



**AFRICAN WOMEN
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
(AWLA)**

THE DAY OF THE
AFRICAN WOMAN
2021

Theme:
**“achieving equal
representation for women:
panacea for inequality,
indignity, insecurity and
underdevelopment”**

Date: 29th- 31st July, 2021.

Hybrid

**Venue: 13, Town Planning Way,
Ilupeju, Lagos/ Zoom**

In the words of Kofi Annan; "Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance"

Historically, Women were basically meant to maintain household order, to encourage faith and moral development of the family and to be subordinate to men. Women who failed to respect accepted gender roles were considered dangerous and were treated harshly, up to and including being publicly reprimanded, shunned or in very serious cases, tried for witchcraft. For example a woman that had the audacity to speak in church faced harsh admonishment by the community. Women relinquished ownership of their property to their husband and through the bond of marriage became the property of their husband.

As it was then "Society looked at women as asexual beings; people with neither feelings nor a life of their own" (Wayne, 2007, p.17). Women were taught reading and writing and wifely responsibilities in school and by their early teens were expected to participate fully in completing household chores rather than gaining further education. Not until the industrial revolution and Civil War which resulted in employment opportunities for women as they filled the roles vacated by enlisted men did women have opportunity to work publicly. Having proved to men that they were capable of working outside the home, women continued to have employment opportunities after the war ended. Ever since then we have numerous pieces of legislation which has been passed cementing the rights women in society. Equal representation of women has been recognized internationally as an important measure to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of any country or nation. Hence, in recent years, women's participation in politics and decision-making has received significant attention across the world. However, women remain seriously underrepresented in decision-making positions.

It is true that more than half percent of the world's population are women but the lack of common and equal ground for participation as incapacitated them in contributing and providing the required intellectual and political decision making skills as compared to their counter parts at all levels of government. So that women's equal participation in decision-making and politics is not only a demand for simple justice or democracy, but a necessary precondition for women's interests to be taken into account. Below are below are few statistics on participation of women in the world;

1. Women has occupied executive government position in about 22 countries of the world 119 countries have never had a woman leader. Just 10 countries have women Head of state and 23 counties have women Head of Government and interestingly the five most commonly held portfolios by women ministers are:
Family/children/youth/elderly/disabled; followed by Social affairs;

Environment/natural resources/energy; Employment/labour/vocational training, and Women affairs/gender equality

2. Women in national parliaments, only 25 per cent of all national parliamentarians are women, up from 11 per cent since 1995 in which only four countries have 50 per cent or more women in parliament in single or lower houses: Rwanda with 61 per cent, Cuba with 53 per cent, Bolivia with 53 per cent, and the United Arab Emirates with 50 per cent. Globally, there are 27 States in which women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, including four single/lower chambers with no women at all.
3. Data from 133 countries shows that women constitute 2.18 million (36 per cent) of elected members in local deliberative bodies. Only two countries have reached 50 per cent, and an additional 18 countries have more than 40 per cent women in local government.
4. Women are responsible for 60% of work done globally yet earn just 10% income and 1% of property. In Africa, 70% of women are excluded financially. The continent has a US\$42 billion financing gap between men and women.

The central objective of this discourse is to examine how achieving equal participation of women can solve the problem of inequality, indignity, insecurity and underdevelopment in the world, particularly in Africa. Despite this numerical strength and potentials, Women have been subjugated, relegated, degraded, oppressed, victimized, exploited and enslaved. Their contributions to society have been underestimated and undermined over the years.

It is important that we affirm, validate, and celebrate the role Women play in Society beyond their role as Child bearers and Primary caregivers. We have seen women achieve great heights in Society, in Industry, in Law, in Politics, in Agriculture, in Education and in virtually all strata. This year, AWLA is giving the African Woman wings to soar. We are creating a platform to honor and celebrate African Women who have taken the bull by the horn and chosen to challenge the barriers and have rolled the barriers off as well as Empower more Women to challenge and roll off the barriers.

African Women Lawyers Association will be celebrating the Day of the African Woman by galvanizing Women to support and protect one another.

- To be intentional and deliberate in protecting Women and Children.
- To demand gender inclusion. To demand Gender Parity 50/50 affirmative action.
- To demand security of lives and properties
- To ensure all Women have equal opportunity to quality Education and decent work.
- To ensure sexual and reproductive rights of Women etc

PROGRAM OF EVENT

Day 1- Thursday, 29th July, 2021

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| • The National Anthem | 2:00pm-2:05pm |
| • AWLAAntem | 2:05pm-2:10pm |
| • Opening Prayers | 2:10pm-2:20pm |
| • Opening Ceremony/Goodwill message H.E Aishat Buhari | 2:20pm-2:30pm |
| • Goodwill message: First Lady, Ghana H.E Rebecca Akufo-Addo | 2:30pm-2:40pm |
| • Welcome Address by the President, Amanda Demechi-Asagba | 2:00pm-2:10pm |
| • Founders' Speech - Hon. Betty Mould Idrisu | 2:10pm-2:20pm |
| • Keynote Address - H.E Dolapo Osibajo | 2:30pm-2:50pm |
| • Goodwill Message: Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbaja-Biamila | |

- **Guest Speaker 1:** **Justice Martha Karambu Koome, C.J., Republic of Kenya**

SDGs goal 5: **The Ladder to the top amidst Gender disparity:**
Agenda 2030?

