



SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C

Annual Report 2017



PicSpeak



WhoWeAre



Established in May 2011, **SPACES FOR CHANGE** is a non-profit organization working to increase the participation of Nigerian youth, women and communities in the development of social and economic policy, and also help public authorities and corporate entities to put a human rights approach at the heart of their decision-making.

SPACES FOR CHANGE is legally registered with the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission. The registered name is **Spaces for Youth Development and Social Change**, with registration number: CAC/IT/NO 51043.

Foreword



In 2017, SPACES FOR CHANGE ventured into relatively new research terrains, especially around reclaiming the civic space and defending civil society. In this regard, we rolled up our sleeves and developed new analytical tools, new databases, built new vocabulary and articulated new advocacy goals. Looking back on the milestones of our past research and advocacy work on gender empowerment, energy policy reform and urban governance issues mainly affecting marginalized individuals and communities in Nigeria, we continued to innovate, establishing a basis for improved data collection and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

In this annual report, we highlight the results of the cutting-edge research and advocacy work we did in 2017. We happily document both the fights and the wins. We hope you also enjoy the pictures as much as we do.

We are grateful to our readers, partners, donors, volunteers, dedicated staff and board members, whose support throughout the year made the outcomes reported here possible.

Thank you.

VICTORIA OHAERI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spaces for Change Annual Report, 2017 CONTENTS

Energy & Climate Research



S4C conducted household surveys in Lagos and Imo States of Nigeria, investigating the differentiated impact(s) of fossil fuel subsidy reform on gender.

Security & Conflict



S4C's May 2017 legal research examined the extent international financial regulations influence governments to shrink the civic space for civil society and charitable operations.

Housing & Urban Governance



Launched in February 2017, the *Communities' Alliance against Displacements'* (CAD), is a network of informal communities and rights' groups working together to tackle urban displacement in Lagos State.

Youth Development



15 youth from Badia & Ebutte-Metta communities in Lagos receive training on Digital Storytelling, empowering them to use digital tools to challenge negative narratives about slums.

Women Rights



S4C conducted a study that examined why the plethora of punitive legislations at the national and international levels have not effectively combatted violence against women in Nigeria

Organizational Growth



S4C continues to grow into a sustainable organization, providing opportunities for staff development and physical expansion.

Gender & Energy Surveys in Lagos and Imo States



ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE



Under the auspices of a multi-year international energy sector research program focusing on Nigeria, Bangladesh, India and Indonesia, SPACES FOR CHANGE conducted a household survey investigating the stark gender inequalities in access to energy resources. The survey's main objective is to understand the likely impacts fossil fuel subsidies and their reform have on gender, as well as how subsidies can be better targeted and redistributed for the benefit and empowerment of poor women.

The surveys were conducted in Lagos and Imo states. The Lagos survey was conducted in two urban slums while the Imo survey was conducted in 6 rural villages in Uzoagba community, in Ikeduru Local Government Area. A total number of 1000 questionnaires were administered on respondents across the two states in Nigeria's South West and South East zones.

Both mathematical and check-box questions, including additional 10 open-ended queries, elicited responses regarding how women from low-income households living in urban slums and rural communities use and access energy for cooking and for other domestic purposes. The responses showed how movements in energy prices as a result of subsidy reforms influence changes to women's household energy choices and consumption patterns.

In Imo, about 59% of 500 individual respondents use kerosene as their primary energy source for cooking, cooling and lighting with 51% of respondents using



Rural women use alternative fuel sources such as firewood, palm kernel fronds, etc for cooking. These alternatives are cheaper.

between 1 and 10 litres of kerosene monthly.

Data was collected from individual respondents through a survey of residential and commercial buildings in the selected sampling units. Data was also collected from groups of respondents in focus group discussions (FGD). Descriptive statistics have been used for the empirical analysis, mainly to analyse the socioeconomic variables of the household preference for cooking such as age, level of education, marital status, income level, household size, energy mix of households, average kerosene prices, cooking fuel collection time, household energy decision-making, household budget share for energy expenditure etc.

Strengthening Institutional Knowledge of the Petroleum Industry Bill



Victoria Ohaeri expatiating on PIGB provisions to officials of Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR).

In March 2017, SPACES FOR CHANGE facilitated training sessions for the senior personnel of the Federal Government's Department of Petroleum Resources. The training enlightened them on the provisions of the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB), particularly the changes in the energy regulatory landscape that regulators should expect.

