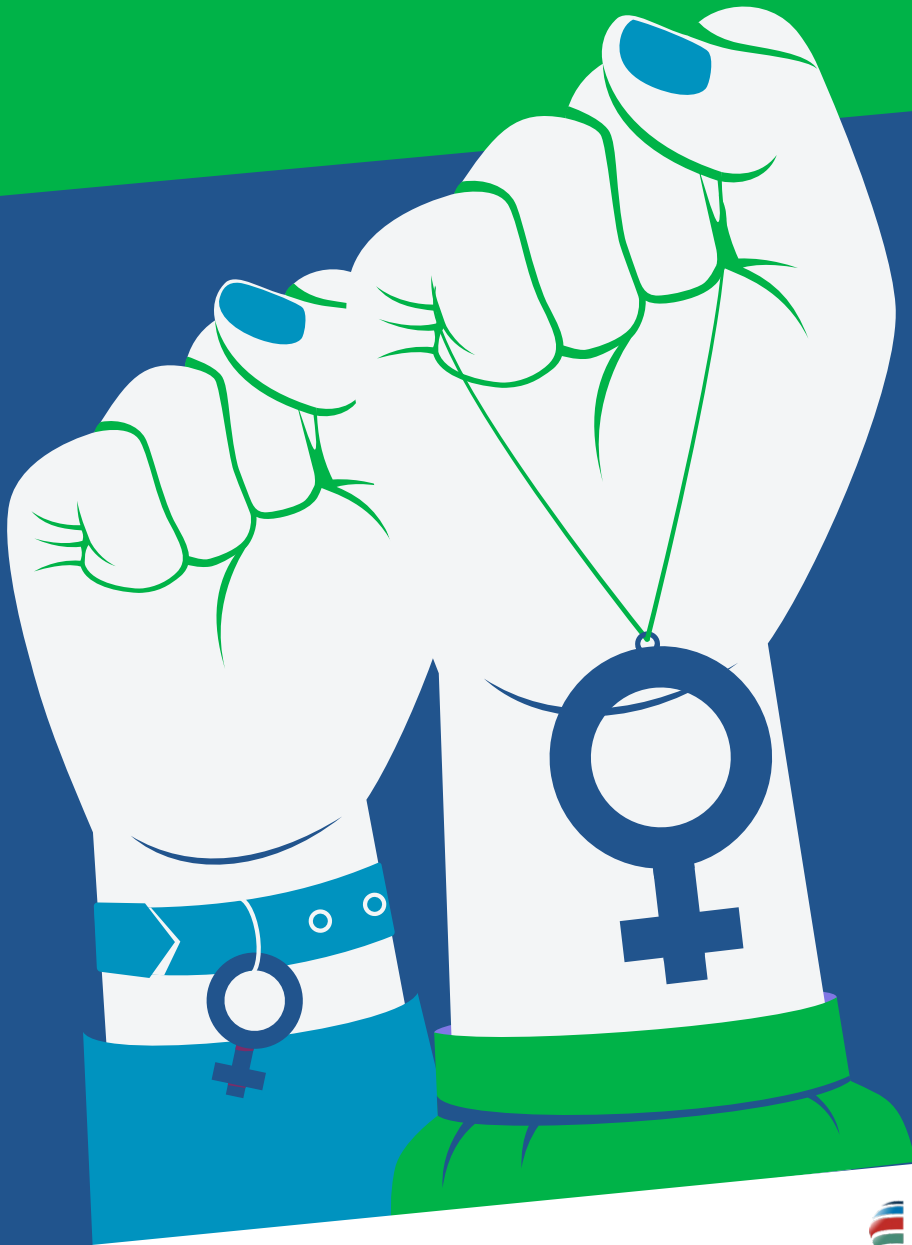




# Political Mentorship and Bootcamp Photobook

*Volume 3*



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Given the re-emergence of authoritarian regimes across Africa and several other countries around the world in the last decade, the concept of democracy has struggled to thrive in some of those countries. Nigeria has particularly suffered from the effects of poor leadership at all levels and the state of democracy in the country has remained constant in the last 10 years.

The country has struggled with the achievement of gender equality and representation at all levels including politics and governance. Although some notable strides have been made, patriarchy and cultural biases still affects equal representation of men and women in politics and governance.

To strengthen our democracy, women must contribute as equal stakeholders in democratic processes, and organizations such as PWAN are working collaboratively with other stakeholders to ensure that women's voices are included in governance at all levels.

PWAN appreciates the continuous support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) towards the advancement of Nigeria's democracy, particularly the political inclusion and representation of women in governance in Nigeria.

We acknowledge the valuable contributions of Hon. Abiodun Essiet, President, Africa Young Female Advisers Initiative (AYFAI) and Hon. Adaora Onyechere, Executive Director, Gender Strategy Advancement International for their tireless

efforts in advancing the course of women in Nigeria. They have continuously used their platforms to engage and amplify solutions to the gender gaps that currently exist.

