the purpose of distributing the campaign materials.

The WARSHE team went back to the OAUTHC Wesley Guild Hospital for the Campaign. The team distributed the campaign materials in the students' hostels, the Hospital wards, the clinics, the lecture halls, and, discussed one on one with persons who asked questions or raised issues.

### **1<sup>st</sup> December 2004 - Ibadan**

The Campaign in Ibadan began on **1<sup>st</sup> December, 2004**. Ibadan, which is about 45mins drive from Ile – Ife, is a huge city and is the administrative capital of Oyo State. The campaign team took off from the quadrangle of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan. The team was made up of the 3 Members of the Coordinating Council of WARSHE, 2 WARSHE staff and 22 University of Ibadan Student Volunteers. The team called first, at the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Oyo State Police Command, located in the Eleyele Area of Ibadan. He received the CC of WARSHE, but told us that to allow the campaign go on, he has to see the Organisation's Certificate of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission. We did not have the Certificate on us, so we told him just that, but also assured him that WARSHE is registered under the appropriate law of Nigeria, and we were not fraudsters. He was adamant, but made an offer. That if we will produce the Organisation's Certificate of Registration, he would give us time to speak to, and interact with Officers from his entire Command, who would be meeting him for briefing the next Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2004. We promised him that we would be back.

Next, the team called at the High/Magistrate Courts in Iyaganku Area of Ibadan. We met the Chief Registrar who led the distribution of the campaign materials, and also asked two of his staff to take Volunteers around to distribute the materials. The first woman that we gave the campaign materials showed us a deformed finger. She said she was a victim of battery, and that her finger got deformed from one of the incidents. She said as a result of that incident, she was admitted to hospital for about two weeks, and she had since walked away from the marriage. The Court Registrar took us to the Chambers of Judges and Magistrates, most of them were not in their Chambers, but we met a female Judge who expressed support for WARSHE efforts, we met a male Magistrate, and a female Magistrate who shared experiences of victims of violence with us. The female Magistrate gave information that she seats at the Juvenile Court, and so she had to adjudicate in the case of a 16 year old bus conductor, who had sexual intercourse at least three times with a 4 year old girl whom he said he had been assisting with 50 Nigerian Naira per day because she was very poor. The Magistrate told us that the child developed a swollen stomach, and that the girl's stomach got bigger, each time she appeared in court for the case. She cited two other examples, and gave information that the court had to pay up the medical bills of the victims. She directed that her staff should paste the posters and stickers in her Court, and assured WARSHE of her unflinching support always.

The team left the Courts for the Social Welfare Department. We met the Head of the Social Welfare Unit who gave the team a warm welcome, and told us we were at the right place at the wrong time. She said she would have wished that we interact with some of their clients, but for the fact that they arrive early, and the last batch leaves the Social Welfare Department at about 12noon. She wished the campaign team well, and expressed the wish that we keep in touch.

At the Ministry of Education at the State Secretariat, and the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Agodi Ibadan, the campaign materials were distributed to the staff of the two establishments. The receptionist at the NTA promptly pasted a poster at the reception.

By the time the campaign team got back to the University of Ibadan, the day was far spent and the team was tired. A few student volunteers got together with two WARSHE staff to distribute the campaign materials in the halls of residence and the Faculties of the University of Ibadan the following day..

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004.** They also placed stickers on the commercial vehicles that ply the campus.

### **6<sup>th</sup> December 2004 - Ile - Ife**

Ile -Ife is an ancient town in Osun State. The Ile -Ife campaign was held on the **6<sup>th</sup> of December 2004**, and the first port of call was the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Channel 19 Ile – Ife. The General Manager met the two Members of the Coordinating Council of WARSHE that were on the Campaign team, expressed interest in the programme, and asked that WARSHE should return at an appointed date for an interview at the station. The General Manager asked for a T- Shirt, and, he was given one. He promised he would put it on every Friday. The presenter of the programme “Current Issues” who was going to interview WARSHE was also given a T – Shirt, which he promised he would wear whenever he is presenting programmes that border on violence against women. The campaign materials were then distributed to the staff of the station.

From the NTA, the team went to the Police Station, situated in Moore area where the team distributed posters, fliers and stickers, and had one on one interaction with Officers and Men at the station.

The next institution visited was the office of the Local Inspectorate of Education. WARSHE received a warm welcome, and the campaign materials were distributed.

At the High Court of Justice, the Chief Registrar received WARSHE, and gave the go ahead to carry out the campaign. The materials were distributed. It was at the High Court that the team heard the most strident and scathing comments (from lower level and middle level staff) about women. One member of staff said that women ought to be beaten, as that is the only way they can be subdued. Others agreed with him, and it took great efforts to convince them otherwise. When a man asked why women in the WARSHE campaign team were in trousers, and we told him that it is difficult to rape a woman in trousers, the man retorted that by the time he produced electric cables, broken bottles and knives, the woman would remove the trousers with speed. We let him know that Officers of the Nigeria Police Force were partners in the fight against gender based violence and were on the look out for people like him. The man kept his peace, only when another member of staff gave him the information that WARSHE had supported the prosecution of many rapists, in the room where he was harassing the WARSHE team. The WARSHE team observed that staff and non staff stuck the WARSHE stickers on their motor bikes, in spite of their remarks.

The campaign could not hold fully at Obafemi Awolowo University, where a student action had led to the closure of the University. However, the five student Volunteers who took part in the campaign put the WARSHE posters up in the Faculties alone. Even then, the campaign team called on the Dean of Students Affairs, and the Guidance Counsellor in the Division of Students' Affairs. They were both given a T- Shirt each, and they both promised to put them on, on the day that WARSHE is scheduled to interact with fresh undergraduates during the University orientation week. Note that for about 6 years, WARSHE has been giving talks to fresh women and men during the University's orientation week.

### **6<sup>th</sup> December 2004 - Ibadan**

While the Ile-Ife campaign was going on **6<sup>th</sup> December 2004**, one member of the WARSHE CC and a staff of WARSHE went back to the Commissioner of Police (CP), Oyo State Police Command in Ibadan, again wearing the T – Shirts designed for the campaign. This time, he did not ask for the WARSHE Certificate of Registration. When the matter was raised jokingly, he remarked that he was sure the Organisation has the certificate, otherwise, the duo would not have been back. About 30 minutes later, he left for the briefing, promising to send for the two. He did. The WARSHE team was ushered into a hall packed full of officers of the rank of Inspectors and above, unto the high table, and the duo introduced as the guest lecturers for the day. The Coordinating Council member introduced the organization – WARSHE, and spoke to: the 16 days of activism campaign which is a global campaign and the reason it's being mounted; the different kinds of violence on women; the potential victims of the different kinds of violence; repercussions of violence on women; the role of the Police; and, end notes that spoke to the campaign materials, especially the stickers. The CP then urged the Officers to ask, as he put it: reasonable questions, not questions about whether men can be raped. He took questions from three officers. The questions were about: women's mode of dressing; doctors and nurses who treat victims badly when the Police take them to hospitals; how WARSHE is dealing with the Nigerian culture that encourages the violent acts in spite of International Conventions, and whether WARSHE has plans for crises centres. The questions and the issues raised were addressed comprehensively. The interaction lasted between 40 and 50 minutes, the atmosphere in the hall was relaxed but sober, and the CP poked occasional jokes at the officers.

The duo observed that by the questions and answers session, policemen and civilians who were not supposed to be part of the CP's briefing hung around the windows of the hall, and were listening attentively to the discussion that was going on inside. We reckoned that there were about 300 female and male officers present at the interaction, inside the hall! An officer thanked the guest lecturers, and keyed in at a deep and personal level when he told his colleagues that they should take all they have heard seriously and act humanely to victims all the time, because the next victim could be their daughter, sister, wife or mother.

The CP invited WARSHE to come back sometime soon to give a lecture solely to female officers. We agreed ,and handed over about 50 posters, 200 fliers and 30 stickers to the CP who promised his command will find a formula for distributing them. The Police Public Relations Officer saw the guest lecturers off.

### **8<sup>th</sup> December 2004 - Ede**

The Ede end of the campaign took place on the **8<sup>th</sup> of December 2004**. Ede is about 50 minutes drive from Ile- Ife, and it is also in Osun State. The campaign team at Ede had two members of the Coordinating Council of WARSHE, 2 WARSHE staff and 13 student Volunteers (9 from the Federal Polytechnic Ede, and 4 from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile – Ife). The campaign team moved from the campus of the Federal Polytechnic Ede to Division A of the Nigeria Police Ede. The campaign materials were distributed at the Police Station. The level of interest shown by Officers and “Men” was high. Those off duty were called in from their quarters and, they all scrambled for the stickers, posters and fliers. Some had had contact with rape cases, and so, took keen interest in the campaign. The women were particularly interested, and they promised to take prompt action whenever rape cases are reported.

The team then moved to: the State Hospital; the High Court of Justice and, the Office of the Local Inspectorate of Education, and distributed the campaign materials to the staff of the institutions and other persons who were present at the institutions at the time of the campaign. At the High Court of Justice, most of the staff were on leave, but the Chief Magistrate who was on seat, promised to deliver the campaign materials to the staff when they resume duty.

