

PWAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from PWAN

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LATEST UPDATES

**DIALOGUE SESSIONS WITH KEYS
STAKEHOLDERS IN THE TARGET STATES.**

**REVIEW OF PENAL CODE IN 10 STATES IN NIGERIA
WITH KEYSTAKE HOLDERS IN THE STATES.**

**PWAN BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF TRADITIONAL
AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS ACROSS 3 STATES.**

**PWAN CARRIED OUT 5 PHYSICAL AWARENESS
ACTIVITIES ACROSS 3 STATES.**

**PWAN CARRIED OUT 5 MEDIA OUTREACH AND
RADIO AWARENESS ACTIVITIES IN 3 STATES.**

WASTE FOR JUSTICE INITIATIVE (W4J).

PWAN TRAINED 50 TRADITIONAL & RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND 60 WOMEN, YOUTHS AND GIRLS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) IN ONDO, EBONYI, NIGER AND KANO STATES.

PWAN conducted briefing meetings in Kano, Niger, Ondo, Kaduna, and Ebonyi states. These meetings engaged Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), traditional rulers, religious leaders, judicial officers, Police Community Relationship Committees (PCRC), and the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). These sessions served as an avenue to introduce the project, outline objectives, and establish strategic partnerships for effective implementation.



Day 1: The first day of the session brought together traditional and religious leaders across Ondo, Niger, Kaduna, Kano and Ebonyi States to discuss specific GBV issues faced by each community, identify gaps and areas for intervention in the project's future activities. The session also provided a platform for the stakeholders to collaborate and develop an action plan to address and combat GBV in the state. The dialogue provided an opportunity for leaders to deepen their understanding of GBV, enhance their roles as community advocates, and collaborate in developing strategies to promote safety and respect for all community members. The session also aimed to lay the foundation for an action plan to foster community-wide efforts in preventing and addressing GBV through culturally sensitive and community-driven approaches.

Day 2: The second day of the session brought together youth leaders, traditional rulers, religious leaders, the Nigerian Police Force, PCRC, NOA, FIDA, delivered the opening address, emphasizing the need for proactive measures and legal accountability in tackling GBV.



PWAN will continue strengthening community engagement and capacity-building efforts to ensure the sustainability of GBV prevention strategies. Further training and advocacy sessions will be conducted to ensure the widespread adoption of gender-sensitive practices across the targeted states.

For more updates, follow our activities and join us in the fight against GBV. Together, we can create safer communities for women and girls.



REVIEW OF PENAL CODES IN 10 STATES IN NIGERIA WITH KEYSTAKE HOLDERS IN THE STATES



The Penal Code Laws, which were passed in 1960, describe criminal offences in the northern part of Nigeria. It describes the methods of investigation, the judicial process, and the recommendations for punishment.

However, many of these rules have become inflexible, and outdated after decades of use, making it challenging for the criminal justice system to implement the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) in an efficient manner.

PWAN undertook a comprehensive review of the Administration of Criminal Justice Laws (ACJL) in States. The organization also provided training to criminal justice stakeholders and raised awareness among citizens in Niger, Plateau, Benue, Yobe, Kano, Gombe, Adamawa, Kaduna and Taraba states about the Law's provisions.

Partners West Africa Nigeria, implemented a project that would improve the implementation of the provisions of the ACJL in states, by engaging with key stakeholders to amend the provisions of the penal code Laws of the states, taking it into account the current peculiarities in the states, leading to the enactment of a Law that complemented the provisions of the ACJL.

The project addressed challenges in implementing the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Law (ACJA/L), which has been passed in all 36 states of Nigeria. This was accomplished by taking the first step by reviewing the Penal Code Laws in these states.



REVIEW OF PENAL CODES IN 10 STATES IN NIGERIA WITH KEYSTAKE HOLDERS IN THE STATES



PWAN completed an audit of the penal code to ensure the law complies with contemporary realities, constitutional guarantees and international human rights standards. Stakeholders were engaged in discussions to initiate a dialogue on the key findings from the audit report, sparking a collaborative conversation on the results.

The urgent necessity of reviewing and updating these governments' antiquated penal statutes is a major lesson to be learnt from this experience. The effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole will eventually be enhanced by this amendment, which will support the ACJL's novel provisions and make sure that these laws are consistent with it.

The penal code review was done in ten states; Niger, Plateau, Benue, Yobe, Gombe, Adamawa, Kaduna, Katsina and Taraba and a stakeholders engagement was conducted in each state.



PROMOTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ACCESS TO JUSTICE, AND PROTECTION OF MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS.



In a continuing effort to strengthen access to justice and protect marginalized populations in Northern Nigeria, Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) has made significant strides in implementing Phase II of its comprehensive justice sector reform project across Kaduna, Niger, and Katsina states.

In recent months, the organization has implemented a comprehensive series of interventions focusing on capacity building, community awareness, and cross-platform collaboration.

The project's multi-faceted approach included training Traditional and Religious Leaders across 3 states, executing targeted awareness campaigns through both physical outreach and media engagement, and facilitating knowledge exchange among key stakeholders.

These coordinated efforts demonstrate PWAN's commitment to building sustainable community-based responses to GBV while fostering collaboration among various stakeholders in Northern Nigeria.

PWAN Builds the Capacity of 88 Traditional and Religious Leaders

- PWAN conducted comprehensive training sessions on GBV prevention and response for 88 Traditional and Religious Leaders across Kaduna, Niger and Katsina states.

PWAN Fosters Collaboration Among its Platforms

- PWAN brought together the members of the Mixed Observer Teams and Women-Led Organizations for a Peer Learning and Knowledge Exchange Workshop in Kano State. The participants came from Niger, Kaduna, and Katsina States, alongside partners from International Alert, Global Rights, FIDA, and the Judiciary.



"Vigilance needs to be heightened and there is a need for perpetrators to be prosecuted to serve as deterrence to others and prevent future occurrence".

PROMOTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ACCESS TO JUSTICE, AND PROTECTION OF MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS.



PWAN Carries Out 5 Physical Awareness Campaigns

- PWAN conducted 5 Physical awareness activities across Kaduna, Niger, and Katsina states. The awareness activities covered topics like School-Related Gender-Based Violence, GBV prevention, Response, and Reporting Mechanisms in Educational institutions and surrounding communities. Over the several physical awareness activities, some of the topics covered included, the Rights of Women and Children, Gender-Based Violence and its Menace in our society, Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response, Legal Frameworks and Protection available to survivors of Gender-Based Violence, and Access to justice through PDSS and other pro bono legal Services.

PWAN Carried Out 5 Media Outreach and Radio Awareness Activities

- PWAN took to the air waves to discuss the unique vulnerabilities faced by Persons with disabilities in GBV situations, School-Related Gender-Based Violence, and GBV prevention, Response, and Reporting Mechanisms.



"By hiding cases of rape, the parents or community can push the survivors to feel stigmatized".