To our project partners, International Republican Institute (IRI), ElectHER, Africa Young Female Advisers' Initiative, Cedar Seed Foundation, and other partners in civil society and government spaces, we thank you for your valuable partnership. We also recognize the efforts of all our resource persons whose contributions made great impacts on our project beneficiaries, we thank you for providing guidance.

The efforts of the project team led by Ms. Tolu Ojeshina – Program Manager, Citizens' Security are commended, we appreciate her leadership and dedication towards the actualization of the project. Members of the project team, Kpeta Toyo, Ijeoma Igwe, Vivian Ojomu, Ogechukwu Holly Mohanye, Cynthia Anih, and Boluwatife Soyemi are also appreciated for their commitment and successful implementation of the project.

The guidance of the Executive Director of PWAN – 'Kemi Okenyodo towards the successful completion of the project is also greatly appreciated.

Finally, to all women in Nigeria who are working tirelessly to ensure that systematic changes are made to achieve gender equality in Nigeria, we salute you! PWAN will continue to work collaboratively in achieving this purpose for sustainable development.

# FOREWORD

It was both an exhilarating learning and unlearning curve for me, a privilege to have been called to engage and participate in the Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) leadership and mentorship program for young women in politics. To make this call as a duty as an organization is one, I applaud them for, but importantly the ability to see a gap, a need, and the sense of urgency to bridge that gap.

Mentorship is not only essential for the preparation of young women for Governance, Leadership, and Politics but also self-development. The Political and Leadership Mentorship program is not a lone journey and a day's exercise and one that must be sustained until the under-representation of women, the voices, and the confidence of young girls are built to a place where they are enabled to deal with the barriers that limit them and break them down.

This mentorship program re-emphasizes the urgency and the intentionality of PWAN's dedication toward political literacy and capacity for generation equality. It is refreshing and also enlightening to have engaged not just as a mentor but also as someone on a learning curve while engaging some of the remarkable, sharp-minded, and intelligent

young women I had the opportunity to mentor, the future for equality is here, and now. As a thorough Gender Advocate, Media Activist, and Politician, my experiences and work in the Social Innovation, Policy Development Field, and Politics remind me daily that we are never ready enough for the next elections as women, and I must work hard to break the stereotypes and demystify the patriarchy that hinders women in the political space.

With gratitude and a heartfelt appreciation, I thank the organizers, PWAN for the legacy allowed to build a path towards women's inclusion by mentoring these young women and being part of this much-needed program. Like the greeks would say "se poion pollá dínetai polý anaménetai" meaning to Whom much is given much is expected.

May these young women thrive.

**Adaora Onyechere**

***Executive Director,***

***Gender Strategy Advancement International***

***Broadcast Journalist and Producer Gender Agenda on AIT***



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

Beyond Voting: Increasing Women's Participation in the Political Process is a project that aims to strengthen women's capacity to participate in politics and shape government policies in Nigeria. From conception, the intervention has been supported by National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and four phases have been implemented successfully.

The Beyond Voting: Increasing Women's Participation in the political process project began in 2018 with an assessment of the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria to determine the push factors that affect the representation of women in politics and governance.

The factors that came out strongly from all zones are patriarchy, cultural biases, party politics, high cost of elections, and gaps in the electoral law and the constitution, amongst others. significantly, the lack of mentorship by female politicians and capacity gaps affects the successive involvement of women in politics, and this stalls the advancement of Nigeria's democracy.

Those findings were utilized to engage in the second phase of the project in 2019, where the factors were further reflected in the 2019 general elections. A post-mortem of the elections conducted by PWAN showed that out of 2,970 women who contested, only 62 got elected to offices across the Federal and State levels. Post

the election, new appointments were made across Federal and State cabinets and only 4 female Ministers out of 44 were appointed at the Federal level and ninety women were appointed out of five hundred and twenty (520) men at the state level. PWAN began to monitor the performances of women in political positions in selected states in the country – Gombe, Ogun, Taraba, Ebonyi, and FCT were assessed.

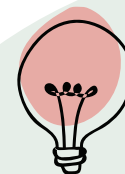
The assessment revealed the clampdown on women in governance, stalling their contributions to growth and development in the state. This informed the key messaging for PWAN's campaigns at the grassroots (including engaging traditional leaders) to raise awareness of women's political inclusion in the four states. In this phase also, PWAN organized its maiden political leadership and mentorship program for young women across the country, in 2020.

Fifteen young women across the geopolitical zones were trained and mentored toward engaging politically to accelerate democratic reforms.

While the year 2020 brought about an acceleration in women's involvement in governance and decision-making, the third phase of the project contributed to building resiliency amongst the womenfolk and empowering them to push for Affirmative Action on women's representation.

