

# AWLO

MARCH 27TH, 2025

*Celebrating an Iconic  
Woman of Worth,*

## CHIEF OPRAL BENSON

Iya Oge of Lagos

# 90

Last Interview with Late Pastor  
Mrs. Patience Umo Eno  
AWLO UN Women Leaders Dialogue  
AWLO Canada Inauguration Summit  
AWLO Pan-African HeForShe Summit  
AWLO Youth Corner  
Inside AWLO  
Featuring Mai Youssef in celebration  
of International Women's Day

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# AWLO

## PREVIOUS EDITIONS



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# EVENT OVERVIEW

Focused on introducing AWAKE Africa, highlighting the collective vision and actionable strategies for empowering African women and promoting sustainable development across the continent. The launch event showcases future goals, and collaborative opportunities under the AWAKE umbrella, emphasizing the role of women in leading Africa's transformation.

#AWAKE Africa

01

## AWLO WOMEN DIALOGUE 2025.

**THEME:** AWAKE-NING Africa's Potential: The Role of Women in Leading Africa's Transformation

**LOCATION:** New York, USA

**DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Sub-Theme:** Crossroads of Commerce: Africa Meets the World

**Description:** A dynamic meet-up in Dubai where African women leaders connect with global businesses and female founders, fostering partnerships, investment, and scaling solutions for entering international markets.

#AWAKE HER AFRICA

#AWAKE AFRICAN ENTERPRISE

02

## AWLO GLOBAL SYNERGY SUMMIT DUBAI, 2025.

**THEME:** Empowering African Women in Global Markets An AWAKE Africa Event

**LOCATION:**

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Apr. 2025

These gathering aims to focus on enhancing women's leadership roles across various sectors globally, through discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities centered around intellectual growth, economic empowerment, community development, and social movements.

#AWAKE HER AFRICA

#AWAKE AFRICAN ENTERPRISE

#AWAKE GOOD-GOVERNANCE AFRICA

03

## AWLO WORLD WOMEN CONVENTION, CANADA 2025 (MAIDEN EDITION)

**THEME:** Minds, Markets, and Movements: Elevating Women's Leadership for Global Impact.

An AWAKE Africa Event

**LOCATION:** Toronto, Canada

**DATE:** June 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

04

## AWLO #YOUTHFORCE IMPACT FESTSUMMIT, 2025 (MAIDEN EDITION)

**THEME:** AWAKE AFRICAN YOUTH: Youth at the Helm: Driving Community Innovation, Transforming Africa.

**LOCATION:** Lagos-Nigeria.

**DATE:** International Youth Day, Aug. 12, 2025

The AWLO YOUTHFORCE IMPACT FESTIVAL-SUMMIT will serve as an innovative platform for African youth, leveraging a unique blend of festival festivities and summit style engagements to catalyze socio-economic transformation. This event will facilitate a dynamic ecosystem where participants can engage in capacity-building workshops, hackathons focused on sustainable development, and policy discussions aimed at grassroots innovation. Through interactive sessions on technology transfer, entrepreneurial skills development, and leadership training, the festival-summit will empower youth to tackle pressing continental challenges, fostering a network of change agents equipped with the tools to drive impactful projects across Africa, thereby promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development.

#AWAKE AFRICAN YOUTHS #AWAKE AFRICAN ARTS

#AWAKE AFRICAN VOLUNTEERS /MARSHALS

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20  
CALE

**HeforShe SUMMIT 2025**

**THEME:** Redefining Masculinity; Men as a catalyst for Women Development

**LOCATION:** Accra, Ghana

**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

05

- 1). Female success as seen in the African cultural/traditional concept laced with contemporary Western ideals and how men can support this.
- 2). Men as the major pillars in the African family settings and their influence as role models and mentors of the next generation of African men to ensure that women are nurtured into full capacity and leadership expressions.
- 3). African men as spouses and providing spouse support to enhance a woman's leadership success.
- 4). African men as encouragers of women in male dominated professions and leadership.

**AWLO DIASPORA IMPACT SUMMIT LONDON, UK 2025**

**THEME:** AWAKE AFRICAN DIASPORA: Innovating for Africa's Future

**LOCATION:** London, UK

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2025

06

This summit will serve as a nexus for leveraging diaspora capabilities to address critical development challenges in Africa, with a focus on:

- Food Security: Deploying diaspora-driven agricultural innovations and investments.
- Education: Harnessing diaspora knowledge and resources to enhance educational frameworks and opportunities.
- Financing: Introducing diaspora-led financial models, including venture capital, impact investing, and crowdfunding, aimed at sustainable growth.
- Relocation and Reintegration: Providing strategies, resources, and support networks for African diaspora members planning to return or relocate to Africa, focusing on policy advocacy, cultural acclimation, and economic integration.

The summit will explore the strategic role of the African diaspora in:

- Capital Mobilization: Utilizing diaspora networks as a conduit for investment into African markets, fostering business growth and entrepreneurial ventures.
- Mentorship and Knowledge Transfer: Facilitating a transfer of skills and experience from the diaspora to African youth and women, enhancing leadership and innovation capacities.
- Cultural and Social Exchange: Promoting a cultural synergy that supports community development initiatives while maintaining and celebrating African heritage globally.
- Returnee Support: Offering insights into navigating the complexities of returning to Africa, including legal, housing, and employment considerations, as well as fostering connections with local communities and institutions.

This event aims to catalyze a collaborative ecosystem where members of the African diaspora engage in mutual support, leveraging their collective expertise, networks, and resources to drive impactful, sustainable development across the continent. It will serve as a platform for diaspora communities to converge, strategize, and implement solutions that resonate with both African and diaspora needs, thereby empowering both local communities and the global African diaspora.

