

WHO WE ARE



Established in May 2011, SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C is a non-profit organization working to increase the participation of Nigerian youth, women and communities in the development of social and economic policies, and also help public authorities and corporate entities to put a human rights approach at the heart of their decision-making.

S4C 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.

FOREWARD



Spaces for Change | S4C started the 2019 operational year with a strategic planning session where Board and staff members came together to reflect, review and sharpen the organizational vision, mission and core programs for improved effectiveness. The strategic plan co-developed at the session set clear targets, performance indicators and a course of action to guide our four thematic programs: Energy and Environmental Justice, Housing and Urban Governance, Women and Youth Inclusion and Defending the Civic Space.

Since its inception in March 2012, S4C created a dream that demanded strength, dedication and purpose. The strategic planning session afforded a space for collective introspection and reinvigoration of that dream. With the deepest joy and excitement, we are very proud of the many tasks accomplished during the year, particularly the research studies, policy advocacy, community engagements, stakeholder alliances, public interest litigation and social campaigns carried out within and across borders. Our greatest achievement is the growing number of passive citizens, especially the youth, women and marginalized populations, who have suddenly found their voice, and now recognize that they are active participants in decision-making. These achievements represent both a glimpse of that founding dream, and a peep into the future of the organization.

We couldn't have come this far without the unalloyed support and cooperation of our Board of Trustees, our dedicated staff, volunteers, interns, mentors, fans and the members of several communities in which we work in, across the country. However, we can never consider what we have achieved to be sufficient, because we must, and are determined to accomplish even more greater tasks that lie ahead.

Gracias!

Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri
Executive Director

• Defending the Civic Space



SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C's 2019 research report, **Unpacking the Official Construction of Risks and Vulnerabilities for the Third Sector in Nigeria**, analysed the Nigeria's national risk assessment which identified Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Institutions (DNFIs), of which non-profit organizations (NPOs) are a subset, as being amongst those sectors most vulnerable to money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF). The study challenged the official classification of NPOs as DNFIs, disputing the evidential basis for the identification and classification of ML/FT risks, threats and vulnerabilities in the non-profit sector.

• Housing & Urban Governance

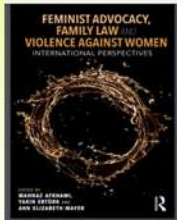


Following advocacy during the high-level panel, *'Integrating Community Rights, Priorities, and Expectations into the Lagos Resilience Agenda'*, which S4C organized at the Resilient Lagos Week in April 2019, the Lagos State Water Corporation requested **the nomination of two informal communities that could be considered for immediate connection to the state's pipe-borne water network**. Two waterfront communities—Ago-Egun and Igbo-Alejo—were selected for the project having satisfied the project's criteria. Critical talks between the Lagos State Water Corporation and the selected communities are underway regarding project design and implementation.

• Energy & Environmental Justice



Globally, governments spend around USD 600 billion every year subsidising fossil fuels to consumers. Despite heavy spending on fossil fuel subsidies, access to energy remains low, especially among the poor and low-incomes most of which are women. Often, subsidies are poorly targeted, benefiting the richer populations through cheaper petrol and diesel transport fuels, rather than being aimed at the energy needs of the poor. In 2019, S4C concluded its multi-year collaborative research with IISD which focused on the **impacts of fossil-fuel subsidy reform on poor women in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Nigeria**.



• Women & Youth Inclusion

SPACES FOR CHANGE is one of the contributing authors to the global study, *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.

Institutional Strengthening Initiatives

After a refreshing three-week Christmas break, SPACES FOR CHANGE's | S4C's Board and staff members kicked off the new year with a strategic planning session held on January 7-8, 2019 in Lagos.



The strategy session offered an occasion to reflect on the following questions: *Has the organization delivered on its mandate? Have staff members sufficiently challenged themselves to execute projects that would yield high impact?* The moments of self-introspection had both Board and staff members pondering the answers to these questions, looking back from 2012 up to 2018, outlining the high- and low-points of the organizational journey since inception. After two days of thinking and planning together, the result was a strategic work plan that would inform program priorities, future decisions and guide resource allocation in 2019 and beyond.



Defending the Civic Space

RESEARCH REPORT: Unpacking the Official Construction of Risks and Vulnerabilities for the Third Sector in Nigeria

In March 2019, SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C released the report, *Unpacking the Official Construction of Risks and Vulnerabilities for the Third Sector in Nigeria*. The report independently analysed the findings of the 2016 national risk assessment (Nigeria NRA) on money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) risks in Nigeria. The Nigerian government, through the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), had in 2016, conducted the NRA to identify, assess, and understand the money laundering and terrorist financing risks for the country's financial systems, including the non-profit sector, and take proportionate measures to counter any threats identified. Among other things, the Nigeria NRA identified Designated Non-Financial Institutions (DNFIs),

of which non-profit organizations (NPOs) are a subset, as one of those sectors most vulnerable to ML and TF risks.

Despite not being subset of DNFIs in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards, Nigerian regulations designate NPOs as a subset of DNFIs. S4C's report interrogated the applicability of the stringent security measures for DNFIs espoused in anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) legal regimes to the non-profit sector in light of the FATF's revised Recommendation 8 (R8) and FATF's Best Practices Paper, paragraph 35 in particular. It also challenged the official classification of NPOs as DNFIs, disputing the evidential basis for the identification and classification of ML/FT risks, threats and vulnerabilities in the non-profit sector.





S4C's report generated robust debates and constructive engagement between AML/CFT stakeholders, including federal regulators, philanthropic bodies and NPOs in Nigeria. Private meetings, focused group discussions and a multi-stakeholder meeting held in Abuja on June 20, 2019 are examples of the logical follow-up steps initiated by various stakeholders towards discussing and addressing the key issues raised in the report. In particular, Spaces for Change | S4C and the Special Control Unit against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (SCUML) co-hosted a workshop dubbed **Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risks in the Non-Profit Sector**, with support from Open Society Foundations and Fund for Global Human Rights, on June 20, 2019. The workshop brought together 62 participants and speakers drawn from multiple sectors: the civil society, donor agencies, federal ministries and intergovernmental bodies charged with the responsibility for combating economic and financial crimes in Nigeria and West Africa such as the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Federal Ministry of Justice, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nigeria Financial Reporting Council, Federal Ministry of Economic Planning and the Intergovernmental Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA).

Pushing for More Effective Implementation of Recommendation 8



Experts on anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) from different parts of the world converged in Vienna, Austria, between May 5th – 9th, 2019 at the 2nd AML/CTF Experts Hub meeting to exchange reflections on the implementation of Financial Action Task Force's (FATF's) Recommendation 8 (R8) at the national level. The AML/CTF Expert's Hub meeting coincided with the FATF's annual Private Sector Consultative Forum (PSCF) MEETING, hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), attended by over 300 private sector representatives, including from the financial sector, civil society, and FATF members and observers. Hub members, including SPACES FOR CHANGE, contributed in a session on Risk Assessment Guidance that the FATF is developing for non-profit organizations (NPOs). SPACES FOR CHANGE is both a member of the Experts Hub on AML & CFT, and the NPO Coalition on FATF.

Hub experts shared experiences of sectoral responses, legal counter-arguments and advocacy strategies that have worked in different jurisdictions, highlighting the opportunities for informed engagement in the FATF-related law-making process. Dedicated sessions and presentations took a deeper look at national risk assessments, the processes involved and disparate country experiences.

At the Private Sector Consultative Forum (PSCF) held on May 7, 2019, hub members engaged directly with the FATF delegations, particularly contributing to the session seeking NPO input into the ongoing work to develop Guidance for countries on assessing terrorist financing risk. The unique FATF risk requirements relevant to those NPOs that fall under FATF's functional definition informed the decision to have a separate chapter on NPOs in the FT Risk Assessment Guidance. The consultation elicited feedback from civil society experts on common challenges and good practices in assessing TF risk within the NPO sector. The second Experts' Hub meeting was organized by the International Center for Non-profit Law and the Human Security Collective (HSC).