## 62/2,970

*A post-mortem of the elections conducted by PWAN showed that out of 2,970 women who contested, only 62 got elected to offices across the Federal and State levels*



*The Beyond Voting: Increasing Women's Participation in the political process project began in 2018 with an assessment of the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria to determine the push factors that affect the representation of women in politics and governance.*

PWAN expanded its Political Mentorship program where 30 young women interested in politics and 13 young female appointees benefitted. Given that mentorship is a continuous process and there is a need to amplify the voices of young people in Politics, the fourth phase of the project was implemented with a stronger focus.

Here, PWAN introduced a virtual school of politics where 89 young women benefited from a combined virtual and physical training and mentoring session. We also engaged continuously at the grassroots where over 200 people were directly reached with key awareness messages. Innovatively, We began to engage with political parties because the party processes mostly impede women's participation. Hence, with a women-focused agenda, PWAN strengthened the capacity of 13 women leaders across parties to equip them with knowledge and skills for more strategic party engagements that would close the gender gap.

The year 2022 came with a major wave because it ushered in a new political season, with the primary elections concluded in all parties, women's representation seems to remain with a question mark. In addition, the rejection of the gender bills and reconsideration of some by the National

Assembly on International Women's Month (March 2022) brought about mixed feelings regarding gender equality in politics because women were denied the right to full political participation and were only left with basic rights for their existence and dignity.

However, the Electoral Act 2022, which was assented to on 25th February 2022 provides a beam of hope for women who would be on the ballot in 2023 with its new/progressive provisions that would strengthen the electoral process.

To contribute to strengthening the process ahead of the 2023 elections, PWAN through the fifth phase of the project will build the capacity of security agencies on election security management to ensure the protection of women and observe the judicial process to ensure accountability in the electoral process and improve the chances for women's success in elections.

We would also continue to engage and support women leaders of political parties to strategically align their position with the goal of the party and serve as the gatekeepers for equality and empowerment of women at the party level.



*We also engaged continuously at the grassroots where over 200 people were directly reached with key awareness messages.*



*PWAN introduced a virtual school of politics where 89 young women benefited from a combined virtual and physical training and mentoring session.*



*The Electoral Act 2022, which was assented to on 25th February 2022 provides a beam of hope for women who would be on the ballot in 2023 with its new/progressive provisions that would strengthen the electoral process.*

# TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

The present government administration which came to power in 2015 has recorded a further decline in the representation of women in parliament and other levels of governance in Nigeria. Statistics show that women's representation has never exceeded 6% since 1999 when the country transitioned to democratic rule.

According to Statista, females make up nearly half the population – at 101.67 million as of 2020, whereas only 6% of this population occupy political seats in Nigeria. Nevertheless, it is important to note that, as of 1999, only 2.5% of women held political seats, therefore, the current percentage indicates progress from where we were at the start of our democratic journey.

The journey to political and social inclusion for women met another roadblock on 1st March 2022 when the National Assembly downvoted the bill which sought to amend the Constitution and create 35% Affirmative Action on political appointments, create 111 special seats for women in the parliament, and 20% Affirmative Action for women in party administrations.

Although the rejection of the bill was partly due to the political system in Nigeria – First-past-the-post where the person with majority votes wins an election. A comparative sampling of African countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, etc, where there are many women in parliament

shows that those countries operate the Proportional Representation (PR) political system. Hence, a major step for Nigeria toward achieving gender equality in politics, is that the PR system is adopted.

The other sections of the bill which met reconsideration after a series of protests by Nigerian women were:

a) to amend section 26 (2a) of the 1999 constitution by opening citizenship registration to males and females; this means that if the Bill is passed, foreigners married to Nigerian women can apply for citizenship.

b) to alter Sections 31 and 318(1) (the Interpretation Section) of the 1999 Constitution to allow a woman to become an indigene of her husband's state after at least six years of marriage.

c) to alter Section 223 of the 1999 Constitution to provide 35 percent affirmative action to ensure women occupy at least 35 percent in a political party and appointive positions at the federal and state levels.

The recalled sections were tagged a "national embarrassment" because it was insensitive to the fundamental human rights and dignity of women.

Considering that this incident occurred

Females make up nearly half the population – at 101.67 million as of 2020, whereas **only 6% of this population occupy political seats in Nigeria.**



The journey to political and social inclusion for women met another roadblock on 1st March 2022 when the National Assembly downvoted the bill which sought to amend the Constitution and create 35% Affirmative Action on political appointments

## Sections of the 35% Affirmative Action bill for reconsideration

To amend section 26 (2a) of the 1999 constitution by opening citizenship registration to males and females; this means that if the Bill is passed, foreigners married to Nigerian women can apply for citizenship, and

To alter Sections 31 and 318(1) (the Interpretation Section) of the 1999 Constitution to allow a woman to become an indigene of her husband's state after at least six years of marriage,

To alter Section 223 of the 1999 Constitution to provide 35 percent affirmative action to ensure women occupy at least 35 percent in a political party and appointive positions at the federal and state levels.

