

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Spaces for Youth Development and Social Change
SPACES FOR CHANGE (S4C)





FORWARD

Established in May 2011, SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C is a nonprofit organization working to infuse human rights into social and economic governance processes in Nigeria.

The organization uses the human rights paradigm to mobilize and increase the participation of the often-unheard segments of the population – mainly youth, women and marginalized communities – in the development of social and economic policies and programs in Nigeria, and also help public authorities and corporate entities put human rights at the heart of their decision-making.

The organization's work cuts across five thematic areas: urban justice, energy reforms, gender, youth development and defending civil society space. Regardless of the thematic focal area, the array of programs and activities detailed in this Annual Report impacted thousands of lives across regions, particularly ensuring that everyone is given the chance to participate and make the most of their potential. The policy wins, the wider advocacy reach and lessoned learned in 2018 would not have been possible without the dedication, rigor and teamwork of many persons within and outside the organization, including Board, staff, community partners, donors, online administrators and fans all over world.

From all of us at S4C, we say, THANK YOU!

VICTORIA OHAERI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2018:

PARTNERS & PROJECTS



FRENCH EMBASSY:

Support for the campaign against urban displacement in Nigeria.



FUND FOR GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS (FGHR): To build an online-offline defence mechanism against shrinking civic space in Nigeria



ENERGIA (funded by DFID): Research grant for a multi-year collaborative research between SPACES FOR CHANGE, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, and a consortium of research institutes, to investigate the impacts of fossil fuel subsidies and their reform on gender in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nigeria.



**FORD
FOUNDATION**

FORD FOUNDATION: Support for research advocacy, urban policy reform and grassroots organizing for urban justice.



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS (OSF): Civic Space Monitoring and Defence Project aims to monitor, report and confront security-related drivers of civic space restrictions in Nigeria.



IISD
International Institute for
Sustainable Development

FOSTER (funded by DFID): Advocacy support to enhance community participation in oil policy reforms in Nigeria.



TRUST AFRICA

TRUST AFRICA: To independently evaluate the performance of the Home-grown school feeding program in South-East, Nigeria.

CONTENTS:

Our Work In 2018



Energy & Climate Research



S4C's multi-year research which examined the impact of subsidies on fossil fuels —LPG, kerosene and gasoline —on low-income women, climaxed into cross -border advocacy pushing for women's inclusion in energy governance in the continent .

Security& Conflict



S4C worked with other actors to demand that governmental measures to counter terrorism and illicit financial flows should not shrink the civic space or disrupt the work of civil society and other legitimate non -profit activities .

Housing & Urban Governance



S4C's research studies, policy engagements and grassroots - campaigning initiatives not only exposed and redressed housing rights violations, but also increased the participation of informal communities in urban planning processes .

Women&Youth Development



Because EQUALITY means EMPOWERMENT to us, all programs gave priority to empowering women to attain financial independence, to get involved decision -making, and to challenge gender -based discrimination, especially in the workplace .

In 2018, SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C continued its multi-year gender and energy reform research, synthesizing data from 2017 household surveys and focus group discussions, and used the data distilled from the research to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the Nigerian oil and gas industry towards policy reform. S4C conducted this multi-year study in collaboration with the Global Subsidies Initiative managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development | IISD under the auspices of the ENERGIA Gender and Energy Research Programme, funded by DFID.

The research reviewed the impacts of fossil fuel subsidies and their reform on the welfare, productivity and empowerment of women in low-income households. There is evidence that reforming subsidies—whether by outright removal or reduction of the subsidies—on petroleum products lead to higher fuel prices, stirring public anger and resistance to reforms. There is very little information regarding how these reforms impact on women. This knowledge gap has been filled through S4C's research. The research, therefore, built empirical evidence showing that taking a gender approach to energy reform is an enabler not only for reaching universal access to energy, but also

for poverty reduction and overall sustainable development.

Communicating the findings to a variety of local and international audiences, S4C presented the new evidence emerging from the research to stakeholders in the energy sector in Nigeria and beyond. Examples include a seminar held in June, 2018, in Lagos; at two side events of the United Nation's High Level Political Forum held 9-10 July 2018 in New York, at the annual meeting of the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (Energia) held in Rwanda between October 20-27, 2018, at the 4th Africa Oil Governance Summit, 2018 held in Ghana, among others.

The research strongly recommended targeted investments in women and girl child education. This is premised on the study's finding of a positive relationship between education and energy access. It further advocated for better targeting of energy subsidies. In this regard, Nigeria can learn from other countries, like India, to target subsidies better by reallocating resources towards the provision of LPG starter kits (cylinder and cooker) for poor women and low-income households via their bank accounts as a strategy for quickening the transition from biomass and kerosene to cleaner cooking fuels and appliances.

S4C CONCLUDES ITS MULTI-YEAR ENERGY & GENDER RESEARCH



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON GENDER-ENERGY RESEARCH IN PICTURES



At the 4th Africa Oil Governance Summit, 2018 held in Accra, Ghana.



At the energy experts meeting hosted by ENERGIA in Rwanda, S4C presented the evidence from Nigeria showing the impacts of fossil fuel subsidies and subsidy reform on gender.

CREATING SPACES FOR WOMEN IN ENERGY GOVERNANCE

The panel discussion, 'Expanding Opportunities for Women Empowerment in the Petroleum Industry', at the 4th Africa Oil Governance Summit, 2018, held in Accra, Ghana, featured a robust conversation regarding how to get more women to participate in the petroleum industry. SPACES FOR CHANGE's Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri, Mekombé Thérèse from Oxfam West Africa, Dr. Jemima Nunoo, Board Member of Petroleum Commission, Ghana and Mrs. Anna Kulaya Deputy Country Director, WILDAF Tanzania shared experiences from Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroun, Tanzania, articulating the policy and policy and structural shifts needed in order to close the gender gap in petroleum

industry participation, and for strengthening the interface between gender, resource efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The oil industry is still predominantly a Boys Club. Globally, only 20% of the workforce in the oil and gas industry are female. Likewise, women are not advancing enough to leadership roles and contributing to influential decision-making roles in the oil and gas sector.

The panelists proffered a variety of strategies and policy proposals for reversing this trend towards increasing women's visibility and participation in the oil and gas sector. They include setting employment quota for women in public and private establishments, affirmative action, corporate policies on gender diversity, targeted investment in girls/women STEM education, access to finance and making licensing conditions less onerous for women entrepreneurs and investors.