Participating in Nigeria's 2nd Round Mutual Evaluation Workshop

S4C joined a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the financial and non-financial sectors of the Nigerian economy at the 2nd Round Mutual Evaluation assessment workshop organized by the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) on July 9 – 11, 2019, in Abuja, Nigeria. Convened as part of the final preparation for the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF's) Mutual Evaluation exercise and onsite visit scheduled for September to October 2019, the workshop afforded an opportunity for stakeholders to collectively review Nigeria's draft submissions to the external assessors and reconcile factual gaps.

FATF's styled regional body, the Intergovernmental Group Against Money Laundering (GIABA) had scheduled to conduct the second round of evaluation of Nigeria's mechanisms

and systems for anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). The second day of the workshop featured breakout sessions which enabled stakeholders from diverse sectors of the economy to collectively brainstorm and address sector-specific AML/CFT concerns. SPACES FOR CHANGE participated in the syndicate group for non-profit organizations and non-government organizations (NPOs/NGOs.) At this session facilitated by the Special Control Unit on Money Laundering (SCUML), Ministry of Budget and National Planning and the Financial Reporting Council, S4C led the discussions around Nigeria's compliance with FATF's Recommendation 8 and Immediate Outcome 10. Together, stakeholders in the group deliberated on the array of questions and the draft submissions regarding the extent Nigeria's legislative measures, preventive measures, institutional measures and measures relating to how international cooperation is applied using the risk-based approach to ensure proportionate mitigation of identified risks.

Nigerian CSOs Meet FATF/GIABA Assessors

SPACES FOR CHANGE led a delegation of civil society organizations (CSOs) under the banner of the Action Group on Free Civic Space to meet with external assessors during the second round of Nigeria's Mutual Evaluation (ME) and onsite visit by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Intergovernmental Action Group Against Money Laundering (GIABA). The non-profit sector is among the sub-sectors of the Nigerian economy subjected to the scrutiny of the external assessors led by GIABA's Gina Wood and Michael Lieberman from the United States Department of Treasury. At the meeting, FATF/GIABA assessors evaluated the effectiveness of the measures put in place to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism in the financial and non-financial sectors of the Nigerian economy.

Top on the list of issues discussed include the AML/CFT regulatory oversight for the NPO sector in Nigeria, the financial reporting obligations to different regulatory entities, the low reporting of suspicious transactions by NPOs, extant internal control measures in place to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing within the non-profit sector, the concerning aspects of the NRA results regarding the non-profit sector, the thorny question of a dedicated regulator for the non-profit sector, politically exposed persons (PEPs) and the non-profit sector in Nigeria and so forth. The Action Group on Free Civic Space has continued to engage with GIABA assessors beyond the Mutual Evaluation visit.

Three interesting outcomes emerged from SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C's strategic research advocacy around

the FATF's Mutual Evaluation process. First off, the research findings, especially the March 2019 report, laid the foundation for massive awareness-creation and sensitization of civil society and non-profit organizations on the AML/CFT drivers of governmental restrictions. Numerous capacity-development initiatives that SPACES FOR CHANGE implemented across states revealed that activists and civil society organizations were either unaware, or had limited knowledge of FATF's and GIABA's regulatory activities around the globe and in the West African sub-region in particular.

That has changed now. Secondly, the research findings attracted government attention, expanding the space for sustained dialogue and engagement



between NGOs and Nigeria's AML/CFT regulators. And thirdly, and most importantly, the combination of the first two outcomes above paved the way for Nigerian non-profits to develop a sectoral response and participate actively in FATF's/GIABA's Mutual Evaluation processes for the first time. Previous country assessments were undertaken with minimal or no NPO sector participation at all.



Since 2015, S4C has been curating incidents of closing civic space in Nigeria on the digital database:

www.closingspaces.org.

The crackdowns tracked on the database accumulates knowledge on the underlying trends, tactics, drivers and flash-points of shrinking civil society space in Nigeria and the West Africa sub-region. Through a systematic chronicle of incidents illustrating how various actors, actions and practices operate to limit civic space, the database provides human rights defenders with the levers to push back work more effectively to defend the common spaces available for civic engagement, debate and action.

In 2019, S4C extended the scope of its tracking to incidents of repressive governmental actions that narrow the space for the civil society in other parts of West Africa.

THE CLOSING SPACES DATABASE: From Nigeria to West Africa

The website now documents and reports the restrictions of civic space in the whole of West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Expanding the scope of the database was borne out of the need to map and compare human rights trends in the sub-region and use the statistics as a thermometer for checking the democratic temperature in the countries that have ratified a host of international and regional human rights treaties. By tracking and reporting the continental drivers of restrictions on civic space, SPACES FOR CHANGE aims to provide civil society organizations, journalists and activists with the levers to push back on the surging restrictions. What the database has done is to enhance their access to reliable evidence that they can use to hold up a mirror to the government and demand accountability.

Lagos Civil Society Organizations Say NO to NGO Bill



Twenty-five civil society actors converged at a CSO Stakeholders' Forum SPACES FOR CHANGE organized in Lagos on October 3, 2019 to discuss strategies for confronting the resurgence of restrictive legislative proposals designed to shrink the civic space and crush civil liberties in Nigeria. The meeting came on the heels of official plans to re-introduce the rested Non-Governmental Organizations Regulatory

Bill (NGO Bill) at a time activists and social campaign organizations are facing a growing onslaught of arrests, detentions, prosecutions and massive crackdowns on their activities. The meeting also afforded them an opportunity to understand and discuss plans for engaging external assessors from the Financial Action Taskforce and ECOWAS Intergovernmental Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) during the second round of Nigeria's Mutual Evaluation scheduled for September to October 2019.

Participants reviewed the numerous legislative proposals containing restrictive provisions that have been introduced in the Nigerian parliament, including subsisting enactments that have the potential to threaten the civic space. The Nigerian civil society movement successfully blocked most of these legislations, particularly the Frivolous Petitions (Prohibition) Bill, popularly known as the Anti-Social Media Bill in May 2016 and the *Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Non-Governmental Organizations Regulatory Commission*—also known as the NGO Bill. Overly broad and vaguely-worded provisions of the NGO Bill aimed to empower state bodies to refuse, accept, renew every two years or revoke the registration of NGOs, and close down their operations,

in accordance with national interest considerations. As with the preceding legislative proposals, the civil society blocked efforts to get the NGO Bill passed in 2017.

Unanimously, participants rejected the NGO Bill and considered past strategies that could be replicated to halt its passage. They concurred that there is no need for any other dedicated regulatory body for NGOs. What is needed instead is to strengthen the capacity of existing regulatory agencies like the Special Control Unit on Money Laundering (SCUML), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Ministry of Budget and Planning, etc to be more efficient in the discharge of their functions.

Defending the Civil Society's Right to Receive Funding in Sierra Leone

Consistent with the organization's mandate to extend technical cooperation and solidarity to civil society actors within and beyond borders experiencing shrinking civic space, S4C's Legal officer, Ms. Sola Olutayo participated in a series of strategy development meetings in Sierra Leone between October 27 – November 1, 2019, organized by the Society for Democratic Initiatives and World Movement for Democracy. The Government of Sierra Leone introduced an NGO Policy in the country's Development Cooperation Framework (DCF) in December 2018, which aims to hinder the ability of civil society, including non-government organisations in Sierra Leone, to seek and receive funding to implement programs that serve their communities and enable their sustainability. Sierra Leone's DCF adds to the growing list of restrictive legislations

introduced by the Sierra Leonean government to stifle dissent, curb opposition to official policies and programs and shrink the civic space.

Drawing from the lessons learned from engaging Nigerian regulators and galvanizing civil society stakeholders to push back on restrictive regulatory proposals, S4C's legal officer participated in week-long meetings with local civil society actors where they reviewed international and regional regulations protecting the right of the civil society to receive funding. They also analysed provisions of the DCF, flagging sections of the law in need of urgent legal reform. Moving from extensive review and analysis of legal standards, they brainstormed and mapped out an advocacy strategy for initiating and coordinating advocacy in order to ensure the proposed legal reforms are adopted and implemented.



