

THE MARRIAGE MANDATE: A SOCIAL PRESSURE ON WOMEN



From a young age, many women are taught that their ultimate achievement in life is to walk down the aisle. Society often places marriage on a pedestal, making it appear like the defining marker of a woman's worth. While marriage can indeed be a beautiful and fulfilling union, the pressure that surrounds it has created more harm than good for countless women.

For many, the "marriage mandate" comes with an invisible timeline. If a woman is not married by a certain age, questions arise. Family, friends, and even strangers begin to ask, "When will it be your turn?" or "What are you waiting for?" These questions, though often posed casually, are heavy with judgment. They push women into feeling inadequate, as though their achievements, careers, or personal growth pale in comparison to their marital status.

The danger of this pressure is that it often forces women to make decisions that are not rooted in love or readiness but in societal expectations. Some women find themselves in unhealthy, abusive, or unfulfilling relationships simply because they feel the weight of time and judgment pressing down on them. The result? Lives that could have blossomed into joy and self-discovery are instead stifled by fear of rejection or ridicule from society.

It's important to remember that marriage is not the sole measure of a woman's value. Women are leaders, innovators, caregivers, visionaries, and nation-builders. Their contributions extend far beyond the walls of a home. By reducing women to their marital status, society diminishes the richness of their identities and undermines the incredible potential they carry.

We must create a shift in narrative, one where women are celebrated for their choices, whether they decide to marry or not. A woman's worth should be recognized in her passions, achievements, and individuality. Every woman deserves the freedom to define happiness on her own terms, without the burden of conforming to an outdated script.

At its core, the marriage mandate is not just about women; it reflects how society views equality and human dignity. Breaking this cycle means affirming that women, like men, are complete as they are. Marriage can be a chapter of life, but it should never be the mandate that defines it.

CELEBRATING GIRLS' VOICES: WEPBI MARKS THE 4TH ANNUAL JUBILEE OF THE PAN ADOLESCENT GIRL'S MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA



As the first Nigerian partner of the Graca Machel Trust's Adolescent Girls Movement, WEPBI hosted an inspiring event on August 16th, 2025, in Enugu, the **4th Annual Jubilee of the Pan Adolescent Girls' Movement** dedicated to advancing adolescent girls' empowerment.



The celebration brought together adolescent girls in an atmosphere of learning, inspiration, and encouragement. It provided a vibrant platform where participants were motivated to recognize their worth, pursue education with confidence, and embrace leadership opportunities despite societal barriers. Through interactive and engaging sessions, the girls were reminded that their voices matter and their dreams are valid.



Together, WEPBI and the Graca Machel Trust are creating safe spaces that mentor and inspire adolescent girls, equipping them to become confident leaders shaping the future of Africa and beyond.



PROMOTING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AND DIGNITY THROUGH THE ONE GIRL ONE PAD INITIATIVE



Recently, WEPBI visited some secondary schools to distribute sanitary pads to young girls as part of our One Girl One Pad Initiative. The visit was filled with smiles, gratitude, and relief, reminding us that access to something as simple as a sanitary pad can make a world of difference in a girl's life.



The One Girl One Pad Initiative was created to tackle the challenges many girls face in managing their periods, particularly in rural communities. Lack of access to sanitary products often forces girls to miss classes, endure stigma, or compromise their health. Through this program, WEPBI has so far reached over 5,000 young girls with both sanitary pads and essential menstrual hygiene education..

WEPBI remains committed to ending period poverty and advancing menstrual equity, especially in underserved communities. Through its ***One Girl, One Pad initiative***, the organization continues to reach girls with the resources and knowledge they need to thrive

By giving the girls sanitary pads and teaching them about menstrual health, the outreach helped them manage their periods safely and with dignity. It also gave them a safe space to ask questions, clear their doubts, and feel more confident about their bodies



DINNER FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AND LEADERS: AN EVENING OF LEARNING, SHARING & GROWTH!