The campaign team went back to the Federal Polytechnic Ede where the staff of the Students’ Affairs Division expressed support for the WARSHE efforts. Volunteers distributed the materials to students and staff. Students were very much interested in the campaign and they asked questions. At the Cottage Hospital of the institution, where almost all members of staff of the clinic were present because they were attending to their computerized identity cards, the WARSHE team distributed the campaign materials. While some members of staff expressed support for the efforts, others were hostile.

### **14<sup>th</sup> December 2004 - Ile - Ife**

On the **14<sup>th</sup> of December 2004**,, a team comprising 2 members of the WARSHE CC and 3 student Volunteers went back to NTA Ile-Ife for the interview mentioned earlier. The programme was “Current Issues”, and the discussion was on the subject: Gender Based Violence. All the participants in the programme including the presenter wore WARSHE T – Shirts.

### **16<sup>th</sup> December 2004 - Akure**

The last campaign took place in Akure on the **16<sup>th</sup> of December 2004**. Akure is about an hour and 15 minutes drive from Ile-Ife, and, it is the administrative capital of Ondo State. The campaign team, which was made up of 2 WARSHE CC members, a WARSHE staff, and 11 Volunteers from the Federal University of Technology, took off from the campus of the Federal University. The team visited the High Court, the Social Welfare Department and the A Division of the Nigeria Police in Akure. In all the institutions, the campaign materials were distributed, and one on one interaction held with staff and persons who were present at the premises of the institutions.

The WARSHE Team then proceeded to the Ondo State Radiovision Corporation (OSRC) where posters, stickers and fliers were distributed to staff. Some members of the team were interviewed by a reporter/presenter with the Corporation, who promised that the interviews will be featured on the evening news. The campaign team met with the General Manager of the

station, and gave him a T- Shirt. The reporter/presenter who interviewed WARSHE was given a T – Shirt which he promised to wear whenever he presented a programme that has relevance to questions of violence on women, and on Fridays.

Finally, the team went back to the Federal University of Technology, where the fliers, stickers and posters were distributed to staff and students.

### **January-February 2005**

WARSHE gave **6No.** awareness raising talks (**ARTs**) to mothers at the antenatal and immunization clinics of the Urban Comprehensive Health Centre (UCHC), Eleyele, **Ile- Ife**. The UCHC is the child welfare clinic of the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex, (O.A.U.TH.C), Ile Ife. We also distributed the organisation's educational materials, as we usually do at such education programmes.

### **\*22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005**

After our successful interaction with the Oyo State Police Command during the 2004 edition of the 16 days of activism against gender based violence campaign, we decided to do a follow up. This was more so because the Commissioner of Police had expressed the wish that we return at a later date to speak with female Police Officers in his command about violence against women. In January, we liaised with the Police Public Relations Officer who gave indications that we should prepare to hold a symposium for female Police Officers in the Oyo State Police Command on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005. The programme was called off by the Police a day before it was scheduled to hold, for reasons that we do not know.

### **January -March 2005**

This was a particularly challenging period for female students in our host institution, the Obafemi Awolowo University, and WARSHE. WARSHE received at least six reports of rape and 2 reports of attempted rape of female students in the halls of residence both within and outside campus, and in the academic area of the University. In collaboration with the students' affairs division of the University, **WARSHE gave talks** to female students about how to protect themselves and others from rape, and what to do when the abuses have occurred, **in three female halls of residence**. WARSHE educational materials were distributed during the talks.

### **14<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May, and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2005**

The organization gave her ARTs in the antenatal and immunization clinics of the Wesley Guild Hospital, O.A.U.TH.C, Ilesha, which is about 30minutes drive from our base in Ile- Ife on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2005. Some of the mothers requested that we give the talks in primary and secondary schools, while some of the nurses thought we ought to return to give the talk to all the medical personnel in their hospital. And on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2005, WARSHE gave her ART at the Adeoyo Maternity Hospital in Ibadan, which is about 45 minutes drive from Ile-Ife. Compared with the UCHC Ile-Ife and the Wesley Guild Hospital Ilesha, Adeoyo maternity hospital is a huge hospital. There were about 300 mothers present at the antenatal clinic during the talk. The nurses in the hospital were very helpful. They told us that they had referred some survivors of rape to WARSHE after treatment. Unfortunately, none of the survivors linked up with us. They were full of regrets that the ART came up only a few days after the hospital had discharged a 16 year old girl who was impregnated by her father, and who had delivered the baby at the hospital.

### **1<sup>st</sup> September 2005**

WARSHE held an **intensive training workshop/roundtable** for **experienced nursing officers**. The 22 participants that were present came from 12 hospitals/health centers, located in 4 of the six states in South Western Nigeria. Five of the participants practice in the health centers of 4 higher institutions. At different times during the one-day workshop, there were at least 30 persons in attendance, and that included resource persons, WARSHE trustees, well-wishers and the media.

The theme of the intensive training workshop was: preventing sexual violence and abuse through the ethic of care. We targeted experienced nursing officers because first, when victims of sexual assault and rape go to hospitals (including health centers in higher institutions) for treatment, nurses are their first contact. We believe that if nurses work by the central tenet of their profession, which is care, they will be laying a good foundation for patients of sexual abuse to recover from their ordeal. Second, nurses are powerful education agents in the different clinics in hospitals. Given that nurses give regular health talks in antenatal, postnatal, immunization, family planning, HIV/AIDS etc clinics, we thought if we gave them training about the key issues in preventing sexual violence and abuse, and then hand over the prototype WARSHE awareness raising talk to them, they can reach many more women with the message of how to prevent sexual abuse and violence than we can ever hope to, given the resources available to us.

### **21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

WARSHE **mounted a desk** from which she sensitized **fresh female undergraduates** to the presence of WARSHE on Obafemi Awolowo University campus in Mozambique hall. Mozambique hall accommodates a lot of fresh female undergraduates.

### **March – April 2006**

WARSHE delivered **6No.** awareness raising talks (**ARTs**) to mothers who were present at the immunization and antenatal clinics of the Urban Comprehensive Health Centre (UCHC), Eleyele, Ile-Ife on March 8, 9, 23, 27, 30 & April 6, 2006. The talks focused on: the fall outs of gender discrimination; the need for mothers to maintain vigilance around their female children; the need to watch the interaction of uncles, daddies and male household helps with female children; tips on how mothers can cultivate close relationship with their female children and give sex education to them; the repercussions of all forms of violence against women and the role of WARSHE in helping children and women to prevent and cope with sexual violence and abuse. Mothers were concerned about whether a girl that was raped as a child can still be a virgin and whether female and male siblings should share the same room. Present at the talks were nurses and nurses-in- training, and between 25 and 35 mothers, on each occasion.

Twenty persons, comprising mothers, a senior nursing officer and 5 student nurses, enlisted as WARSHE Volunteers during the period the ARTs lasted. Significantly, after listening-in during 2 of the ARTs delivered at the immunization clinic, a male nursing officer, asked that the Assistant General Secretary of WARSHE and the WARSHE staff who had gone to give the ART allow him to give the 3<sup>rd</sup> WARSHE ART at the immunization clinic. They agreed, and he did very well. He was extremely convincing, as he spoke to the mothers about some of the assumptions that they, that is men, make about women.

### **October 5, 2006**

WARSHE organized a **symposium** for secondary school students in Ile-Ife. Two hundred students were invited from 8 publicly and privately owned schools in Ile-Ife. We asked specifically that 2/3 of the students should be girls and they should be selected from all levels, junior secondary school 1 to senior secondary school 3. We also requested that the schools send students who have some influence among their peers to the symposium, so they can become peer educators. One hundred and fifty (150) students from 6 secondary schools attended. The other 2 schools indicated a day before the programme that they had scheduled programmes for the World teachers' day which was 5<sup>th</sup> October. Two thirds of the students present were teenage girls. The symposium explored the problem of sexual violence and abuse through a feminist framework that was couched as: promoting healthy relationship between the 2 sexes and building safe spaces for women in our communities.

The teenagers asked many questions and their questions were revealing. Their questions showed that they were worried about: personal hygiene; disrespect shown to them by boys; virginity; whether or not teenage girls/boys should have boy/girlfriends and how to handle cases of sexual violence and abuse (SVA) within the family. Their questions also show that many girls and women than previously imagined and reported are and were victims of child sexual abuse.

### **October 7, 2006 (WARSHE had her formal outing exactly 8 years ago on this day)**

Given our interactions with the police in the 8 years of our existence and specifically in the context of 2 rape cases that WARSHE is currently handling, we thought there was a need to organize an **intensive training workshop for police officers** who investigate and prosecute cases, and female police officers, even if they are not Investigative Police Officers (IPOs) and Prosecutors. We thought that our interaction with the officers will help to: clear some misgivings and misunderstandings about the role of the police in the investigation and prosecution of cases of SVA; sensitize police officers to some of the (medical) repercussions of SVA; empower police officers to take a critical and humane view of SVA, and clear some of the grey areas in the enforcement of the law against rape, incest, sexual exploitation etc. We asked that the Commissioner of Police (CP), Osun State Police Command, should grant 40 IPOs, prosecutors and female Police Officers from areas such as: Ile-Ife, Oshogbo, Ilesha, Ila, Inisa/Okuku, Iwo, Ikire, Ejigbo all in Osun State, permission to attend the WARSHE workshop. The Police granted permission enthusiastically for 2 reasons. The first was because of our interaction with the Police in respect of our intervention work. The CP in particular, is convinced that WARSHE is a serious organization. The second reason came to light during the opening session of the workshop, when the CP said the WARSHE workshop was the first of its kind for junior police officers in Osun State. That is, it was the first time officers who actually do the work of investigation and prosecution of cases of rape, sexual assaults and other crimes are being trained by a non-profit. He told the gathering that others have concentrated on senior police officers.