S4C's officer also attended a coordination meeting on improved engagement between civil society groups and governments organized by the African Union under the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) in collaboration with the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), Sierra Leone Chapter. The meeting

explored ways of building effective and collaborative working relationships between non-governmental organisations and government departments. They further discussed ways of bolstering constructive working relationships between the African Union and member states on one hand, and member states and civil society on the other hand.

Coalitions of Solidarity – what works, how and when?



S4C Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri was among the four experts that discussed, *Coalitions of Solidarity – what works, how and when* at the International Civic Forum organized by the International Civil Society Centre on 29 October 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Other panelists include Wolfgang Jamann, Executive Director, International Civil Society Centre (Moderator); Veronika Mora, Director, Ökotárs – Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation; Chris Derksen Hiebert, World Vision International and Kumlachew Dagne Chekol, Ethiopia Programming Consultant, Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa.

At the panel discussion, the experts shared their organizational experiences in implementing collaborative interventions, elucidating how advocacy coalitions were built, driven and sustained in response to threats to the civic space in their respective countries. The organization's experience in mobilizing a sectoral response and strategy for engaging external assessors from the Financial Action Task Force and its regional styled body, GIABA, during Nigeria's second round of Mutual Evaluation in September, 2019 was among the case studies documented and presented at the forum. Being on the panel afforded S4C an opportunity to share the experience of its FATF-focused civic space advocacy, under the banner of the **ACTION GROUP ON FREE CIVIC SPACE**, with a global audience.

Clement Nwankwo Annual Lecture Series on Civil Society



SPACES FOR CHANGE, with support from Open Society Foundations, is hosting the maiden edition of the Clement Nwankwo Annual Lecture on Civil Society (CNALCS). The annual lecture series has been named after Clement Nwankwo in recognition of his pioneering role in the 80s, together with other front-line activists and human rights defenders, in laying the foundation for the organized third sector in Nigeria. It not only represents an effort towards preserving the sector's iconic and cherished history, but also forms part of broader effort to mobilize actors to work together to defend the civic space.

The CNALCS' 6-man Planning Committee comprises pioneer civil society leaders who played critical roles 'at the very beginning' when the foundation for organized civil society was laid in the 80s and 90s. The Committee members, assisted by a team of secretaries, include Dr Sonny Onyegbula, Dr Otive Igbuzor, Hon. Abdul Oroh, Dr Mrs. Comfort Jiti-Ogunye, Mr. Gbenga Aruleba and Mrs. Esther Uzoma.

The lecture will be hosted once every year, drawing on the professional expertise, personal experiences and institutional memory of senior civil society leaders in the Planning Committee. It will also offer a safe space and platform where activists, campaigners, movements and stakeholders in the human rights community will converge to discuss issues of interest affecting civil society as a whole. By galvanizing actors to periodically engage in public discourse addressing issues that cut across sectors, we aim to spearhead the process for building, nurturing and entrenching innovation, capacity building, knowledge-transfer and alliance-building within the Nigerian civil society.

Special Report 2019

The Spread of Anti-NGO Measures in Africa: Freedoms Under Threat

News Mentions, Petitions and Press Releases

[Freedoms under Threat: The Spread of Anti-NGO Measures in Africa](#)

Freedom House, latest report, *Freedoms under Threat: The Spread of Anti-NGO Measures in Africa*, describes and analyzes the approaches that African governments are taking to impose restrictions that handicap NGO activity on the continent. Drawing from interviews with SPACES FOR CHANGE and numerous sources, the report detailed how African countries are adopting legislation or policies that seek to impose state control over civil society, particularly NGOs that work on human rights and governance issues.

Suspension of DAAR Operating License, Unfortunate, High-handed

In a press statement issued on June 7, 2019, and published on **Daily Independent, the Niche** and other media groups, SPACES FOR CHANGE joined other concerned Nigerians, public and private institutions, shocked by the high-handedness of the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC), to demand an immediate reversal of the suspension. NBC's suspension of the operating license of DAAR Communications PLC, owners of Raypower FM and



Spaces for Change Decries Clampdown on Activists

This news bulletin aired on SILVERBIRD TELEVISION (STV) captures moments at the press seminar SPACES FOR CHANGE organized on January 17, 2019, where it demanded an end to the shrinking civic space in Nigeria. **Watch the clip on STV.**





Housing and Urban Governance

Integrating Community Rights, Priorities and Expectations into the Lagos Resilience Agenda



Building a resilient mega-city is important. Public infrastructure matters. Beautifying Lagos is necessary. But in doing all of these, government must respect human rights and put the PEOPLE first. These statements formed the crust of the high-level panel, ***Integrating Community Rights, Priorities, and Expectations into the Lagos Resilience Agenda***, which SPACES FOR CHANGE, with support from Ford Foundation, organized on April 4, 2019 at the Resilient Lagos Week 2019 (RLW2019).

The Lagos State Resilience Office (LASRO) organized the week-long event in collaboration with a consortium of local and international partners including SPACES FOR CHANGE, Heinrich Boll Foundation, WaterAid International and MercyCorps. Among other things, LASRO was set up to transform and accelerate the city's focus on resilience to physical, social, environmental and economic shocks and stresses. The four panelists at S4C's special panel comprising community representatives, senior government officials and an international urban expert discussed the difficult resilience challenges facing low-income and informal communities, including vulnerable populations in Lagos where the frequency and magnitude of shocks and stresses are already acute and continue to rise. S4C's panel discussion proceeds upon the premise that the

Few months after participating in the high-level panel dubbed Integrating Community Rights, Priorities, and Expectations into the Lagos Resilience Agenda, which SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C organized at the Resilient Lagos Week (RLW) in April 2019, the Lagos State Water Corporation contacted the organization with a request to nominate two informal communities that could be considered for immediate connection to the state's pipe-borne water network. From brokering dialogues between state officials and informal communities to coordinating field visits to under-served communities in offshore islands, leaders and residents of the communities selected for the water project are brimming with excitement seeing how what started as a panel discussion is now metamorphosing into concrete benefits for local communities.

From a Panel Discussion to Real Water Projects in Lagos Under-served Communities

At the RLW panel, S4C had strongly advocated for the extension of basic amenities and services to Lagos' under-served communities in order to improve the access of the urban poor to basic infrastructure and services, especially safe drinking water and adequate housing. The nomination process kicked off with a meeting held on July 4, 2019, which brought together Lagos State Water Corporation officials with the women, youth and traditional representatives of 14 informal communities advancing their collective concerns under the umbrella of the Communities Alliance Against Displacement (CAD).

Two waterfront communities—Ago-Egun and Igbo-Alejo—were selected for the project having satisfied the project's stated qualifying criteria. Critical talks between the State Water Corporation and the selected communities are underway regarding project design and implementation. Coming on the heels of the Lagos State Water Corporation's (LWC's) proposal to expand the access of the urban poor to basic services through the immediate connection of selected informal communities to the state's pipe-borne water network, S4C carried out an initial rapid assessment of water and sanitation needs in the targeted communities using household survey, focus group discussions and other data collection techniques. Through a stratified random study which began in September 2019, S4C examined the availability, accessibility, affordability of potable water in Lagos informal communities, and also gauged the viability of the proposed water projects in terms of their financial costs, social and economic benefits, environmental impacts and identification of the end-users.





IS HOUSING A HUMAN RIGHT?

This one of the topics SPACES FOR CHANGE's | S4C's Solo Olutayo, (Litigation Officer) and Aizighode Obinyan (Program Officer, Housing and Urban Governance) discussed on the radio talkshow, The Podium, aired live on KISS FM 98.9 Lagos, between April to May, 2019. The radio series produced under the auspices of the organization's campaign for urban justice supported by the Ford Foundation, aims to promote and respect the right of every person to live indignity and promote the right of all people to have a secure, adequate and affordable place to live.