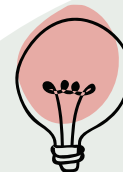
Immediately after PWAN political leadership bootcamp, on international women's month, and during election season, it is unfortunate that the 9th National Assembly failed to earn a positive slot in history by ensuring that the Affirmative Action bill is passed into law. Its passage would have contributed to the motivational factors for young women in politics across the nation.

As the 2023 General Election approaches, Women's Representation across all levels of Governance still begs the question given the results of the recent off-cycle Gubernatorial Elections in Anambra and Ekiti states.

No female candidate emerged for the Anambra Governorship seat while 2 emerged for Ekiti; however, 3 women in Anambra and 7 in Ekiti vied for Deputy Governorship seats, although none of them successfully won the seats. Going by this level of performance, women's political representation is still a critical challenge in 2023.

In addition, the Electoral Act, 2022 was signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on the 25th of February 2022, amidst several debates, advocacies, reviews, etc from all stakeholders. This provides some high expectations for women

No female candidate emerged for the Anambra Governorship seat while 2 emerged for Ekiti; however, 3 women in Anambra and 7 in Ekiti vied for Deputy Governorship seats and none of them successfully won the seats.



The Electoral Act, 2022 was signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on the 25th of February 2022, amidst several debates, advocacies, reviews, etc from all stakeholders.

who would be on the ballot in 2023 given some of the new provisions that may provide a significant threshold for women.

For instance, section 50 empowers the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to determine the procedure for voting and transmission of results at an election, electronically or manually where applicable. Other progressive sections include sections 33, 5(12), 54(2) – special assistance for vulnerable groups, 64(9), etc. These would go a long way in ensuring that women are not rigged out of power because the voting process usually serves as a major

impediment to their success.

While the efforts of Civil Society Organizations such as PWAN, Yiaga Africa, ElectHER, and Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED) in campaigning for women and youth to participate in politics cannot be overemphasized, Nigerian women expect that the next National Assembly will recall the gender bills and ensure that it is passed to enable women to occupy more political positions for better, inclusive, and sustainable democratic reforms.





# MEET THE MENTORS



Hon. Abiodun Essiet



Hon. Adaora Onyechere



Hon. Zainab Bako



Hon. (Dame) Blessing O. Nwagba, Ph.D

# Hon. Adaora Onyechere



Adaora Amarachi Pearl Onyechere is a Multitalented Broadcast Journalist Extraordinaire, a Prominent Social Innovation, Policy Development Consultant, a passionate advocate for Women's Inclusion in Governance, and currently the Head of Women Affairs and Gender Cluster Committee for the African Union Economic and Social Council for Nigeria. She is also the Host of Talk2Adaora a Citizen's Advocacy program to breach the gap between Policymakers and the citizens. One of the top 20 outstanding Youth and most recently chronicled by World Affirmative Action HONORS (WAFA). She is also chronicled among the 100 Most Influential African Women in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa, a meritorious recommendation by the United States Congress Women Board on Advocacy for Gender and Human Rights.

She is the founder of WEWE NETWORK AFRICA (We Enabling Women Everywhere) a network that embodies capacity building and visibility for women across sectors using digital media, she's also the Executive Director of Yellow Jerrycan Save A Child Foundation, a United Nations ECOSOCC accredited member, a foundation that advocates for the rights of women and children, under this she initiated "Breaking Barriers" an initiative to end sexual violence or harassment in IDP Camps and also for Love Sake teaching project at the IDP camps. She is also the Executive Director for Gender Strategy Advancement International.

She ran for Imo State House of Assembly in Nigeria in 2019, She lost yet further went on to serve in the capacity of senior special adviser on information and advocacy to the Former Governor of Imo State His Excellency Rt. Hon Emeka Ihedioha and the technical adviser to the deputy Chief whip Rt. Hon Nkeiruka Onyejeocha representing Umunochi/Isukwato In Abia State. She has a background in English and Broadcasting from London Metropolitan University.

# Hon. (Dame) Blessing O. Nwagba, Ph.d



Hon. Dame Blessing O. Nwagba, Ph.D. was the First Woman in the History of Abia State to be a major party front-runner for Governor in the 2018 2019 Gubernatorial elections. She ran a radical, grassroots-driven, and statewide campaign under the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP). She was an Honorable member representing Aba North Constituency in Abia State House of Assembly from 2011-to 2019, during her time in the State House of Assembly, she was the Chairperson, House Committee on Commerce and Industry, Chairperson, House Committee on Health, and Chairperson, House Committee on Women Affairs, respectively.

Hon. Nwagba also occupied various leadership positions in the public and private sectors, such as Member, Board of Management at University College Hospital, Ibadan, Director, Belzy Nigeria Limited, Director, Fulfilment International Academy, and College, Chief Youth Development Officer at the Ministry of Education and Youth Development, Umuahia, Member, and Policy Director at Aba North Local Government Education Authority, amongst others.