Thirty eight police officers from the aforementioned towns participated fully in the workshop which ended at night. The CP, the Area commander, Ile-Ife and the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Moore Police Station, Ile- Ife were present at the opening session. **Fifty five(55)** people, including 9 workshop officials were at the workshop at different times during the day. In



addition to a copy each of the relevant portion of the Criminal Code Act and the paper titled: empowering police officers for the successful investigation and prosecution of sexual offences, each participant got 57 pages of materials from the WARSHE resource centre that speak to: how a rape victim feels after the attack, and how to approach the investigation and prosecution of cases of rape.

### **October 12, 2006**

WARSHE organized a **symposium** for secondary school students in Oshogbo, the capital of Osun State. As was the case with the Ile-Ife symposium, 200 students were invited. Two hundred students, drawn from 8 secondary schools attended the symposium. Present were 150 teenage girls and 50 teenage boys. We had a lively session that lasted about 4 hours with the teenagers. They had loads of questions and concerns, but it appears they were more concerned about what will happen if in the process of defending themselves, they hurt or even kill an assailant. The teenagers also showed that they had gained from our interactions with them and they had also thought deeply about the subject of SVA. For instance, when, instead of reeling out how WARSHE can help young people to prevent and cope with SVA, the teenagers were asked to suggest the ways that WARSHE could help them prevent and cope with SVA, they came up with suggestions that were clearly creative and well thought through.

### **December 6, 2006: The 2006 16 days of Activism Campaign**

#### ***A One-Day Sensitization Workshop for 60 Head Teachers of Primary Schools, Principals of Secondary Schools, Chairpersons of Parents-Teachers' Associations and School Guidance Counsellors in Oshogbo and Ile-Ife on Gender-based Violence***

WARSHE used this programme to (re) establish contacts with primary and secondary schools and the zonal and local inspectors of education in Oshogbo (the capital of the state {Osun State} where WARSHE is located), and in Ile-Ife. Although the organization had planned to provide the sensitization workshop for 60 persons, she sent formal written invitation to 80 persons comprising: head teachers and the chairpersons of the parents-teachers' associations (PTAs) of the primary schools that were invited; and school principals, one guidance counselor from each school and the chairpersons of the targeted secondary schools' PTAs. Specifically, we targeted the leadership of the high schools whose students we had interacted with earlier, in October 2006. WARSHE also invited the local and zonal inspectors of education who had supervisory roles over the primary and secondary schools that were selected.

The workshop began with registration of participants. WARSHE made copies of resource materials that address: questions of bullying and safety in schools; the causes of violence against women; how school counselors should support students who disclose their experience of violence, etc, and gave a copy each to participants as part of their registration materials.

The workshop, which was scheduled to start at 9:00am began at 10:30am at the Mayfair hotels in **Ile-Ife**. Participants, who constituted the leadership of the primary and secondary schools that were invited came from both Ile-Ife and Oshogbo. Present were 12 participants from Oshogbo and 20 from Ile-Ife. There were also 11 other people at the workshop. They were WARSHE volunteers, WARSHE staff, members of the Coordinating Council of WARSHE who also doubled as resource persons, and persons who came to document the activities at the workshop.

The workshop kicked off with a short introduction by the Coordinator of WARSHE. In the first session, which was the exploratory session, participants spoke about how they perceive of the problem of gender based violence. Participants' contributions confirmed some of the problems and issues that high school students had raised in our interactions with them 2 months earlier, in October 2006. Thereafter, WARSHE presented a summary of the issues and concerns that the high school students had raised to the participants. The issues/questions raised covered concerns about: abusive family members; pregnancy that results from incidents of rape and sexual exploitation; when to begin a relationship with the opposite sex (age of consent); lesbianism and virginity; sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation by teachers; HIV/AIDs & STDs; students' mode of dressing, and sexual assault by boys during fights. Most of the participants were genuinely concerned about the problem of violence against women, especially the problem of sexual violence and abuse of young women.

The three other sessions, which were also highly interactive sessions, examined the causes of violence against women and why it persists, the medical implications of violence against women, and specifically, what participants can do to help female pupils, students and other women prevent and cope with violence.

#### **17<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

Held a **sexual violence and abuse (SVA)/Women's rights clinic** in the Mozambique Hall of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

#### **15<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

In conjunction with the leadership of Ife Girls' High School, WARSHE held an **intensive training workshop** for students of the school during the students' peer educator week.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

WARSHE held 2No. awareness raising talks simultaneously at the **immunization and ante-natal clinics of Adeoyo Maternity Hospital, Ibadan**. At the talks that lasted between 15 and 20 minutes, the resource persons tried to get the women present to acknowledge the occurrence of sexual violence and abuse (SVA) in different environments, both in the public and private spheres, and to come to terms with the fact that babies, young, and old women are susceptible to SVA. The consequences of SVA were explored and tips were given about how women can help themselves and their children (especially the girls) to prevent and cope with SVA. The nurses in the 2 clinics were helpful, offering suggestions as to how to prevent SVA, and citing examples to buttress the points made. About **142 women, 5 men and 11 nurses** were present at the talks in both clinics. WARSHE handed out beverages to the women present as incentive to participate actively in the discussions. During the questions, comments and answers session at the ante-natal clinic, there were suggestions that if girls dress decently and parents feed their children with God's words, SVA can be averted. This presented the resource person at the clinic the opportunity to speak to the matter of: the presumed relationship between girls' mode of dressing and SVA, and also religion as panacea to the problem of SVA.

### **11<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

On behalf of WARSHE, The Treasurer, Prof. Oluyemisi Obilade gave a lecture on sexual violence and abuse and gender based violence to students in the programme of Master of Public Health, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

### **5<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

A **sensitization/Intensive training workshop** titled: *addressing the interface of sexual violence and abuse and the HIV/AIDS pandemic* was held **for the leadership of schools in Ondo State**, Nigeria on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The workshop, which was held in **Akure**, (an hour and fifteen minutes drive from Ile-Ife), had in attendance high school principals, head teachers of primary schools, guidance counselors, and chairpersons of parents – teachers associations, from different parts of the state such as Ikare Akoko, Ore, Ondo and Akure township. Also present were a female journalist and a few officers from the Directorate of schools of the Ondo State Ministry of Education.

At the beginning of the programme during paired introductions and group work, participants tried to discover the values that others hold true and dear, and the values that they shared with others, especially in respect of sexual violence and abuse, and HIV/AIDS. It was clear from the introductory session that participants were going to have a frank and lively session. The response that one of the groups gave to the question that asked that they name the environments in which SVA occur and the perpetrators, showed up the hypocrisy in beliefs about the persons who perpetuate SVA. This group acknowledged that SVA takes place in homes, but when they identified perpetrators in the homes, they indicated they were armed robbers, bandits, hooligans, etc.

The session on power, socio-cultural factors, sexual violence and abuse and the HIV/AIDS pandemic took a comprehensive view of the different kinds of power; how power can either represent dominance or resistance; the arguments about nature and nurture and how this has been used to define women; and how power and socio-cultural factors create the environment in which more women get infected by HIV/AIDS, and get in the way of appropriate management of the infection and the disease in women. This session generated plenty of discussion, but there was no real dissention about the connections made between power, socio-cultural factors, SVA and HIV/AIDS. The session on the health status of girls and women affected by SVA and HIV/AIDS was a sobering one. The resource person painted graphic pictures of the repercussions of SVA, challenged male participants to be more open about discussions of sex with their partners and to be more humane in their sexual interactions. The session that addressed what the leadership of schools can do to help female pupils and students to prevent SVA gave compelling, down to earth and practical tips that participants cannot forget easily.

**All participants got a file each** that contained articles that addressed issues such as: violence against women, how rape victims can survive their ordeal; safety in schools, bullying prevention, etc. **All the schools** represented at the workshop (except one/two) **got a 197 Page bounded resource pack**. Each pack contained the following materials (full articles and chapters): violence against women; how relationship with significant others moderate anxiety disorders resulting from child sexual abuse; how exposure to child sexual and physical abuse affect educational achievement; violence against disabled children; HIV/AIDS and mental health;

HIV/AIDS and nutritional care and support; and the UN Secretary General's study on violence against children, adapted for children and young people. The pack also contained abstracts of articles on: resilience, competence and coping with child sexual abuse; women's voices on recovery; childhood sexual abuse, attachment and trauma symptoms in college females; juvenile sex offenders, and sexual and physical abuse history and adult sexual risk behaviours.