The 30-minutes radio session enlightened millions of listeners across Lagos and Ogun States on the provisions of the Constitution, national and state laws, including regional and international legal frameworks that define and protect housing, land and property rights in Nigeria. It also juxtaposed citizens' right to housing against government's obligation to provide housing to its teeming population. Listeners also learned how to assert, claim and enforce housing rights in national courts, tribunals and other mechanisms of legal accountability.



IWD2019: S4C's Step-By-Step to Gender Equality Workshop Excites Slum Women in Lagos

S4C and the Communities' Alliance against Displacement (CAD) convened a Community Women's Forum tagged Step-by-Step to Gender Equality which keyed into IWD2019's global theme, **"Think equal, build smart, innovate for change."** 60 women living in the informal and displaced communities including Itua-Agan, Igbo-Elejo, Oko-Baba, Otumara, Otto-Ilogbo, Apata-Oro, Badia-East, Mowo-Phase2, Isale-Akoka, Ebute-Ilaje, as well as other communities from Mainland, Apapa, Amuwo-Odofin, Eti-Osa, Badagry, Somolu, and Alimosho Local Governments, attended the event. Most of them have experienced recurrent demolition of their homes and business premises in their respective communities, or currently threatened with future evictions.

The workshop's presentations provided empowering information regarding women's equal access to micro finance; women's equal access to housing, public services and infrastructure; women's equal access to decision-making in the home; and women's equal access to urban and community development. Participants also learned that they can form housing cooperatives to surmount the hurdles associated with obtaining housing finance or mortgages. The women were particularly thrilled about the first presentation, **Access to Economic Opportunities and Housing Finance for Low-income Women'**, where Mr. Cletus Ogwuche, Head of Marketing at Chase Microfinance Bank Ltd., discussed the different types of loan products for those on low-income engaged in small-scale economic activities. S4C offered to give free legal services to assist with the small-loans process.

Improving Government's Response to Emergencies in Lagos Informal Communities.



On June 27, 2019, S4C and the Communities Alliance Against Displacement | CAD organised the community forum, **Improving Local Government's Response to Emergencies in Low-Income Communities in Lagos State**. The community forum came on the heels of a poll S4C conducted in CAD's 24 member-communities which showed that fire incidents topped the list of emergencies experienced in Lagos informal communities. One of the emergencies recorded in Lagos' downtown communities in 2019 include a fire incident which affected 3 buildings, displacing at least forty-one persons at Toluwani community. This incident and community complaints reveal critical gaps in local governance that need to be bridged by shifting planning and decision-making to municipal authorities.

The presentations delivered at the forum addressed critical issues concerning urban sprawl and provoked solution-focused dialogues between low-income community residents and Lagos state officials from various departments such as the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps, Lagos State Fire Service, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund, Lagos State Ministry of Environment and the Directorate of Citizens' Rights under the Lagos State Ministry of Justice. With over 70% of recorded fire incidents in Lagos—including the informal settlements—resulting from carelessness, particularly significant is the enlightening session by the Lagos State Fire Services, an agency established by law to combat fire emergencies, which elucidated on fire prevention and control measures, and other forms of rescue missions such as from wells, rivers, oceans or building collapse.

'Accessing the LSEFT: Opportunities for Youth Living in Low-Income Communities'

Mr. Oni Adewumi of the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), shed light on the youth development and economic empowerment initiatives established by the Lagos State Government to support the start-up and expansion of micro, small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs). Community forums such as this reinforces S4C's commitment towards developing active and enlightened citizens capable of influencing decision-making and social change in their communities.

S4C Presents Findings on Housing Sector Research to Imo State Government

SPACES FOR CHANGE presented its research report, ***Moving from Multibillion Naira Budgets to Improved Housing Delivery in Imo State***, to Imo State government officials at a capacity building workshop held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 in Owerri, Imo State. The study gauged Imo governments' commitment to the provision of shelter for citizens by comparing the budgetary allocation for housing development between 2010 to 2017 to the actual number of units added to the housing stock in the state during the referenced period. It extensively tracked and analyzed budgetary allocations for housing development in Imo State between Y2010 to Y2017 spanning two different administrations.

Forty-five (45) participants—comprising senior state government officials such as the Senior Special Assistants to Imo State Governor on information and legislative duties, General Manager of Imo State Housing Corporation, General Manager of Owerri Capital Development Authority, Imo Solicitor General, permanent secretaries, and directors of 6-line state ministries involved in housing and urban development in Imo State—attended the workshop. The report finds that legal and institutional reforms are needed to enable the state meet its positive obligation to provide housing to its teeming population, particularly the low-income and vulnerable citizens who are least able to access decent shelter. Another major finding detailed how white elephant projects often displace housing priorities. For instance, projects like hotels, roundabouts,



inter-denominational chapels, 'monumental projects', took a significant chunk of the state's capital expenditure grants underhousing budget even though most of them were never put to use. Presenting the research findings, S4C's Executive Director Victoria Ohaeri restated the organization's

commitment to provide Imo State government with an independent performance analysis of the housing sector which can form the baseline for initiating critical reforms in the state. Ford Foundation supported both the research and workshop.

Imo City Planners Gear Up for Improved Service Delivery

Since 2015, SPACES FOR CHANGE has maintained a strong presence in Imo communities in South East, Nigeria, affected by various extractive projects, urban renewal and market redevelopment interventions of the state government. The financing models used to execute these projects, particularly the public-private partnership (PPP), popularly embraced by state authorities for the provision of infrastructure in Nigeria have heightened tensions between state actors and private citizens. Between 2015 to 2019, tales of woes by affected traders who lost their shops, goods and means of livelihood at various markets demolished in the state dominated news headlines. Similarly, other NGOs and community-based organizations in the South-East and South-South regions continue to approach S4C for advocacy support, capacity-building and technical assistance in relation to a host of issues affecting the local environment and extractive activities in their localities.

Sixty-five participants participated in S4C's April 11, 2019 workshop aimed at building the capacity of urban policy makers and city planners to enhance the effectiveness of market redevelopment approaches in Imo State, through the adoption of best practices, coherent policies, rule of law and inclusive governance processes. Participants at the workshop comprised senior civil servants in Imo State such as permanent secretaries, directors and assistant directors from Imo State ministries of Informal Sector & Market Development, Trade and Investment, Housing, Works, Economic Planning and Budget, Land and Urban Planning, Office of the Surveyor General of Imo State, Public Utilities, and Owerri Capital Development Authority (OCDA). Others include executives of civil society organizations and major market associations in the State, Imo State branch chairmen of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Nigerian Institution of Surveyors and the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners.



Leading resource persons delivered papers that laid emphasis on creating an enabling policy environment for inclusive market development, making Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) work better, promoting entrepreneurship, sustaining creativity and gender equity in market renewal projects and entrenching human rights in economic development processes. Effective market development can only be possible

and work when there is conformity with the rule of law, due process and respect for human rights. The tensions resulting from the implementation of market redevelopment initiatives in different parts of the state call for very different organizational structures and new relationships between different state departments, social organizations and stakeholders that have a role in urban development.

Supporting Mgbidi Traders to Seek Justice for Market Demolitions

On July 6, 2019, S4C collaborated with the Honorable Dominic Ezerioha, Imo State House of Assembly Member representing Oru West local government to organize a community outreach at Eke Mgbidi market in Imo State. The community outreach aimed at securing justice for traders affected by the state's market upgrading initiatives had over 300 persons in attendance, including traders, artisans, and shop owners trading and doing business at Eke Mgbidi market in Imo State. Apart from constitutional rights protections, the traders learned about other local and international legal frameworks that provide legal guarantees for housing and property rights such as the Land Use Act of 1978, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (which came into force in 1986), as well as the Nigeria National Housing Policy, among others.

