



**TOWARDS THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF PETTY ACTS IN
NIGERIA BY LAWYERS ALERT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OPEN SOCIETY
INITIATIVE FOR WEST AFRICA.**

**REPORT OF A ONE-DAY MEETING ON THE TRAINING ON THE USE OF LAWYERS
ALERT DOCUMENTATION TOOL “LADOCKT”.**

DATE: January 22nd 2020
TIME: 8.30am – 2.00pm
LOCATION: Lawyers Alert Abuja Office, No. 21B, Democracy Crescent, Gaduwa Estate, Gudu District, FCT, Abuja, Nigeria.
HOST: Lawyers Alert

- **Overview/Meeting Objectives:**

The meeting had the following objectives;

- 1) To understand the scope of petty offences and SRHR violations
- 2) To enhance participants skills on reporting and documenting petty offences and SRHR violations.
- 3) Modus for documentation.

- **Agenda Item #1: Registration**

All participants present at the meeting were duly registered.

- **Agenda Item #2: Opening Prayer**

Roseline Oghenebrume, Director Programs, Lawyers Alert, welcomed all participants and led participants to in the recitation of the second stanza of the Nigeria’s National Anthem as the opening prayer.

- **Agenda Item #3: Introduction and Expectations**

All Participants introduced themselves and gave their expectations. Most of them expected to know more about the monitoring and documentation tool and how they could use it effectively.



Fig 1: Blessing Umoren facilitating the introductions & expectations of participants.

- **Agenda Item #4: Ground Rules**

The session was taken by Elvis. he listed some of the rules as agreed by all:

- All phones should be on silent
- Time Management
- Respect everyone's opinion
- One speaker at a time.



Fig 2: Cross Section of participants.

- **Agenda Item #5: Welcome Address/Objectives of the Meeting**

The “Welcome Address/Objectives of the Meeting” was delivered by Mr. Rommy Mom, President, Lawyers Alert. He welcomed all participants and commended their efforts in their states particularly on issues of petty offences and SRHR. He stated that the essence of the meeting is to towards ensuring the decriminalization of petty offences in Nigeria. He buttressed that no one should go to prison because of petty acts and emphasized on the need for data collection on issues on petty offences and SRHR violations in Nigeria. He said it is very important for participants to understand the tool, relate with their networks and begin to harvest violations of petty offences and SRHR that will be used for advocacy to the legislators.

- **Agenda Item #6 & 7: Offences as captured on the Documentation tool / Documentation of petty offences & SRHR violations.**

This session was taken by Roseline, Solomtochukwu and Zahida. She introduced Lawyers Alert Documentation Tool (LADOCKT), and how violations are captured and documented. She explained by saying there should be an understanding of the violation, that the main story comes before documenting it on the Tool. She stated that the Tool automatically analyzes trends, age, state, locations, etc. Zahida and Solumtochukwu gave a clearer understanding of terms on the Tool e.g. loitering, breach of promise, etc.

Mr Rommy also explained to participants that the Tool is for documenting rights violations of key and vulnerable groups. He also explained what is Petty offences means, stating that they are those

little offences committed by vulnerable groups and are connected with poor people, he said the legislators don't commit petty offences like hawking, vendor business, etc. Rommy explained further that the Tool covers SRHR violations and petty offences.



Fig 3: Roseline & Rommy explaining the online documentation Tool & how to capture violations.

- **Agenda Item #8: Role Play (Group Work)**

The session was facilitated by Nanahauwa Sule. She facilitated the group Work in the understanding the practical aspect of documenting petty offences. A case study was projected and participants were split into groups.



Fig 4: Group deliberations.

After 15Minutes the two groups conveyed back for presentation, group one's presentation was taken by Zahida, she explained how group one filled in the documentation tool based on the story of a girl who was arrested by Abuja Environmental Protection Board, AEPB & Police stating petty offences and SRHR violations the girl suffered from the hands of the state actors.



Fig 5: Zahida Barau presenting for group 1

Group two also made their presentation which present by Solumtochukwu Ozobulu. She explained how the filled in the documentation tool based on the case study. She identified the perpetrators, and clicked on the necessary boxes as captured in the tool.



Fig 6: Solumtochukwu Ozobulu presenting for group 2

- **Agenda Item #9: The process/channels for documentation**

This session was facilitated by Jerome Uneje. She stated to participants that the reason they were all present in today's meeting is to collectively monitor, report and document petty offences and SRHR violations. She stated that before we begin any intervention, we should make sure it is verified. She explained that one of the process of collecting data is from the media. She emphasized the need for data to be verified so that all data to be inputted into the tool will be concrete. She further explained to participants that another means of harvesting violations is through their existing networks, social media, National Newspapers amongst other to get violations and they can send these violations through emails, WhatsApp or can be sent through transport services. She stated that Lawyers Alert will bear the cost of transporting and other ancillary costs associated with harvesting and documenting violations. In addition, Roseline explained to all that that any violation that is not reported, simply means it never happened.



Fig 7: Jerome Uneje -Process/Channels for documentation.

- **Agenda Item #10: Next Step and Way Forward**

Mr. Rommy Mom thanked all participants for making time to be available for the meeting. He stated that the next step for us is to go back to our base, step down lessons and begin to harvest violations. As a fall out of the meeting, Rommy stated that a directory of lawyers handling petty offences cases will be shared to all participants. He also cited some possible sources of harvesting violations, such as: social media, newspapers, visit to detention centers (Police Stations, Correctional Centers, etc.), visit local courts, etc. He also urged all participants to collaborate with other organizations in their zones. He thanked OSIWA for supporting this initiative and looks forward to a more fruitful and continued working relationship.

- **Agenda Item #11: Lunch/Close**

All participants had lunch and departed to their various destinations.



Fig 8: Group Photograph