LEARNING & COLLABORATION

Linking and learning from other organizations working within a similar remit is one of the ways S4C reigs its programs and processes. A linking-and-learning visit to Saaman, a mining-impacted community in the Fanteakwa District of Ghana's Eastern Region, afforded S4C an opportunity to learn about other advocacy approaches resource-rich communities in the West African sub-region are using to push for environmental justice and community participation in natural resource governance. Ford Foundation and WACAM, the premier community-based human rights and environmental mining advocacy group in Ghana facilitated the visit to Saaman community on September 17, 2018 where S4C met with about 40 community representatives. In collaboration with the Ford Foundation, S4C organized an international seminar, Learning Event on Innovative Program Design and Implementation Approaches, which brought together partners and grantees of the Ford Foundation, comprising Nigerian government agencies, local and international non-governmental organizations, research institutes, independent experts and activists to foster learning and collaboration around Ford

Foundation's new grant-making systems and priorities in the field of fiscal justice. At the seminar held in April 2018, in Lagos State, the 35 participants from Ghana, Senegal, United Kingdom, United States of America and Nigeria learned how to strengthen their institutional operations, and more specifically, their program activities relating to fiscal justice, with particular emphasis on extractive industries (EI). The presence of mineral resources within developing countries continues to exacerbate poverty, conflicts and local exclusion from governance of extractives. Both theoretical and practical presentations at the seminar expounded the ways in which individuals, community movements, global coalitions and organizations working on EI issues can take good work to scale. A group visit to the Foundation's office in Lagos and a group dinner at the Lagoon Restaurant added recreational savor to the conference program, providing an opportunity for participants to see a bit of the city, network and develop new relationships needed to translate EI rhetoric into action on the ground.



Extractive Justice for Assa-Anoh Host Communities in Imo State

Over 300 inhabitants of Assa village, in Ohaji Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State, attended S4C's community workshop, Bolstering Community Participation in Extractive Resource Management, held in October 2018. Assa is the host community of Seplat Petroleum Development Company and Assa North and Ohaji South [ANOH] gas development project. The proposed ANOH project will facilitate gas production in the large undeveloped Ohaji South gas and condensate fields, the development of which would be coordinated with the Shell-operated Assa North field. The siting of these major extractive projects in the community has been a source of tension between the locals and the oil operators. Communication between communities and companies have been scant as locals have little or no information about the nature, scope and scale of extractive

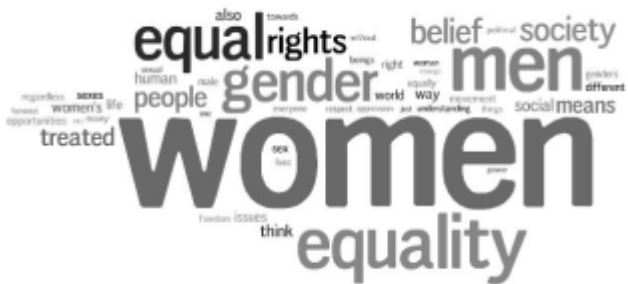
operations going on in their villages. Similarly, community members have never been fully and fairly informed of the nature and consequences of the ongoing gas production operations, nor offered a true opportunity to participate and decide upon their own priorities in the gas development processes.

S4C's workshop was timely, convened at a time locals had just staged a peaceful protest in the state capital, demanding inclusive community development and opportunities to participate and benefit from the huge economic activities going on around them. Presentations delivered at the workshop sensitized locals on the provisions of legal regimes and oil statutes regarding land compensation, environmental impact assessment and due process practices associated with oil and gas exploration projects.

SDG 5&7:

1000 low-income households, and focus group discussions. Establishing the linkages between SDG 5 on gender and women empowerment

and SDG 7 on energy, S4C presented research findings at various high-level events convened internationally and locally such as the United Nations High Level Political Forum in New York; Africa Oil Governance Summit in Ghana; International Network of Gender and Sustainable Energy (Energia) workshop in Rwanda; Nigeria's National Assembly public hearing on the Petroleum Industry Bills, USAID Power Africa Program consultation in Lagos, among others. The research presented new evidence showing how women bear the brunt of the reform in fuel subsidy prices and recommended action for addressing the lingering energy access and empowerment challenges that poorer women face.



S4C's litigation officer- Ms. Sola Olutayo (2nd from left)- represented several complainants at the National Human Rights' Commission public hearing on rights violations by the Special AntiRobbery Squad, Nigeria Police. 13-17/11/18.

In 2018, S4C's litigation desk provided free legal advisory, on-the-spot counseling and legal representation services to marginalised persons and groups, mainly in and around informal settlements/communities in Lagos and Imo States on a variety of matters. Beyond litigation, S4C regularly explores other dispute resolution mechanisms in the search for justice for its clients. Where necessary, S4C makes referrals to appropriate State agencies such as the Directorate of Citizens' Rights (under the Lagos State Ministry of Justice), Lagos State Public Advice Centre, the Lagos State Office of the Public Defender, Police Complaint Rapid Response Unit, and the National Human Rights Commission, among others. Complaints handled and resolved in 2018 include unlawful arrest and detention of slum youth, cruel inhuman and degrading

FREE LEGAL SERVICES

treatment in informal settlements, extortion, trespass, police brutality, tenancy disputes, illegal dismissal, employee rights, among others. Read below summaries of a couple of ongoing cases:

S4C is seeking legal redress for medical negligence in the treatment of a young child resulting in his death. The Lagos State High Court, Ikeja Division, transferred the matter to the Lagos State Multi-door Courthouse for mediation and possible out-of-court settlement.

b. S4C petitioned the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in September, 2018 seeking legal remedies for human rights violations committed by members of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigerian Police Force. The complaints range from unlawful arrests to detention, criminal extortion and degrading treatment of slum dwellers by SARS officials. The NHRC set up an investigative panel and conducted public hearing in Lagos from 13th to 17th November, 2018 to investigate the claims. Some of the petitions were resolved and the aggrieved persons compensated.

POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

A one-day capacity-building workshop that S4C organized in Owerri, Imo State on May 31, 2018, is influencing a shift in the approach and direction of the urban renewal programme in the state. Workshop participants comprised 53 directors, heads of departments and permanent secretaries of 9 government ministries involved in improving systems for urban planning, basic service delivery and metropolitan governance in the state. Thanks to the workshop, city planners and policymakers gained a better understanding of sustainable city improvement processes and inclusive urban development programmes, critical for delivering the Imo State Urban Renewal Programme. S4C's major policy engagements in Lagos State focused on urban security. S4C secured the release of 16 residents of Badia-East, Lagos in 2018 alone, most of whom were arrested and held in police custody for various flimsy reasons. The Urban Security Summit S4C organized in August 2018, drew attention to this growing menace of harassment, intimidation and extortion in urban slums, provoking a robust media campaign to nip this issue in the bud.

