

*Cross section of participants during the dRPC's panel on Safe school and safe education in Africa at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Girl Summit in Niamey, Niger - November 2021*



*A cross section of the AUC's 1st and 2nd Interactive meeting with Traditional and Religious leaders and CSOs respectively on Ending Child Marriage - November 2022*



## **dRPC's Regional Work on Gender based Violence, Child Marriage and Safe Schools**

## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

### □ About the dRPC

### □ dRPC's Regional Activities on Gender based Violence and Safe Schools3rd African Girls Summit -Niamey, Niger:

1. 3rd African Girls Summit -Niamey, Niger
2. Africa Union Commission (AUC) Country Monitoring Visit to Nigeria on Ending Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation & Cutting
3. Advocacy Meeting on Safe Schools in Niger Republic
4. CSO Networks Capacity Building Workshop on Advocacy to End Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child Marriage in Ghana
5. 6th Annual AROCSA Conference 2022

## About the dRPC

The development Research and Projects Center (dRPC) dRPC is a registered non-governmental and non-political intermediary social enterprise committed to building capacity and social capital for inclusive development formed in 1993 by 10 Lectures of Nigerian Universities.

The dRPC was established with the aim of building social capital for transformation and inclusive development through the implementation of programs which strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to deliver services to the marginalized group especially women and children and to advocate for improved accountability and services from duty bearers at all levels.

The dRPC works in the areas of health, education, and sustainable livelihood



## dRPC's REGIONAL ACTIVITIES ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND SAFE SCHOOLS

From 2021 to date, dRPC conduct impactful activities aimed at ending Gender based Violence and child marriage at regional level. The activities include:

**1. Third African Girls Summit -Niamey, Niger (November 2021):** With the support of Ford Foundation, the dRPC organized Pre Summit Session during the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Girls Summit -Niamey, Niger on Safe Girls, Safe Schools - Implications of School Attacks for Girls' Education in West Africa. The session discussed the frequency of attacks against schools in West Africa, short and long term impact of attacks against schools and learning centers across the region and beyond and the Safe School Declaration initiative.

The panelists are:

- ❑ Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser at GCPEA, Mrs Abiola Sanusi
- ❑ Chairman the Northeast Nigeria Regional Civil society network and Regional Coordinator Lake Chad Basin Civil Society Network, Amb. Ahmed Shehu
- ❑ District Head of Gagi Sokoto State who is also the Chair BoT Community Awareness and Development Initiative (CADI) State President General NAG/JNI, Alhaji Sani Umar Jabbi
- ❑ Coordinator Monitoring and Evaluation, Lumière des Filles et des Femme (LFF) Maradi Niger, Zeinabou Lawal Ma'adji



The session recommended that:

1. School safety for Girls should be a criteria for establishment of schools
2. School safety plan should form part of criteria for education sector plan.
3. School safety must be included as criteria for school assessment.
4. Involvement of traditional, religious and political leaders to champion the cause of Girls and Boys.
5. Language barrier has continued to be a stumbling block to effective communication between countries in the Sahel hence the need for deliberate effort towards mitigating the challenge.

The dRPC delegation attended the main summit and submitted the recommendations made the dRPC's Session for inclusion in communique that will issued at the end of the Summit \.



***Sarkin Yakin Gagi addressing a Cross section of participants during the dRPC's panel on Safe school and safe education in West Africa at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Girl Summit in Niamey, Niger***



***Group Picture of some of the participants of the dRPC's Session on Safe School and Safe Education in West Africa at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Girl Summit in Niamey, Niger***



***Sarkin Yakin Gagi speaking to a cross section of participants during the dRPC's Session on Safe School and Safe Education in West Africa at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Girl Summit in Niamey, Niger***



## Communique Issued at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> African Girls Summit



The 3rd African Girls' Summit Calls on Governments and all stakeholders to:

- Invest in inclusive networks of African girls' artists that promote rights, build capacity and sustain efforts to effectively prevent, and comprehensively respond to harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, and putting in place measures to ensure their safety;
- Strengthen strategic partnerships and collaboration between girls, young women, governments, traditional and religious leaders, National Human Rights Institutions and other stakeholders to ensure accountability in the implementation of policies, legislation and programs to accelerate elimination of harmful practices;
- Build an environment that promotes coexistence and mutual respect to eliminate harmful practices by employing targeted interventions and measures that effectively engage boys and men as agents of change;

