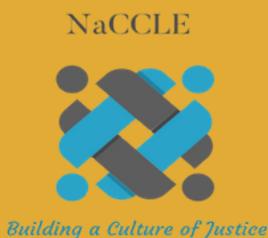




WEST AFRICA VIRTUAL LEGAL EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

October 5-9, 2020
2pm (WAT), 9am (EDT)



Opening Session

The Opening session sets the tone for the 5 day summit with key note speeches from the Elders, Minister of Justice from West African Region and a Grassroots Justice Actor; each weighing in on the importance of regional collaboration to further the justice for all agenda.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

The Elders, Former President of Liberia

"Be not afraid to denounce injustice, though you may be outnumbered. Be not afraid to seek peace, even if your voice may be small. Be not afraid to demand peace."

Me Malick SALL,

Ministre de la Justice, Senegal

"My priority, first off all, is to ensure that justice regains its lustre. My job will be to restore order"



Amina Hanga

Director, Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative

"I believe strongly that every human being has rights, should know their rights and be able to access justice if those rights are being denied or violated."

Join us at: <http://bit.ly/WAfricaLESummit>

Strengthened Partnerships with Government on Legal Empowerment

How Practitioners are Effectively Engaging

This session will explore how justice practitioners are effectively engaging with each other to address the legal needs of people and communities and the opportunities and strategies for strengthening collaboration. It will also discuss why justice solutions that are transparent, inclusive and accountable tend to be more impactful.

Moderator: Sabrina Mahtani _ Founding Director AdvocAid, Sierra Leone



Sabrina Mahtani is a human rights lawyer from Zambia/UK who works for The Elders as a Policy Advisor on Access to Justice. She is also the co-founder of AdvocAid: a holistic organization providing access to justice, education and empowerment for women and girls in Sierra Leone, that works with incarcerated women and sex workers.

Speakers

Fatima Adamu _ IWEI



Fatima is Program Manager at the Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative: an organisation that seeks to transform the society by enabling women, youth and children escape the cycle of poverty and ignorance; mostly fostered by harmful traditional practices.

Ousseynou Ngom _ OGP



Ousseynou is Senior Regional Coordinator for Africa & The Middle East at Open Government Partnership where he helps identify and encourage learning and experience sharing between OGP countries.

Legal Aid Council of Nigeria



The Legal Aid Council of Nigeria works to ensure free, effective and efficient legal aid services to indigents in Nigeria. They look to build a nation where there is equal access to justice for all irrespective of means and where all rights are respected, protected and defended.

Legal Empowerment, COVID-19 and Beyond

Solutions to Challenges and Necessary Adaptations, Including Technology

This session will explore adaptations and innovations that have been utilized in legal empowerment work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The session will reflect diverse experiences across both urban and rural contexts.

Moderator: Megan Chapman_ JEI Co-Director



Megan is a human rights lawyer and the co-founder / co-director of Justice & Empowerment Initiatives – Nigeria (JEI), a non-profit, non-governmental organization, whose mission is to work side-by-side with the urban poor and marginalized members of society to peacefully seek justice and accountability through the protection of their fundamental human rights and provision of free legal aid.

Speakers

Fred Patrick_ JEI



Fred is JEI's lead paralegal in Lagos. He was himself forcibly evicted from his community, and has worked as a JEI paralegal for the last five years. He leads training of new paralegal classes in Lagos, and has extensive experience handling cases of wrongful arrest and detention.

Messan Kounagbe_ JEI



Messan is a jurist with JEI in Benin, where he supports a team of community-based paralegals from waterfront informal settlements in Cotonou tackling justice and development challenges coming up in their communities.

Nankunda Katangaza_ ALT Network



Nankunda is Co-Founder of the Africa Law and Tech Network: a hub and facilitator of dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders working at the intersection of technology and law. Her work has focused on leading policy reform efforts for services liberalization and regulatory good practice in key emerging markets.

Namati Sierra Leone



Namati supports communities in Sierra Leone to protect customary land rights, challenge land grabs, remedy environmental harm, and, if they wish, negotiate fair deals with investors.

Sustainable Financing for Legal Empowerment Programs

This session will present sustainable financing options, including regional examples of public financing, both from donors and governments, social enterprises connected to legal empowerment organizations, and uses of various program innovations that achieve scale or cut costs and make programming more financially sustainable.

Moderator: Afia Asantewaa Asare-Kyei, OSIWA Program Manager



Afia is responsible for the overall development and management of the OSIWA Equality, Justice and Human Rights (EJHR) Program portfolio. She has a background in development programs, ranging from working with communities in conflict situations, training civil society groups and communities on general human rights and on the special discourse of transitional justice, working with governments and organizations on justice sector reform and access to justice.