The PIGB establishes the Nigeria Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NPRC) which is to replace the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) and the Petroleum Inspectorate. The NPRC shall be vested with all functions, assets, funds, resources and other movable and

immovable properties of DPR & PPPRA. The PIGB also unbundles the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) by splitting the assets and liabilities of the Corporation into two commercial entities, namely the Nigeria Petroleum Assets Management Company and the National Petroleum Company. The petroleum company will have financial autonomy and shall be entitled to retain the revenue made from its operations and defray from such revenue all its expenses.



Enhancing Community Participation In Petroleum Sector Governance

On October 25, 2017, Spaces for Change convened a region-wide consultative meeting on the Petroleum Host Community Development Bill, 2016. The major objective of the bill is to strengthen the participation of communities hosting oil and gas production in petroleum resource governance.

The meeting brought together 40 leaders of petroleum host communities, women, youth, cultural and non-governmental organizations, including representatives of state legislative houses and the media. Participants learned about the provisions of the proposed legislation that need to be strengthened in order improve legal protection for petroleum host communities. They include poor representation of communities on the Board of the Petroleum Communities' Trust, weak environmental provisions, vague community consultation procedures and other notable concerns around the classification of communities into upstream petroleum communities (UPC) and facility communities (FC). Attendees committed to attending the public hearing on the bill when scheduled.





PetroFacts Nigeria

MAY 29, 2017

9

Important Points to Note in the PIGB Just Passed into Law

After a 17-year long wait, the Nigerian Senate finally passed the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB) into law on Thursday, May 25, 2017. We congratulate the Bukola Saraki-led 5th Senate on the passage of this landmark bill. Here are some important points to note about the new regime

- 1 **Establishment of New Entities**
Petroleum Industry Governance Bill 2017 proposes inter alia the establishment of the Nigeria Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NPRC), the Petroleum Equalisation Fund (PEF) and the incorporation of three commercial entities including the Nigeria Petroleum Assets Management Company (NPAMC), National Petroleum Company (NPC) and The Nigeria Petroleum Liability Management Company (NPLMCL).
- 2 **Funding the New Entities**
The Funding of the NPRC shall be by appropriation through the National Assembly (NASS). The Funding of the PEF shall be by way of a 5% fuel levy in respect of all fuel sold and distributed within the Federation subject to appropriation by NASS. NPAMC shall be funded by NASS appropriation for the initial capitalisation and subsequent financing of the company while NPC will also be funded by appropriation through the National Assembly for the initial capitalisation.
- 3 **NNPC will be unbundled**
Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) will be restructured by splitting the assets and liabilities of the Corporation into two commercial entities, namely the Nigeria Petroleum Assets Management Company and the National Petroleum Company (NPC).
- 4 **No More Regulatory Overlap**
Full responsibility for environmental matters in the petroleum industry is now vested in the NPRC and not the Federal Ministry of Environment.
- 5 **The establishment of the Petroleum Equalization Fund (PEF)**
TRF seeks to ensure uniformity of petroleum products prices throughout Nigeria through reimbursement of all marketing companies for any loss that they incur solely and exclusively as a result of the transportation of petroleum products and for the provision of financing for infrastructural development throughout the federation. The PEF will determine the amount of reimbursement due to any oil marketing company for purposes of equalisation of price of products.
- 6 **Powers of the Petroleum Minister Revised**
The Minister of Petroleum has been stripped of the power to incorporate other entities as may be necessary to assume and manage some of the liabilities of the NNPC.
- 7 **Increased Representation and Expanded Decision-making Power**
The number of Executive Directors of the NPAMC increased from 3 to 4. Similarly, the total number of NPRC executive commissioners also increased from 9 to 11 in order to ensure proper coverage of the industry regulatory functions while the number of non-executive commissioners increased from 1 to 2 in order to strengthen the Board.
- 8 **DPR + PPPRA = NPRC**
The new NPRC is a merger of two existing agencies Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA).
- 9 **Increased Shareholder Participation in Company Affairs**
No less than 10% of shareholding in the NPC shall be divested in a transparent manner, within five years from the date of incorporation, while an additional 30% shall be further divested within ten years from the date of incorporation, totalling 40% in all. The increase from 30% to 40% is to ensure a more aggressive divestment and ultimately the transfer not less than 40% to the private sector.

