**ABOUT PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE**

**Partnership for Justice** (PJ) is a non-profit organization of professionals who share a commitment to equality, justice and globalization of human rights standards. PJ works at all levels to offer services to victims of human rights violations and create linkages for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria.

**Mission:**

To impact public policy and social change and provide innovative range of services to achieve equality and justice

# PROGRAMMES:

# Gender Justice Programme

* International Law and Public Policy Reform Advocacy Programme

### Public Interest Law and Development Programme

* Governance, Transparency and Accountability Programme

# Gender Justice Programme

# Under its gender justice programme, with the goal to promote gender equality and create better legal frameworks for the development and implementation of human rights standards, Partnership for Justice set up the first Sexual Assault Referral Centre known as the Mirabel Centre. This project was funded by Justice for All (J4A) of the Department for International Development (DFID) from July 2013 – March, 2016. The Centre was opened to the public on July 1, 2013 and has provided holistic and high quality medical and psychosocial services to over 1, 750 survivors of sexual assault and rape. Men, women and children who have either recently or in the past experienced rape or sexual assault receive free and comprehensive medical, counseling and aftercare services from Mirabel Centre. The Mirabel Centre is the first sexual assault referral centre in Nigeria and the second in West Africa. It is located at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH, Ikeja, Lagos State. The setting up of the centre led to the establishment of a response team in Lagos State, Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, (DSVRT). It is being coordinated by the office of the AG, Ministry of Justice.

Series of Community Mobilization Programme that forms a community partnership network to raise awareness, mobilize public opinion and prevention programmes has equally taken place as a result of setting up the centre. Such as: school sensitization programme, rape walk, conferences on SGBV, Market outreach, sensitization talks/workshops at different churches, cooperate organizations and training of community health workers, teacher, doctors, nurse midwives as well as social media awareness campaigns.

**THE MIRABEL CENTRE**

The Mirabel Centre which opened on July 1, 2013, is a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) established and managed by Partnership for Justice (PJ) to provide holistic and high quality forensic medical examination and trauma counseling services and support to victims/survivors of rape and sexual assault. Men, women and children who have either recently or in the past experienced rape or sexual assault benefit from the free and comprehensive medical, counseling and aftercare services provided by the Mirabel Centre. These services are delivered to the clients in a professional and timely manner to help them overcome the trauma of rape and sexual assault. The Mirabel Centre is the first sexual assault referral centre in Nigeria and the second in West Africa.

**LOCATION**

The Mirabel Centre is located at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH, Ikeja, Lagos State.

**SERVICES OFFERED**

The Centre provides **free** counseling and medical services to all clients including drugs and medication. If needed, the Centre also makes refund of transportation costs to the clients and also provides meals. For some of the clients, there has been need for a change of clothing. Where there is need for laboratory tests not provided in the Centre, the Centre also subsidizes the cost of these tests and makes referral to other agencies/organisations for follow up services not available at the Centre.

The Centre provides medical reports for clients on referral from the Police which aids in the investigation and subsequent prosecution of perpetrators.

**CLIENTELE**

Since it opened to the public in July 2013, men, women and children have visited the Centre and received professional care to deal with the trauma of rape. The oldest client is 70 years old grandmother while the youngest is a 4 months old baby. Over 70 % of the clients are between the ages of 11 – 15 years and the Oshodi, Ketu/Mile 12 and Ikeja areas record on a monthly basis the highest number of clients.

**PARTNERS**

The Centre works closely with the Police and other agencies/organizations to provide services to victims of rape and sexual assault in Lagos State. The police refer clients to the Centre for counseling and medical services as well as medical reports for their investigation. Civil Society organizations also make referrals to the Centre. The Ministries of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Justice, Health and Youth and Social Welfare also work closely with the Centre.

**UNIQUENESS OF THE CENTRE**

* The Mirabel Centre is the only Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Nigeria.
* All the staff at the Centre are specially trained professionals with skills to deal with issues of rape and sexual assault. The doctors and nurses are specially trained forensic medical examiners with skills to carry out intensive head to toe examination of clients while looking out for injuries. The counselors are also specially trained with skills to attend to clients in a professional manner while maintaining confidentiality and respecting the clients’ choices.
* The management information system at the Centre provides credible, disaggregated and verifiable data on sexual assault in Lagos state. It provides information about the age bracket of women and girls who are victims, the areas of the state with the highest incidents of rape and sexual assault, as well as the type of assault that is most prevalent in the state.
* The Centre is a one stop service centre that provides timely and professional services **free of charge** to survivors of rape and sexual assault.

**Itoro Eze-Anaba**

*Managing Partner*