

NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER JAN - MAR

2026



Happy New Year

Editor - Sarah John Musa

GOODWILL MESSAGE – NNC

Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Peace Advocates

I am delighted to welcome everyone to another year filled with hope, great potential and prospects. The year 2025 had been a defining moment for the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)–Nigeria. It was a year that tested our capacity as a Network, our structures, and our resolve in ways that few could have anticipated.



Though the year began like every good year, it soon started to with the United States Government’s directive to suspend Foreign Aid to countries globally. This single act placed a peg on our partnership with the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) and ended the Peace Action for Rapid and Transformative Nigerian Early Response (PARTNER) II project. Despite this, WANEP Nigeria remained steadfast in sustaining critical community peacebuilding structures such as the Early Warning Monitoring and Reporting Groups (EWMRGs) and Community–Based Reconciliation Committees (CBRCs).

A major milestone was the adoption of these structures by the Plateau State Peace Building Agency (PSPBA), transforming them into formal components of the state’s peace architecture. This marked a significant step toward institutionalizing community-led peacebuilding and strengthening conflict prevention mechanisms.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our partners—including GNWP, Global Affairs Canada, UNDEF, USAID, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, and others for their continued support.

As we step into 2026, our focus is on sustaining and operationalizing the frameworks we have established. We remain committed to strengthening community ownership, leveraging technology, and building a culture of peace that is locally driven and enduring.

With renewed commitment and clarity of purpose, WANEP Nigeria stands ready to consolidate its peacebuilding efforts and continue “Building Relationships for Peace.”

Thank you.

Dr Bridget Osakwe Ph.D

Natioanl Network Coordinator

WANEPNigeria

TWO-DAY MONITORING AND EVALUATION WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN NIGERIA



In furtherance of ongoing efforts to strengthen accountability and evidence-based implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in Nigeria, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria, in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), convened a two-day Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Workshop in Benin City, Edo State, from 25–26 February 2026.



Across the two days, participants engaged in both conceptual and practical sessions focused on strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) systems. A key feature of the workshop was the exploration of WANEP's Community Accountability and Reporting Mechanism (CARM), which provides a structured approach for enhancing transparency, responsiveness, and community feedback in peacebuilding interventions. Participants also examined gender-responsive analytical tools to better integrate gender perspectives into planning, budgeting, and reporting processes.

PEACE EDUCATION: KOSOFE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION AUTHORITY (LGEA)

WANEP-Nigeria renewed its partnership with the Kosofe Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) and the Kosofe School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) to advance community-driven school reforms in Kosofe LGA, Lagos State. Discussions focused on enhancing community participation in school management, promoting child protection mechanisms, and integrating peace education into school systems.



PAVE/PCVA PROJECT

The Lagos State Partnership Against Violent Extremism (PAVE)/PCVA Project conducted an advocacy visit to the Commandant General of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) at the Taskforce Complex, Bolade, Oshodi. During the visit, PAVE members met with the General Manager, Director of Administration, Director of Operations, and the Public Relations Officer (PRO) to explore strategic areas of collaboration aimed at fostering a safer and violence-free environment across communities.



FIRST PAVE LAGOS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The first Steering Committee Meeting of PAVE Lagos was convened, bringing together steering committee members and partners.

The meeting provided an avenue to review the annual work plan, identify key community priorities, and refine implementation strategies to ensure measurable impact across Lagos State. Participants also explored opportunities for collaboration, particularly in leveraging existing peace structures within schools and deepening engagement with the Ministry of Education.



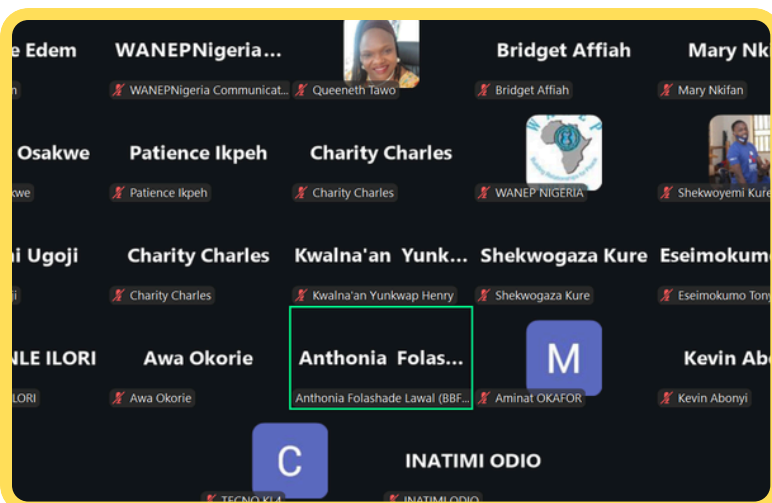
9th Gender Talk Series

In commemoration of International Women's Day (IWD) 2026, WANEP-Nigeria convened the 9th edition of its National Gender Talk Series, reinforcing its commitment to advancing gender-responsive peacebuilding and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Since its inception in 2022, the series has served as a strategic platform for dialogue, advocacy, and accountability on gender, peace, and development issues.