## Communique Issued at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> African Girls Summit

- Ensure coordinated engagement of all stakeholders to create a safe online environment for children especially girls, by implementing guidelines, policies and programmes to better protect and empower them online, including coordinated support for national strategies, responses and investment for early detection, prevention, and response;
- Call on the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit to designate H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger, as the African Union Champion on Girls Education;
- Redouble Efforts to strengthen girls' agency, skills and economic empowerment in building resilience to eliminate harmful practices;
- Increase budget allocation in all relevant sectors, including health, education, child protection, ending child marriage and female genital mutilation, through an integrated, inclusive and participatory costing framework;
- Expand access to data and evidence, and strengthen African Union research agenda, as well as systematic and comprehensive data collection mechanisms in prevention, care and treatment and rehabilitation of survivors of harmful practices;
- Actively support girls and women to lead and champion efforts to tackle negative gender and harmful social norms and, address harmful practices in all settings including humanitarian and cross-border contexts;
- Bridge the technology gap, address systemic and gender stereotypes, and enhance girls and young women's participation in the technology and development sectors;
- Operationalize the African Union Accountability Framework on Eliminating Harmful Practices; and
- Ensure that Girls and young women's perspectives, needs and concerns are integrated in national COVID-19 recovery plans, in line with the African Union Comprehensive Socio-Economic Response to the COVID-19 Health Pandemic: Caring for Human Security.



## 2. Africa Union Commission (AUC) Country Monitoring Visit to Nigeria on Ending Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation & Cutting – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

- The Africa Union Commission (AUC) was hosted by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs with support from the dRPC and Funding from Ford Foundation on the 10th of November 2022 to meet with 18 CSOs working on Ending Child Marriage in Nigeria and 8 traditional /religious leaders from Kano, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina and Jigawa to discuss the status of Child Marriage (CM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Abuja.
- The AU monitoring team led by the AU Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage and other Harmful Practices; Hon. Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing, visited Nigeria and engaged Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies; Coalition of Civil Society Organizations; Traditional and Religious Leaders, United Nations Agencies Offices and other International/Development Partners working to eliminate Child Marriage and other Harmful Practices in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



A cross section of the AUC's F1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Interactive meeting with Traditional and Religious leaders and CSOs respectively on Ending Child Marriage – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Engagement with CSOs working to end child marriage in Nigeria:** The engagement with the CSOs working to end child marriage in Nigeria highlighted some of the challenges that the CSOs face which include weak coordination, lack of funding support, lack of updated and disaggregated data on the incidence of child marriage and services rendered to victims of child marriage across the country, poor policy framework exists with gaps in our laws that continue to foster impunity, etc. The AU monitoring team advised the CSOs to redouble their efforts in tracking and monitoring the implementation of the AU campaign in Nigeria and think of more creative ways to raise funding to support interventions aimed at reducing the high rate of child marriage in Nigeria.

**Engagement with Traditional and Religious Leaders:** On the other hand, the brainstorming session with the traditional and religious leaders raised concern about the campaign branding and the approach used to address the issue of child marriage and it was resolved that the Federal Government should take steps to rebrand the Campaign Name to suit all-inclusive and respond to the needs on the ground especially the traditional/religious leaders.



Sarkin Yakin Gagi speaking to a cross section of the AUC's F1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Interactive meeting with Traditional and Religious leaders and CSOs respectively on Ending Child Marriage – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### 3. Advocacy meeting on safe schools in Niger Republic – 22nd December 2022

In commemoration of the 2022 Annual 16 days of Activism against gender-based violence, the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation and in collaboration with End Child Platform in Niger Republic organized a one-day Advocacy Meeting on Safe School in Niamey, Republic of Niger.

The meeting, which was attended by high level stakeholders (such as the Ombudsman of the Niger Republic, who is the third most important personality in country, the Secretary General of the National Ministry of Education, the representative of the Honourable Minister of Women Advancement and Child Protection and representatives of international organizations and other 17 local organizations) reviewed the response provided by the Nigerien State and the actors to ensure the effective return of students to school and the maintenance of security, strengthening the understanding of education stakeholders on the need to set up a system to monitor the progress of young girls at school level and the response of the Nigerien Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Child Protection in the fight against child marriage in schools in areas affected by crisis and insecurity, reviewing the response of education coalitions to ensure the continuation of education in insecure areas and identifying multi-sectoral actions for an effective return of students to school.