Participants wanted the workshop replicated (by WARSHE and by participants themselves) in the different geographical zones of the state, so that more people will have access to the information that they got; a participant commended what s/he referred to as the "participatory approach" to adult learning at the workshop; another said the workshop was especially useful for the purpose of guidance and counseling, and yet another commended WARSHE and the AWDF for their commitment to eradicating sexual violence and abuse and HIV/AIDS especially in schools. The 2 schools that did not get copies of the bounded resource wanted WARSHE and officials of the Ministry of Education to commit to getting their own copies across to them. WARSHE promised that the first follow-up on the workshop will be to type and send the report of the workshop which was beautifully put together, by 2 rapporteurs who were also leaders in their schools, to all participants.

There were **39 participants**, who represented 15 schools, the ministry of education, and a media house at the workshop. The presence of an elderly man, who was chairperson of a parents-teachers association, was quite encouraging. He got to the venue of the workshop at the stipulated time and participated actively in the proceedings. The female journalist, who was present throughout the workshop and participated actively in the discussions, gave a relatively good account of the proceedings of the workshop in *The Nigerian Tribune*, a widely read newspaper in Nigeria.

### **28<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

On this day, WARSHE held a **sensitization/Intensive training workshop for students of the Federal Polytechnic, Ede**. Ede is about 40mins drive from Ile-Ife where WARSHE is headquartered. Before the workshop commenced, the Coordinating Council of WARSHE, accompanied by 2 members of Women in Technical Education (WITED), met with the Rector and the Dean of students' affairs of the institution. WITED smoothed WARSHE's re-entry into the institution, and acted like the chief host. WARSHE expressed the hope that the institution not only investigates matters of sexual violence, and punish abusers, but also takes steps to have policies and procedures that will help the process. We offered to provide technical support as necessary, and also provide training for staff at the health centre and other personnel in the institution if the institution is positively disposed to the idea. The contents of this workshop were similar to the programme for the leadership of schools in Akure, but the receivers of the information were different, in the mind set that they brought to the workshop, and perhaps also, in their capacity to reflect on the fresh information that they had received. The male participants who did not constitute 1/2 of participants were going to foist the usual lines about how women bring sexual violence and abuse on themselves by the way they dress; how religion dictates that women should be subject to men, how women in politics would usually mess around anyway, and so on the female participants.

Towards the end of the workshop the rector came in briefly, both to assure the students that the subject of the workshop was an important one, and also let them know that the institution will do everything to provide a safe environment for learning. **Thirty eight (38) female students, 20 male students and 5 female lecturers** attended the workshop. Forty participants got a file each that contained 90 pages of resources on: the causes of SVA; how to resist sexual harassment; guide for women survivors of child sexual abuse; how an understanding of violence against women can transform the clergy to become catalysts for safety and change, and becoming a witness on the side of victims of SVA. The resource material on physical self defense against sexual attacks was given to female participants only, while male participants alone got materials that can help them check whether they are (potential) sexual abusers.

Some students wanted to know whether a girl can regain her virginity if she lost it as a young girl, some wanted to know whether exercises can make a girl loose her virginity. There were other questions around gynaecological concerns, just as some wanted to know how they can resist sexual harassment especially if lecturers team up in support of one another when a girl is trying to resist harassment. At the end of the workshop students expressed: the urge to teach others what they had gained at the workshop and to be an advocate for WARSHE in their institution; the need for WARSHE to put the materials that went into the workshop into CDs for wide distribution, and the need for WARSHE to organize the workshop every semester at the Federal Polytechnic Ede, and in formal institutions at all levels. Some students said they have been positively touched, and one student in particular indicated that after the workshop his/her “orientation about some things changed.” Another student said: “I like the organization because they impacted some knowledge that I can never forget in my life in me. Thanks so much. Love U WARSHE, Love your program.”

### **March 14, 2008**

WARSHE held a symposium for **high school students in Ibadan** on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Out of 9 public and private secondary schools that were invited from different parts of Ibadan, 6 public and private schools showed up. **One twenty eight (128) students and about 8 teachers** participated in the programme. The resource person who helped the students to understand the different forms of Sexual violence and abuse, also tried to make clear distinctions between sexual harassment and seduction. This had to be done because of the widespread and almost taken for granted position that girls seduce men, especially with their dressing, so they are the ones who sexually harass men. The gynaecologist who tackled the medical implications of SVA and the link to the HIV/AIDS pandemic stressed the point that all women are at risk, and showed the connection between SVA, cancer of the cervix, hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS, and how these affect the health of girls and women. The resource person who talked to the students about how to help themselves and others to prevent and cope with SVA and also forge healthy and respectful relationship with the opposite sex, explained the meaning of respect in the Nigerian traditional sense and in the context of rights and freedoms, and also gave specific tips to girls about how to detect potential sexual abusers and to boys about how to respect girls and also stay out of trouble. Some of the students read poems and messages that WARSHE Volunteers from the University of Ibadan had coached them to read. The poems and messages were about the exercise of power, violence against women in general, and SVA in particular. The students asked a lot of questions, and they had a lot of concerns. From concerns about how kissing and pecking may not be devoid of emotions after all, and so may lead to actual sex or rape, to wet

dreams, to how a girl who has been drugged can deal with rape, and also to beliefs that girls' mode of dressing attract SVA.

### **May 7, 2008**

A symposium was held for **students of Osun State Polytechnic Iree** on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Iree is about 65mins drive from Ile-Ife. Again, the body: Women in Technical Education smoothed our entry into the institution, got a venue for the programme, provided the chairperson for the symposium and was generally helpful throughout the programme. Although we had given indications that we wanted 200 students at the programme, at the last count, there were **two hundred and eighty six (286) students** and some lecturers at the symposium. The content of the programme was very much a combination of the contents of the programme for secondary school students in Ibadan and a condensed version of the content of the programme at the Federal Polytechnic, Ede. Although a symposium, the programme was highly interactive. Students asked why we did not invite male lecturers, because they stand to benefit from the programme. One student asked us to appeal to many of their female lecturers to let them be. She said they call the attention of male lecturers to not just their mode of dressing, but also to their natural features. WARSHE decided there and then that a sensitization programme will be held for female academic and non-academic staff of the institution. After the symposium, in the company of the members of the executive of Women in Technical Education, we paid a courtesy call on the Rector of the institution. In the course of our discussions, we told him about our desire to hold a sensitization programme for women in the institution, and he declared immediately that we have his approval to do so.

### **Between September 2008 and November 2008**

WARSHE Volunteers and staff worked with technicians and printers to produce **Education and Sensitization Materials:**

- **One thousand and ten (1, 010) copies of a 61page booklet titled: Justice in Sight?** The booklet is an educational material that speaks to: the challenges that victims of sexual violence and abuse, their relations, and supporters face when they try to obtain justice in Nigeria; the tips that interested persons should keep in view when trying to obtain justice, and the specific ways through which police officers who are involved in investigation and prosecution of cases of SVA can achieve success. The subtle and obvious message in the booklet is that all women and men of conscience have to work to prevent the occurrence and re-occurrence of sexual violence and abuse.
- **Three hundred and twenty (320) copies of a DVD entitled: Tiwalola.** Tiwalola is a Yoruba word which translates to: "tomorrow is ours" or "we claim ownership of tomorrow." WARSHE is headquartered in Ile-Ife, a town considered to be the source/origin of the Yorubas in Nigeria. Tiwalola is a 1 hour 26 minutes educational DVD that addresses the key themes of a prototype WARSHE educational programme vis: the concepts/definitions/scope of SVA; the victims and potential victims; the environments in which sexual violence and abuse take place and the perpetrators; repercussions of SVA; the causes of SVA; and what to do to prevent and cope with sexual violence and abuse, through some selected audio-visual recordings of WARSHE education programmes held since inception in 1998. The DVD also contains some witnessing to SVA, and the challenges of the search for justice after an incident. Tiwalola is a dream of a better tomorrow for women, it's about hopes and possibilities. It is about

women taking charge of the future, and WARSHE believes that a way to do this is to strengthen women's capacities through education, and also, dissemination of information about the different ramifications of SVA to all stakeholders.

#### **November 4, 2008**

WARSHE held a **symposium for high school students in Ogbomosho and environs**. Ogbomosho is in Oyo State, and it is about 2 and half hour drive from Ile-Ife, where WARSHE is headquartered. The interactions of WARSHE Volunteers with the teenagers and their teachers focused on exploring: the concepts of rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation; why sexual violence and abuse occur and the relationship between women's social status and sexual violence and abuse; the medical implications of sexual violence and abuse and the link to the HIV/AIDS pandemic; how teenagers can help themselves and others to prevent sexual violence and abuse, and how they can foster respect between the 2 sexes. There was a session where participants posed questions and raised issues both orally, and in writing. The session began with dancing by the teenagers and WARSHE Volunteers, and there was dancing between sessions. We introduced the dance to get the teenagers to relax. **One hundred and forty teenagers (140)**, representing 6 schools from Ogbomosho township and 2 neighbouring villages attended the symposium.