2:50pm-3:00pm

• Interview session**3:00pm-4:20pm**

A life interview of survivors of rape, abandoned pregnant Women in bad divorce cases, oppressed widows, market women, house wives e.t.c. The essence is to showcase the challenges confronting women in the continent with a view to finding lasting solutions. Women would share their experiences, what they would have done differently and proffer solution.

• **Drama performance** **4:20pm-4:30pm**

• **Vote of thanks by AWLA,**
Secretary General **Adepeju Oduye-Quadri** **4:30pm**

DAY 2- FRIDAY, 30TH JULY, 2021.

- Walk against trafficking: at Ilupeju-Maryland and at designated venues by AWLA Country Reps **8am-10am**
- Welcome address by the President, **Amanda Demechi-Asagba** **2:00pm-2:10pm**
- Goodwill Message by **AWLA Country Reps** **2:10pm-2:20pm**
- Keynote address by **Mr. Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu,**
The Executive Governor of Lagos State **2:20pm-2:30pm**
- Goodwill message and encouragement to Women,
H.E Dr. (Ibijo) Sanwo-Olu **2:30pm-2:40pm**
- Goodwill Message: **H.E. Hadiza Isma El-Rufai** **2:40pm-2:50pm**
- Goodwill Message: **H.E. Bamidele Abiodun** **3:00pm-3:20pm**
- Goodwill Message: **H.E. Zainab Shinkafi** **3:20pm-3:40pm**

DISCOURSE ON;

- Trafficking in persons: a barrier to parity, whither Africa?
- People in Internally displaced persons (IDP) camps are they citizens, aliens or animals? Why the neglect and degradation?
- Guest Speaker 1: **Mr. Agbor Nkongho** **2:50pm-3:10pm**
- Guest Speaker 2 **H.E Betsy Obaseki** **3:10pm-3:30pm**
- Question and Answer session **3:30pm-3:50pm**
- Comedy **3:50pm-4:20pm**
- Vote of thanks by **AWLA Country Rep, Morocco** **4:30pm**

DAY 3 - SATURDAY 31ST JULY, 2021
Day of African Woman

To create a platform for mentoring other women and create a critical mass of women with a formidable force to influence policies affecting women and children as well as give individual and collective support to Women in Politics or Women seeking elective and appointive offices.

To demand gender parity and inclusiveness

Women in leadership:**Disparity Experiences and Recommendations.**

- Welcome address by the President, **Amanda Demechi-Asagba** **4:00pm-4:10pm**
- Goodwill Message by **Hon. Mudasiru Obasa** **4:10pm-4:20pm**

- Goodwill Message by **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** **4:20pm-4:30pm**
- Keynote address by **Amina Mohammed** **4:10pm-4:30pm**

- **Guest Speaker 1:** **Judge Helen Wasiwa** **4:30pm-4:50pm**

Mentoring, support, empowerment and protection:
Panacea for gender parity

- **Guest Speaker 2:** **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** **4:50pm-5:10pm**

Participatory democracy: Gender inclusion, +
Women in Politics, how prepared?

- **Guest Speaker 3:** **Ngozi Okonjo Iweala** **5:10pm-5:30pm**

Women in Leadership: Disparity Experiences and
Recommendations to roll off the Barriers

- **Guest Speaker 4:** **Hon. Justice Nkemdilim Izuako** **5:30pm-5:40pm**

SDGs goals 5 & 16: Judicial pro-activism to protect Women”

- **Guest Speaker 5:** **Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor,**
Vice President of Liberia **5:40pm-6:00pm**

Participatory Democracy: Gender Inclusion: Women in Politics: How prepared?
Women in Leadership: Disparity experiences: Recommendations to Roll off the Barriers

- **Special Guest Speaker:** **Joyce Hilda Banda**
Former President of Malawi **6:00pm-6:20pm**

Participatory Democracy: Gender Inclusion: Women in Politics: How prepared?
Women in Leadership: Disparity experiences: Recommendations to Roll off the Barriers

- Question and answers** **5:40pm-6:00pm**

- Awards** **6:00pm-7:00pm**

- Vote of thanks by AWLA Country Rep, Liberia** **7:00pm**

+ 234 803 535 3306
+ 234 803 331 4899
+ 234 810 099 6340
+231 88 642 5451
+212 661-100250

awla.africa
awla.international
awlainternational@gmail.com

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Some speakers are yet to confirm as at 07/07/2021

13 Town Planning Way, Ilupeju