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The meeting also provided a platform for the dRPC to share the Nigeria's experience in handling education in insecurity context and the activities conducted by the dRPC to ensure safety and security of schools in Nigeria

The Ombudsman of the Niger Republic while delivering keynote address, drew the attention of the participants on the reason for convening the workshop and added that it stems out of the necessity of securing schools in order to retain girls in schools and prevent them from leaving school for marriage sake.

The meeting featured presentation on the schools attacked in Niger and the dRPC's Work on School Safety in Nigeria: Lessons Learned.



*The Ombudsman of the Republic flanked by the Secretary General of the Niger Min. of Education and the coordinator the End Child Marriage Platform*

## Next Steps

The End Child Marriage platform in Niger Republic made commitment to liaise with the dRPC to organize similar trainings on Safe Schools for CSOs, Teachers and the community leaders.



*A cross section of the participants during the meeting*



*Group Photograph during the One-day advocacy meeting on Safe School in Niamey, Niger Republic*



## **4. CSO NETWORKS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON ADVOCACY TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND CHILD MARRIAGE IN GHANA - 1ST – 3RD SEPTEMBER 2021**

With support from the Ford Foundation West Africa Office, the development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) and in partnership with the ProHumane Afrique International in Ghana organized a 3-day CSO networks capacity building workshop on advocacy to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and child marriage from the 1st – 3rd September, 2021 in Ghana. The training gathered high profiled executive directors of esteemed CSOs and CSO networks, from Liberia, Senegal, Gambia, Nigeria and Ghana, working to end gender-based violence and child marriage across West Africa countries.

The workshop featured presentations on the role of CSOs and CSO coalitions on ending child marriage: service delivery; awareness creation and advocacy roles, technical analysis of GBV and child marriage trends in Ghana, strength and weaknesses of CSOs and CSO coalitions carrying out advocacy roles to end GBV/child marriage, assessing government policies and programs in a bid to end child marriage, etc.

The workshop also featured group work sessions and panel discussion on the new and emerging risks and risk settings for GBV and child marriage as well as emerging opportunities to address risk factors.

The participants planned and conducted advocacy visit to the Opportunities Industrialization Centers International Ghana with advocacy messages on ending child marriage

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The CSO and CSO networks working to put an end to child marriage and gender-based violence learnt about the emerging factors putting girls and women at risks of GBV and child marriage, emerging opportunities, techniques and skills that can be adopted in the fight against GBV and child marriage. Some of the new skills and techniques will be implemented through effective advocacy messaging, plans and evidenced based data to make government officials to accelerate actions towards ending GBV and child marriage in West Africa.

### Next steps

The dRPC in partnership with the ProHumane Afrique International in Ghana is working with participants to fully develop the CSO networks draft action plan for effective implementation of activities aimed at ending GBV and child marriage in Ghana, and West Africa in general.



**Group Photograph of participants during the workshop**

## Letter of Appreciation from One of the Groups that attended the CSOs Networks Capacity Building Workshop On Advocacy to End Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child Marriage in Ghana



### Aiding Disadvantaged and Traumatized Women and Girls

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Madam Baptista S.H. Gebu

Executive Director

ProHumane Afrique Int.

#1 Otis Lane -- Tema East c

Off Tema Akosombo Road

September 8, 2021

Dear Madam Gebu:

I bring you greetings from the ADWANGA family, and to inform you that I arrived home safely.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Management, Staff and our beneficiaries, I want to take this time to express our thanks and appreciation to you, your Board of Directors, Partners Sponsor and Collaborators for inviting us to attend the CSO Networks Capacity Building workshop on Advocacy to End Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child marriage in Ghana workshop. The meeting went well and my expectations were met, new lessons were learned and new ideas gathered.

In all my work, my main focus has been ending violence, and empowerment for girls and women. I do not even remember discussing child marriage in any of our training or discussions.

In October ADWANGA will commence her new programs/project and part of the program is to establish girls clubs in five schools and five women clubs in the same communities. We are also working on our new strategy plan for 2021-2024. This will be a good time and opportunity to introduce and include the issue of ending child marriage.

I thank you again and together we can make a difference in the lives of our vulnerable girls and women.

