



GIRL PRIDE CIRCLE INITIATIVE FIVE-YEAR REPORT (2015-2019)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Table of Contents	1
Who We Are	2
Celebrating 5 Years of Putting Girls' Voices Front and Centre	3
<i>Programmes and Advocacy Interventions</i>	
The Girls' Podium	4
The Cool Periods Movement	5
Books for Girls Drive	5
Safe Kicks Initiative	6
Zero Tolerance in Religious Communities	7
Media Highlights	8
Resource Mobilisation	9
Looking Forward	9
Our Allies for Change	10
Connect with Us	10

WHO WE ARE

Girl Pride Circle is a grassroots non-profit organisation committed to advocating for girls' rights to education, equal opportunities and violence-free communities. The organisation was founded in December 2014 and registered as an NGO at the Corporate Affairs Commission in April 2016. Overall, the organisation's mission is to raise a generation of dynamic girls who are equipped with requisite leadership and advocacy skills to uphold their rights and mobilise for change across their communities. Girl Pride Circle also envisions an African continent where every girl child is given ample opportunity to thrive and unleash her full potentials. Our core values are - Advocating for Equality, Co-creating Positive Impact and Embracing Innovation.



As a youth-led organisation, Girl Pride Circle's decision-making and operations are youth-centric. Of the five members of the organisation's Board of Trustees (the highest decision making body of Girl Pride Circle Initiative), three are young people below 35 years with diverse experiences in law, advocacy on gender issues and development practice. In the same vein, all members of the organisation's management team and over 50 volunteers are also young people.

Over the past five years, Girl Pride Circle has reached over 2,500 adolescent girls through after-school education clubs and community workshops, educating them about leadership, advocacy/social change, sexual & reproductive health/rights and gender-based violence.

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF PUTTING GIRLS' VOICES FRONT AND CENTRE



We have come a long way. Having founded Girl Pride Circle as an undergraduate student with only the equivalent of \$20 in my bank account and no partners or staff, it has been highly rewarding to see the organisation grow beyond an individual vision into a collective movement.

As an organisation committed to advancing girls' rights in Nigeria, Girl Pride Circle has continued to educate adolescent girls about advocacy/gender issues and equip them with the skills they need to amplify their voices for their own rights. Our trained girl advocates have drafted an unprecedented "Community Action Plan" for the prevention of sexual violence, which was adopted and endorsed by the largest local government area in

Lagos, Nigeria. Some of them have co-created an advocacy documentary, elevating their voices on the need to accelerate justice for survivors of sexual violence in Nigeria. Others have drafted a "Zero Tolerance to Sexual Violence Policy" for effective sexual violence prevention and response within religious communities. More than anything else, our work for and with adolescent girls has demonstrated the limitless potential of girls and their capacity to generate innovative solutions for social change.

Yet, this critical work has not been without a few challenges. From resource mobilisation to programme implementation and advocacy interventions, the past five years have been filled with a lot of learning, lows and highs. A notable win for us, was being recognised as one of the 12 global winners of the 2018 Girl Rising Creative Challenge (powered by HP), out of 882 girls' rights organisations across 110 countries. This award was a validation of our team's commitment to creative and resourceful advocacy for girls' rights and well being.