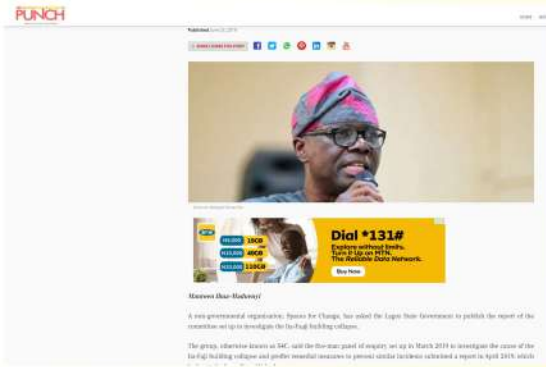


S4C hosted Ms. Leilani Farha, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, when she visited Nigeria in September 2019. Through the special mission to Nigeria, Ms. Leilani interacted with local stakeholders and communities in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities facing Nigeria with regard to its implementation of the right to housing” as well as “... learn more about programmes and policies put in place to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11.1, which commits governments to ensuring access to safe, affordable and housing and basic services for all by 2030.

At a community meeting held with over 80 displaced Badia residents in Lagos, representatives of the community organizations and community movements—like the Communities’ Alliance against Displacement (CAD)—participated in the private session with the Special Rapporteur. Meeting with Badia residents who continue to face recurrent forced evictions on the orders of state and non-state actors not only offered the Special Rapporteur an opportunity to learn more about the struggles of the urban poor for housing justice, but also created a space for constructive and frank dialogue around the numerous socio-political and economic factors constraining access to affordable and decent shelter in a mega-city like Lagos. .

Petitions and Press Statements on Housing Justice

Ita-Faaji: Group Asks LASG to Publish Committee Report



The five-man panel of enquiry set up in March 2019 to investigate the cause of the Ita-Faaji building collapse and proffer remedial measures to prevent similar incidents submitted a report in April 2019, which had yet to be formally published. Punch newspapers published S4C's call on the Lagos State Government to publish the report of the committee set up to investigate the Ita-Faaji building collapse.

Building Collapse: Don't Demolish Without Safeguards, S4C Urges Lagos State Government



S4C wrote to the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LABCA) and Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA), on March 15, 2019, demanding safeguards and social protections for those that may be affected by official measures to stem the tide of collapsed buildings in the state. In this article published in **Punch Newspaper, Business Day Newspaper** and a host of **private blogs**, S4C discussed the due process procedures the Lagos State Government is bound to follow when carrying out its building control and urban renewal interventions. She argues that the public's clamour for effective building regulation should not provide justification for the state to conduct mass demolitions and evictions in settlements predominantly inhabited by urban poor populations without recourse to statutory safeguards.

Housing Report: Imo Spends N42bn in Seven Years



This special news feature published in **Punch Newspaper** presents the findings of S4C's latest research report, **Moving from Multi-billion Naira Budgets to Improved Housing Delivery in Imo State**. Among other findings, the study revealed that over N42Billion Naira (\$115M) allocated for housing development had no correlation with increase in housing stocks as annual housing production had been inadequate to close the deficit in the state.

Human Rights: A Bread and Butter Issue?



S4C director's article was published as a Special Feature in the September 2019 issue of Alliance Magazine (the magazine for philanthropy and social investment worldwide). Through an agreement with UK-based **Alliance magazine**, PND has published the full article.

A Focus on Rising Poverty Rate in Nigeria

On CHANNELS TV flagship morning show, SUNRISE, S4C discussed the rising poverty rate in Nigeria, explaining why oil revenue receipts do not match the level of developmental progress across Nigerian states. The interview also afforded an opportunity to present the findings of the organization's research report, Moving from Multi-billion Naira Budgets to Improved Housing Delivery in Imo State.

Watch the video here.





Energy and Environmental Justice



Millions of dollars-worth of fossil fuel subsidies could be better targeted by governments to benefit poor women. That's according to recent research from the Global Subsidies Initiative of IISD, with ENERGIA and partners Spaces for Change, IRADe and Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies.

The research involved surveys with 2,400 households as well as focus group discussions in Bangladesh, India and Nigeria. An initial scoping phase included a review of 28 episodes of fossil-fuel subsidy reform, and research of secondary data in Indonesia.

Women Could Gain Far More with Better Targeting of Government Energy Subsidies, New Research Finds

Currently, governments globally spend the equivalent of USD 400 billion on subsidies. That's

around 10 times more than is needed to plug the universal education gap (USD 39 billion), around 7 times more than the global energy access gap (USD 56 billion) and more than enough to finance SDG health targets (USD 134-371 billion).

Overall, the research found fuel subsidies do not work well for poor women. A large share of subsidies accrues to wealthier segments of the population because those people have higher consumption levels and better access to energy. This effect is particularly strong for liquified petroleum gas (LPG), as the researchers found in India, but also for a 'poor people's fuel' like kerosene, as observed in Bangladesh and Nigeria.

Gender and Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform: Findings from Nigeria, Bangladesh and India

The International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy's (ENERGIA)'s latest research report featured SPACES FOR CHANGE's collaborative research on the impacts of fossil fuel subsidies on gender in Nigeria. Examining the impact of subsidies and subsidy reform from a gender perspective across three countries—Bangladesh, India and Nigeria—the global study was based on two overall research questions: *'How do existing kerosene and LPG subsidy policies affect the welfare, productivity and empowerment of women and girls in low-income households?'* and *'How might the welfare, productivity and empowerment of women and girls in low-income households change as a result of specific, nationally-relevant proposals for the reform of existing kerosene and LPG subsidies?'*

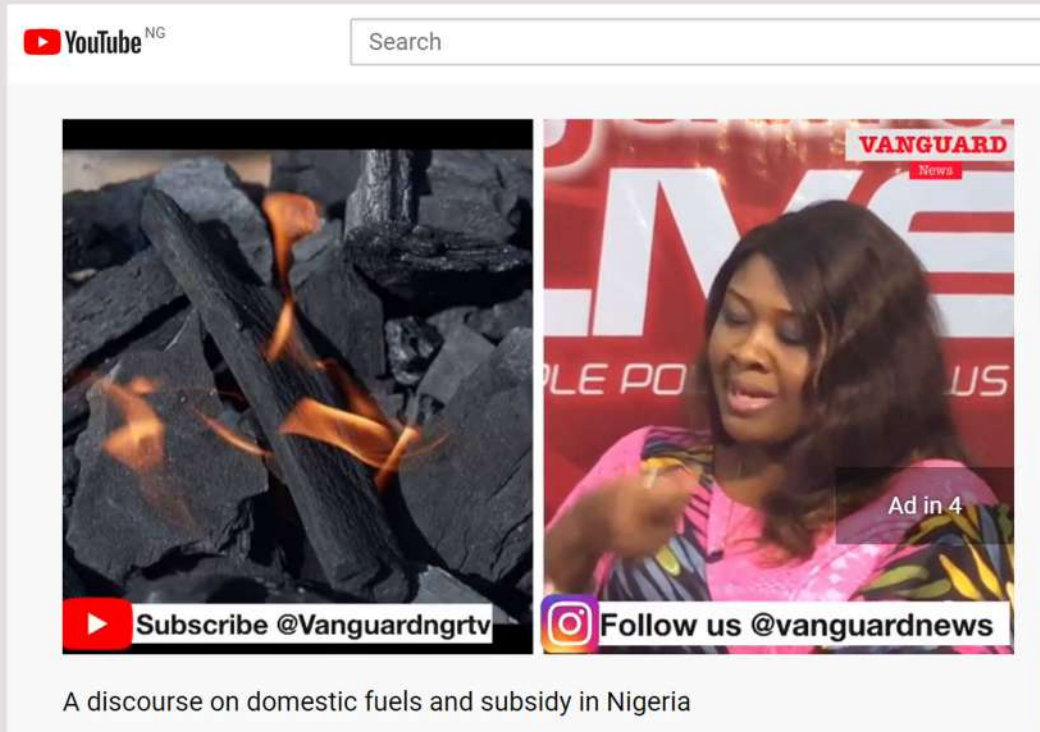
[Download the report here](#)



Social media is one of the tools organizations are using to push back, to get heard, to amplify messages, mobilize for street action and launch cross-border campaigns. At Publish What You Pay's Global Assembly held in Dakar, Senegal from 29-31 January 2019, SPACES FOR CHANGE shared its experiences regarding how it transitioned from an online discussion forum on Facebook group into a leading advocacy organization advocating for energy sector reforms and extractive justice. Initially, the online discussion forum primarily engaged in facilitating public conversations around oil and gas reforms in Nigeria, primarily using digital tools and resources to mobilize the participation of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in oil policy reform processes in Nigeria.