PANELISTS highlighted that while Nigeria has made progress in developing Gender responsive frameworks, implementation remains inconsistent. Limited access to justice—especially for women in marginalized and conflict-affected communities—continues to hinder progress, compounded by weak institutional accountability and entrenched socio-cultural barriers. The discussion also underscored the low representation of women in decision-making and peacebuilding processes, which undermines inclusive and sustainable peace efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of existing gender-responsive laws and policies
- Improve access to justice through more inclusive, efficient, and survivor-centered systems
- Promote greater representation of women in governance and peacebuilding processes
- Enhance public awareness and education on women's rights and accountability mechanisms
- Foster stronger collaboration among government institutions, civil society, and development partners



2-DAY NATIONAL TOWNHALL MEETING WITH WOMEN POLITICAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS), YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY (YPS), AND SUSTAINING PEACE IN NIGERIA

WANEP-Nigeria, in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), convened a 2-Day National Townhall Meeting on 17–18 March 2026 in Abuja, bringing together women political leaders, civil society actors, youth representatives, and media stakeholders to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas in Nigeria.



The Townhall engaged over 140 participants (40 in-person and over 100 virtual), providing a multi-stakeholder platform to bridge the gap between policy frameworks and political practice. Discussions centered on translating Nigeria's commitments under the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 and the YPS agenda into actionable outcomes within governance and electoral processes, highlighting the urgent need for targeted sensitization and sustained engagement with political parties and leaders. Participants also underscored persistent structural barriers limiting women's political participation, including weak institutional support, socio-cultural norms, and limited access to decision-making spaces.

With the 2027 general elections approaching, discussions emphasized the need for deliberate strategies to enhance women's representation, including advancing the 35% affirmative action and integrating WPS/YPS priorities into political party systems and electoral processes. The Townhall also explored youth inclusion, revealing gaps in mentorship, access, and intergenerational collaboration, while calling for more structured pathways for young women in leadership.



ADVOCACY VISITS

ADVOCACY VISIT TO NILE UNIVERSITY ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY



WANEP-Nigeria paid an advocacy visit to Nile University, Abuja, engaging the Department of Political Science and International Relations to explore strategic partnership opportunities on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). The visit forms part of WANEP's broader commitment to strengthening youth capacity and promoting inclusive approaches to peacebuilding in Nigeria.

During the engagement, the WANEP-Nigeria team met with the Head of Department and faculty members, where discussions focused on building collaborative pathways between academia and practice. Key conversations emphasized the need to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world peacebuilding by equipping students with practical skills, exposure to field-based interventions, and access to professional opportunities within the peace and security sector.

ADVOCACY VISIT TO NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA)



WANEP-Nigeria paid an advocacy visit to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to explore strategic areas of collaboration in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and conflict-sensitive response. The engagement aligns with WANEP's commitment to strengthening partnerships that enhance human security and resilience across Nigeria.

During the visit, both institutions engaged in productive discussions to identify shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration. Key focus areas included improving early warning and response systems, integrating conflict sensitivity into emergency interventions, and strengthening coordination between peacebuilding and disaster management actors.

ADVOCACY VISIT TO OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY - EDO STATE

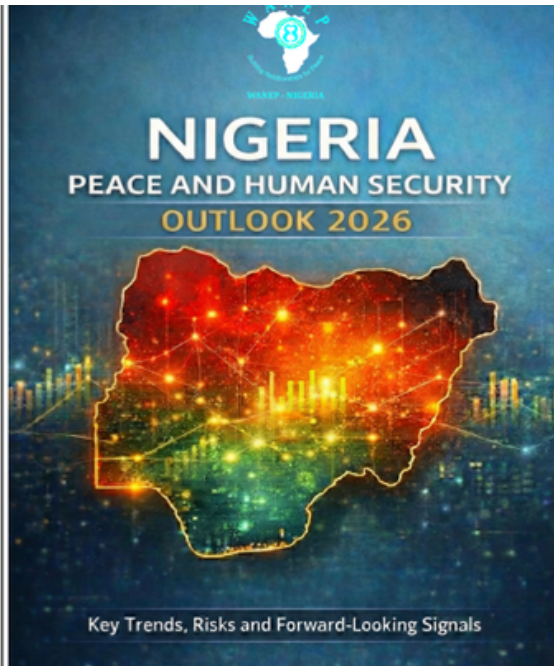


WANEP Nigeria paid advocacy meeting with the Office of the First Lady served as a strategic entry point into executive-level endorsement and political visibility for the SAP. The First Lady expressed appreciation for the briefing and welcomed the opportunity to be fully apprised of the status and importance of the State Action Plan.