S4C uses infographics to create public awareness about the policy reforms in the energy industry

S4C reviews the PIGB and PHCDB, 2016

Petroleum Host Community Development (PHCD) Bill, 2016 - KEY FINDINGS

ESTABLISHMENT OF PCT
A Petroleum Communities Trust (PCT) is to be established in every host government (LG) where there are upstream or facility communities.

PCT BOARD SECRETARY
The top powerful position of secretary to the PCT board shall be a representative of an oil company.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION
On the Boards of the PCTs shall be just one representative from each upstream or facility host community.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
To manage the disbursement of funds paid to local governments; The PCT board shall support 25% women and 20% youth (not less than age of 40).

HOST COMMUNITIES
Upstream Communities
Pipeline Communities
Facility Communities

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE PHCD BILL 2016

PUNISHMENT FOR FUND MISMANAGEMENT
12 months imprisonment without fine;
1st Offence: 6 months imprisonment or 1m Naira fine or both;
2nd Offence & Subsequent: 12 months imprisonment or 2m Naira fine or both.

DISBURSEMENTS OF FUND
Not more than 10% of the funds available shall be spent on salaries, allowances and administration as decided by the board and community representatives.

RESTORATION FUND
The bill will establish a restoration fund. The fund will charge restoration tax to companies in order to minimize the effects of pollution and environmental hazards in host communities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS (CDA)
Every company conducting petroleum operations, including operating an upstream, midstream or downstream facility or own pipeline, is required to enter into Community Development Agreements for the purpose of transferring "mutually agreed social and economic benefits" from the company to the community.

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Petroleum Host Community Development (PHCD) Bill, 2016 - KEY FINDINGS

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PCT
The LGs operate merely as safe for the Fund and remit monies whenever needed. The LGs need to be properly positioned to provide adequate regulatory oversight for the PCT.

PCT BOARD SECRETARY
The secretary of the PCT board should be a representative from the host community and not the oil company.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION
is inadequate; 10 representatives elected by each host community for a single term of 6yrs with a possibility of re-election 6yrs later.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PHCD BILL 2016

PUNISHMENT FOR FUND MISMANAGEMENT
12 months imprisonment for fund mismanagement is inadequate to deter misappropriation; stricter measures should be adopted.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION
Human rights protections, especially regarding privacy and cultural rights are absent. As the PHCD Bill, Communities are entitled to "fair and adequate compensation" for any damage or destruction of communal trees and valuable objects resulting from oil operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
The PHCD Bill loosens the environmental protection that host communities enjoyed under the PIB-2012. There is no requirement for all companies to use Best Available Technology (BAT) into all oil field operations.

ROLE OF IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS
The bill is silent on the role of important stakeholders, such as traditional rulers, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, etc.

THE PRINCIPLE OF "POLLUTER PAYS"
The PIB should explicitly reinforce the common law position that whoever carries out hazardous activity on land is responsible for filling it satisfactorily and minimize the damaging effect of all trespassers.

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Pushing for Women's Transition to Cleaner Cooking Fuels

Awareness of, including the use of renewable energy appliances is quite low in the country. SPACES FOR CHANGE made this discovery during its April–May 2017 household surveys in Lagos and Imo States. Out of the 500 respondents in the Lagos sampling area where dependence on kerosene stoves is quite high, 27% were aware of renewable energy appliances and only 5% of respondents use renewable energy devices in their households. So, how do we get low-income women to transit from the traditional fossil fuels to cleaner cooking fuels?

Because renewable energy appliances do not cost less than the alternative household energy utensils traditionally used in low-income households, financial empowerment and other forms of support will be needed to quicken the transition to cleaner fuels. 54% of respondents in Lagos say they will use them if government provides subsidy for renewable energy products. In Imo, the figure goes higher up to 96% who are willing to switch to cleaner fuels, especially LPG, if the products are subsidized and made more affordable. This would also enable them to save time and money spent on cooking. Time saved could be channelled towards other productive activities.

This finding informed SACS research campaign for better targeting of fuel subsidies to products with greater potential to transfer greater economic, social and health benefits and empowerment for low-income women. Whether we are engaging the World Bank or United Nations' agencies or other international finance institutions, our advocacy continues to harp on gender-responsive policy and action toward a more sustainable and equitable future for all.



S4Cexhibition stand at Social Media Week Lagos, 2017 showcases research publications on Energy Governance.

Picture Stories

HOUSING & URBAN GOVERNANCE

At a press briefing that S4C organized in April 2017, concerned Nigerian organizations, lawyers and the human rights community condemned the brutal demolition of Otodogbame community in Lagos, resulting in loss of lives and property. Illegal land grabs, perpetrated under the cloak of officialdom, needs to stop, S4C contended.