# Hon. Abiodun Essiet



ABIODUN ESSIET is the President and Founder of the Africa Young Female Advisers Initiative, an initiative she started with other young Female Advisers across Africa to build the capacity of young females who are appointed in advisory roles to decision-makers across all levels of Government in Africa. She was the Special Adviser to the Honorable Chairman of Abuja Municipal Area Council on ICT /Civil Societies and Donor Agencies. She is a Mandela Washington fellow, also a fellow of Coady international institute Canada. A Public Health Consultant, and a Researcher.

She is a passionate community leader with seven years of experience in Project Management, Community Development, and Leadership. She is involved in identifying development gaps in society and ways of bridging the gaps. She is currently the National Director for women, Gender and Development Affairs of Africa Youth for development Commission, and the Head of state for Nigeria in model ECOWAS Summit 2018, Accra Ghana. The Executive Director of Abiodun Essiet initiative for girls a Non-Governmental organization dealing with youth and women empowerment, Board Member and Health Consultant For Strong Enough Girls Empowerment Initiative, and a volunteer for Baobab for women human rights. She is actively engaged in Public service, Volunteerism, and Mentoring. She started "35% Inclusion Movements"; a grassroots movement aimed at reaching 35% inclusion of women in decision-making positions towards the 2019 Nigeria general election. She created a social media network known as the Young Africa Women leaders Network to Mentor young women across Africa on politics and leadership development. She also uses this platform to share her political journal as an aspirant for the next general election in Nigeria.

Abiodun holds a Bachelor of Nursing Science degree, Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, and Registered Public Health Nursing certificate and a master's in public health. She also holds a diploma degree in Development Leadership and a certificate in Community Development Leadership by Women, Conflict, and peacebuilding, Action Research for a Citizens led Change from Coady International Institute, Nova Scotia, Canada.

# Hon. Zainab Bako



Zainab Audu Bako is a Politician, an Activist for several NGOs, and the Founder/CEO of Zainab Audu Bako Community Support Foundation (ZABOMUF), an NGO that supports the voice of the voiceless. She is the Secretary-General of the Voice of NGOs, a Member of National Security & Reconciliation Program -NSRP (OBSTEC member), a Member of Women Peace Security (WPS Kano), and a Member of International Women Peace Group IWPG, the Vice-Chairperson Progressive Solidarity Forum (PSF) Kano.

She was the Peace Ambassador by the United Peace Federation on UN Women's Day 2016. She contested for the seat of Member House of Representatives representing Tarauni Federal Constituency under the platform of the defunct CPC. In 2014, she was First elected as the APC Assistant Financial Secretary of the Kano State, and the first female Managing Director of the Kano Zoological and Wildlife Management Agency Kano. In 2015, she was the female Commissioner of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the woman leader of Kwankwasiyya. She is also the PDP Kano State Caretaker committee Member and PDP Northwest Zonal Woman leader.

Amongst the 5 female Nigerian politicians that were sponsored by the US Department of State on an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) 2016 to observe the Historic US election 2016, became a member of International Exchange Alumni.

She is a graduate of Criminology and Security Studies from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

# Meet the Mentees



ABDULKAREEM ROFIAT  
OMOTAYO



AJAYI OPEYEMI  
GRACE



ALAPA  
GOLD



AVER  
AKIGHIR



BLESSING  
CHARLIE



BLESSING NERAT  
ATSEN



CHINYERE  
SUSAN



CHIOMA FC  
UZOKWE



CHRISTIANA YESIDE  
LONGE



DOOSUUR HANNAH  
NGIYEV



EKEMEREN  
GBADAMOSI-LADOJA



HON. EKENIMI  
ETIM



Class of 2022





# Meet the Mentees



GLORIA HENRY  
EDET



HAUWA  
JIKAMSHI



DR. JAMILA BIO  
IBRAHIM



JOY F. OTOIDE -  
OJEMORON



KEZZYA  
MICHAEL



MNENA KYGH



NYAKNO ABASI  
ASUQUO



OYEBOLA  
OLUWATOBILOBA



OYINTONBRA  
STEPHEN-DIVER



PEACE FRANK



RITA OGWU



RUTH ALADEJARE



# Meet the Mentees



RUTH  
TILEY



SAKA OLAMIDE  
MARIAM



SARAH  
JOSEPH



SUSAN  
ADEBAMBO



VICTORIA BASSEY  
INYANG



WUESE  
ADAMGBE



Class of 2022





## ABDULKAREEM ROFIAT OMOTAYO

is from Kwara state, she is 27years of age. She is a graduate of English Language from Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, and she has a master's degree in the same field from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Kwara State University, Malete.

She is a member of the Pragmatic Association of Nigeria, the current Financial Secretary of the Association of Nigerian Authors (Kwara State Chapter), and the Vice-chairperson of Hilltop Creative Arts Foundation (Kwara State Chapter). She is enthusiastic about effecting social changes, especially in aspects related to the development and growth of women and children in our society. She commends PWAN for organizing a life-changing workshop for young women like her.

