

WEPBI

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Highlights

- Transforming Governance: Institutionalizing Women's Voice in Traditional Cabinets
- Challenging the Norms: Mobilizing Responsive Systems to End GBV



OUR VISION

WEPBI has a vision of an equitable society in which everyone enjoys their rights irrespective of gender, creed and other affiliations.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work with women and girls and their collectives to participate in all decision making processes and spaces that advance their rights, and promote sustainable peace at all levels.

OUR GOAL

To increase the number of women and girls in active leadership and decision making in public and private spaces, and fostering sustainable peace across all levels.



Support our One-Girl One-Pad Initiative

Account Details:

Account Name: One Girl One Pad
Account Number: 5700038066
Bank Name: Fidelity Bank

In-kind donations (pads, hygiene kits, etc.) are also welcome at:

 No. 27 Nwafor Orizu, Independence Layout, Enugu



BEHIND THE NUMBERS: RETHINKING HOW WE CAN PROTECT YOUNG GIRLS FROM DRUG ABUSE

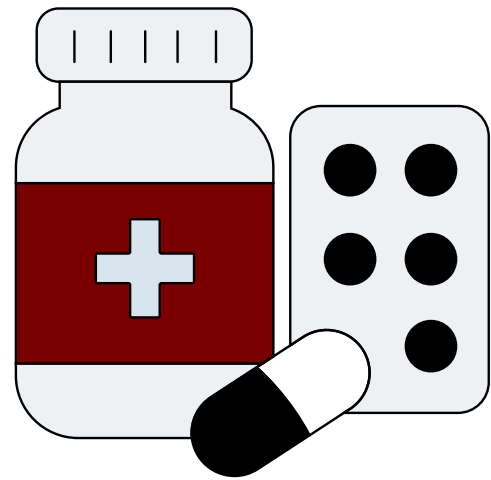
Drug abuse is often discussed as though it is mainly a problem affecting young men. But the numbers tell us that we need to look again. According to the Drug Use in Nigeria 2018 survey by the National Bureau of Statistics and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, one in four people who use drugs in Nigeria is a woman. Yet women and girls make up only about 5 per cent of people receiving drug treatment, revealing a serious gap between those who need help and those who are able to access it.

For young girls, the issue is not just about the drugs themselves. Many may be dealing with peer pressure, emotional distress, trauma, sexual violence, family problems or other challenges they find difficult to talk about. Sometimes, drug use can also begin with medicines that seem harmless, such as Tramadol, codeine based cough syrups or other pharmaceutical drugs.

Stigma makes the situation even harder. Girls who use drugs may fear being judged, rejected or labelled, so they often keep their struggles to themselves. By the time families notice something is wrong, the situation may have already become serious.

Rethinking How We Can Protect Them

If we want to protect young girls, we need to look beyond simply telling them to “say no.” We need safe spaces where they can speak openly, adults who will listen without judging them and communities that can recognise when a girl is struggling and offer help early.



Parents, teachers, healthcare workers and community leaders all have a role to play. Girls who are already struggling with drug use also need support, not shame. We must treat drug dependency as a health and social issue and make sure young girls can access the care and support they need.

Protecting young girls from drug abuse means creating homes, schools and communities where they feel safe enough to speak, seek help and make better choices about their lives.

What Drives girls to drug Abuse??

WHAT CHANGES WHEN WOMEN ARE NO LONGER JUST AFFECTED BY DECISIONS, BUT ARE PART OF MAKING THEM?

Giving women a permanent seat where community decisions are made changes everything. It means women are no longer left out when decisions are made about their lives, their children, their livelihoods and the future of their communities.



The work does not end with the validation of a policy. It begins with turning commitments into action. Together, we can build traditional governance systems where women have a voice, a seat and the opportunity to shape decisions that affect their communities.



On August 26, 2026, WEPBI brought together traditional rulers, lawmakers, government officials and community partners for a Policy Co-Creation and Validation Workshop on Women's Statutory Representation in Traditional Cabinets. The activity was implemented under the Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria (RWVL-N) project, fully funded by Global Affairs Canada, supported by ActionAid Nigeria, and implemented by WEPBI.



AWARENESS STARTS THE CONVERSATION, BUT CONTINUOUS ADVOCACY DRIVES THE CHANGE.

Ending gender-based violence requires more than awareness. It requires continuous advocacy, sustained community engagement, responsive stakeholders and stronger systems that challenge the norms and structures that allow violence to persist.



This was one of the key lessons from the five-day capacity building and peer learning session organised by South Saharan Social Development Organisation (SSDO) under the Sister Guardian Initiative (SGI). WEPBI joined other implementing partners and women from different communities to strengthen approaches to community engagement and share experiences, challenges, successes and lessons from the field.

The session showed that awareness alone is not enough. We must keep speaking up, challenging harmful norms and pushing for stronger systems that protect women and girls.

SGI aims to strengthen community-led action to prevent and respond to GBV and create safer communities for women and girls. The change we seek starts with communities that are willing to speak up, take action and stand against violence.



STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOUTH EAST



Building a lasting movement to end gender-based violence requires strong leadership, shared strategies, and deep community connections. At a recent regional training organized by WINET with the Amandla Institute and supported by the Ford Foundation, Women's Rights Organizations across South East Nigeria gathered in Enugu to align their efforts and build a coordinated response to gender-based violence.

Represented by Executive Director Ijeoma Joy Oguadimma, WEPBI joined regional leaders to adopt practical strategies for movement building. With these new tools, WEPBI is strengthening community action alongside key partners to challenge harmful norms and protect women and girls.

SUPPORT WEPBI DECLUTTER CAMPAIGN



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.

Your contribution can transform lives!

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APPRECIATION

We sincerely appreciate our donors and partners, Graça Machel Trust, Global Affairs Canada, ActionAid Nigeria, and South Saharan Social Development Organisation, as well as our traditional rulers, government agencies, and community stakeholders. Your continued support in advancing gender equality, combating GBV, promoting women's leadership, and strengthening peacebuilding efforts is deeply valued.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment.

OUR DONORS



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