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#### **WARSHE 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebrations 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008**

To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inception of WARSHE, which was inaugurated in 1998, WARSHE held a four-hour programme tagged: TIWALOLA – Luncheon/Fundraiser of Dreams, Hopes and Possibilities, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008, at the Ogunbanjo Community Centre, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

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#### **December 17, 2008**

WARSHE held a **symposium for students of Osun State University, Oshogbo campus**. Oshogbo campus is where the science faculties of the university are domiciled. This was WARSHE's first programme in any of the recently established Universities in Nigeria. The themes that are central to the problem of sexual violence and abuse that were explored at the symposium were very much the same as those explored with high school students in Ogbomosho. The discussions were however carried on at a much higher and deeper level. So we were able to explore and deconstruct the myths and misconceptions around SVA, and centred the role of community in reducing SVA. **Three hundred and twenty four (324) students**, attended the symposium, and many of them were young women. WARSHE educational materials, including the booklet titled: Justice in Sight? and the DVD titled: Tiwalola were strategically distributed during the symposium.

#### **August 25, 2009**

WARSHE held a **one-day intensive training workshop and panel discussion** on the best practices in handling cases of sexual violence and abuse for: medical doctors who work in gynaecology clinics and casualties; medical and community-based social workers; principals of high schools, and zonal inspectors of education in Osun State. This workshop was held at the

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. The four papers that were delivered at the workshop covered: the frameworks for understanding sexual violence and abuse and other forms of gender based violence; Modules for handling cases of SVA and other forms of gender based violence in schools and hospitals, and how to achieve justice for survivors of SVA through social work intervention. Six panelists responded to the questions and issues that participants raised during the one-hour panel discussion that wrapped up the programme. **Forty Nine (49) participants** attended the workshop, and four of them were journalists. Also present at the workshop were **7 resource persons, a whip, 3No. WARSHE staff, and 9 friends of WARSHE.** *Resource packs and files containing over 200 pages of literature* relevant to how medical doctors, social workers and administrators of schools should handle cases of sexual violence and abuse in their work settings were distributed to participants.

### **September 29, 2009**

WARSHE held an awareness raising talk for women who attended the **ante-natal and child welfare clinics of the state hospital, Ondo**, in Ondo State. The talks covered a description of different forms of child sexual abuse and their consequences. The resource persons also raised the matter of prevention of child sexual abuse, and what to do when the abuses occur. Nurses in the ante-natal clinic and mothers in the 2 clinics asked perturbing questions: what to do about a brother who raped his sister? Is it possible for a father to abuse his daughter? and so on. **Seventy-one (71) pregnant women, two (2) men and three (3) nurses** listened to the talk at the ante-natal clinic, while **forty-four mothers (44) mothers and a father** were present at the talk delivered at the child welfare clinic.

### **September 29, 2009**

On the same day that the awareness raising talks took place in Ondo town, the team of WARSHE volunteers and staff who went to Ondo joined the advance team that had gone to Akure (the capital of Ondo State) the day before for a symposium for **high school students in Akure**. The resource persons explored: the concepts of rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation; why sexual violence and abuse occur and the relationship between women's social status and sexual violence and abuse; the implications of sexual violence and abuse for individuals and the society; how teenagers can help themselves and others to prevent sexual violence and abuse, and how they can foster respect between the 2 sexes. During the question and answers session, the resource persons received a deluge of questions, all in writing from the teenagers. The teachers present also passed extensive comments. A few from mission schools disagreed with WARSHE on the issues of abortion of pregnancies resulting from rape incidents and the role of dressing in incidents of rape and sexual harassment. Two hundred (**200**) **teenagers** representing eight (8) schools attended the symposium that was held at the Akure City Hall. WARSHE booklets titled: "Justice in Sight?" and other education materials were distributed.

### **8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2010**

WARSHE held 3No. **awareness raising talks (ARTs)** at **Urban Comprehensive Health Centre, Eleyele, Ile-Ife** and **Osun State Hospital Oke-Ogbo, Ile-Ife** on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. WARSHE staff spoke to mothers about rape, and how it impacts the lives of women and children. They urged mothers to report rape cases whenever it happens. A nurse in one of the hospitals shared an experience and advised mothers to be watchful. Some of the mothers asked questions, which WARSHE staff answered. WARSHE educational materials



were distributed after the talk. Thirty three (**33**) mothers and ten (**10**) nursing officers were present at the ART on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Nineteen (**19**) mothers and three (**3**) nurses were present at the ART on 15<sup>th</sup> March while Twenty-seven (**27**) mothers and **7** nurses were present at the ART on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

WARSHE held 2No. awareness raising talks (ARTs) at the **child welfare and ante-natal clinics of Ikire General Hospital** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 respectively. WARSHE staff spoke to mothers about different forms of sexual violence and abuse, their consequences, and prevention. In particular, tips were given on how women can help themselves and their children (especially the girls) to prevent and cope with SVA. The nurses in the 2 clinics showed keen interest in the work of WARSHE, they contributed to the discussions, and cited examples that had presented at their hospital. As it is the tradition, WARSHE educational materials were distributed after the ART. Thirty Nine (**39**) **mothers and 4 nurses** were present at the awareness raising talk (ART) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March while **25 women and 4 nurses** were present at the ART on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### **7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2010**

WARSHE held 2 No. awareness raising talks (ARTs) at the **ante-natal clinic of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC), Ile-Ife** on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010. During the talk, WARSHE staff tried to show the reality of sexual violence and abuse and the need to seek justice when it happens. One of the mothers shared her own experience to confirm that rape does happen. WARSHE education materials were distributed after the ART. One hundred and fifteen (**115**) **women** and six (**6**) **nursing officers** were presented at the clinic where we gave the talk on 7<sup>th</sup> April while sixty-six (**66**) **women and seven (7) officials** were at the clinic where we gave the ART on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

### **29<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

WARSHE held 2No. awareness raising talks (ARTs) at the **ante-natal and child welfare clinics of Osun State Hospital, Ede** on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010 respectively. Ede is about 40minutes drive from Ile-Ife. At the ante-natal clinic, after the presentation made by WARSHE Staff on preventing sexual violence and abuse and helping young children, especially girls to cope with the abuses when they happen, a mother cited the case of another who was indifferent to the abuse of her female child. The woman who cited the case was upset because it was the child's father who took the matter seriously when he was told. He reported to the Police, and, according to this participant, the case was going to be heard in court the week after the WARSHE ART. At the child welfare clinic, a debate ensued after the presentation by WARSHE staff when a woman asked WARSHE to state her own position about a man who beats his wife and have sex with her against her will. A male nurse and head of unit, quickly took the position that the man could beat her to have sex, because after all, he had bought the woman, so she is his, and should not refuse him sex. An old woman gently concurred, and the WARSHE team had to counter this position. There were 39 participants, comprising **36 pregnant women and 3 nursing officers** at the ante-natal clinic, while **81 mothers and 2 nurses** participated in the ART that was held at the child welfare clinic. After the programme, a woman signaled her intention to invite WARSHE to make the same kind of presentation at a children's programme.

### **13<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

A mini symposium was held for students of Bishop Onabanjo Memorial High School 1, in Ibadan. A WARSHE Club was inaugurated in the school, immediately after the mini symposium.

### **20<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

WARSHE held a symposium for **high school students in Ondo town**, which is an hour's drive from Ile-Ife, where WARSHE is headquartered. Ondo town is in Ondo State, in South Western Nigeria. On this day, the heavens opened and it poured. Of the two hundred and twenty five students (225) that were invited for the programme, only **one hundred and twenty three (123)** turned up. **Nine (9) teachers** were also present. In spite of the disruption caused by the rain, the team of WARSHE volunteers explored the concepts of rape, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence and abuse with the teenagers, and helped them to think through the reasons for the occurrence of sexual violence and abuse. One of the organization's highly committed female volunteer, who is a medical practitioner, provided clear and explicit information about the female and male reproductive systems, what constitutes abuse of the woman's body and the medical implications of sexual violence and abuse, while students had time to bare their minds about their concerns. One of the schools that attended the symposium, a single sex, female school, immediately signaled their intention to invite WARSHE to provide information to a lot more students in their own school.

### **17<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

The symposium for **high school students in Ikire**, 30 mins drive from Ile-Ife, took place in Olupele Hall, Ikire, in Osun State. Where 225 students were invited for this programme, **331 students and 11 teachers** showed up. This was the highest turnout at a WARSHE symposium organized for high school students. This we attributed to the participation of key functionaries in the education sector in Ikire area, in the WARSHE intensive training programme, held in August 2009.. There was a mosaic of teenagers at the symposium. There were some from private and others from public schools, some were from mission schools and yet others from government schools, while some were from single sex schools. The symposium was highly interactive. While WARSHE volunteers explored the different dimensions of the problem of sexual violence and abuse, including the link to HIV/AIDs, the teenagers asked questions from the heart.

### **31<sup>st</sup> August 2010**

WARSHE held a symposium for students of the **College of Education, Ikere Ekiti**, in Ekiti state in the last day of August 2010. Ikere Ekiti is about 2 hours drive from Ile-Ife. WARSHE volunteers explored the different dimensions of the problem of sexual violence and abuse with the students. Present at the symposium was a group of resisting males, who seemed poised to disrupt the symposium. We were taken aback by the level of resistance that some of the male students had put up because we had never experienced any such brazen resistance at a WARSHE symposium at any level. Just the same way there were many female students who appeared determined to take the best out of the symposium. They participated actively in the interactive sessions, asked questions, and gained confidence as they listened to the WARSHE volunteers. At the end of the programme, some of the female students confided in WARSHE volunteers that they had a big problem with sexual abuse on the campus, and wanted more tips about prevention

and coping with the abuses, especially sexual harassment. They wanted WARSHE to have an office on their campus. About **300 students** attended the symposium.