S4C and the Communities

Alliance against Displacement (CAD) convened several meetings and policy dialogues in 2018 which brought together officials of federal and state government departments with a broad spectrum of urban stakeholders, including representatives of several informal communities in the state to discuss and resolve critical policy issues affecting the urban space.

For instance, at the March 22, 2018 urban forum, titled, 'Unveiling the State's Housing Agenda for Lagos Informal Communities', senior state officials from the ministries of housing and justice outlined Lagos State's housing agenda for low-income earners in the state.

Watch clips at <https://youtu.be/zOWJ11YntU4>. Through this convening, residents of informal communities learned about the state's ongoing housing development programmes as well as the various ways of accessing low-income housing through the formal channels of housing delivery espoused in the state's housing policies such as the Rent-to-Own housing scheme and the Lagos Homes Mortgage Scheme.

Engaging the private sector is one of the ways S4C promoted the cocreation and co-development of inclusive social services together with other urban stakeholders. S4C



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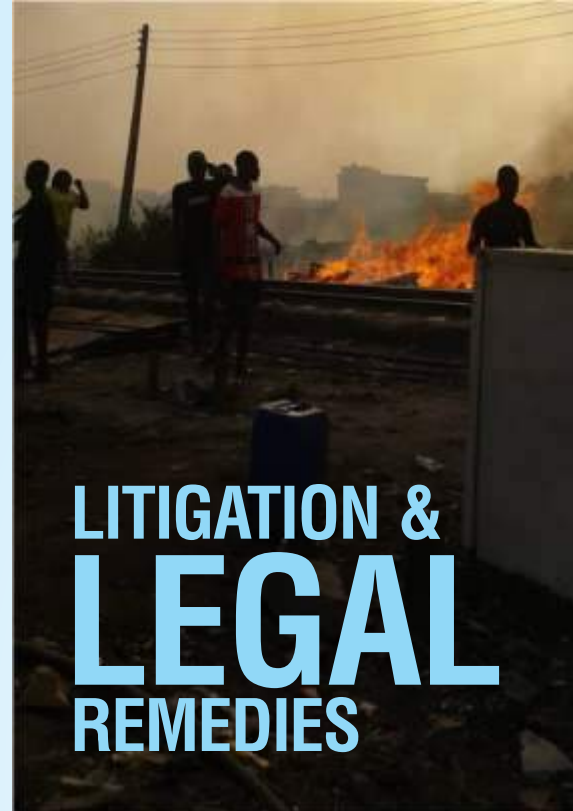
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

S4C's Sola Olutayo was at Ajeromi community, Badia for an interview with Silverbird Television crew. An earlier tour had revealed the absence of development in the community. Sola stated that S4C had explored several avenues to gain positive governmental action to remedy the challenges that the neglected evictees face. Watch https://youtu.be/QUvSNRug_7o for details.

Spaces for Change 2018 Annual Report Media and communications HOUSING AND URBAN GOVERNANCE Building on the gains of the organization's countrywide stakeholder engagement, SPACES FOR CHANGE used the mass media and other digital communication platforms to drive local and international discourse and campaigns to end forced evictions and push for inclusive and sustainable cities. See Het Dagblad Financieel: It's the elite versus the people. Through media briefings and statements, S4C strongly condemned the



demolition and forced eviction of markets, commercial and private residences in different parts of the country, especially in Owerri, Imo State, leading to loss of human lives, injury and disturbances in the state. See Okorocho's illegal demolition of Owerri market – Punch Newspapers. S4C also leveraged on its robust media networks to disseminate research findings to offline and online audiences, and mobilize wider citizen action. See The Niche: Spaces for Change Launches Report on Lagos Communities' Displacement and Silverbird Television: Spaces for Change's Urban Security Summit Report.



In July 2018, S4C re-initiated legal action against the Lagos State Government and the Ojora chieftaincy family, seeking justice for residents of Badia-East who were forcefully evicted, and their homes and business premises demolished in September 2015 and June 2017 respectively. The latest fundamental rights action, Suit No: LD/7096MFHR/2018, filed on July 9, 2018, at the Lagos State High Court, Igboere, consolidates a previous lawsuit which S4C filed on behalf of the community in May 2016 at the Federal High Court in Lagos before Honourable Justice Anka. This previous civil suit, seeking

redress for housing rights breaches resulting from the evictions, was transferred from the Federal High Court to the State High Court, Igboere pursuant to court order.

A second civil lawsuit, Suit No: LD/7084LMW/2018, seeking declaration of title to the land, was also filed in July 2018. The two cases have proceeded with vigor, with the courtroom filled up with Badia evictees whenever the matters come up for hearing.

Despite the pendency of legal action, demolitions and forced evictions

have continued with persistent and intensity in the area. For instance, the December 2018 demolition and burning of the community thereafter, left the residents very traumatized, pushing them deeper into poverty.

In the search for justice, S4C has continued to explore other avenues for dispute resolution. In December 2018, S4C petitioned the National Human Rights Commission and various federal and state authorities, demanding respect for the rule of law pending the determination of the two suits before the law courts.

Ile-Epo Market Demolition



Badia December Demolitions



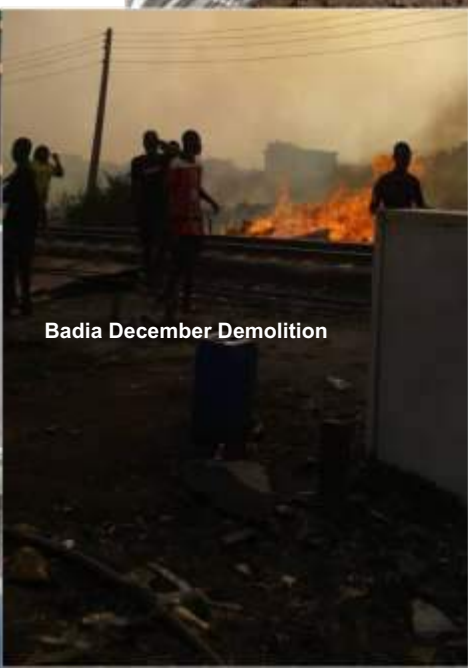
DISPLACEMENTS IN PICTURES



Apata-Oro houses are marked- PS: The Federal government successfully conducted an inclusive compulsory property acquisition programme with affected property owners. Ile-Epo Market Demolition. Tactical displacement at Snake Island uncompleted school. Diaspora Village, Azara Obiato in Mbitoli LGA, Imo State where low amount of compensation was paid to land owners by the State government.



