

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE 2012

CEGIST Programme Report 3

The *International day for elimination of violence against women and girls* is an annual event venerated globally between November 25 which marks the beginning of the statutory *16 days of the activism* and ends on December 10, the *International Human Right Day*.

As a way of identifying with various groups of individual across the globe to campaign against gender violence, the activism was observed on Monday Dec. 10th 2012 at Federal University of Technology, Akure with a One-Day Students' Symposium tagged **“An end to violence and discrimination against women and girls, the time is now than ever”** organized by the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Gender Issues in Science and Technology in conjunction with Girls to Women Research and Development Centre.

The event attracted over 800 participants cutting across companies, industries, organization, Centres, schools and departments within and outside the University community. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. A.G. Daramola was ably represented by the Deputy-Vice Chancellor, Development. Prof. T.L. Akinbogun who delivered the VC's Opening address; he encouraged participants not to be ignorant of the anti-social consequences of gender violence and specifically dissuaded students to shun dating violence which is more rampant among them. The Acting Director of CEGIST, Dr. (Mrs.) M.O. Edema gave a power-point presentation that vividly bordered on the awful consequences of violence committed against women, most of which were pathetic reports.

The invited speakers: Barrister (Mrs.) Banke Olagbegi-Oloba and Police Superintendent Mbanefo Regina Jane delivered talks entitled: *“Seeking legal help in terms of violation”* and *“Role of police in protecting women and girls against violence”* respectively. The speakers categorically condemned the practice of violence in whatever form it takes, as such practice(s) constitute the larger percentage of social ills militating against fundamental human rights in our society. The Effects of the ills on socio-economy of Nigeria, the legal implication of such practices on perpetrators and feasible strategy to eliminate them were highlighted. One of the general means emphatically stressed to dissuade such practice was to **‘Come out and Speak against’** the evil acts.

A lot of pertinent questions were raised by the participants during the interactive session of the seminar. Most of the questions were considered as effectual platform for CEGIST to reach out and proffer valuable suggestions to those participants that are violence-quandary.

The symposium was financially supported by the Federal University of Technology, Akure and Matna Foods Nig. Ltd., Ogbese, Ondo State. We are indeed grateful to our sponsor and facilitators!