

Global Citizen and the Ford Foundation Launch Partnership to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria

Campaign to Mobilize Support Against the Increasing Levels of Violence as part of the UN's 16 Days of Activism Initiative

NEWS RELEASE BY GLOBAL CITIZEN

Nigeria, Lagos | November 25, 2021 08:16 AM Eastern Standard Time



Emily Hungerford/UN women

Nigeria, Lagos, November 25, 2021 /3BL Media/ - To mark the start of today's annual United Nations 16 Days of Activism campaign, the international advocacy organisation, Global Citizen announced a year-long partnership to combat the increase against gender-based violence in Nigeria, with the Ford Foundation, a private foundation seeking to reduce poverty and injustice. The partnership will address the social, and economic, factors which have contributed to an environment where gender-based violence is now fast on the rise.

The multi-pronged 12-month campaign will leverage both organisations collective resources, by mobilizing stakeholder engagement to scale up interventions and drive

impact in dismantling negative social norms through funding, innovative multi-stakeholder coordination, grassroots engagement and male allyship.

In communities across Nigeria and the world, COVID-19 has exacerbated cases of gender-based violence and injustice, creating a “shadow pandemic”. A survey of twenty-four Nigerian States, conducted from March-April 2020, revealed that the total number of reported gender-based violence incidents more than doubled from 346 cases to 794 cases in just the first two weeks of lockdown.

This trend has highlighted a much wider problem - gender-based violence is on the rise, with the increase hard to quantify as the majority of cases go unreported. New forms of violence have also developed throughout Nigeria, including recent reports of women being maltreated by law enforcement agents, especially at checkpoints within the country.

By mobilizing advocacy against these crimes and by driving awareness for female empowerment and financial inclusion, particularly in the context of unpaid care and domestic work, the partnership will aim to eliminate the rising numbers of gender-based violence in Nigeria.

Stories from Nigeria’s feminist movement will also be amplified as part of the campaign, by raising awareness around the issue of gender-based violence through the work of the Stand to End Rape Initiative (STER) - launched by Oluwaseun Ayodeji Osowobi, the Global Citizen Prize 2020 Nigeria Hero winner, working together with other local activists.

Beyond financial and on-the-ground commitments, Global Citizen and the Ford Foundation are encouraging global citizens to take action and lend their support calling for strengthening gender-based violence laws, including signing a **petition** for the adoption of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill (VAPP) and holding the national and local governments accountable for full implementation and resourcing of the bill.

-Ends-

ABOUT GLOBAL CITIZEN

Global Citizen is the world's largest movement of action takers and impact makers dedicated to ending extreme poverty by 2030. With over 10 million monthly advocates, our voices have the power to drive lasting change around sustainability, equality, and humanity. We post, tweet, message, vote, sign, and call to inspire those who can make things happen to act – government leaders, businesses, philanthropists, artists, and citizens – together improving lives. By downloading our app, Global Citizens learn about

the systemic causes of extreme poverty, take action on those issues, and earn rewards with tickets to concerts, events, and experiences all over the world. For more information, visit [GlobalCitizen.org](https://www.globalcitizen.org).

ABOUT THE FORD FOUNDATION

The Ford Foundation is an American private foundation seeking to reduce poverty and injustice, strengthen democratic values, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. To learn more about the Foundation's mission, please visit [here](#).

For press inquiries please contact: Global Citizen Public
Relations media@globalpoveryproject.com

View additional multimedia and more ESG storytelling from Global Citizen on 3blmedia.com