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November 18, 2019.

Dear Sirs / Madams,

INVITATION TO NORTH CENTRAL ZONAL CONSULTATIONS ON NIGERIAN NGO / CSO SHADOW REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION 25 YEARS AFTER AKA (BPFA + 25) : 2015 – 2019.

The year 2020 is significant in global, state and national gender architecture. It marks twenty five years of the declaration and adoption by 189 countries in the world in 1995 at Beijing China, the twelve critical areas of concern for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls at the [United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women](#).

It also marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the global developmental goals popularly known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The year will commemorate 20 years of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, peace and Security, 10 years of UN Women and 75 years of the United Nations.

Expectedly, the United Nations – The global body for the promotion of global peace and security, development and human rights require nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) especially those with its consultative status to prepare their own parallel /alternative national or state reports aimed documenting progress made in BPFAs state and community level

implementation, as well as strengthen the feminist and women's movement's collective influence on governments, the private sector and development partners in the drive for a fairer and more equitable society.

These reports, apart from providing an independent voice at the UN, seeks to x-ray and bring to light issues on women's human rights, peace and security as well as development at grassroots and states level, country or state party reports may have ignored or glossed over.

With shrinking spaces for civil society engagements, lack of States' and other development partners' accountability, and dwindling access to resources to support women's right agenda, feminist and gender focused NGOs are often excluded from participation, especially those representing minorities, indigenous peoples, persons living with disabilities, youths, rural women and girls. Many others are discriminated against on the bases of their gender identity, social, economic, political, ethnic or religious status.

To galvanize and coalesce the views of these minorities and ensure their voices are not excluded in the 25 years review of the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action in Nigeria, Women's Advocate Research & Documentation Center (WARDC), Brave Heart Initiative (BHI), Centa for Organizational Development (COD Nigeria), Africawomannig and other gender focused civil society organizations have been engaging, consulting, and holding dialogues, meetings and workshops to tease out important issues affecting the rights of women and girls that the government report submitted in August 2019 may have not reported.

Thus far this process has led us to Yola in Adamawa State North East and Kano in North West geo political zones. There has also been digital collection of information using UNNGO set questions and guidelines on Google forms led by Brave Heart Initiative.

With support from Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Nigeria, in commemoration of 2019 "16 Days activism Against Gender Based Violence (November 25 – December 10), we are pleased to invite you to the North Central zone BPFA +25 NGO/CSO Shadow Report Consultation meeting scheduled to hold as follows:

DATE: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 2019

VENUE: Grand Ibro Hotel

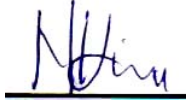
TIME: 10am

Please kindly note that this meeting is for the first 30 participants that express interest and availability to the undersigned before midnight of Thursday November 21, 2019 by sending a confirmation text with your name, telephone number, email address and the group you represent. We would also only accommodate one person per organization for spread.

Thank you in anticipation of your positive response.

Yours Sincerely,

For & On behalf of: Co-ordinating Groups on Nigeria's NGO/CSO 2019 BPFA Shadow Report,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nkiru', is positioned above a solid black horizontal line.

Lady Nkiru Celine Okoro

08023039364

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Oluchi', is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Mrs. Oluchi

08032793882