Badia December Demolition



#EvictPovertynotPoorPeople.



In September 2018, a community outreach co-hosted by SPACES FOR CHANGE, CAD and the Lagos State Resilience Office (LASRO) enabled residents and representatives of Lagos informal and waterfront communities to make inputs into the development of the state's urban resilience framework. The townhall was preceded by a tour wherein S4C, CAD and the LASRO team met with various community leaders and residents in Bariga Waterfront community to discuss urban resilience in the face of enormous developmental shocks and stresses. The townhall was followed by a focus group discussion with communities, media and civil society representatives. The deliberations focused on understanding the coping mechanisms for the stresses and shocks associated with urban agglomeration in the city of Lagos. Forced eviction was flagged as the most recurrent shock residents of informal and waterfront communities face. This laid the foundation for S4C to push for the adoption of the draft Eviction Guideline to mitigate the deleterious impact of inevitable development-induced displacement exercises, and provide

COMMUNITY OUTREACHES



CAD has grown:
S4C conducted community housing and legal rights outreaches in Mainland and Amuwo-Odofin LGAs and Yaba LCDA respectively in Lagos State

In Imo State, S4C is supporting communities with budget planning, civic, housing and property rights' outreaches at Umuanuma, Aboh-Mbaise L.G.A, OrieAmarakwu, and NkwoOrji , Owerri

S4C also organised capacity building trainings for community leaders and CAD executives in 2018. Topics covered

S4C organised an increased number of community legal clinics and sensitisation outreaches to develop...



We are grateful to SPACES FOR CHANGE for organizing the workshop and bringing enlightenment to our doorstep. It couldn't have come at a better time... - Chairman of...

Learning and Collaboration



See S4C's exhibition stand displaying materials from the Ifesowapo: Community Action for Policy Change Project at the United States Agency for International Development's Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (SACE project) 2018 (USAID-SACE's) close-out event in November 2018. Under the pilot Ifesowapo project supported by USAID-SACE, youth from informal communities learned to tell their stories using digital tools. They also learned to turn their stories/experiences into audio-visual clips to elicit support for inclusive community regeneration.



Recognizing the bold strides S4C has made to address the urbanization issues affecting security of tenure of slum dwellers and improving housing delivery for the urban poor and low-income earners, S4C gained a seat on Lagos State Affordable Housing Committee constituted by the Lagos State Ministry of Housing in September 2018.

committee members to fulfill the committee's mandate to develop the Lagos State Housing Trust Fund which aims to foster access to housing finance for especially low-income groups.

This is a policy win following years of advocacy and campaign for reform of the State's housing mortgage programmes to improve access for marginalised groups.

S4C has been collaborating with

Learning and Collaboration



With the influx of private investments in real estate and mega project development—such as the Eko Atlantic City and the Lekki Free Trade Zone—what are the emerging tensions between private investments and public interests? How does the Cities for Profit vs. Cities for People narrative play out in the Lagos context? This was the focus of a high-level academic debate at the University of Lagos in June

2018. S4C staff was one of the speakers at the panel discussion, convened under the auspices of the 3rd Lagos Conference of the Lagos Studies Association, where about two hundred – mainly Nigerian – academics teaching arts, culture, urban planning, economics in the United Kingdom and United States converged in Lagos to present and discuss their studies on Lagos.

Challenging Discrimination Against Women in the Workplace

SPACES FOR CHANGE provided legal and advocacy support to 13 married women, ex-staff of Globacom Communications Ltd. All 1 women lodged a complaint against their former employer for wrongful disengagement on the basis of their marital status. The telecommunications company disengaged the services of these women on March 9, 2018, for no apparent reason. Prior to the mass sack, GLO conducted a staff profiling exercise few months earlier. This comprised of internal personnel interviews where female employees were specifically asked questions about their marital status, how

many children they have and other personal information was held. Substantiated media reports revealed that more than 90 persons were affected by the mass sack. The only thread linking all the sacked personnel together is their marital status; they were mostly married women.

S4C's advocacy demanding compensation and public apology from the company proceeds upon the premise that the company's no-married-women policy constitutes a marked violation of social and economic rights, including the constitutional prohibition of non-discrimination on the basis of gender.





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

On September 27, 2018, Communities Alliance Against Displacement (CAD), with support from S4C, launched the WOMENPOWA initiative aimed at empowering displaced women bounce back from the agony of displacement-induced poverty. Women living in the informal settlements often have small businesses in and around their homes.

WOMENPOWA is a revolving fund to displaced women to enable them to generate income and overcome the pangs of urban poverty. The program of support

to displaced persons in CAD member-communities, provides them with small capital to restart their small businesses destroyed during the demolition of their settlements. Women targeted by the scheme are those who already have small businesses. With the additional support, the women can boost their small businesses to thrive and perform better.

The displaced women scarcely have access to credit because they cannot provide the collateral security demanded by most financial houses.

Mbaise Women Galvanize for fiscal Justice

103 women of Umuanuma community in Nguru, Aboh-Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State, gathered on February 16, 2018 for a one-day community outreach on fiscal justice and community organizing. The women were trained on how to track the Imo State budget regarding the delivery of housing infrastructure for residential and commercial purposes.

Over 200 people thronged the Nkwo Orji Market Square in Owerri, Imo State at the one-day 'Organizing for Urban Justice' workshop S4C organized on July, 21, 2018. Participants included market women, traders, artisans, farmers and other victims affected by the demolition of the Nkwo Orji Market in March 2018. State authorities demolished the market and promised to rebuild and replace the existing structures with ultra-modern shopping centers befitting of the city's tourist-friendly status. That promise remains unfulfilled. Participants learnt about housing rights within the context of the state's urban renewal agenda, and also deepened their understanding of the remedial measures that affected traders may employ to seek legal remedies for the violations of their housing and property rights,

whether by the government or private actors.

80 traders comprising market women, artisans, okada riders and farmers engaged in different kinds of businesses in the demolished Orie Amaraku Market, in Isiala Mbano Local Government Area (LGA) of Imo State participated in the March 27, 2018 in the community. As with the majority of the demolitions carried out across the state, government forces pulled down Orie Amaraku Market without giving local traders and shop owners adequate notice, compensation or an alternative trading space. Community efforts to get justice have been marred by lack of access to legal resources and representation.