S4C continues to provide free legal representation and advisory support to Badia evictees displaced in September 2015 on the orders of a private family and Lagos State authorities. Encouraged by S4C's court action [Suit No: FHC/L/CS/683/16] instituted at the Federal High Court (Lagos Division) in July 2016, evictees await legal redress for the violation of their human rights arising from mass eviction and demolition exercises in Ijora-Badia, Lagos.

The inhabitants of Owerri, Imo State capital are groaning under a wave of government-ordered demolitions across the state which began in 2012. The demolition exercises executed in the name of urban renewal, has seen nearly all monuments and historical sites in the city center demolished, displacing thousands of persons and businesses. S4C's fact-finding missions to the state capital exposed the official tradition of flouting court orders and executive arbitrariness. A seminar S4C organized in November 2017 sensitized affected persons and communities on citizens' housing rights and obligations within the context of state/national law.



Participants at the Press Briefing.



S4C team member, addresses Evictees outside the Federal High Court after a sitting.



Participants at the one-day sensitisation forum tagged 'Moving towards Urban Inclusivity: Roles, Rights and Responsibilities in Owerri, Imo State

Leveraging the digital media to shift negative narratives about urban slums





USAID #IFESOWAPO DIGITAL STORYTELLING TRAINING
 This project uses Participatory Action Research (PAR) to address the research question "How does Lagos State Government perceive the urban poor living in Badia East and Ebute Metta, and how does this perception impact on their livelihood and standard of living?"

Day 1

- Production & Agenda Review
- Adopting the group agreement developed by the program facilitator, Leah, about group
- Introduction to digital storytelling
- Brain storming
- Script writing
- Script Editing

Ifesowapo: Community Action for Policy Change (CAPC) – This pilot project, supported by the United State Agency for International Development’s Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (USAID-SACE), innovated a process that merged the use of trans-media tools with a participatory action research (PAR) to build slumdweller’s capacity to challenge and shift hegemonic narratives about the spaces they inhabit and slum dwellers. This shift became necessary to end their exclusion from urban planning, often leading to their forced displacement, as commonly witnessed in Lagos State.

The pilot project was implemented in two Lagos communities: Badia and Ebute-Metta. The PAR involved a five-part process: slum communities’ membership of the project steering committee, periodic legal outreaches, a 5-day training on digital story-telling and the production of digital stories.

15 youth from the two communities participated in the 5-day training on digital story-telling where they acquired skills in media production, leadership and film-making. Trainees produced 15 digital stories contributing insights and stories about the challenges slumdweller’s face in the city of Lagos. The stories developed touched on themes as broad as police inaction and brutality, inter-communal and cult violence, the experience of being evicted multiple times, and the impact of inadequate public services. These stories informed the development of a draft eviction guideline espousing how to conduct mass evictions less painfully while mitigating the oft deleterious impacts on vulnerable groups, especially women and children.



Leveraging digital media to shift negative narratives about slums

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Day 2

- Story Guide
- Story Start and Build-Down
- Final story script
- Compositing
- Final Review
- Rehearsal & Narration Practice



S4C Drafts Eviction Guidelines for Lagos State

SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C has taken the lead in drafting Eviction Guidelines for Lagos State. The draft proposes an official prohibition of mass eviction or demolitions without court orders; proffers a new definition for land occupiers; establishes the procedure for eviction of occupiers, and elucidates the role of security operatives during demolitions, among other provisions.

S4C has submitted the Guidelines to the Lagos State Ministries of Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Local Government and Community Affairs, Justice, Office of Civic Engagement, among others.

Stakeholders engaged during the framing of the provisions of the draft Guidelines include the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN), the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, Real Estate Development Association of Nigeria, National Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, members of the academia, Land developers, the Communities' Alliance against Displacements (CAD).

On the invitation of the Lagos State Government, S4C presented the draft Guidelines at the state's monthly Interactive Session of Stakeholders & Community Development Practitioners in Lagos State held in November 2017. Stakeholders welcomed the draft Guidelines as a veritable tool capable of enhancing inclusion in urban planning processes. The Office of Civic Engagement has forwarded the Guidelines to the Lagos State Law Reform Commission for consideration and necessary action.