### **31<sup>st</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2011**

WARSHE held awareness raising talks at the child welfare and antenatal clinics of Urban Comprehensive Health Centre (UCHC) Eleyele, Ile-Ife on 31<sup>st</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 respectively. WARSHE staff drew the attention of persons that were present at the talks to the rampant incidence of rape, and called on mothers to fight it. Educational materials were given to the people present. Sixty-five (**65**) mothers, four (**4**) men, nine (**9**) student nurses and three (**3**) nursing officers were in attendance on 31<sup>st</sup> January while Twenty-two (**22**) women and three (**3**) nurses were present on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011**

WARSHE held awareness raising talks (ART) at the **Osun State Hospital Oke-Ogbo** on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 and another ART at the **Osun State Comprehensive Health Centre (Olomowewe), Ile-Ife** on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. WARSHE staff drew attention of mothers to the repercussions of rape and why it is necessary to seek justice whenever it happens. Fourteen (**14**) mothers and two (**2**) nursing officers were present during the talk on February 14<sup>th</sup>, while seventy-five (**75**) mothers, five (**5**) fathers and six (**6**) nursing officers were present at the talk on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

### **24<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Held orientation workshop towards field work for 7 Research assistants, 4 WARSHE staff and 2 Principal researchers, who were going to participate in the WARSHE survey of the incidence of sexual violence and abuse against young girls in high schools and tertiary institutions in 2 states (Osun and Oyo) in Nigeria. We located the survey within the work of WARSHE, discussed the methodology for the survey, explored how WARSHE beliefs and core values should impact the conduct of researchers on the field, highlighted ethical issues pertaining to the research, discussed the schedule of the research, and remuneration.

### **31<sup>st</sup> January – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012, and May 2012**

During the survey of the incidence of sexual violence and abuse against young girls in high schools and tertiary institutions in 2 states (Osun and Oyo) in Nigeria, the researchers carried out field work in: **25 high schools** in the 12 education zones in Oyo and Osun states, and **5 tertiary institutions**, also in the two states, between 31<sup>st</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012, and in May 2012. At the end of field work in May, three thousand, one hundred and seventeen (3, 118) respondents had participated in the study.

As we had anticipated and planned, during field work, we carried out sensitization and consciousness raising activities, and also held short education programmes with the respondents in our research in the two states. In some schools, at the behest of the management of the schools, we held short education programmes for all female students in some schools and tertiary institutions. So apart from the **3, 118 teenagers and young adults** who benefitted from our sensitization, consciousness raising and education activities as participants in our research, we reckoned that **about 1, 000 teenagers and young women**, who were not participants in our

survey, benefitted from the short education programmes that we held in their schools, and our education and sensitization materials.

As a result of this survey, more teachers, high school students, local and zonal inspectors of education, students in tertiary institutions and key functionaries of those institutions in Osun and Oyo states are aware of the existence of WARSHE; and WARSHE appears to be receiving more cases of all forms of gender based violence than she can cope with.

### **22 April, 2012**

WARSHE held an awareness raising talk with the **children's unit** of **Rhema Chapel International Churches Ile-Ife** in the Sunday School Hall. Present in the hall were children aged eight (8) and above and their teachers, most of whom are also mothers. We urged the children to express themselves freely and ask questions. One of them told us that she was experiencing abuse. Twenty eight (**28**) children and **four** teachers were present. Copies of WARSHE Tips were distributed among the children.

### **23 August, 2012**

At the **Philadelphia Baptist Church, Ooni Layout, Ile-Ife**, WARSHE interacted with girls between ages 10 and 17 on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2012 during the **teenagers'** weekly meeting. WARSHE staff made the girls to understand the meaning of rape, the environments where it can occur and the potential perpetrators. The girls were advised to always be alert, ready to resist any form of sexual violence directed against them, and to always be their sisters' keeper. They were also encouraged to feel free to contact WARSHE as the need arises. Twelve (**12**) girls and one (**1**) mother were present at the awareness raising talk.

## **B) Intervention Activities**

WARSHE intervention involves: support to report cases to the police, university authorities, parents, social welfare officials, and other clay footed officials; counseling; writing protest letters to ensure justice is done; asking WARSHE friends in the legal profession to hold watching briefs in court, to tidy up WARSHE clients and state prosecutors for court appearances; linking victims with medical officials; paying medical bills of victims; paying school fees of victims and providing stipends for some family members in extreme circumstances, when poverty and sexual violence are interfacing; and supporting victims during court appearances. In a handful of cases, at the behest of offenders, with the consent of the victims, and with legal officers present, WARSHE attempts to provide the space for offenders and their victims to reach informal settlements.

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.

Other WARSHE Programmes and Activities  
**C) The WARSHE Resource Centre  
(and the Link to ALADIN)**

WARSHE has a small resource center with textbooks, periodicals, training packages, audio tapes and video tapes that focus mainly on rape, sexual harassment and child sexual abuse. There are others that focus on other women issues and adult education and learning.

The resource center was conceived as an integral part of the education, prevention and coping strategies that the organization hopes it can use to help girls and women deal with the problem of sexual violence and abuse. Since the inception of the organization in 1998, the Coordinating Council of the Organization has attempted to build collections that will help the organization in the pursuit of the goals of the organization. At some point, the thinking was that we ought to charge users a token for using WARSHE materials. We have been charging for the usage of the materials, and the money is remitted to the WARSHE Rehabilitation Fund (WRF), the account from which the organization funds some of her rehabilitation work.

Two and a half years into the work of WARSHE, we mounted an exhibition of the materials that were available at the resource centre. About two years after the exhibition, as we were thinking of how to promote interest in the work of WARSHE and the use of her resource materials, we raised the question of raising funds to further equip the resource center and had written a proposal to this effect. It was about this time that the call for application for the Course: Managing NGO Resource Centers came to our notice. A member of the Coordinating Council of WARSHE attended the course, and we thought the course was timely. The Adult Learning Documentation and Information Network (ALADIN) of UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg, sponsored WARSHE for this capacity building programme at the Coady International Institute, Antigonish, Canada. ALADIN has since registered WARSHE as a member; WARSHE is listed on the ALADIN website, she is on ALADIN list serve and receives UNESCO books and documents from ALADIN.

**D) WARSHE 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations  
(3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008)**

To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inception of WARSHE, which was inaugurated in 1998, WARSHE held a four-hour programme tagged: TIWALOLA – Luncheon/Fundraiser of Dreams, Hopes and Possibilities, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008, at the Ogunbanjo Community Centre, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Highlights of the WARSHE anniversary celebrations included: the launch of the WARSHE Educational DVD titled ‘Tiwalola’, the WARSHE booklets, titled, ‘Justice in Sight?’, the WARSHE ‘N500 Shop’, the launch of the seed fund for Tiwalola - the Young and Older Women’s Cooperative Investment and Credit Society, the WARSHE Annual Umbrellas and the WARSHE Honours Roll. There was an art exhibition and auction, and drama that depicted a whole range of sexual violence and abuse that a woman could go through in a life time if society is not alert to her responsibilities.

Obafemi Awolowo University was one of the organizations/institutions that were placed on the Honours Roll of Women Against Rape, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation (WARSHE)

during the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations of WARSHE. The citation of OAU, presented at the occasion, reads in part

In a positive sense, we like to think that Obafemi Awolowo University, which is steeped in the liberal academic tradition, produced WARSHE. .... University of Ife and Obafemi Awolowo University did not just nurture the minds that gave birth to WARSHE, the University also allowed it to thrive. The leadership of the University in the past ten years has been tacitly supportive of the efforts of WARSHE, many of the active volunteers of the organization are products of Obafemi Awolowo University, and OAU has provided a safe space from which some of her own and other concerned Nigerians are offering a distinct and important community service.

Other organizations, institutions, and individuals that made the WARSHE honours roll are among others: the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Accra, Ghana; The Global Fund for Women, San Francisco, USA; the Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Prof. M.O. Faborode; Former Vice-Chancellor OAU, Prof. Roger Makanjuola; Former Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Profs A. E. Akingbohunbe and Femi Ajibola; Ms Funmi Iyanda, a media practitioner, and Ms Debo Jimoh, a graduate of OAU, and former WARSHE student volunteer.

In her opening remarks, the Chairperson of the anniversary celebrations, Mrs Egun Balogun (a retired rehabilitation officer), cited several disturbing instances of sexual abuse and violence of young and older women, by their relations, and strangers in Nigeria and abroad. She commended the pillars of WARSHE for setting up the organization and for the work they had done in the past 10 years. She called their efforts 'bold', given the Nigerian socio-cultural context.

Two of the three co-founders of WARSHE, Dr Olutoyin Mejiuni and Professor Oluyemisi Obilade, a Trustee of WARSHE who is also the legal adviser to the organization, Barrister Olasupo Ojo, and another Trustee of WARSHE, who was the Director, Centre for Gender and Social Policy Studies, Prof. Sumbo Abiose, at different times during the anniversary celebrations, said the anniversary provided the opportunity to take stock, celebrate survivors of sexual violence and abuse, honour those who have supported WARSHE efforts, inform stakeholders about the work of the organization, and raise funds from Nigerians to expand and deepen her reach. They said some of the achievements of WARSHE since inception in 1998 include the fact that the organization has broken the silence around matters of sexual violence and abuse; she has supported victims from different socio-economic backgrounds in town and gown in their search for justice, and has used education as the key tool in the prevention of sexual abuse and violence. They indicated that the organization could better impact the society through the work of education, intervention, advocacy and research, if Nigerians drive the initiative by committing funds to the work of WARSHE.