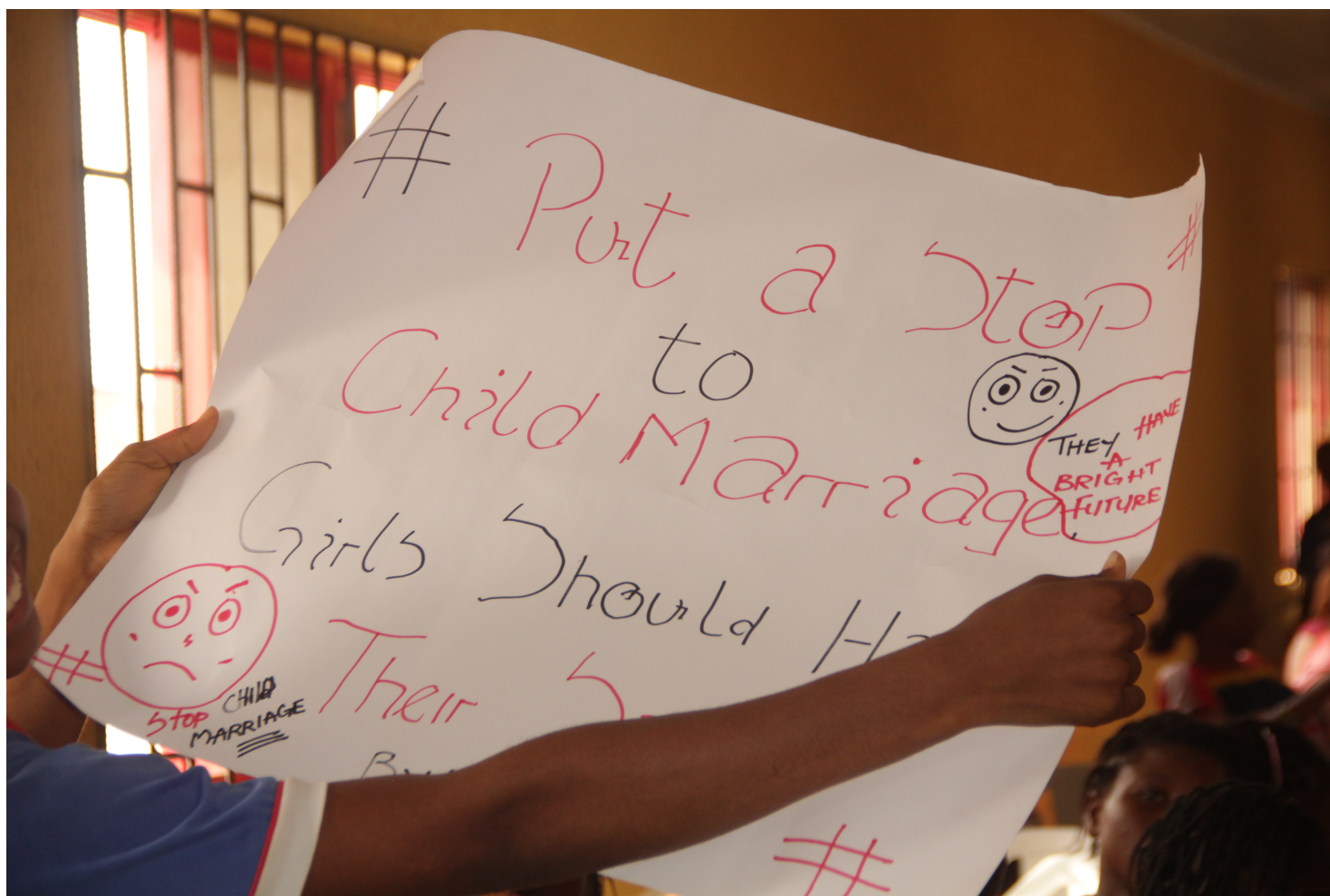
As we look back and take stock of our phenomenal work over the past five years, this is also an important moment to devise strategies for building on our progress and sustaining the momentum. We are immensely grateful to every individual and organisation that has been a part of our journey so far. We also look forward to building new allies and remaining true to our underlying mission: safeguarding girls' rights and putting power back into girls' hands.

In Solidarity,

Olaoluwa Abagun (Ms.)

Founder & Executive Director

THE GIRLS' PODIUM



Across Nigerian communities, adolescent girls are often looked upon as mere beneficiaries of advocacy – having little or no input in conversations about social issues that affect their health, rights, and well being.

The Girls' Podium is a public speaking and advocacy training, geared towards supporting Nigerian adolescent girls to rediscover their voices as groundbreaking tools for social impact. The project is unleashing a new breed of young female advocates who are equipped to speak out concerning pressing social issues and champion sustainable solutions across Africa. Through this project, Girl Pride Circle has trained hundreds of girl advocates hundreds of Nigerian adolescent girls and resourced them with the requisite knowledge and skills to engage in advocacy on Girl Child Education, Child Marriage, National Security/Peace Building, Corruption and Poverty.



THE COOL PERIODS MOVEMENT

"Whenever I ask my mum to buy me sanitary pads for my monthly period, she says she doesn't have any money to give me and asks me to cut and use old clothes or toilet tissue paper."

- School Girl in Lagos, Nigeria

According to Euromonitor, only 3 out of every 10 Nigerian girls use sanitary pads. Worse still, menstruation remains a taboo topic, attracting stigma and shrouded in several myths within many Nigerian communities. Through the "Cool Periods Movement", Girl Pride Circle has kept over 200 underprivileged adolescent girls in school for an entire school session by providing quarterly supplies of free hygienic sanitary towels. The campaign is also geared towards rebranding periods as a 100% healthy and COOL biological process for adolescent girls by providing girls with accurate information about menstruation, breaking the silence and overhauling centuries-old myths.



BOOKS FOR GIRLS DRIVE

Based on the underlying philosophy that "readers are leaders", this project focuses on improving reading culture among adolescent girls in Nigeria. So far, 300 girls between the ages of 9 and 16 have benefited from the project, receiving free notebooks and age appropriate storybooks.