Draft Eviction Guidelines for Lagos State

Communities' Alliance against Displacements | CAD

Launched in March 2017, the Communities Alliance Against Displacement (CAD) offers the often marginalized informal communities in Lagos a space for proper organization and profiling of their peculiar housing and urban challenges. CAD empowers these communities with the voice, visibility and resources needed to develop a common agenda for tackling forced displacement. One way they achieve this goal is by galvanising communities and effectively representing their common interests at strategic meetings with urban policymakers, corporate actors and other stakeholders. See blog at <https://displacedcommallianceng.wordpress.com/>.

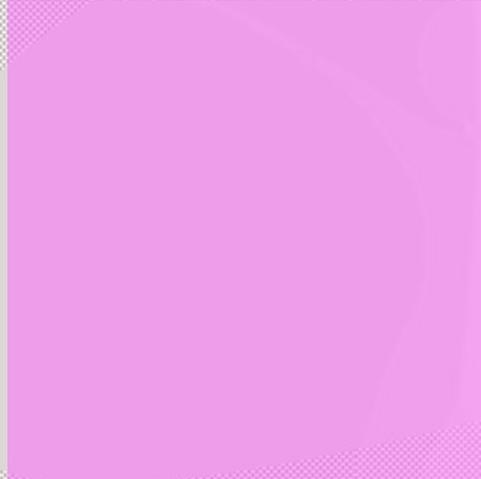
With an estimated population of 21 million people, which is still increasing by 85 persons per hour, Lagos is beset with numerous urban planning and infrastructural challenges. Accompanying this record-high population growth in Lagos is an inflated demand for housing, water supply, sanitation, and other basic amenities. Entrenched inequalities in the distribution of land resources and urban infrastructure services continue to widen wealth disparities, constrain the supply of land and housing to the urban poor, leading to exponential increases in slum settlements across the state. Adopting forced displacement as a development control tool, state authorities have often used brute force to forcibly remove people living in the slums, occasioning homelessness, and systematic violations of fundamental internationally-recognized human rights.

New Urban Research Campaigns Launched in 2017

In November 2017, S4C launched another advanced legal research investigating the underlying factors, actors and motivations triggering the recurrent land disputes between popular chieftaincy families and the residents of several informal settlements dotting the Lagos landscape. The central aim of the research is to highlight how state-private actors exploit these disputes to demolish and take over large swathes of land where the poor live.

This research builds on a previous collaborative study which S4C conducted with the Bartlett Development Planning Unit of the University College London (UCL-DPU). That study sought to better understand how engagement between civil society groups and planners in Nigerian cities can protect the interests of the poor in the context of urban infrastructure development. The research identified and profiled case studies in which engagement between planners and urban residents affected by displacement appear to have had some measure of success in protecting the interests of more vulnerable groups of citizens. It went further to explore the governance arrangements and citizens' claims which gave rise to these successes.

Research: Gender-based Violence and the Family Law in Nigeria



Why are legislations prohibiting gender-based violence in Nigeria not effective? This was the focus of a 6-month-long research that **SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C** conducted for Women's Learning Partnership, USA. Formally presenting its findings at a workshop held in March 2017, S4C found the following:

- Differentials between the legal protections and rules governing customary and statutory marriages
- Women are not often the intended beneficiaries of the laws prohibiting gender-based violence.
- Limited knowledge about the legislations prohibiting violence.
- High standard of proof needed to establish guilt: Nigeria only managed to secure 18 rape convictions since 1960
- Alternative violence prevention techniques are absent.

Commemorating International Day of the Woman

In commemoration of the 8th International Day of the Woman, S4C joined other civil society organisations working to advance women's rights and gender equality at a peaceful rally in Lagos. During the rally, the gender justice advocates walked from Allen Roundabout to the Lagos State House of Assembly where they demanded the Lagos State authorities to uphold '35% women representation at all levels of government'.



SECURITY & CONFLICT

Examining the Adequacy of Oversight Regimes in the Non-profit Sector

In May 2017, S4C released its research report, 'Beyond FATF: Trends, Risks and Restrictive Regulation of Non-Profit Organisations in Nigeria.' The research examined the (in)adequacy of Nigeria's legal framework for combating anti-money laundering (AML) and countering financing of terrorism (CFT), in order to determine whether a proper evidential link exists between the enforcement of FATF standards and the broadening state endeavors to close the spaces for civil society and non-profit operations in the country. The research culminated in the development of a database of closing spaces in Nigeria, presenting the evidence of restrictions on citizens and civil society operations, perpetrated under the guise of 'national interest', 'national security' and 'other AML & CFT considerations. See database at <https://closingspaces.org/>.