Present at the anniversary celebrations were: present and former key functionaries of Obafemi Awolowo University, high school students and their teachers from Ile-Ife and Ibadan; media practitioners; social workers; WARSHE volunteers from tertiary institutions; representatives of the Osun State Police Command, etc.

Responding on behalf of all who made the WARSHE honours roll, the Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, commended the ‘operatives’ of WARSHE. He said the work of WARSHE has impact beyond Nigerian shores and has placed OAU on the map of institutions of higher learning that are pro-active in matters of sexual violence and abuse. He indicated that the University is committed to defending the rights of women, children and men, and cited the Centre for Gender and Social Policy Studies and the University gender policy as institutional frameworks through which this is to be achieved. Prof. Faborode said that OAU is proud of what WARSHE is doing and will continue to support her efforts. He urged that the arrow heads of WARSHE should give more publicity to their work in spite of the need for tact and diplomacy. He said if the work of the organization is publicized, more young women will gain the confidence to report cases of sexual violence and abuse, and it would send clear signals that sexual violence and abuse is unacceptable. The Vice-Chancellor said OAU will continue ‘to bring sexual abusers to justice, not just to book, but will respect their right to fair hearing in the process.’ He concluded that any member of OAU community who falls foul of very simple codes of existence will face disciplinary action.

**E) WARSHE Survey of the Incidence of Sexual Violence and Abuse Against Young Girls and Women in High Schools and Tertiary Institutions in Osun and Oyo States, Nigeria**

About twelve years into our work of protecting children, girls and women from sexual violence and abuse, and helping them to cope when abuses have occurred, we felt a need to work with evidence about the phenomenon, that derives from a systematic process of inquiry, that would allow us: recommend specific policies or policy directions to education, health and social welfare authorities, and the system of administration of justice; map the nature and direction of future advocacy work; plan further education intervention in the education sector; and be more strategic about our intervention efforts. We therefore proposed a feminist action research, and asked the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF) for support. The AWDF provided support in 2011, and the ground work for the study began in the last quarter of 2011.

In August 2012, WARSHE submitted a ninety two (92) page report entitled: “*Unsafe Spaces: Dodgy Friends and Families*” to the AWDF. Excerpt of the report has been sent to key government officials in the two states, Oyo and Osun states, where the study took place and a media briefing was held in the WARSHE office in Ile-Ife.

**F) WARSHE Intervention in Public Discourses of Gender Based Violence and Oppression of Women**

Apart from WARSHE education, mobilization, and sensitization programmes and activities, some of which were reported in Nigerian Newspapers and magazines, WARSHE also attempted to intervene in the discourse of gender based violence, especially sexual violence and abuse through her participation in radio and television programmes (Ife, Akure & Channels, Lagos {Choba Mass Rape}) and through press releases. The press releases are:

- On Choba mass rape: “The Choba Gang Rapists Must Face the Law”, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1999
- On mass rape in the wars in Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo: “Africa’s Unending Wars: Rape of Women as a Criminal Weapon of War. The Cases of Sudan and Congo”.
- After the WARSHE Workshop/Roundtable for stakeholders in the system of administration of justice in June 2004, communiqué from the workshop was circulated as press release, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2004
- On the bill on indecent dressing: “Don’t Abuse Your Office: Drop the Bill on Indecent Dressing”.
- On the pressure piled on the septuagenarian Ekiti State INEC Chairperson, who went into hiding: “Stop the Harassment and Intimidation of Mrs Ayoka Adebayo, the Resident Electoral Commissioner for Ekiti State”, April 2009
- After the then reigning Deji of Akure assaulted his wife in the full view of members of his community: “Prosecute Mr Oluwadare Adeshina, the Deji of Akure who Dis-robbed Himself”, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010
- When it was reported that the Alowa of Ilowa in Osun state had allegedly raped a female member of the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) Scheme: “Once again, a man who is supposed to embody that which is good about our traditional values has violated our values”.
- The dissemination of results of survey of incidence of sexual violence and abuse to the public through media practitioners: “Presentation of *WARSHE Report On Incidence of Sexual Violence and Abuse Against Girls in High Schools and Young Women in Tertiary Institutions in Oyo and Osun States* to Media Practitioners: An Invite”, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012

#### G) **WARSHE Creativity in the Defense of Survivors.**

At her inauguration in 1998, the co-founders of WARSHE designed a Logo and letter head that the organization used. By the year 2000, it was thought that WARSHE needed a more powerful logo and letter headed paper, in the colours of the organization, which are red and cream. There was the thinking that within the community of students and Faculty of Obafemi Awolowo University, the organization would probably get creative minds to take an interest in the work of WARSHE and create a logo that will symbolize the core values of the organization. So the following steps were taken. First, the desire of WARSHE for appropriate designs of WARSHE logo and letter head were announced all over the University campus, deadlines for submission of entries were set, and designers were given the chance to consult the WARSHE Resource Centre if they wished to know more about sexual violence and abuse.

Second, an **Exhibition in Defense of Survivors** was held on **18<sup>th</sup> January 2001**, and two materials, the entries that designers had put in for the WARSHE Logo and letter head, and WARSHE’s collection of texts in the WARSHE Resource Centre, were exhibited. Persons who visited the exhibition were implored to look at the entries for the logo and letterhead closely, and rank them in order of preference. They were also expected to look through the materials in the WARSHE Resource Centre, so they will be familiar with the materials that are available for their



own use later, and for recommendation to others. At this exhibition the date of the award of 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes for the design of the logo and letter head were announced.

The ranking and scores were tallied, and finally, on **30<sup>th</sup> March 2001**, a small **awards ceremony** for the design of WARSHE Logo and Letter head was held, and cash prizes presented to the first three.

**H) WARSHE Clubs and WARSHE Volunteers (Ibadan, Ife, Ede, Adeyemi College, Ondo and Bishop Onabanjo Memorial High School WARSHE Volunteers and Club)**

- The organization has comprehensive lists of individuals who were WARSHE volunteers when they were in school.

**I) Send Forth for Ibadan and Ife WARSHE Volunteers**

- We organized send forth ceremonies for the University of Ibadan and Obafemi Awolowo University WARSHE Volunteers to encourage them to abide by WARSHE beliefs and core values, as they take up positions of responsibility upon graduation.

**J) Martial Arts (Self Defense Programme)**

- This project lasted for six weeks only beginning February 2000.

**K) WARSHE Monitoring of Cases of Sexual Violence and Abuse in Hospitals, Courts and Newspapers.**

- This led to the creation of a Database of Cases of SVA. The systematic monitoring of cases ceased a few years ago as a result of the heavy workload of our full time staff.

**L) WARSHE Umbrellas**

The umbrellas were designed as a way of publicly acknowledging individuals, corporate agencies, institutions and funders who have supported WARSHE over the years. They go on display during WARSHE key outings and events.

## **Section 2 Funding**

WARSHE has received funds for her programmes and activities, and for institutional support from:

- **Ford Foundation** (West Africa Office) - \$3, 000
- **The Global Fund for Women**- \$ 8, 000
- **The African Women's Development Fund** (AWDF) - \$11, 000; \$1, 000; \$20, 000; \$1, 000; \$60, 000; \$15, 000 USD; and from
- **Individuals and Organizations in Nigeria**

### Section 3

## Monitoring and Evaluation

WARSHE adopts participatory, continuous, summative, quantitative and qualitative evaluation techniques in her assessment of how well the organization has performed the task of stemming the tide of sexual violence and abuse against women.

- The Coordinating Council (CC) of WARSHE would usually **discuss activities** scheduled for a particular (grant) period with the staff of the organization. In addition, the CC also produces and **pastes the activities on the notice board**. All members of the Coordinating Council of WARSHE and the staff of WARSHE were therefore expected to become the monitoring team for her scheduled projects.
- **Work Charts** and **meeting of Coordinating Council with staff** were used to monitor work in progress.
- **Written feedback on assignments** submitted by staff to the Coordinating Council were somewhat consistent after year 2006.
- Another strategy that WARSHE adopts for monitoring her programmes and projects is that the Coordinating Council, led by the Coordinator, keeps an eye on the **work plan for particular programmes and projects**, and tries to follow the approved work plan as closely as practicable.
- WARSHE takes immediate formal (written) and informal feedback from participants (and beneficiaries) in her programmes/of her programmes seriously. Such feedback are usually in respect of: how well the programme met participants' expectations; the timing of the programme; the methodology(ies) adopted; the content; welfare of participants, and such other areas in which improvement can be made. Usually also, stakeholders suggest areas (education, advocacy etc) that WARSHE ought to pay attention to, while some participants in our ITWs develop action plans and map priority areas.
- The CC of WARSHE and WARSHE staff also evaluate projects upon conclusion. The organization is aware that her well designed and implemented programmes were those that were planned in the course of an intervention work, and or while assessing the strengths, weaknesses and matters arising from an earlier project.
- The CC of WARSHE is always eager to know the number of persons that were present at an education programme – The ARTs, Symposia & ITW. This way we try to estimate the multiplier effect that the message of preventing sexual violence and abuse (SVA) will have. More importantly however, we gauge successful efforts through: attitudinal changes that (potential) victims, their relations, women generally, persons in position of power and authority exhibit in respect of SVA and the social position of women; tiny but significant administrative steps/positions/policies that state officials take/make to stem the tide of SVA, and the reactions of members of communities especially the media to victims of SVA.