DINNER FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS and LEADERS

Why should you be in the room?

Because opportunities don't just knock—they network. This dinner is more than a meal; it's a table set for growth, impact, and connections that could change the trajectory of your business or idea. Come ready to be inspired, seen, and supported by fellow young leaders and changemakers.

5TH EDITION

FEE:	EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
6000 NGN Account Details Account Number: 0303161302 Account Name: Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative Bank : GTB	• Digital Marketing • Business Networking • Business Strategies • Free Business Exhibition • Packaging and branding • Growth Stories: Wins, Fails & Comebacks • ...plus exclusive surprises!

Fri. 5th September 2025	5:pm
Roots Restaurant, Beside Opkara Square, Enugu	www.wepbi.com

Send proof of payment via WhatsApp to 07066097045 to confirm your registration.

For more enquiries please call **07066097045**

Your network is your net worth. Elevate both at the Dinner for Young Entrepreneurs and Leaders!

We're bringing together the best and brightest to inspire, inform, and empower. Join us for a powerful evening of connection, conversation, and collaboration.

READY TO STEP INTO YOUR POWER?



The poster features a purple and pink gradient background. At the top left are logos for SparkHub Ventures and Sparks Hub. At the top right is the WEPI Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative logo. The central text reads 'WLA 2025 Women Leadership Academy' in large white letters, followed by 'CALL FOR REGISTRATION' in bold white letters. Below this is a circular photo of three women holding certificates. To the left of the photo, text asks 'Are you a young woman ready to lead and build a thriving future?' and 'Join the Women Leadership Academy to develop your leadership and entrepreneurial skills. Register now and take charge of your success!'. Below that, a red heading 'What do we offer ??' is followed by a bulleted list of five items. At the bottom left, contact information is provided. At the bottom right, a link to register is given.

SparkHub Ventures Sparks Hub

WLA 2025
Women Leadership Academy

WEPI Women Empowerment
Education and Peace
Building Initiative

CALL FOR REGISTRATION

Are you a young woman ready to lead and build a thriving future?

Join the Women Leadership Academy to develop your leadership and entrepreneurial skills. Register now and take charge of your success!

What do we offer ??

- Leadership models tailored for women
- Navigating Nigeria's electoral system
- Public speaking and media engagement
- Political participation strategies
- Building influence and shaping policy decisions

For more sponsorship and inquiries please call 07066 097045

Click on the Link to register:
www.wepbi.com/en/women-leadership-academy-registration/

Step into leadership with the Women Leadership Academy (WLA) an empowering WEPBI initiative that equips women and young girls with the skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, and governance to confidently lead and shape decision-making spaces

Since 2019, WLA has empowered over 2,000 women to build sustainable businesses, champion social change, and break barriers in leadership roles. Now, it's your turn!

Enroll today to benefit from expert mentorship, skill-building sessions, and valuable networking opportunities that will prepare you to transform your community and shape your future.

Don't wait. Lead the change. Register now!

WEPBI Declutter Initiative: Making a Difference Together!



Join WEPBI's Declutter Initiative and turn your unused household items into hope for those in need! This campaign invites you to donate gently used clothing, kitchen utensils, electronics, and more to support rural communities.

Support our One Girl One Pad Initiative and help empower girls with the menstrual hygiene products they deserve!
Your support keeps them in school and breaks the stigma surrounding periods.

Account Details:

ACCOUNT NAME: One Girl One Pad

BANK NAME: Fidelity Bank

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 5700038066

In-kind donations (pads, hygiene kits, etc.) are also welcome at:
 **No. 27 Nwafor Orizu, Independence Layout, Enugu**

Your contribution can transform lives!

We sincerely appreciate the Graca Machel Trust, our other donors, partners, and supportive communities for their unwavering commitment to empowering women and girls. Your continued support fuels our mission and drives the impactful change we strive to create every day.



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