Nigeria's NGO Bill is one of the legislative proposals containing a lot of restrictive provisions that could potentially shrink the spaces for civil society and non-profit activities in Nigeria. The House of Representatives Committee on Civil Society Organizations and International Development Partners conducted a public hearing on the NGO Bill in December 2017. S4C was among the organizations that presented a public memorandum at the parliamentary hearing.

At the special retreat for members of the Nigerian House of Representatives' Committee on Civil Society and Development Partners considering the Non-governmental Organizations Regulatory Bill, SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C delivered an expert legal analysis of the draft statute, highlighting the intersections with existing legislations and the implications for civil society and charitable operations in Nigeria.

SPACES FOR CHANGE contended that the bill is a needless addition to the regulatory frameworks applicable to non-profits for a number of reasons. First, it contains onerous provisions that undermine civic space freedoms. Secondly, it duplicates the law and functions of existing agencies. What is needed, instead, is the strengthening of existing regulatory measures and institutions, including building the capacity of NGOs to self-regulate; to internally develop and adhere to strong codes of corporate governance.

Speakers at S4C's Report Launch on May 29, 2017

Research Report Presentation and Public Dialogue

on

CLOSING SPACES AND DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

Guest Speakers



Ikeazor Akaraiwe



Zeal Akaraiwe



Mina Ogbanga



Oluseyi Babatunde Oyebisi



Victoria
Ibezim-Ohaeri



Tunji Lardner



Peter Ezele



Timothy Melaye



Simon Kola Kolawole



Oluseun Onigbinde



Ayo Obe

Date: May 29, 2017. | Time: 9am.

Venue: GrandBee Suites | 31A Joel Ogunaike Street, GRA, Ikeja | Lagos



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OSIWA
Open Society Institute
of West Africa

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)



NGO Bill: Confronting Restrictive Legislation in Nigeria

On December 5, 2017, S4C submitted a memorandum to the House of Representatives' Committee considering the NGO Regulatory Bill. The memorandum outlines five reasons why the bill should not be passed:

1. The Bill's requirement for compulsory registration for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and other national laws.. The Constitution guarantees the right to assembly and association.
2. The Bill reproduces rules already covered by existing legislation. It duplicates the functions of existing agencies. For instance, the Corporate Affairs Commission registers NGOs. The bill is also proposing the establishment of a new body to register NGOs. On the issue of terrorism financing and money-laundering e.g. the Terrorism Prevention Act (as amended 2013), the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2011, the Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUML) and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) already make arrangement for combatting these crimes. The Bill reproduces some of those arrangements.
3. The Bill retrogresses government's effort to improve ease of doing business in Nigeria. The requirement to re-register NGOs every two years will make doing business more difficult.
4. The Bill tilts towards over-regulation of the non-profit sector. Its' provisions are vaguely worded using phrases such as 'national security and national interest'. From that vagueness springs legal uncertainty and discretionary powers which could be exercised without accountability.
5. The Bill holds enormous potential to undermine the independence of NGOs. Many NGOs work on human rights advocacy and government accountability etc. This bill shrinks civic spaces as government officials gain access to interfere with NGO operations.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING/CALL FOR MEMORANDA

The House of Representatives Committee on Civil Society Organisations and Development Partners hereby invites Stakeholders, IDPs, CSOs, NGOs, Interest Groups and the General Public to a 2-Day Public Hearing on the Following Bills:

1. A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY ACT, CAP N130, LFN, 2004 TO CLARIFY THE OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY AND INCREASE SOME PENALTIES, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB 1135)
2. A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE SUPERVISION, CO-ORDINATION AND MONITORING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION ETC. IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB 585)

The Public Hearing is scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December, 2017
Time: 10:00 am daily
Venue: Conference Hall 236, New Building, House of Representatives, National Assembly, Abuja.

All memoranda to be Submitted in 10 copies and a soft copy to the Clerk: House Committee on CSOs and Development Partners, HG 39, Opposite Deputy Speaker's Office, Zero Floor, White House, National Assembly Complex, or send an email to: housepublichearing2017@gmail.com on or before close of Work on Friday, 8th December 2017.