## **Reports to Funders**

The applications that we write for funding help us to take stock of past activities. The interim and final narrative and financial reports on externally funded programmes and activities, and activities funded by WARSHE Volunteers, friends, corporate agencies and internally generated revenue are, in and of themselves (opportunities for) formative and summative evaluation of our programmes and activities .

## **Site Visits**

Site visits conducted by organizations that have funded our programmes have been periods for the assessment and evaluation of our programmes and the structure that support them, and they are also occasions when the funders provide technical advice in the area of organizational development and programming. During the site visits indicated below, our funders were able to assess our programmes on site, in our natural setting. They met with our Board members, volunteers and clients; and watched our education programmes. They asked us questions about our books, physical facilities, and governance structure; offered suggestions about focusing our education programmes; encouraged us to continue to nurture our relationship with critical stakeholders in our communities; and urged us to document our intervention efforts, in a publishable format. The funders that have visited WARSHE are:

- Ford Foundation (West Africa Office), ....., 7<sup>th</sup> October 1998
- African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), CEO Ms Ms Bisi Adeleye Fayemi, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003
- African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Programme Staff, (7<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup>) April 2008
- African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Programme Staff, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010
- African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Programme Staff, 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May 2013

## **Section 4 Capacity Building**

WARSHE Volunteers and staff have attended the under listed capacity building programmes:

- Forum (Workshop) on Running an NGO, by Frederick Ebert Stiftung at the Goethe Institute, Lagos; Coordinator, Dr Mejiuni (20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 1999)
- Workshop on: Reproductive Rights and Body Literacy, Empowerment and Action Research Centre (EMPARC), Lagos; Coordinator, Dr Mejiuni (16th and 17th May, 2002).
- Certificate Course in Managing NGO Resource Centres, sponsored by Adult Learning Documentation and Information Network (ALADIN) of UNESCO Institute for Education, at Coady International Institute, Antigonish, Canada ; Coordinator, Dr Mejiuni (May-June 2003)
- Resource Persons Forum and Capacity Building Workshop, The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Accra, Ghana; Treasurer, Prof. O. Obilade (September 15 – 19, 2003)
- Institutional Capacity Building for NGOs, Temperance Hotel, Ota ;Programme Officer, Ms Rufina Ajalie (29<sup>th</sup>Aug. – 2 September 2004)
- Focus Group Meeting to test and revise the Measurement Tool “Making the Case: A Learning and Measurement Tool for Social Change (MTC)”, The African Women's

Development Fund (AWDF), and others, Cape Town, South Africa; Treasurer, Prof O. Obilade (Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>2004)

- Forum (Workshop) on Monitoring and Evaluation, African Women’s Development Fund in partnership with The African Capacity Building Foundation, Accra, Ghana; Coordinator, Dr O. Mejiuni (2007)
- African Feminist Resource Mobilization Strategy Workshop: Where is the Money for Women’s Rights in Africa? The African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), Johannesburg, South Africa; Coordinator, Dr O. Mejiuni (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2007)
- 2008 Certificate Course in Resource Mobilization, The African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration(GIMPA),Accra, Ghana; Treasurer, Prof. O. Obilade (2008)
- Leadership Forum for Regional and Sub-Regional Women’s Organisations, The African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), Kampala, Uganda; Coordinator, Dr O. Mejiuni & Treasurer, Prof. O. Obilade (Between 14<sup>th</sup>& 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009)
- Certificate Course in:1)Resource Centre Management; and 2)Facilitation (Back to Back), Coady International Institute, Antigonish, Canada; Programme Officer (IRM), Mrs Titilope Olanrewaju, (2010)
- CEO Forum on Organisational Development and Sustainability for Regional and Sub-Regional Women’s Organisations, The African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), Nairobi, Kenya; Coordinator, Dr O. Mejiuni & Treasurer, Prof. O. Obilade (Between 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011)

## Section 5

### The Scope of the Work of WARSHE

- **Total Number of Major and Mini Education Programmes (ARTs & Sensitization Exercises; Symposia; and ITWs), and invited talks in 15 years**

In 15 years, WARSHE held fifteen (15No.) intensive training workshops; twenty three (23No.) symposia; and a minimum of one hundred and fifteen (115No.) awareness raising and sensitization talks and exercises (this includes about 18 held during the survey of 2012). So the organization planned, implemented and managed **153 major and mini education programmes in 15 years**. 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 produced 13No. education, sensitization and mobilization materials which included posters, fliers, stickers, a DVD and a booklet.

- **Total number of locations and their spread in 15 years**

WARSHE education and survey took place in **25** towns, cities, and sub-urban 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; Ikirun; Osu; Okinni; Iwo; and Ile-Ogbo. Osun and Oyo states were the key beneficiaries of the work of WARSHE. Ondo state

benefitted also, but the communities in Ekiti State are yet to benefit as much as the other three states.

- **Number of persons who sought WARSHE intervention in cases of abuse in 15 years**  
WARSHE received and documented about seventy one (71) cases of sexual violence and abuse and other forms of gender based violence in her office in Ile-Ife. The breakdown being 47 cases of SVA, and 24 cases of GBV. The organization supported the survivors and provided referrals to other agencies and institutions as deemed necessary and within the limits that the clients felt able to act. During her survey of the incidence of SVA among high school students and young women in tertiary institutions, WARSHE researchers supported eighty two (82) of the 717 girls and young women who indicated they had suffered different forms of sexual violence and abuse. Beneficiaries of WARSHE intervention efforts resided in Osun, Oyo, Ondo, and Zamfara States, at the time they sought help from WARSHE. In one case, the case of the Choba mass rape, WARSHE volunteers travelled to Choba, Rivers State to investigate the allegations and provide support within available resources.

- **Total number of persons reached directly and indirectly in 15 years**  
Through actual and estimated figures, we reckoned that through:
  - 15 No ITWs, we reached **818** persons directly
  - 23No symposia, we reached **3, 320** persons directly
  - 97 No ARTs& sensitization exercises, we reached **3, 812** persons directly
  - 6No. invited talks we reached **330** persons directly
  - the pilot study of the 2012 survey and the actual survey, we reached the **204** teenagers who participated in the pilot study of the survey, the **3, 118** persons who participated in the survey and the estimated **1, 000** students and teachers who did not take part in the survey, but benefitted from the sensitization exercises and mini education programs that were held during the survey
  - Intervention efforts reached **142** persons directly; calculated on the basis that survivors always do not report cases alone. They would usually approach WARSHE through family, friends, or a concerned person, who would usually hang around at the beginning of the case. Others had more than one individual supporting them and taking part in the intervention process.

We therefore estimated that we reached **12, 744** persons directly **in 15 years**. The multiplier effect of our reach and the indirect impact can be imagined, if we assumed that: half of the persons we have reached directly, would talk to one other person about WARSHE; persons who have read about WARSHE activities in newspapers and magazines would take her message seriously; and those who have watched reportage of WARSHE activities and or watched WARSHE volunteers on TV programmes, would do the same.

- **Categories of persons reached**  
Among the **12, 744** persons WARSHE had reached directly **in 15 years** were women who attended ante-natal and child welfare clinics as mothers to be and mothers; men who accompanied their wives to those clinics; teenagers who were high school students; young adults in tertiary institutions (schools of nursing, polytechnics, colleges of education and universities), nurses, teachers, chairpersons of parents-teachers' associations, zonal/local inspectors of

education, chairpersons of Conference of Principals of Secondary schools, school principals, head teachers, guidance counselors, medical practitioners, magistrates, lawyers, police officers, social workers, and survivors and victims of SVA and GBV. Others were persons who worked in courts, television houses, ministries of education and social welfare, and ordinary, everyday people whom we met during sensitization exercises.

### **Conclusion**

We know that WARSHE has: unveiled the silence around sexual violence and abuse; has attempted to influence the discourses around gender based violence and violence against women; alerted some state actors to their responsibilities in the prevention of sexual violence and abuse; caused individuals to engage in critical reflections on the assumptions they make about women/men and sexual violence and abuse; triggered transformation of beliefs about women's social status; and has supported some girls, women and their loved ones in their processes of healing from wounds inflicted by gender based violence.

### ***Signed***

#### **Olutoyin Mejiuni, (Ph.D)**

Coordinator, WARSHE  
1998 - September 2013

#### **On Behalf of the Coordinating Council of WARSHE**

Prof. Oluyemisi Oluremi Obilade (Treasurer)  
Dr. Adeolu Ademoyo (Secretary)  
Dr Olutoyin Mejiuni (Coordinator)

And

#### **The Board of Trustees**

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

#### **Co-founders**

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

#### **Initiator**

Dr. Olutoyin Mejiuni