Stating that the training was one of the few excellent opportunities not just for the mentees, but also for Nigeria as a nation to progress and develop economically and socio-politically as exemplified by countries that thrive on the inclusion of women in their political hierarchies.

## AJAYI OPEYEMI GRACE

is from Ekiti State, she is 27 years of age. She is a graduate of Mathematics from the University of Abuja. Her passion is Advocacy for young women/politics. Her experience at the PWAN Bootcamp was really educative and Impactful. The PWAN Bootcamp widen her knowledge more in politics.



## ALAPA, DEBORAH GOLD

is from Benue State and she is 30 years of age. She studied Surveying and Geoinformatics (B.Tech.) at the Federal University of Technology, Minna. She further enrolled for her Masters in Gender Studies and is currently working on her thesis. Since then, she has actively practiced Law in Benue and Plateau State. She is passionate about mentoring young girls and seeing women excel in their chosen fields. Attending the PWAN boot camp for young women in politics exposed me to a rich network of dynamic women who are hungry for change in the political space, and it inspired me to dare to be more.







### **AVER AKIGHIR**

is from Benue state, she is 36years of age. She is a graduate of English language from the Benue State University, Makurdi. She is a woman with a disability, a Nigerian businesswoman, philanthropist, and a disability rights advocate. She is the Executive Director of Hope Alive For Possibilities Initiative, Convener of Abuja/Benue Diva's hangout, and the Chief Director of Aver Realty Limited, a Tv reality star, a media personality, and Gender expert.

She is passionate about the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls with disabilities, political participation, and promoting the economic self-reliance of women and girls with disabilities in Nigeria.

### **BLESSING CHARLIE**

is from Akwa Ibom, she is 26 years of age. She is a graduate of Biochemistry obtained at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. currently a serving Councilor in my local government area in Akwa Ibom state.

Her experience at the boot camp and mentorship program was one of the best experiences of her life. So, engaging, educating, and life-changing. A lot of my narratives were changed especially in the aspect of women in politics, and I am applying them right now in my day-to-day activities. Thank you once again for such a great opportunity.



### **BLESSING NERAT ATSEN**

is from Plateau State and she is 28 years of age. She studied Arts and humanitarian service, at the University of Jos. She enjoys writing, planting, and growing beautiful flowers and also getting involved in humanitarian services. She has a team that is currently involved in sensitizing young Nigerian women on the importance of them getting involved in politics in Nigeria and helping them understand that their votes count.

While at the boot camp organized by PWAN, I learned a lot about Public speaking, how to use the media space, and lots more. The mentorship program has been educative, tasking in a positive way, it has taught me time management and I have been learning a more professional way of communication. The program has really boosted my confidence and CV. Thank you PWAN for all that you have done for us so far.





### CHINYERE SUSAN

is from Anambra state, she is 28years of age. She is a graduate of Economics from the Anambra State University. She is a public speaker, passionate volunteer, Girl-child advocate, and social entrepreneur. She has been working to empower young girls on building healthy self-esteem and preparing them to become job creators rather than job seekers. She has a keen interest in political space, gender, and social change.

She is diligently working and managing projects in an environment where she is helping in developing others, especially women and girl-child.

### CHRISTIANA YESIDE LONGE

is from Ekiti state, she is 29 years of age. She is a graduate of Law from the University Of Abuja. Her passion revolves around inclusive governance, she is presently an advocate for women's rights, more women in government, and the decision-making process. Her experience in the mentorship program has made her learn from people who are on the field, how they are able to manage the challenges faced, what they are doing to bring in young women, and how she can get involved.

The experience and lessons learned have really helped my advocacy and am incredibly grateful for the opportunity.



### CHIOMA FC UZOKWE

is from Anambra, she is 27 years of age. She is presently in school at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. She has an interest in politics, and she has been appointed as a state representative in her political Party (APC) in her state. Her experience at the Bootcamp was indeed knowledgeable which has changed her perception of politics. The facilitators were so intellectual. In the mentorship program.



### DOOSUUR HANNAH NGIYEV

is from Benue state, she is 33 years of age. She studied Animal Science at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi. She is a development professional and personal efficiency consultant, an Entrepreneur, and a social change advocate with experience in social services, youth engagement, gender programs, and mental health advisory services. She is dedicated to providing exceptional counseling support for individuals and groups. Human capacity building, mentoring, and coaching. She is passionate about Social justice and all-inclusivity. She is aspiring for the House of Representatives Vandeikya /Konshisha Federal constituency.







## EKEMEREN GBADAMOSI-LADOJA,

is from Plateau state, she is 28 years of age. She studied Mass Communication at the University of Jos. She has interests in reading, writing, walks, and learning new things. She has been working to empower young girls on building healthy self-esteem and preparing them to become job creators rather than job seekers. She has a keen interest in political space, gender, and social change. She is diligently working and managing projects in an environment where she is helping in developing others, especially women and girl-child.