CHIEF HOST
RT. HON. YAKUBU DOGARA
Speaker, House of Representatives

HOST
HON. PETER AKPATASON
Committee Chairman

Free Legal Representation and Advisory Services

In 2017, S4C provided free legal representation and advisory support to individuals, groups and communities on a variety of matters ranging from:

- Demolitions and mass evictions
- Land disputes
- child custody disputes
- police brutality
- tenancy disputes
- illegal arrests and detention
- extortion,
- illegal dismissal of employees
- vicarious liability of employers for employee accidents, among others.

Several cases were walk-in clients while a few were referrals from community-based organisations. Some cases were brought by phone-in callers who listened to one of S4C's radio interview on 98.9 Kiss FM , Lagos.



Pushing for change through media advocacy

Influenced by our sustained advocacy for housing justice for the urban poor, national media coverage for issues relating to evictions and demolitions has increased. This has ensured that the *issues around human rights and social justice* are placed on the *front burner* of national and international consciousness.

In September 2017, S4C's legal team discussed ***Demolitions, Displacements and the Rights Within***, on 'The Podium' radio program, aired live on KISS FM 98.9, Lagos. The discussion comes at a time when flooding had ravaged many parts of the city of Lagos, and the Lagos state authorities had in response, announced plans to demolish several properties that were allegedly built on drainage channels. A number of our policy statements and publications were also published in online and print publications read by thousands of Nigerians. S4C maintains strong media ties with radio and television Stations like TV Continental (Radio Continental), Channels TV, Silverbird TV, Sahara TV, Kiss FM etc. Below are links to some videos amongst featuring S4C's views on Energy and Climate Change as well as Housing & Urban Justice. <http://www.spacesforchange.org/videos-3/>.

The organization continues to witness a rise in the number of government policy departments, media organizations, local and international civil society and research institutions seeking our views, opinions and collaboration around these thematic issues.

S4C granted interviews on SAHARA TV, Radio Continental, Kiss FM, Rhythm FM, among others to educate the public on the NGO bill provisions and the inherent restrictions. In a fierce debate on [#Kubanjidirect](#), Nigeria's popular talk-show aired live on Radio Continental 102.3FM in October 2016, Lagos, S4C urged Nigerian authorities to strengthen the investigative, prosecutorial and adjudicative capacities of existing regulatory bodies that exercise oversight over corporate entities.

Discussing the NGO Regulatory Bill on the Sunrise Morning Show on CHANNELS TV, S4C urged the Nigerian government to enforce existing laws regulating corporate entities, and not create duplicates. The discussion between S4C's Ms. Victoria Ohaeri, House of Representatives' Hon. Babajimi Benson and Kayode Ajulo Esq., comes days after the public hearing on the draft statute. [WATCH THE INTERVIEW HERE](#).

In this interview on SAHARA TV, SPACES FOR CHANGE described the NGO Bill as an attempt to shrink the civic space in Nigeria. The organization also argues that the proliferation of laws does not necessarily translate to effective regulation of the non-governmental sector. [WATCH THE INTERVIEW HERE](#).



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Empowering Youth through Skills Development

S4C engaged the services of 10 youth from the informal communities to serve as field administrators during the gender and energy survey conducted in Lagos and Imo States. The administrators received training on the methodologies for interviewing respondents, questionnaire administration and field reporting. As a result, their communication skills improved and they earned some income.



Through this activity, the field administrators learnt how to administer lengthy questionnaires, elicit useful responses, apply the tools and techniques of research delivery. Some of the trained administrators from Lagos were recruited to train other youth from rural communities during the Imo survey.

Another 15 youth from Badia and Ebute-Metta communities in Lagos State acquired media production and digital storytelling skills. They can now use digital media tools to make videos, shares stories that challenge popular narratives that label them as *criminals*, *hoodlums*, *miscreants*. Equipped with these new skills, some of these youth are now media entrepreneurs, covering events, documenting stories and contributing to the community blog: <https://displacedcommallienceng.wordpress.com/>.

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

KEY PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

We appreciate the support and cooperation of our esteemed research partners and donors whose invaluable cooperation and contributions have helped us succeed over the years . In 2017, our donors increased and now include the following:

- ✦ Barlett Department of Planning Unit, University College London
- ✦ Energia (International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy)
- ✦ European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL)
- ✦ Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR)
- ✦ Global Subsidies Initiative
- ✦ Heinrich Boll Stiftung Foundation (Nigeria)
- ✦ International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- ✦ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Community Innovators Lab
- ✦ Open Society Foundation/Human Rights Initiative
- ✦ Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSWA)
- ✦ United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Global Energy Team, Istanbul Regional Hub
- ✦ Women's Learning Partnership (WLP), USA
- ✦ Facility for Oil Sector Transformation in Nigeria
- ✦ French Embassy in Nigeria
- ✦ Ford Foundation

Presenting our research to a global audience

The findings of S4C's research studies have been shared at local and international forums, particularly those focusing on understanding the strategies for preventing or responding to the crackdown on civil society. S4C presented its recent research findings on closing spaces in Nigeria at the Global Solutions Exchange's (GSX') high-level panel at the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly meeting that was held in New York between September 16-22, 2017.