Best wishes



Amelia M. Cooper

Cc:

Dr. Judith- Ann Walker

Executive Director

The development Research & Projects Center  
(dRPC), Nigeria

## 5. DEVELOPMENT AND LAUNCHING OF FINAL TEXT OF KINSHASA DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS TO REPARATION AND CO-CREATION OF SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

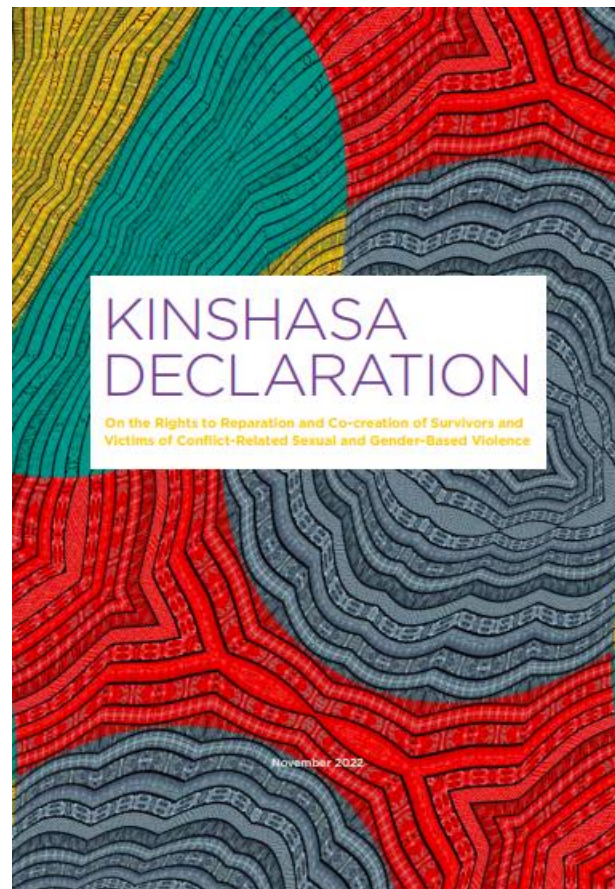
The dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation supported the development and review of the Kinshasa Declaration on the Rights to Reparation and Co-creation of Survivors and Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

The final text of the Kinshasa Declaration was formally released in November 2022. The document is a result of a massive collaborative effort between survivor activists, networks and civil society organizations, with the precious support and insights of some experts of International Criminal Law.

The dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation supported the development and review of the declaration.

Prior to the release of the final text, the Kinshasa Declaration was launched at the regional level by survivor activists from Kenya and DRC involved in its development during a side event to the African Commission on Reparations for CRSV survivors in Africa which took place in October 2022 in Banjul, Gambia.

The declaration has been translated into French and Spanish languages. It will also be translated into additional languages to support advocacy work at national and international levels.



We were supported by the following civil society organisations that have walked with us the journey of change

Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral (SOFEPADI), Democratic Republic of Congo; Panzi Foundation, Democratic Republic of Congo; Mouvement National des Survivantes de Violences Sexuelles en République démocratique du Congo; Aiding Disadvantaged and Traumatized Women and Girls Association (ADWANGA), Liberia; Association des Victimes, Parents et Amis du 28 Septembre 2009 (AVIPA), Guinea; Grassroot Research Association, Nigeria; development Research and Projects Center (dRPC), Nigeria; Femmes Droit et Développement en Afrique (WILDAF), Mali; Grace Agenda, Kenya; MOSUCA, Central African Republic; Plateforme des Associations de Victimes (AVCM-PCA), Central African Republic; Remembering the Ones We Love (ROWL), South Sudan; Solidarité pour l'Epanouissement des Veuves et des Orphelins vivant le Travail et l'Auto Promotion (SEVOTA), Rwanda; Women's Forum, Sierra Leone; Refugee Law Project (RLP), Uganda; Women's Advocacy Network (WAN), Uganda.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of Christine Alai, transitional justice expert; Reem Alsalim, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; Betty Kaari Murungi, advocate of the High Court of Kenya; Ruth Rubio Marin, Director of the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Interculturalism of the International University of Andalucía; Patricia Visser Sellers, Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford and Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court on Slavery Crimes; Yamin Sooka, transitional justice expert and Chair of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan; Conjugal Slavery in War, York University, Canada, and the Global Survivors Fund.

With the financial support of the Ford Foundation, the Global Fund for Women, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Governments of Belgium, Canada, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the European Union.



## 5. 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AROCSA CONFERENCE 2022

Prof. Eghosa Emmanuel Osaghae, Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) and the dRPC's Chairman Board of Trustees, speaking during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual AROCSA Conference 2022 in Dakar Senegal themed 'The role of CSOs in Safeguarding and supporting Human and Environmental Health in Africa.

He led the dRPC delegation at the Conference to share experience and best practices from the implementation of Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health @Scale in Nigeria.



Thank you