## HON. EKENIMI ETIM

is from Akwa Ibom state, she is 32 years of age. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Arts from the University of Uyo. She has a passion for quality political leadership, women empowerment, child educational advocacy/attitudinal reorientation programs for young people, regard for family ties, broadcasting, motivational speaking engagements, and other media-related jobs. She is currently serving as a Councilor/ Deputy Leader and chairman Committee on information and strategy in Mkpato Enin Local Government Legislative council in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

My experience at the Bootcamp further strengthened my faith in the fact that we can get it right with more capacious women at the helms of affairs in this country, Nigeria. The Bootcamp was exceptional. What captured my fancy most importantly was the extremism in the excellent service delivery by the PWAN TEAM.



## GLORIA HENRY EDET

is from Cross River state, she is 36 years of age. She is a Bachelor's Degree holder in Business Management from the University of Calabar and has expanded her scope of knowledge by studying Global Business at Nexford University. Gloria is an SME (Small and Medium Enterprise) Development enthusiast who founded The She-prefers Nation, a Strategic Networking and Capacity Building Platform for the Growth, Profitability, and Sustainability (GPS) of female-owned businesses.

PWAN Bootcamp provided a platform for young women like me, to be empowered by building their capacity through training and mentorship. I have gained insights into democratic processes and leadership.





## HAUWA JIKAMSHI

is from Katsina state, she is 34 years of age. She has a Higher National Diploma in Mass Communication from Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Zaria Kaduna State. She is the press secretary to the wife of the Katsina State Governor.

## JOY F. OTOIDE -OJEMORON

is from Edo State, she is 39 years of age. She studied Philosophy at the University of Benin. She has a Passion for Counseling, women and youth advocacy, grassroots women and children empowerment, egalitarianism, utilitarianism, fairness, and social justice.

The Bootcamp training program taught me a lot. When I returned, I was able to hold my first program in my Local Government Area during International Women's Day, "Breaking the Bias," without the help of any politician. I am grateful to God and PWAN.



## KEZZAYA MICHAEL ALUWONG

is from Kaduna state, she is 34 years of age. She is a graduate of Public Administration from Ahmadu Bello University Zari. She has an interest in governance and policy-making in Nigeria was spurred. She is currently a Customer Service Officer at 9mobile Nigeria and a Volunteer with Girl Should Thrive Initiative(GIST) an NGO that specializes in educating and building the girl child. Her hobbies are reading and traveling and networking. I am interested in Women's rights and freedom,

The girl child education, and the capacity building of women to take up space in Politics. My selection as one of the PWAN mentees has been one of great value to me, where I got to meet and networked with young women with similar interests, doing extraordinarily in the Nigerian political space and other spheres of life, I am honored to have been given this opportunity, I do not take it for granted.





### MNENA KYGH

is from Ekiti state, she is 29 years of age. She is a graduate of Law from the University Of Abuja. Her passion revolves around inclusive governance, she is presently an advocate for women's rights, more women in government, and the decision-making process. Her experience in the mentorship program has made her learn from people who are on the field, how they are able to manage the challenges faced, what they are doing to bring in young women, and how she can get involved.

The experience and lessons learned have really helped my advocacy and am incredibly grateful for the opportunity.

### NYAKNO ABASI ASUQUO

is from Ikono LGA in Akwa Ibom State., she is 37years of age. She graduated from the University of Port Harcourt where she studied Political Science/ Educational Management. She further did a PGD Program in Business Administration at the University of Uyo. She started her career in Human Resources Management in 2016 till date.

She is passionate about Human Resources Personnel and enjoys interacting, reaching out to people, and responding to their inquiries. She has always had a passion and interest in politics and dreams of holding a Political Position in the nearest future..



### OYEBOLA OLUWATOBILOBA

is from Ekiti state, she is 32 years of age. She is an entrepreneur, social media influencer, an advocate, educationist and B. Sc in view and have interest in political activities as a means to make relevant impact on the society through service. She is the CEO Hikeholu Business Enterprises which entails FoodHub, Grocery, wears and general contract. She is an industrious, goal getter and dogged lady. She is passionate about women and girl-child. Her experience during boot camp and mentorship training was unforgettable and exciting moments with Partners West Africa Nigeria which she has begun to execute work on what she learnt





## OYINTONBRA STEPHEN-DIVER

is from Bayelsa state, she is 36 years of age. She is a graduate of Accounting and Financial Information System from the University of Greenwich, London, United Kingdom, and an MSc in International Business Management from the University of East London, London, United Kingdom. She is very passionate about humanitarian services, and though money is a major constraint at the moment, she wishes to start up an NGO where she can care for struggling families by providing household, foodstuff and also do outreaches to secondary schools to educate teenagers on personal health hygiene.

The mentorship program has been helpful as she got to know that she can register in a political party in my current place of residence different from my state.