Many are not aware of the formal and informal mechanisms for seeking legal redress for the losses they incurred nor do they know how to organize to challenge the the associated human rights violations they have experienced.. S4C's March 27, 2018 community workshop in Amaraku, Mbano, Imo State formed part of the organization's broader strategy to fill the knowledge gap and provide resources needed to address the community's unmet legal needs.

TAKING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TO LAGOS SCHOOLS



Orange the World: #Hearmetoo. S4C team members sensitised pupils of Lagos primary schools on sexual rights and gender-based-violence (GBV), including how to protect themselves from GBV and sexual rights violations. Pupils and their class teachers learned to speak out and report any form of sexual abuse to appropriate authorities. They also learned about coping mechanisms for victims of abuse. In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C joined the human rights community in Nigeria and other parts of the world to promote awareness on gender-based violence to young girls and boys in Lagos schools. S4C's campaign particularly targeted young girls schooling in

Lagos' informal communities who face higher risks of violent attacks because they are frequently evicted from their homes, and consequently, are forced to sleep and play in open and unsafe places. During the year, S4C also collaborated with civil society organisations to campaign for girl-child education, and protecting the rights of the girl child against all forms of violence and abuse. Hash tags for campaigns include #DayOfTheGirl, #FreeLeahSharibu and #JusticeForOchanya.



ORANGE THE WORLD



This year, S4C's Youth Development team soared like fledging eagles, taking urban justice advocacy to the doorsteps of the youth living in the informal and slum communities across Lagos State. Bursting with creativity, innovation and youthful energy, they organized a variety of programs that boosted the self esteem of marginalized youth and increased their participation in urban planning processes, civic and voter registration, entrepreneurial development, environmental sustainability, housing rights campaigns et al. On March 28, 2018, the team coordinated a private viewing of the movie, Black Panther, at Ozone Cinema in Lagos, for 29 young people drawn from several Lagos' informal communities. Communities where these young people live, often called slums, are characterized by decades of governmental neglect, overcrowded housing, squalid living conditions and limited

access to social and economic opportunities. Many of them grew up, experiencing repeated evictions and disruptions to their education. As a result, many lack requisite educational qualifications, and experience low self-esteem.

Beyond the regular civic education and sensitization programs that they benefit from, the movie-viewing activity created an enlivening and recreational space for youth to learn, discuss and embrace new forms of thinking and goal-setting.e.g.

higher self-esteem, more flexible thinking needed to catalyze social change and the decriminalisation of slum youth. By sitting together, asking questions, and the S4C team explaining when necessary, the young people learned that it is possible to shift the cycles of negative thoughts, emotions and behaviours about themselves. A better future is indeed, possible.





Sensitization And Enlightenment Programs

A sensitization program held in Otumara (above left), Lagos Island and Igbo-Elejo community, also known as Snake Island (above right) reached 120 youth in the two informal communities in Lagos. Youth living in slums are often labeled as criminals, and as a result, they experience police brutality and unlawful detention, sometimes for prolonged periods. At these programs, the youth learned about their civic rights and the legal mechanisms for challenging frequent police raids and housing rights violations often resulting from forced displacement.

They were also sensitized on the importance of exercising their franchise. The educational materials shared at these events helped to clarify the electoral processes, voter registration procedures and other civic obligations. See Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials (below left) distributed to participants at the program...



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Evaluating the **Home-Grown** School Feeding Programme in South-East, Nigeria



With about 10.5 million out of school children across Nigeria, the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme was introduced to provide one hot meal every school day to pupils of public primary school, with a view toward boosting primary school enrollment, attendance and completion rates in the country. By sourcing food from farm produce locally grown by smallholder farmers, the school feeding programme further aims to create employment and bolster the production of home grown foods..

With support from Trust Africa, SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C, carried out an independent evaluation of the HGSPF

program in Imo and Abia States, in order to assess the extent the project is realizing stated objectives, and use evidence-based research information to provide feedback to support the continuous improvement in the management and performance of the initiative in the country. Through a combination of targeted surveys, key informant interviews and focus group discussions, 8, 315 pupils, 669 parents, 88 public primary schools in urban and rural areas, 55 head and assistant-head teachers and 43 female food vendors were engaged directly during the evaluation, totaling 9,082 persons across the two states.



BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEFEND THE CIVIC SPACE

S4C's all-year-round campaign to reclaim the civic space had one central message: governmental measures to counter terrorism and illicit financial flows should not shrink the civic space and/or disrupt the work of legitimate non-profit entities. An array of initiatives such as research studies, social campaigns, media outreaches, workshops, press statements, press conferences, public advocacy and policy dialogues which S4C implemented in 2018 aimed at building the capacity of civil society stakeholders to push back against the tide of restrictions on civic spaces in Nigeria and demand greater official respect for fundamental freedoms to free speech, to free assembly and to organize freely online and offline.

Analysis of Nigeria's 2016 National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing: S4C extensively analyzed the outcomes of the 2016 national risk assessment (Nigeria NRA) on money laundering and terrorist financing risks in Nigeria. The research unpacked the official construction of threats and vulnerabilities affecting the third sector, highlighting the

shortcomings in the Nigeria NRA, especially the methods of data collection, the classification of sectors, the data analytical methods and other ethical considerations. It went further to interrogate the perception that non-profits in Nigeria are poorly regulated, by reviewing the corporate governance codes and regulatory regimes regulating corporate entities, including non-profits. That robust approach was adopted to present evidence-based counter arguments to unpopular policy prescriptions and tactics that have the effect of shrinking the civic space.

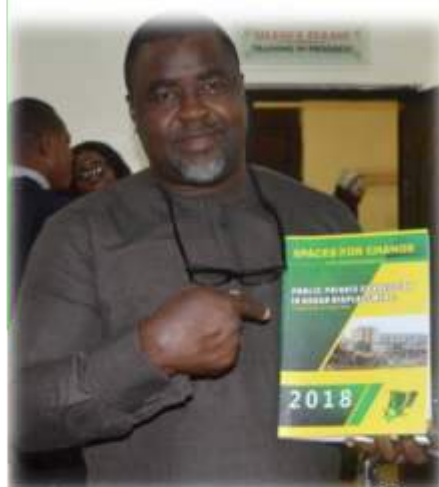
SPACES FOR CHANGE updated and expanded the focus of the online database of closing civic spaces in Nigeria - www.closingspaces.org. In effect, the database now tracks and documents incidents of repressive governmental actions that narrow the space for the civil society in the whole of West Africa. Expanding the scope of the database was borne out of the need to map and compare the tactics governments are using to shrink the civic space in the region and provide civil society organizations, journalists and activists with the levers to push

PUBLIC-PRIVATE CONNECTION IN URBAN DISPLACEMENT

A case study of Lagos State

In 2018, Spaces for Change | S4C completed and published the findings of two major research investigations both focusing on urban justice in Nigeria. The first study investigated the underlying factors, actors and motivations for the recurrent land disputes between popular chieftaincy families and the residents of several informal settlements in Lagos. Beginning with an inquisitorial into the major state-chieftaincy family-linked evictions that took place in three informal communities in Lagos State: Maroko, Badia-East and Otodo-Gbame, the study provide some hard evidence regarding the actual motivations for taking over prime land in the sesettlements.