Speakers

Chelcy Heroe _ Domestic Helpers Organisation



Chelcy is the CEO and founder of Domestic Helpers Association; an organization that promotes the awareness of the violations of the rights of domestic workers and empowers them through skills training. She is also an entrepreneurship trainer,

Seth Tladi _ Social Change Assistance Trust



Seth currently serves as the SCAT programme director, after working in the development sector for more than 20 years. Apart from serving on various community development structures and organisations, Seth has widely presented papers on economic development in the SMME sector.

Nancy Sesay _ Open Society Initiative for West Africa



Before joining OSIWA as the program director, Nancy worked with Timap for Justice as Deputy Director. She is a member of Legal Access for Women yearning for Equality Rights and Social Justice (LAWYERS) and the Sierra Leone Bar Association.

Fatmata Soire _ L.A.W.Y.E.R.S



Fatmata is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the current president of L.A.W.Y.E.R.S. where she leads a group of female lawyers in advocating for sexual reproductive health rights for women and girls, the review and amendment of the gender laws and easing access to services for victims of sexual and gender based violence.

Benchmarking & Scaling Legal Empowerment Projects Good Practices

This session will highlight various legal empowerment service delivery models, how they've been able to deepen impact, and what opportunities exist for sharing good practices and models across various partners moving forward.

Moderator: Kimberly Brown _The Carter Center



Kimberly is a human rights lawyer and Obama Foundation Scholar. At present she serves as Associate Director of the Rule of Law Program at the Carter Center. Prior to joining the Center, she worked with Pathfinders as a Senior Policy Analyst, managed IDLO's programs in Kenya relating to access to justice and gender reforms, and helped lead Equality Now's Justice for Girls programming in Africa.

Speakers

Annette Mbogo _ Kituo cha Sheria



Dr. Annette Mbogoh is the Executive Director at Kituo cha Sheria where she provides legal intervention on behalf of our clients and leads the team. Dr. Mbogoh is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a Gender and Women's Human Rights Specialist. She is a Doctor of Philosophy in Law.

Mohamed Jalloh _ Lady Ellen Women's Aid Foundation



M. Jalloh is the founder of LEWAF; an organization that focuses on Tackling Violence against Women's and Girls in Sierra Leone. He specializes in Social Development Policy and Management where he has worked for over two decades.

Alternative Law Groups - Philippines



The Alternative Law Groups is a coalition of legal resource non-governmental organizations that adhere to the principles and values of alternative or developmental law. They have distinct programs for developmental legal assistance that is primarily concerned with the pursuit of public interest, respect for human rights and promotion of social justice.

Mêmes Droits pour Tous



MDT is a Guinean organization that works in the defense and promotion of human rights. Apart from providing free legal aid to victims of human rights violations, MDT also provides training for paralegals and monitors their training in the field.

Closing Session

Building West Africa Connections for Advocacy & Synergy

This session will draw together key lessons from the previous sessions and chart a clear set of regional actions and outcomes to feed into a broader advocacy. An outcome document capturing regional commitments and recommendations will be developed and shared with the public.

Moderator: Aimee Ongeso _ Legal Empowerment Network



Aimee currently works at Namati and the Legal Empowerment Network as a Senior Global Network Officer where she works on regional advocacy and learning initiatives. She has vast experience supporting communities, ensuring their active participation in the design, execution and implementation of pro-poor policies and legislation.

Speakers

Abigail Moy _ Legal Empowerment Network



Abigail Moy is the Director of the Legal Empowerment Network, convened by Namati. She has led efforts to build a thriving global movement for legal empowerment: one capable of innovating boldly and collectively tackling the greatest justice challenges of our time.

Paige Alexander _ The Carter Center



Paige joined The Carter Center as CEO in June 2020 and has had a distinguished global development career, with over two decades of experience spanning the government and nonprofit sectors. She has held senior leadership positions at two regional bureaus of the USAID, covering missions and development programs in 25 countries.

Ayisha Osori _ OSIWA



Ms. Osori is a lawyer, development consultant and communication strategist with 18 years of experience in the public and private sectors. She is an advocate for women's rights in Nigeria and is a non-executive director on the board of the Nigerian Women Trust Fund and the Executive Director at OSIWA

Economic Community of West African States



In 2019, ECOWAS engaged Civil Society Organizations in the region to review and validate the draft ECOWAS handbook on access to justice and transitional justice in order to bring about sustainable peace and development in ECOWAS Member States.