SAFE KICKS INITIATIVE: ADOLESCENT GIRLS AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The "Violence Against Children Survey" revealed that 1 out of every 4 girls in Nigeria is subjected to sexual violence before her 18th birthday. Safe Kicks Initiative is a girl-led sexual violence advocacy project. Through after-school education clubs and basic Taekwondo classes, the project equips adolescent girls with self-defense skills while increasing their knowledge about sexual violence and confidence to advocate against the menace in their local communities.



In 2017, beneficiaries of the project drafted an unprecedented “Community Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Violence” for Alimosho community - the largest local government in Lagos, Nigeria. This Action Plan was adopted and endorsed by the Local Government and distributed to over 1,500 community and religious leaders. In addition, the project produced a mini-documentary on sexual violence – “Echoes of Hope”, which featured young survivors of sexual violence calling on the Nigerian judiciary and law enforcement agents to accelerate justice for sexual violence survivors. This documentary has reached over 11,000 Nigerians – including High-Level police officers in the Lagos State Police Command, Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly and the Ministry of Women Affairs.

ZERO TOLERANCE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES



In Nigeria, sexual violence continues to persist, despite several laws that criminalise sexual violence and the National Gender Policy, which prioritises the 'eradication of all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination'. Beyond legislation, the National Gender Policy also recognises the critical role of community-level institutions (including religious institutions) in transforming social norms that perpetuate inequality and trivialise gender-based violence.

Under this project, 53 girl advocates trained by Girl Pride Circle Initiative drafted a 'Zero Tolerance to Sexual Violence Policy' to guide effective sexual violence prevention and response in religious communities. Girl Pride Circle also recruited 120 religious leaders with exemplary character across Lagos - Nigeria to serve as 'Zero Tolerance Ambassadors'. These ambassadors are charged with the responsibility of championing the Zero Tolerance Policy within their religious communities and leading efforts to educate members of their religious communities about sexual violence.

Overall, the project leverages on the influence of religious leaders and engages them as active change agents in the fight to end sexual violence across Nigeria.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2015, our work and impact has been featured across diverse media platforms – both locally and across the globe! Widely read national newspapers within Nigeria such as The Guardian, The Nation, and Daily Trust have featured our work. We are also proud to have been featured by the African Leadership Magazine, British Council and Teen Vogue.



In addition, Girl Pride Circle has continued to use local radio stations to engage in advocacy on girls' rights, reaching millions of Nigerians across the years. Notably, in 2017 Girl Pride Circle was invited to join a reputable local radio station - University of Lagos 103.1 FM that has a listenership of over 3,000,000 people across Lagos, Nigeria. Our team was opportune to join a popular radio programme "Matters Arising", together with the Sole Administrator of Alimosho Local Government Lagos, to discuss sexual violence against adolescent girls. For the first time, the Sole Administrator of the Local Government made a public commitment to support grassroots NGOs in awareness building on sexual violence, reminding members of the community that "no woman or girl deserves rape/sexual molestation" regardless of the circumstance. He also endorsed our "Safe Kicks Initiative" project as a timely intervention and described his support of the project as "one of his greatest achievements in office".



RESOURCE MOBILISATION



Over the years, Girl Pride Circle has worked hard to mobilise funding and in-kind donations in order to sustain all programmes and advocacy interventions. Our fundraising efforts include crowd funding campaigns, one-to-one solicitations and seed grants proposal writing.

Since 2015, we have received several generous individual donations worth up to \$5,000, a \$1,000 micro grant from The Pollination Project, as well as three seed grants (worth \$5,000 each) from Women Deliver. All grants have been duly accounted for and we remain in good standing with our donors. In sustaining projects like “The Cool Periods Movement” and the “Books for Girls Drive”, several individuals and Always Nigeria have also donated books and sanitary products worth \$5,000. In 2018, we also received \$1,000 as one of the winners of the Girl Rising Creative Challenge (Powered by HP), and more recently, a \$1,200 one-off donation from Procter and Gamble.



LOOKING FORWARD

We remain grateful to all individual and organisational donors who have enabled us continue the critical work we do – for and with girls! To build on the progress made so far, we are actively seeking flexible and sustainable funding opportunities. In addition to sustaining current projects, some of our pressing organisational needs include acquiring a modest office space, hiring two paid full-time staff and contracting an External Auditor to improve our organisation’s financial accountability.

OUR ALLIES FOR CHANGE

A huge thanks to all of our supporters and allies over the past five years!

Women Deliver

Simidele Adeagbo

The Pollination Project

Fisayo Folorunsho-Olaifa

Girl Rising

Amna Mabrouk

Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence

All GPC volunteers

Response Team (DSVRT)

All partner schools

Procter & Gamble

All individual donors

Doja Culinary Company

All Zero Tolerance Ambassadors

Sustainable Impact and Development (SID) Initiative

Alimosho Local Government

Girls Voices Initiative



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