The selected case studies of mass evictions, the analysis of historical and judicial records provide an additional basis for interrogating whether public purpose merely gives a legal cover to unlawful exploitation of the customary land tenure system and mass expulsion practices that perfectly fit the description of



land-grabbing. The findings of the study, contained in the report, PUBLIC-PRIVATE CONNECTION IN URBAN DISPLACEMENT: A Case Study of Lagos State, was publicly launched in August 2018, in Lagos.

Focusing primarily on Lagos and Imo States, S4C conducted another major research in 2018 which extensively examined the budgetary allocation to housing development in the two states from 2010 to 2017, in order to gauge the two state governments' commitment to affordable housing delivery. Findings of these two major studies informed the direction of the advocacy for changes in urban policy and programs in ways that increase legal protections to the urban poor, and bring about improvements in residents' access to adequate, affordable and safe housing, better basic services and living conditions.

In the same vein, previous research-advocacy projects that commenced in the previous year were also concluded in 2018. Between 2016 - 2017, S4C

collaborated with University College London's Bartlett Development Planning Unit to conduct a research examining the variety of ways the production of urban infrastructure causes displacement, disproportionately affecting low-income urban residents. The research clarifies how the need for urban

infrastructure can be reconciled with social justice in protecting the interests and rights of low-income and urban poor residents. Published in September 2018, the findings of the study is contained in the report, Urban Infrastructure Projects and Displacement in Nigeria.

Deepening Participation In Urban Planning Processes

Stakeholders in the justice, Urban and security sectors converged at the Urban Security Summit organized by SPACES FOR CHANGE on August 21, 2018, to discuss ways of strengthening institutional and human capacities to develop security and urban planning systems that are responsive, inclusive and sustainable. Participants at the Summit comprised federal and state government officials, security operatives, legal practitioners, civil society leaders, representatives of the media, academia and Lagos informal settlements.

The Summit's two panel discussions featured panelists consisting of policymakers, development planners, legal practitioners and the inhabitants of informal communities. The first session featured a panel discussion, Improving Community Relations with

Security Agencies, while the second panel discussed, Strengthening Community Résilience for Crime Prevention and Management. The hallmark of the Summit is the public launch of SPACES FOR CHANGE's report titled: 'Public-Private Connection in Urban Displacement: A Case Study of Lagos State'.

The August 21, 2018 Urban Security Summit not only uncovered injustices of police brutality in Lagos' informal settlements, but also drew extensive media and government attention to this issue. In addition to the heightened media coverage of the mind boggling stories of police brutality shared at the Summit, the Federal Investigative Panel on SARS Reform investigated these incidents and claims, and provided legal remedy to some of the victims.



COMMUNITY OUTREACHES AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

The Petroleum Host and Impacted Communities Development Bill (PHICDB), 2018 represents an effort to deliver the direct benefits of petroleum resources to host communities, and more especially, address the long history of hostile relations between oil companies and their host communities which has often resulted in violent agitations, facility shutdowns, halted operations, and revenue losses. SPACES FOR CHANGE [S4C] conducted an analysis of the Bill, flagging opportunities for strengthening legal protections against environmental damage and for deepening community participation in natural resource management.

In May and June 2018, S4C organised consultative and roundtable meetings in Akwa-Ibom and Rivers States, offering a platform for civil society, political and traditional leaders (including women leaders) to understand the provisions of the PHICDB, and make inputs to the draft petroleum reform statute. The organization's

advocacy reached oil producing communities in across the Niger Delta State of Rivers, Cross Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta and Akwa-Ibom's Ibeno, Eket, Nsit-Eket, Onna, Ikot Abasi, Eastern Obolo and Esit Eket local governments.

Also in attendance at the May 8, 2018 roundtable held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State were eminent personalities from the oil-producing communities such as Ibim Semenitari, ex-Chair of the Niger Delta Development Commission; Ledum Mitee, ex-President of the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) and Ex-president of the Movement for the Sovereignty of Ogoni People (MOSOP); state lawmakers from the Akwa-Ibom State House of Assembly; local government chairpersons; traditional rulers; academics, civil society leaders, media professionals.

Since 2015, S4C has been leading civil society and community advocacy around the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill, with the specific aim of protecting the interests of communities affected by natural resource exploitation. In 2018, S4C regularly tracked parliamentary discussions and proposals around the petroleum bills, analyzed their provisions and communicated the analysis to a wide range of stakeholders. In addition, S4C has spearheaded debates on policy and social media around community participation in resource governance and environmental protection.

SPACES FOR CHANGE submitted and presented a memorandum on the Petroleum Host and Impacted Communities Development Bill (PHICDB), to both the Senate and House of Representatives' Adhoc Committee on the Petroleum Industry Bill. Presenting the memoranda to federal lawmakers, S4C

recommended a review of the proposed governance arrangement for the Petroleum Host Community Trusts, which is the vehicle proposed for delivering direct economic benefits to host communities of extractive activities.

S4C provided technical assistance to Akwa-Ibom State lawmakers, community representatives and local governments to draft and submit a memorandum on the PHICDB to both the Senate and House of Representatives' Adhoc Committee on the Petroleum Industry Bill. S4C also supported community representatives from oil producing communities in Akwa-Ibom and Rivers States to attend the May, 2018 parliamentary hearing where they presented the memorandum at the floor of the National Assembly.



Implemented under the auspices of a cross-cutting programme of policy research support for the United States-based Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace (WLP), S4C conducted a research to understand why gender-based violence, especially those that occur in the home, persists in Nigeria despite the plethora of laws and policies that are in place to address them.