In October 2017, S4C joined a selection of human rights activists from across the globe working on the issue of reclaiming civic space at the just-concluded Writers' Retreat in Sao Paulo, Brazil. At the retreat, writers shared experiences and peer-reviewed scholarly articles that will feature in the 26th edition of the Sur International Journal on Human Rights, published by Conectas.

Catholic Church's Justice Development & Peace Commission (JDPC) convened a seminar on October 29, 2017, to understand how Nigeria's anti-money laundering (AML) and countering financing of terrorism (CFT) regimes may impact on the activities of religious groups. In the panel discussion, S4C analysed how AML and CFT regimes impact on designated non-financial institutions (DNFIs) and church operations in Nigeria.

S4C's work has been published on global platforms such as the Open Global Rights and SUR international journals. S4C has also been enlisted in the Core Group of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, set up to ensure that civil society is effectively engaged in the debate on anti-money-laundering and combatting terrorism financing. Global NPO Coalition serves as the coordinating body for nonprofit organizations around the world to engage with FATF on issues of joint concern to them. S4C is the only Nigerian organization enlisted in the Core Group of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF.

Another research collaboration between SPACES FOR CHANGE and the Bartlett Planning Unit of the University College London examined the extent city planning authorities in Nigeria respect and enforce the set of substantive rights and freedoms embodied in urban policies and legal instruments that govern displacement linked to infrastructure development.

The organization's research papers were [presented at Nigeria's federal legislature](#), as well as national and international forums where urban and energy policy standards are conceptualized and monitored for implementation. Specifically, the organization's staff presented papers [at an international seminar on urban displacement organized by the Norwegian Council for Africa in Oslo, Norway](#) in January 2017; [FATF consultative meeting with the Global NPO Coalition on FATF in Vienna, Austria held in March 2017](#); [Germany's Marshall Plan with Africa Forum held in May 2017](#); the November 2016 [international conference on LAND GOVERNANCE](#) organized by the African Natural Resources Centre (ANRC) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Kenya, among several others.





We grew in 2017! Here are some of the ways in which we grew in 2017:

- ❏ SPACESFORCHANGE (S4C) received an award from the Funds for Global Human Rights (FGHR) in recognition of dedication and accomplishments in defending human rights in Nigeria.
- ❏ Recruitment of Okezie Njoku, Omolara Obajuluwa, and Anita Akpunonu in 2017 strengthened work in the IT and media, litigation, accounts and administration departments respectively. S4C 2017 internship program attracted new interns- Chimee Adioha and Amaka Obioji.
- ❏ Temitope Adeyinka, Mrs. Chioma Uguru, Mr. Fisayo Soyombo and Mrs. Nse Umoh supported our research consultants.
- ❏ With support from USAID-SACE, S4C setup a fully equipped studio for production of videos, audio records, photographs.
- ❏ Staff strength increased from 6 to 12 . You can visit S4C's Instagram account on @spaces4change.

OFFICE EXPANSION, STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

SPACES FOR CHANGE is excited to announce the opening of its new branch at Owerri, Imo State capital. The branch office, located at the 1st Floor, [49 MCC/Uratta Road](#), Owerri, Imo State, will enable the organization extend the reach of its human rights advocacy and empowerment programs to underserved communities and regions of Nigeria.

As a result of our vigorous campaign against mass displacement, new actors, voices and leaders have emerged from among the displaced communities under the banner of the Communities Alliance Against Displacement (CAD). With membership now spanning 18 different communities affected by mass evictions or threatened with evictions in the future, members of CAD attend monthly meetings to share urban governance challenges that they face within their communities, and suggest practical ideas for resolving them.

In June and July 2017, CAD meetings provided civic education to its members, promoting active participation in the electoral processes especially in the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC)-organized elections into the office(s) of Chairmen and Councilors in the 20 Local Governments (LG) and 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDA) in Lagos State.



The S4C Team



Typical morning @ Spaces for Change



Best Wishes This Season!



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