## PEACE FRANK

is from Benue state, she is 33 years of age. She studied Animal Science at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi. She is a development professional and personal efficiency consultant, an Entrepreneur, and a social change advocate with experience in social services, youth engagement, gender programs



## RITA OGWU

is from Delta State., she is 42 years of age. She graduated from Delta State University where she studied Business Administration, got her Masters in Public Administration and Masters in Public Administration and Business Management from Delta State University (DELSU). Her passion involves Teaching, Community service, and Politics. The PWAN Bootcamp has increased her knowledge about politics, and stress management and also boosted her confidence in public speaking.





## RUTH TILEY

is from Benue state, she is 39 years of age. She studied at the University Of Jos. She is the Communications Director for Moghalu Youth Coalition. Her passion revolves around mobilizing young people like me to have their voices heard. She is also very passionate about the mental health of young women, something that is often overlooked. She creates awareness and mentors and educates young girls on the need to take their mental health seriously.

Her Experience at the boot camp has been a very enlightening time at the boot camp. What stood out for her was the fact she came in contact with many young good-spirited women who are also willing to play their part in the political space and have their voices heard.

## RUTH ALADEJARE

is from Lagos state, she is 27 years of age. She is a graduate of Public Administration from Ahmadu Bello University Zari. who loves being called "Ruth Pillars" as 'Pillars' the English translation for 'Opomulero'. She possesses a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Environmental Biology; a branch of Science Laboratory Technology from Yaba College of Technology.

She is a vibrant Volunteer and has worked as a Radio Presenter and Programs Producer, Monitoring and Evaluation officer at an NGO focused on educating women and girls about SRHR, content creator, Digital Marketing Communications Officer, IT person, and freelancer in the environmental field. She believes that humans are a 'Limitless possibility' and can be whatever/ whoever we set our minds to become.

She seeks to explore the true essence of life in all its facets by using her talents and skills for Community service and to educate and empower young females through Volunteering opportunities. PWAN saw the challenge and is really working hard to ensure that women with leadership prowess take the bull by the horn through the Political Mentorship Program. I learned a lot about politics and governance from the virtual workshop to the physical Bootcamp training. I have also had the opportunity to interact with mentees who are already building their political careers as well as being paired with an inspiring Mentor who is very much active in politics.







**SAKA OLAMIDE MARIAM**

is from Oyo state, She is a graduate of Political Science from Adekunle Ajasin University. She has a Masters's Degree in Political Economy and Development Studies from the University of Abuja in-View She is a development practitioner, and this has made her work in several capacities in the development spectrum. She currently works with Farm on Wheels as a Gender Lens Coordinator. She is interested in research and advocacy for women-related issues

**SUSAN ADEBAMBO**

is from Lagos state and she is 24 years of age. She is a graduate of Applied Geophysics from the Federal University of Technology Akure. She is passionate about the growth and development of women and girl child, Also love to advocate for human rights. PWAN gave me the opportunity to meet great minds like me and mentors on how to grow and develop in the political space.



**SARAH JOSEPH**

is from Adamawa State., she is 36years of age. She Bagged a B.Sc. in Geography and Planning from the University of Jos, and a Master's of Science in Information System, from the American University of Nigeria. She has over 9 years of working experience as an Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff, respectively, in the Office of the Academic Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

Her research interest ranges from sanitation in developing countries, where she researched the management of wastewater in her undergraduate studies, Smart Agriculture and the use of Agricultural Information Systems by farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa for improved yield and more productivity, where she researched that in her master's thesis, and as a result, did publish four research works around AIS. Nankyer is passionate about grass root politics and at the moment, looking with female contenting for electoral positions in the forthcoming 2023 general elections on the Plateau and Adamawa State.





### VICTORIA BASSEY INYANG

is from Oyo state, She is a graduate of Political Science from Adekunle Ajasin University. She has a Masters's Degree in Political Economy and Development Studies from the University of Abuja in-View She is a development practitioner, and this has made her work in several capacities in the development spectrum. She currently works with Farm on Wheels as a Gender Lens Coordinator. She is interested in research and advocacy for women-related issues

### WUESE ADAMGBE

is from Benue State. She studied Law at Benue State University and proceeded to the Nigerian Law School Abuja campus and was called to the Nigerian Bar in November 2016. She further enrolled for her Masters in Gender Studies and is currently working on her thesis. Since then, she has actively practiced Law in Benue and Plateau State. She is passionate about mentoring young girls and seeing women excel in their chosen fields. Attending the PWAN boot camp for young women in politics exposed me to a rich network of dynamic women who are hungry for change in the political space, and it inspired me to dare to be more.



# Women vying for Political Office in 2023



**HON. EKENIMI ETIM**

House of Assembly, Akwa Ibom state,  
(2022 cohort)



**DOOSUUR HANNAH NGIYEV**

House of Representative, Benue state  
(2022 cohort)



**SAADATU YANUSA**

House of Representative, Sokoto state  
(2021 cohort)



**IDONGESIT MICAH**

House of Assembly, Akwa Ibom state  
(2021 cohort)



**FATIMA INNO ATTAHIRU**

House of Assembly, Sokoto state (2021  
cohort)



# GALLERY








Class of 2022







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