

## **The 2024 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) National Conference in Nigeria. Lessons shared and recommendations.**

THEME: SRHR: Culture and Social Norms Within Communities



A Coalition of Small and Medium Organizations dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) emerged through the Amplify Change grant facilitated by Lawyers Alert from 2018 - 2020. This initiative recently culminated in a landmark event: the 1st SRHR National Conference in Nigeria, themed “SRHR Culture and Social Norms within Communities.”

Lawyers Alert organized and facilitated the Conference under the auspices of the SRHR Movement. The Conference brought together experts and advocates to delve into the multifaceted challenges impeding SRHR progress. Delegates included Key SRHR Advocates, SRHR CSOs, the LGBTIQ+ Community, FSW, and Donors. Conversations were both at plenary and panel sessions.



Panel conversation on “Our laws and key populations, where are the positives?”

Discussions covered a wide range of pressing topics, including safe medical abortion, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), female genital mutilation, LGBTQI+, HIV, and the health status of SRHR in Nigeria, including information sharing and networking. It drew on the expertise of global, regional, national, and grassroots organizations, including donors, development workers, NGOs, and community-based groups.



Kemi Oluwagbohun delivering a paper on “Challenges and Barriers faced in promoting SRHR within Communities”.

## RECOMMENDATIONS THAT EMERGED

- Massive awareness creation at especially community and ward levels, using local champions to speak against norms and culture that inhibit the right of women to choices, FGM, and encourage gender equality and empowerment using community platforms.
- Delegates should, at all occasions and interventions, emphasize the human rights of key populations and sexual minorities in all advocacy and intervention strategies.
- Strengthening the SRHR Movement in Nigeria through organizational and advocacy skills, strengthening and establishing more inclusive and expansive platforms to amplify SRHR narratives and foster robust networking among stakeholders.



*State-specific issues and general SRHR challenges in ventilation session*

- Encouraging large and strong CSOs and agencies always to strive to include small and medium-sized SRHR grassroots organizations in their work and

provide sub-grants aimed at building the capacity of SRHR organizations, enabling them to acquire new knowledge and skills.

- Developing a comprehensive SRHR National Advocacy Plan to guide strategic advocacy efforts and effectively address SRHR challenges using the SRHR Movement platform.
- Nigeria repeals laws and policies that undermine sexual and reproductive health rights, freedom of expression and assembly, and recognizes gender and sexual diversity.



- Repeal Section 12 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended and other ancillary laws that inhibit the domestication and application of International SRHR treaties, conventions, and protocols that Nigeria signs and ratifies.
- Proactive and deliberate engagement with government entities such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, National Agency for the Control of Aids (NACA), and National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control

Programme (NTBLCP) to ensure a quality response to SRHR issues. This will also enhance the present inadequate support from the government.



The Conference highlighted the necessity for collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships to overcome barriers to the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights. This collective endeavour underscores the importance of unified action in advancing the SRHR agenda in Nigeria, striving for a future where every individual's sexual and reproductive health and rights are respected and upheld.

### **MEDIA MENTIONS**

[Stakeholders seek solution to SRHR barriers in Nigeria](#) - The Nation

[2024 National SRHR Conference Holds In Abuja](#)

[Newsonline 2024 SRHR Conference](#)

[National-srhr-conference-holds-in-abuja](#)

[First Nigeria SRHR Conference: Stakeholders Seek Solution To SRHR Barriers](#)

[First Nigeria SRHR Conference: Stakeholders Call For Abolition Of Laws Violating Human Rights](#)

[First Nigeria SRHR Conference: Stakeholders Seek Solution To Sexual Reproductive Rights Barriers](#)

[First Nigeria SRHR Conference: Stakeholders Call For Abolition Of Laws Violating Human Rights](#)

[Osun Government Advised To Repeal Laws Undermining SRHR... - Video Interview at the conference](#)

[Health Right Violation\\_ Stakeholders Seek Solution To Srhr Barriers - Plus TV Africa](#)

[Addressing SRHR Barriers In Nigeria By Hameed Oyegbade](#)



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