The research is a contribution to the global study contained in the report, *Feminist Advocacy, Family Law & Violence Against Women*, published in September 2018, by Routledge Books (Taylor and Francis Group). The book provides case studies from Brazil, India, Iran, Lebanon, Nigeria, Palestine, Senegal, and Turkey, using them to demonstrate in each case, the varied history of family law and the wide variety of issues impacting women's equality in legislation. The Nigerian case study, in Chapter 7 of the book, examines why gender equality lags behind despite legal reform.

S4C's all-year-round campaign to reclaim the civic space had one central message: governmental measures to counter terrorism and illicit financial flows should not shrink the civic space and/or disrupt the work of legitimate non-profit entities. An array of initiatives such as research studies, social campaigns, media outreaches, workshops, press statements, press conferences, public advocacy and policy dialogues which S4C implemented in 2018 aimed at building the capacity of civil society stakeholders to push back against the tide of restrictions on civic spaces in Nigeria and demand greater official respect for fundamental freedoms to free speech, to free assembly and to organize freely online and offline.

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ANALYZING NIGERIA'S NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT ON MONEY LAUNDERING & TERRORIST FINANCING



S4C, CSOs and stakeholders form stronger alliances to push for open civic spaces and promote democratic engagement.



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Spaces for Change | S4C



**Standing Together to Defend Internet
Freedoms and the Civic Space**

📅 5th September, 2018 ⌚ 9:00am

🏠 Top Rank Hotels, Hill View, Independence Layout, Enugu.

📞 **CONTACT: 0703 124 9301 FOR ENQUIRIES**

DATABASE OF CLOSING CIVIC SPACES IN NIGERIA

S4C continues to host the online database of closing spaces in Nigeria - www.closingspaces.org. The database tracks and documents incidents of repressive governmental actions that narrow the space for the civil society in Documentations from S4C's database show that the regular targets of the rising clampdown on the civic space range from journalists to NGO workers to social critics, bloggers, and activists challenging official corruption, human rights abuses, environmental injustices, and so forth. Official justifications often advanced for the restrictions are usually framed around the objective of protecting national interest, national security or other related considerations such as countering financing of terrorism (CFT) and antimoney laundering (AML).

<http://www.closingspaces.org/> ➡

EXPERTS HUB ON AMC & CFT HOLDS IN GENEVA

In January 2018, S4C participated in the Experts Hub on AML and CFT at the Hague, Netherlands. The Experts' Hub brought together representatives of non-profit organizations (NPOs), advocates and independent experts from 16 countries working to combat restrictions on civic freedoms arising from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Recommendations, counter-terrorism and anti-money laundering rules. During the week-long discussion, participants learned about AML/CFT rules and FATF standards, and their impact at the various country levels. Discussions were also held on the theory and practice of mutual evaluations (Mes). Activists present at the discussion developed regional and national strategies for engaging both the risk assessment and Mes.

A panel discussion, Reclaiming Civic Space: Resistance, Resilience and Resources, held at New York University in the United

States, examined the global strategies for reclaiming the civic space. Activists from Nigeria, Argentina, United States, Brazil, Philippines and India took part in the panel discussion held on May 21, 2018. The panelists, including S4C staff, are contributing authors to the 26th edition of the Sur International Journal on Human Rights, published by Conectas in collaboration with The Fund for Global Human Rights.

S4C's Researcher on Civic Space, joined 47 other civil society representatives and stakeholders from across West Africa at the three-day workshop organized by the Intergovernmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA). The recently-concluded workshop on anti-money laundering (AML) and countering financing of terrorism (CFT) requirements for civil society organizations (CSOs) was held in Praia, Cabo Verde, on 5-7 September 2018.

Media Engagement

In 2018, S4C issued press statements demanding stronger governmental respect and protection for the fundamental rights to speak, assembly and organize freely. For instance, S4C and the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO) jointly issued a statement in August 2018, when heavily-armed security operatives of Nigeria's Department of State Security Services (DSS) barricaded the entrance of the Nigerian federal parliament on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, preventing federal lawmakers from accessing their offices to carry out their lawful legislative duties.

By initiating social campaigns that deployed the use of dedicated blogs, hashtags and media collaborations, S4C drew public attention to human rights infringements contracting the spaces for civic engagement and pushed for increased official compliance with international human rights obligations to citizens.



Staff & Institutional Strengthening In 2018

Sola Olutayo, Zikoranachidinma Ibe and Great Udochi joined the Litigation Department, Communications Desk, and Youth Development Desk respectively.

S4C increased its online and offline engagements around civic space defense, urban reform and energy and environmental advocacy, leading to an increase in the number of government policy departments, media organizations, local and international civil society institutions seeking its views, opinions, resources and collaboration around these issues. In 2018, staff of the organization were regularly invited to events organized by numerous local and international organizations to present papers or facilitate training on these issues. These organizations include the USAID, DFIDFOSTER, Nigeria Natural Resource Charter, Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Nigerian House of Representatives, Media Initiative

on Transparency in Extractive Industries (MITEI), Ford Foundation, Africa Center for Economic Transformation Ghana, Policy and Legal Advocacy Center (PLAC) etc. S4C also featured frequently on national radio and television stations discussing environmental justice issues on Channels TV, Plus TV, Galaxy Television, KISS FM, Kaftan TV, Silverbird Television, Television Continental (TVC) etc.

Staff participated in numerous trainings organized locally and internationally to increase their capacity to engage on the organization's thematic focal areas.

Volunteers and interns

In 2018, Ms. Chimdinma Onwuneme, an intern, completed the mandatory National Youth Service Corps. Also, Ms. Omotayo Mampouya, completed her internship and went off to the Nigeria Law School. Ms. Tayo Obi, also completed her internship and has returned to the United Kingdom.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING



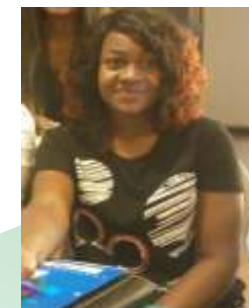
S4C's Anita Akpunonu and Rejoice Imozemeh (L-R) attended this year's MANGO training on Essentials of Financial Mgt. and Taking Fear out of Finance for Finance Staff and Program Managers, respectively



S4C's Aizighode Obinyan (standing) attended Peer to Peer Institute for Capacity Building for Family Law Reform



S4C's Kingsley Ogam Okafor and Zikora Ibe attended 'Gender Dimensions' training.



S4C's Jennifer Njoku (right) during a brainstorming session on advocacy strategies to address outstanding Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) remediation issues.