To maximize the use of social media to influence change in the extractive sector, activists and organizations must set certain advocacy priorities and goals; define their target audience and expectations; determine the communication tools and strategies to use, and so forth. While sharing the experience of the organization's transition from online to offline campaigning interventions, S4C also hinted about the highs and lows of using the social media for social justice campaigns.

A Discourse on Domestic Fuels & Gender in Nigeria



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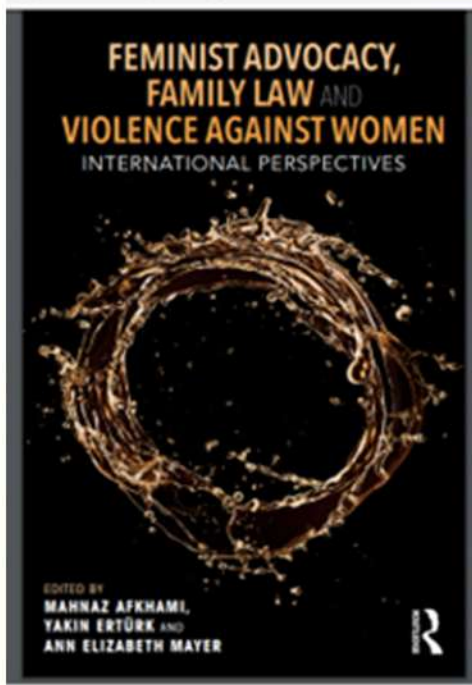
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Ad in 4

A discourse on domestic fuels and subsidy in Nigeria

In this media **discourse hosted by Vanguard Live**, SPACES FOR CHANGE argues for the phasing out fossil fuel subsidies that do not support energy access for low-income households, especially women living in marginalized slum and rural communities across Nigeria. Subsidy reforms needs to be undertaken carefully, based on an impact analysis of effects on women alongside a robust package of measures to mitigate the negative impacts of price increases.

WATCH HERE.



Women and Youth Inclusion

Women and Youth Under-representation in the Ministerial List



In July 2019, Nigeria's Buhari presented the list of ministerial nominees to the Senate for screening. Women and groups kicked as the list contained no youth and very few women, 7 out of 42. In this video, SPACES FOR CHANGE joined other concerned Nigerians on AIT's *Democracy Today* to discuss women and youth under-representation in the ministerial list. [Watch the video here.](#)

16 Days of Activism: S4C Takes Awareness Campaign to Lagos Schools



In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), 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. 16 Days of Activism against GBV is an international campaign that kicks off on November 25 and ends on December 10 every year, advocating for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

S4C's campaign targeted young girls schooling in the informal communities who face higher risks of violent attacks because their families face recurrent forced evictions and consequently, are forced to sleep in the open and in unsafe places. At St. Claire's Model Academy, Ikeja and Ajeromi Primary School Apapa, Lagos State, over fifty pupils and their teachers

learnt about the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, and further protected under the Child Rights Act. They also learned about the various mechanisms and agencies within the state where acts of violence can be safely reported.

Between January to August 2018, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) received 3,089 reported cases of domestic and gender-based violence including child abuse. This alarming figure is two times higher than the previous year's record of 1044 cases. As part of efforts to check the surging menace of GBV in the state, S4C took the GBV awareness campaign to public and private schools in Lagos State, in order to empower young girls in particular to speak up and report any violence or discrimination that they encounter and demand justice for the violation of their rights.



Home-grown School Feeding Programme: Presenting Research Findings to Imo & Abia State Authorities

With support from Trust Africa, S4C carried out an independent evaluation of the Home-grown School Feeding Program (HGSFP) program in Imo and Abia States in order to assess the performance of the program within states as part of a broader effort to support the continuous improvement of educational outcomes in the country. The organization communicated its findings to Abia and Imo State Governments on January 22 and 24, 2019, respectively. Backed with evidence from rigorous household surveys conducted in the two states—that directly engaged 8, 315 pupils, 669 parents, 88 public primary schools in urban and rural areas, 55 head and assistant-head teachers and 43 food vendors, totaling 9,082 persons—S4C presented

independent feedback to state authorities, including the HGSFP implementers at the federal level, in order to deepen their understanding of aspects of the program that are working or not working, and inspire them to take steps to bridge gaps in implementation, wherever they exist.

Among other findings, S4C highlighted the strengths and challenges the initiative is facing in the two states. Notable strengths of the feeding program in both states include spikes in school enrolment, improvement in school attendance and learning outcomes for children, flourishing local economies, women empowerment, among others.

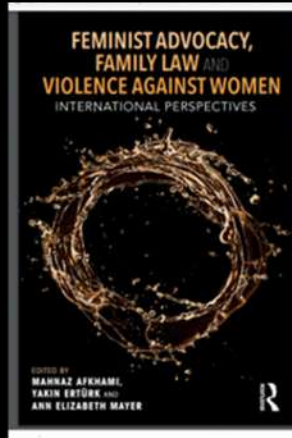
Strengthening Community Participation in the Home Grown School-Feeding Programme



Two town hall meetings SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C convened in Abia and Imo States brought together parents, pupils, head-teachers, class teachers, food vendors, community leaders, state coordinators and other grass-root managers involved in the implementation of the Home Grown School-Feeding Programme (HGSFP) in the two states. The town halls held on February 9th and 16th, 2019, respectively had two primary objectives. First, they aimed at deepening community understanding and participation in the HGSFP in their states. Secondly, the meetings afforded a no-holds-barred platform for community stakeholders to discuss the findings of S4C's extensive assessment of HGSFP's programme performance in both states, with a view to identifying where best practice needs to be consolidated and also, where gaps in implementation needs to be bridged. The Abia townhall took place in Ikwuano local government area (LGA) of Abia State while that of Imo was held in Njaba LGA, with over a hundred persons attending both events.

Feminist Advocacy, Family Law & Violence Against Women

SPACES FOR CHANGE is one of the contributing authors to the global study, *Feminist Advocacy, Family Law & Violence Against Women: International Perspectives*, published by Routledge Books (Taylor and Francis Group). The October 22, 2019 public launch of the report at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria, brought together academics, feminists, activists, journalists, students, researchers, human rights advocates and community women leaders under one roof to examine the dominant influences and factors militating against the success of policy and legislative reforms on gender-based violence.



Presenting the Nigerian case study to the audience, S4C explained that the study adopted an advocacy stance whereby findings reveal the extent of, and quality of legal protection women and girls enjoy in Nigeria's two major regions, highlighting new opportunities for reform. The study proceeds on the premise that there are linkages between the laws regulating relations in the family and violence against women.



Young Girls Code Hi-tech Solutions to Lagos' Urban Challenges

SPACES FOR CHANGE's Executive Director, Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri, delivered the keynote—titled, 'Change Begins With ME' at the Technovation Regional Pitch held in Lagos, Nigeria. Hundreds of tech-savvy young girls aged, 8-18 years, showcased their abilities to code hi-tech solutions to urban challenges faced in the city of Lagos at the event.

Technovation is a program set up in Silicon Valley by Iridescent, a global non-profit organization, which offers girls between ages 10 – 18 the platform to learn skills they require to emerge as tech entrepreneurs and leaders.