She conveyed strong support for the WPS agenda and indicated readiness to use her platform to mobilize attention and momentum toward the formal launch and implementation of the SAP. Her office acknowledged the importance of positioning the SAP within broader state development and peacebuilding priorities.

The engagement with the Office of the First Lady significantly strengthened prospects for high-level political backing and public visibility for the SAP launch process.

PUBLICATIONS



Nigeria Peace & Human Security 2026 Outlook is Out!

Nigeria's insecurity is evolving violence is spreading, more lethal, and driven by criminal networks, displacement, and governance challenges. Read more: <https://wanepnigeria.org/nigeria-peace-and-human-security-2026-outlooks/>

The Women, Peace and Security Journal (2nd Edition, 2026) by WANEP Nigeria is a knowledge and advocacy publication that amplifies women's roles and contributions to peacebuilding in Nigeria. A must-read :

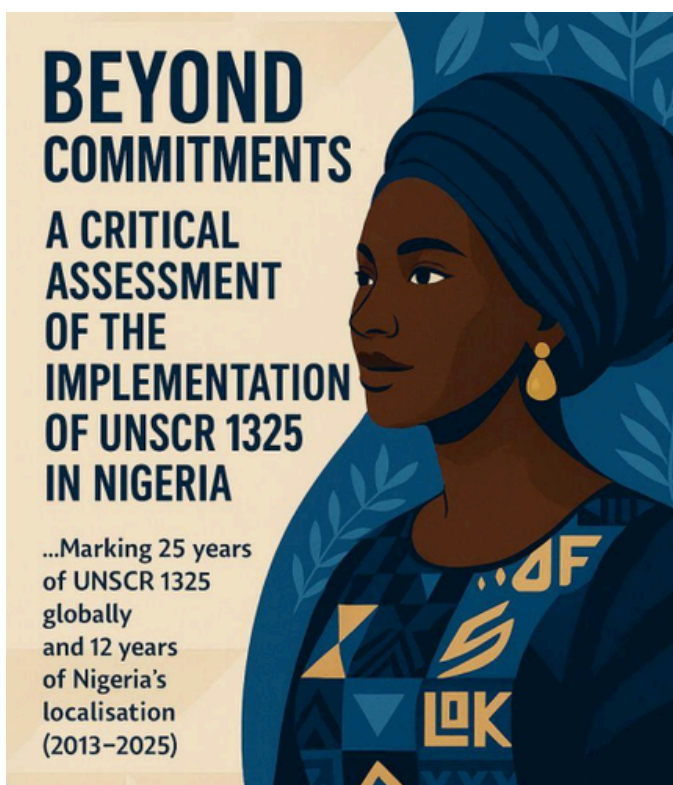
<https://wanepnigeria.org/women-peace-and-security-journal-2nd-edition-2026/>



Beyond Commitments: A Critical Assessment of UNSCR 1325 in Nigeria by WANEP Nigeria reviews Nigeria's 12-year journey in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The report highlights progress in women's participation and gender reforms Read More:

<https://wanepnigeria.org/beyond-commitments-a-critical-assessment-of-the-implementation-of-unscr-1325-in-nigeria-full-report/>



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026



IWD 2026 Spotlight: Women in Ossissa, Delta State, under the United Women Peacebuilders Network, marked **#internationalwomensday2026** with peace songs and prayers celebrating women's role in promoting unity and community peace.

BIRTHDAYS



About Us

WANEP Nigeria operations are structured along the geo-political constellation of Nigeria and targets grassroots ownership of peacebuilding initiatives through its member organisations in the thirty-six (36) states of Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Its operational framework was designed along the visions of the regional network operating in West Africa, Chad and Cameroun with ultimate goal of building sustainable peace for growth and development in the region.



Contact Us

+234-7041895020
+234-9043056676

 wanep-nigeria@wanep.org

 www.wanepnigeria.org

 Lagos Address:
27 Adeniji Street, Adeniji Estate off
WEMPCO Road, Ogba, Ikeja Lagos
State.

 Abuja Address- House 6, A Close
Eagleville Estate, Mabushi Abuja.