S4C's Fisayo Ajala joined 47 other civil society representatives and stakeholders from West African region at a 3day workshop organized by Intergovernmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) on anti-money laundering (AML) and countering financing of terrorism (CFT) requirements for civil society organizations (CSOs) in Praia, Cabo Verde.



RADIO SHOWS

- Rhythm FM: Improving Relations Between Petroleum Host Communities and Oil Multinationals

TV INTERVIEWS AND VIDEOS

- VIDEO: Is Marriage a Disadvantage to Women in Corporate Nigeria?
https://youtu.be/QUvSNRug_7o
- Ijora Badia report on STV
<https://youtu.be/zOWJ11YntU4>



NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS

- The Daily: Spaces for Change, NNNGO kick against invasion of National Assembly
- The Niche: Spaces for Change Launches Report on Lagos Communities' Displacement
- Election Forms: Buhari, Atiku violating Electoral Act, lawyers say; others differ
- Silverbird Television: Spaces for Change's Urban Security Summit Report
- PIB.COM: Public Hearing Day 2- Spaces for Change
- Non-profit Action Center: Civil Society Groups Must Speak Up Against Shrinking Civic Space in Nigeria
- VANGUARD: How FG Fuel Subsidy Reforms Affects Nigerian Economy
- NYU Docket: Reclaiming Civic Space: Resistance, Resilience, and Resources
- BUSINESS DAY: PIGB: Experts push for prioritization of host communities, environmental issues
- Premium Times: What Nigerians Expect From Proposed Petroleum Industry Law - Experts
- SPACES FOR CHANGE conducted a detailed analysis of the reasons advanced for withholding assent to the Petroleum Industry Bill - The Punch, Premium Times, Sundiata Post
- PUNCH: Businessman Laments Unending Police Raids
- More Nigerians Demand Release of Premium Times Journalist
- Global Subsidies Initiative October 2018 Update
- Orient Daily: Group trains online pressmen on FG cyberspace war defense
- Coverage of Selected Side Events at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF 2018)
- Sexuality Policy: Sur Conectas Human Rights - Issue V. 26
- ICIRN Nigeria: An NGO is heading to court in 7 days — because Globacom 'sacked 90 married women'
- Per Second News: Sacked Married Women In Globacom Tell Their Stories of Discrimination
- The Punch: The Lighter Side of Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri
- TheCable: NEITI Holds Symposium on the PIGB
- Premium Times: Petroleum Industry Governance Bill: More Hurdles to Cross
- Vanguard: Fuel crisis: PDP, APC in verbal war over President's role
- Het Dagblad Financieel: It's the elite versus the people
- Open Global Rights: Comment faire face à la législation restrictive du Nigeria
- Punch Newspapers: Okorocha's illegal demolition of Owerri market - Punch Newspapers
- TheCable: NGO Bill: Another disturbing evidence of closing spaces in Nigeria





SHARED MEMORIES



On August 25, 2018: S4C's Legal Officer and Owerri Office Coordinator, Kingsley Ogam Okafor Esq. tied nuptial knots with his heartthrob, Dr. Rosemary Chioma Ekeoma, at Christ the King Catholic Chaplaincy, Owerri, Imo State. S4C team members (below) attended the wedding and reception ceremonies.



living25
of Networking for Development

Civil society groups must speak up against the shrinking civic space in Nigeria after National Assembly invasion.

The time has come for the civil society community in Nigeria and the world over to speak up against the shrinking civic space in Nigeria. Spaces for Change [S4C] and Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO) said today, after the National Assembly invasion. Heavily-armed security operatives of Nigeria's Department of State Security Services (DSS) barricaded the entrance of the Nigerian federal parliament on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, preventing federal lawmakers from accessing their offices to carry out their lawful legislative duties.

"The civil society community must strongly resist these undemocratic tendencies. Nigerian authorities must end this trend of shrinking civic space and weakening of democratic institutions in the country", said Ms. Yemisi Ramsome-Kuti, Nigeria Network of NGOs Trustee.

DSS' Tuesday invasion of the National Assembly is the height of closing civic space any country could witness in a democracy, said Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri, Executive Director at Spaces for Change.

Nigeria's Vice-President ordered the sack of the Director General of the DSS following the intense public outrage that greeted the invasion. While we applaud and welcome the sack of the Director General of the DSS, it must be noted that there are several cases of attacks by the DSS on civil society activists, journalists and human rights defenders in the country. Spaces for Change has tracked 103 incidents of governmental restrictions on free speech, association, religious and assembly rights that occurred between May 2015 - May 2017. See www.closingspaces.org.

In its March 2018 United Nations Universal Periodic Review Report submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council, the NNGO and Civicus are "alarmed by attacks on and intimidation of human right defenders, civil society activists and journalists in Nigeria, predominantly carried out by operatives of the Department of State Security".

The civil society community cannot continue to look the other way as DSS' role in the closing of civic space in the country continues. With the invasion of the National Assembly, Spaces for Change and the NNGO are concerned that the attack and intimidation by the DSS on citizens will worsen if not properly checked.

We are very alarmed that a revered institution such as the National Assembly can be invaded by the DSS in a democracy. Spaces for Change and the Nigeria Network of NGOs stand together with the National Assembly in this difficult time and are calling for the protection of civic space by all democratic associations, movements and institutions in the country.

The DSS reports directly to the Presidency. Accordingly, President Muhammadu Buhari must make good his commitment to the rule of law by not only ordering all security forces in the country to respect the rights of citizens to freedom of assembly, speech and association, but also by restraining the DSS from continuing its vicious campaign of intimidation and suppression of the rights of citizens under the guise of state security.

The new DSS boss must show true leadership and heed the demands of citizens and citizen organisations to release citizens detained by DSS for exercising their rights to the freedom of peaceful assembly, speech and association and review their cases to prevent continued harassment.

"Nothing can ever wipe out the unimaginable trauma our democracy and civic space witnessed yesterday in the hands of the DSS. The minimum the government of Nigeria can do at this time is to provide restorative measures capable of reassuring the National Assembly and the over 170 million Nigerians who elected them that their rights to freedom of association, speech and assembly is guaranteed.



SPACES FOR CHANGE

7, Independence Street, Anifowose,
Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.
49, MCC/Uratta Road, Owerri,
Imo State.

TELEPHONE

+234 703 620 2074,
+234 909 453 9638

EMAIL

spacesforchange.s4c@gmail.com
info@spacesforchange.org



@Spaces4Change



@Spaces4Change



Spaces for Change.s4c



www.spacesforchange.org