Mrs. Ibezim-Ohaeri illustrated how technology has significantly transformed the landscape for governance, information, energy, transportation, employment, private and public infrastructure, and the way we live. The innovative potential of young people, combined with the power of technology, made these transformations possible. She also encouraged the participants, numbering over 100 young girls, to start small, build networks, stay focused, acquire experiences, expand relationships, carve a niche and aim for steady deals. They were charged to join the millions of young people who are helping to bring about change in the world, by taking up with passion and commitment, the challenge of promoting the wellbeing of the most vulnerable people and communities.



Institutional Strengthening Initiatives

Kicking Off the New Year with a Strategic Planning Session



After a refreshing three-week Christmas break, SPACES FOR CHANGE's | S4C's Board and staff members kicked off the new year with a strategic planning session held on January 7-8, 2019 in Lagos. *Has the organization delivered on its mandate? Have staff members sufficiently challenged themselves to execute projects that would yield high impact?* The first session began with moments of self-introspection, which had both Board and staff members pondering the answers to these questions, looking back from 2012 up to 2018, outlining the high- and low-points of the organizational journey since inception. After two days of thinking and planning together, the result was a strategic work plan that would inform program priorities, future decisions and guide resource allocation in 2019 and beyond.

Welcoming New Members to S4C's Board of Trustees



SPACES FOR CHANGE announced the addition of two newest board members: **Mrs. Esther Uzoma** and **Mr. Sonny Onyegbula**. Mrs. Esther Uzoma, a seasoned grassroots mobilizer, senior legal practitioner and human rights activist, is the Principal Partner of Heptagon & Associates, National Coordinator, Proactive Gender Initiatives, and the Co-convener of the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room. Sonny C. Onyegbula, a Chevening scholar, legal practitioner and Human Rights Officer for the United Nations, specializes in international human rights law and transitional justice. They both bring with them, many years of experience in outstanding advocacy in gender justice, human rights, transitional justice and good governance.



S4C Board Members Meet in Lagos, Nigeria

Members of S4C's five-man Board of Trustees met in Lagos, Nigeria, between May 20-22, 2019, to review the organization's strategic priorities, assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. All five board members—Mr. Samuel Diminas, Mr. Sonny Onyegbula, Mrs. Esther Uzoma, Rev. Sr. Dr. Anastatia Njoku and Ms. Victoria Ibezim—Ohaeri,

participated in the meeting. After three days of meetings, reviews, planning and field visits, the result was a set of action plans that would inform and strengthen future programming, while placing the organisation on the path towards sustainability.

Enhancing Strategic Communications and Staff Capacity Development:

Two staff of the organization worked together with a digital communications firm, Enhance 360, to digitally document the organization's work around housing and urban governance in Nigeria since the inception of the organization in 2011. The documentary forms part of a broader effort to preserve our institutional memory, archive work progress over the years, and disseminate our story to a wider audience within and beyond borders. Through this digital story book, the organization hopes to capture the attention and interaction of a wider range of audience both offline and online, directing their focus on its innovative research activities and advocacy campaigns.

A Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Exercise:

S4C commissioned an independent consultant to develop an M and E policy framework and produce templates that can help track and assess the results of the interventions

A one-day training session on the rudiments and processes of M&E also exposed staff on how to use the templates. With an M and E policy guideline and templates in place, the organization now relies on evidence-based results to inform programmatic decisions and develop future workplans.

Learning Visits on Institutional Sustainability and Succession Planning:

In September 2019, S4C visited and interacted with 7 non-profit organizations based in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Ghana in order to gain a deeper understanding of how other organizations achieved succession planning, financial and organizational sustainability. The institutions visited in Nigeria and Ghana include; CLEEN Foundation (Nigeria), West Africa Civil Society Institute (Ghana), Amnesty International, Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (Nigeria), Centre for Democracy and Development (Nigeria), Network Movement for Justice

and Development (Liberia). Through a one on one engagement with the executive directors and senior members of these organizations, S4C learned how these institutions have successfully achieved organizational sustainability, changed their executive leadership, without any meltdown of their institutional processes and operations. During these visits, S4C learned about the various ways to embark on resource mobilization, succession planning and, develop functional institutional policies to stimulate organizational growth.

Human Resource Policy

Review: As part of the process to revamp the organization's corporate governance, S4C's legal team worked with a human resource consultant to undertake a review and update of S4C's human resource policies and governance documents. This activity was geared to update S4C's policies and regulatory compliance with extant laws, drawing on the lessons learned on governance and institutional sustainability.

Legal Corner (Free Legal Services Program)

In 2019, S4C's legal team continued to offer free legal and advisory services to marginalised groups and informal communities in Lagos and Imo States. Through public interest litigation and community empowering initiatives anchored on the human rights paradigm, the organization's legal team handled a series of civil and criminal cases bothering on police brutality, extortion, domestic violence, sexual assault of minors among others, as well as a variety of pro-bono civil cases involving right to own property, administration of deceased estates, determination of children custody in matrimonial causes, labour cases, among others. Below are summaries of a couple of cases.

In the case of Michael Ojo and 50 others, the complainants' homes were raided and they were arrested in Ajeromi community, Badia in December 2018. S4C petitioned and engaged the then Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner for Justice through the Office of the Commissioner of Police Public Complaint Bureau (OCPCB). The

complainants were released in January 2019 after S4C's approached the court for intervene. S4C also helped to recover two flat screen TV, one generator and two DVD players that were seized during the raid.

In March, 2019, S4C's legal team processed Letters of Administration for Mrs Adeola Anifaloyin, an indigent widow in respect of the estate of her late son, soldier who died in active service during a Boko Haram attack in Yobe State. S4C's legal team obtained the Letter in December, 2019.

S4C's Badia law suit No: LD/7084LMW/2018 that was transferred from the Federal High Court to the State High Court in 2018 is still pending in court and S4C continues to commit to seek justice for residents of Badia-East who were forcefully evicted in 2015.

Details of other cases handled are as follows:

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Inhuman and degrading treatment.	Babatunde Joshua	Nigerian Prison Service	Legal representations in court that led to his release	22/1/18 19/9/18 5/12/18 21/1/19 28/1/19 25/2/19	The Defendant was discharged and the matter was struck out of court on February 25, 2019.

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Inhuman and degrading treatment	Peter Onyegbula	Sergeant Lucky	Wrote petition and got the bail of the Defendant. Reported the officer involved in illegal duty.	February 21, 2019 February 22, 2019 February 23, 2019	S4C got the bail of the defendant from police custody on February 22, 2019. S4C facilitated settlement between the defendant and his Landlady on February 23, 2019.

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Alleged stealing	Ebuka Nwachukwu	Chioma Benson	Legal Representations	8/7/18 10/8/18 3/9/18 5/10/18 9/11/18 8/1/19 27/2/19	S4C got the bail of Ebuka Nwachukwu in court S4C got the subject discharged and the matter was struck out of court.

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Unlawful arrest and detention Inhuman and degrading treatment	Mr. Chike Boniface Mr. Boniface	Woman Inspector Ruth Osagie	Legal representation at the IGP (IRS) office.	8/8/19 9/8/19 16/8/19 23/8/19	S4C got the release of Chike Boniface and Mr. Boniface from police custody. S4C facilitated settlement between the parties.

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Unlawful termination and injury	Tamarature Ododomu	China Civil Engineering Construction Group Limited [Liability] Company	S4C wrote letters to CCECC demanding compensation for the complainant. S4C filed the matter at the Lagos State Citizen's Mediation Center.	9/9/19 30/9/19	The Complainant didn't bring sufficient evidence forward. Matter was discharged.

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Trespass to land Claim for ownership	M.A.K. LAWAL	CASIANO FATOLU	Legal representation at Citizens Mediation Centre.	26/3/19 4/4/19 5/5/19 10/7/19	The claimant withdrew the case against Mr. Casiano.

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Trespass to land	St. Vincent de Paul Relief Centre.	Ovenseri Orosanye	Legal representations at LMDC Legal representations in Court	10/4/19 17/4/19 23/5/19 2/7/19 19/7/19 2/8/19 14/8/19 22/8/19 19/9/19 25/9/19 7/10/19 10/10/19 21/10/19 30/10/19	Pending

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Torture, inhuman and degrading treatment.	Sebastian Aguofor	RSL International Company	Legal representations in Court	5/8/19 4/11/19 30/1/202	Pending

ACTS	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	ACTIONS TAKEN	DATES	STATUS/ OUTCOME
Torture, inhuman and degrading treatment.	Samuel Kpiki	Kayode Otolorin	Legal representations in Court	7/11/18 12/12/18 29/1/19 25/2/19 17/7/19	Pending

New Twist to Badia Evictees' Struggle for Housing Justice



The emergence of new contenders to the land dispute in Badia-East added a new twist to the Badia's evictees' protracted struggle for housing justice. Apart from the Ojora Chieftaincy Family that has been locked in a fierce legal battle with the Badia evictees regarding the ownership of certain portions of land in Badia-East, another chieftaincy family, known as

the Trustees of the Estate of late Madam Iyalode Efunroye Tinubu, has joined the fray, claiming ownership of vast hectares of land spanning Iganmu, Ijora, Badia, Orile and Coker Village in Lagos State.

Joining the suit at the Lagos Court of Appeal in Suit No: M/5/2009 as the 6th Defendant, they are seeking to overturn the judgement of a lower court that granted title to the Oba Abdul-Fatai Aremu Aromire, Chief Fatai Adio Suleiman, Prince Olayiwola Oluwa (all known as the Ojora Chieftaincy Family). The judgment of a Lagos State High Court delivered by K.O. Alogba on the 20th day of March 2014 favored the Ojora Family. Because they were not parties to the suit, the evicted residents never had the opportunity to have their interests in the property to be determined by the court. As such, the evictees argue the judgment does not bind the entire community because they were not represented in the matter.

Despite the new twists and turns to the land dispute, SPACES FOR CHANGE is fully committed to supporting Badia residents with the legal armoury needed to wage war against forced displacement, with a view towards ensuring that powerful economic interests by state and private actors do not overrun the rights of local people.

S4C in the news



RADIO SHOW

KISS FM: Is Housing a Human Right?

NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS

The Sun: International Women's Day 2019: NGO unveils Step-By-Step To Gender Equality for Lagos Women in Informal and Displaced Communities

Vanguard: Energy Subsidies Do Not Work Well for Poor Women - Study

Premium Times: IWD 2019: Women Could Gain Far More with Better Targeting of Government Energy Subsidies, New Research Finds

PLUS TV: Activists Call For an End to Crack Down on Civil Groups

Business Day: Dear Lagos, Before You Demolish

ALEDEH: Group Condemns Demolition Of Badia-East By Lagos Authorities

The Punch: Group Protests Harassment of Critics, Journalists

PLUS TV: Activists Call For an End to Crack Down on Civil Groups

NewsTracker: S4C Tackles Buhari Over Persistent Attack on Persons, Groups

ALEDEH: Group Condemns Demolition Of Badia-East By Lagos Authorities

Daily Independent: Stop Attacking Activists, Media Over Expression fo Rights, Group Tells FG

The Niche: Nigerians Face More Crackdown Ahead of Elections – Report

Per Second News: Thousands Forcibly Displaced as Police Demolish Badia-East in Lagos to Make Way for the Rich

The Niche: Coalition of NGOs raises the alarm over legislation to muzzle them

C&SN: Report Examines FATF Recommendations as Vehicle for Closing Civil Society Space in Nigeria

Punch Newspaper: Housing Report: Imo Spends N42bn in Seven Years

The Niche: Spaces for Change Demands Release of Sowore, Warns FG Against Suppression of Free Speech

Per Second News: Thousands Forcibly Displaced as Police Demolish Badia-East in Lagos to Make Way for the Rich

EFCC Press Release: DNFI's Safe Havens for Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing- Magu

Vanguard Live: A discourse on domestic fuels and subsidy in Nigeria

Punch Newspapers: Adebayo, Oyedepo, Olukoya, others rescue Nigerians from poverty

Punch Newspapers: ItaFaaji: Group asks LASG to publish committee report

Freedom House: Freedoms under Threat: The Spread of Anti-NGO Measures in Africa

Business Day: Dear Lagos, Before You Demolish

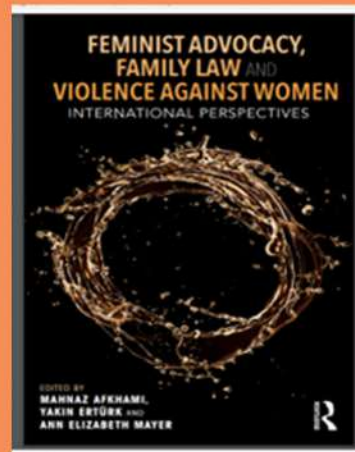
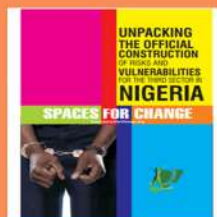
CLOSING SPACES DATABASE

TED: Giving Situations New Names

PARTNERS



2019 Publications



Reflections

The Promises and Contradictions in the Nigerian Legal System: An Intern's Perspective

In 2019, Spaces for Change |S4C accepted two applicants from Stanford Law School and Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin respectively for internship and at the end of their three months, the interns shared their internship experience. Take a look at Olamide Abiose's reflections:

'I had the privilege of interning with Spaces for Change this summer, which has allowed me to learn a lot about the Nigerian legal system. I had the opportunity to research forced eviction and medical negligence cases, as well as witness settlement negotiations, court proceedings, and police matters. I learned an incredible amount, and the summer offered a unique juxtaposition to the United States legal context (which I currently study in school).

On the one hand, I encountered many unexpected differences between the two legal systems. I spent most of my time researching human rights arguments against the forcible eviction of Badia-East residents in 2015, and I had to quickly adapt to a very different property law framework and learn how the government reconciles indigenous, colonial, and post-independence systems of land ownership under the Land Use Act. It was hard to tell whether this framework was complicated because of the different kinds of governments Nigeria has experienced, or because of flaws inherent to the Land Use Act. However, it seemed that too many people were left in the lurch given this confusing and seemingly inflexible system of property ownership.

That being said, I really appreciated that the Nigerian Constitution recognized certain unique, positive rights (such as the right to dignity and the right to privacy). These rights are not explicitly guaranteed in the United States, and formally, they made for more creative legal arguments. I thought it was extremely powerful that infringement upon dignity was not just recognized within assault or battery, for example, but within an independent constitutional right to dignity. I especially appreciated how the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (domesticated by the Nigerian government) recognized a right to housing, among many other rights indigenous, collectivist rights.

On the other hand, my summer experience offered sobering reminders of how the law falls short of its obligation to protect the poor and marginalized in society. This is a disappointing, shared characteristic the Nigerian legal system has with the United States legal system.

The Badia-East case is an excellent example of how a country can make formal guarantees—to due process, to property, to dignity—but only realize them for only a fraction of people in its society. It was particularly frustrating to watch the Lagos State government repeatedly treat certain people—largely because of their poverty—as less deserving of basic, fundamental human rights. The law was often weaponized against these people, who were often cast aside for development projects, or on the basis of government whim. Again, this was an all-too familiar story, and part of my experience was seeing how injustice and government marginalization played out in the Nigerian context.

There were also some sad constraints on the legal system given the widespread poverty and lack of resources many Nigerians experience. I briefly researched legal arguments for a medical negligence case, and saw how a shortage of doctors, medicine, and lack of education exacerbated instances of medical negligence. I also witnessed how money and connections often made the difference between police harassment and peace of mind. Overall, I was extremely grateful for the work Spaces for Change does, the number of issue areas it works on, the multi-faceted approach to the problems it addresses, and the fierceness and tenacity with which it combats injustice. I don't think I would have had nearly as enriching of a summer anywhere else.