#AWAKE AFRICAN DIASPORA #AWAKE AFRICAN ENTERPRISE

**PAN AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARD (PAALA) 2025**

**THEME:** AWAKE AFRICAN DIASPORA: Innovating for Africa's Future

**LOCATION:** Houston, Texas, USA

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup>, October 2025

07

The Pan African American Leadership Award is an initiative of AWLO to preserve the Pan Africanism ideals. PAALA set the tone for the sustainability of shared value for africapitalism, sustained democracy, and the global competitiveness of the African continent. The recognition of exceptional leaders of African descent and their contributions to the growth of African American communities in the United States of America and the African continent is in alignment with resolutions of Pan African congresses for the benefit of black heritage.

**AWAKE EXCLUSIVE DINNER/ INDUCTION CEREMONY**

**THEME:** ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT/FUND RAISING/ INDUCTION

**LOCATION:** Houston, Texas, USA

**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025

08

This special evening hosted by AWLO is a celebration of achievements and a forwardlooking event for the AWAKE Africa program. The night will kick off with an Annual Progress Report, where we will present a comprehensive scorecard highlighting the milestones and progress made throughout the year in our efforts to empower and uplift communities across Africa. This segment will include insights into how our initiatives have impacted lives, created opportunities, and fostered development.

Following this, we will hold an Induction Ceremony to welcome new members into our fold, recognizing their commitment to our vision and mission. This ceremony symbolizes the growth of our community and the shared passion for change among our new members.

The evening will also feature a Fund-Raising Event, aimed at securing resources for the upcoming year's projects. We will share our plans and the areas where support can make a significant difference. It's an opportunity for attendees to contribute to the continued success and expansion of our initiatives.

This exclusive dinner will combine fine dining with inspirational speeches, networking, and a celebration of collective achievements. It's a chance to connect with like-minded individuals, celebrate progress, and be part of shaping the future through AWLO's AWAKE Africa program.

AWLO  
(AWAKE)



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ANN D AR



# *Publisher's Note*

*Happy International Women's Month!*

Today, we celebrate the remarkable strength and impact of women worldwide. As we mark 30 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, we recognize how far we have come in advancing gender equality—but also acknowledge how much more we must do to accelerate progress.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day calls us to accelerate action toward a more inclusive and equitable world. In Nigeria, while we have seen increased advocacy for women in leadership, gender parity in politics, business, and governance remains a challenge. Women still face barriers to representation, economic empowerment, and decision-making spaces. Now more than ever, we must push for policies and initiatives that promote gender inclusion, ensuring that Nigerian women have the opportunities, support, and platforms to lead and thrive.

At AWLO, we remain steadfast in our mission to break barriers, amplify women's voices, and create pathways for leadership. The future belongs to those who take action, and together, we must accelerate the momentum toward true gender equality.

To our phenomenal AWLO members—you are the torchbearers of change. Let's keep pushing boundaries and leading with purpose.

Happy International Women's Day to AWLO Women of Worth!

*Warm Regards,*

**Dr. Elisha Attai**

**Founder, African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO).**

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AWLO

*Pledge*

I see me and hundreds of women like me from all walks of life meeting together in friendship and sisterhood to advance our common goals.  
I have begun a journey of discovery – a journey to find self.  
And what great things I have discovered!  
I found I can be whatever I dreamed  
I found that I am not shackled by society in any way.  
Whatever holds me down exists only in my mind.  
I found I could transfer the skills of nurturing my children to nurturing an entire community, and entire nation, if I dared!  
I found that my inner strength prevailed against any obstacle that sought to trounce my goals.  
I found that I had no need to prove a point to society, but that my womanhood is enough to confound anyone that thought me incompetent.  
I found that beauty exists much more potently on the inside – and that it is this inner beauty that fully assuages.  
I am a woman in the 21st century. I stand on the shoulders of the African Women who forged on in the face of gender discrimination.  
The women who found themselves so they could save their communities.  
My journey is unfolding, much more exciting stories await as I and other African Women write our stories.  
I am worthy! I am a woman! I am an African Woman!  
I am an African Woman of Worth!!!

AWLO *before she*

On my honour, I pledge to stand for and with, and not against women.  
To include and treat them as equals in economic, social and political growth and nation building.  
To build gender parity at home, in the society, in Government and ultimately the world.



# AWAKE AFRICA

## PROJECT PROFILE

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower Africa

[www.awlo.africa](http://www.awlo.africa)

### ABOUT


Celebrating 15 years of transformative impact, the African Women in Leadership Organization proudly presents AWAKE AFRICA: African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower Africa. This groundbreaking initiative is a beacon of solutions inspired by the legacy of great African women who, historically, have been the backbone of our communities—uncelebrated heroes who have supported families, participated in political activism, and contributed wisdom crucial to social progress.

Over the past fifteen years, our organization has been at the forefront of dialogue and action, hosting numerous conferences across Africa and the diaspora. These gatherings have shed light on the diverse challenges faced by African women and have catalyzed significant advancements in placing women in leadership positions throughout the continent.

Now, AWAKE AFRICA seeks to turn this valuable knowledge into tangible action to awaken Africa's greatness. Building on our years of dedication and experience, this program is designed to reposition African women from being mere recipients of empowerment to becoming the frontrunners of leadership, activating solutions to drive sustainable development in Africa. AWAKE AFRICA comprises strategic community culture-centric growth programs across the 54 African countries - **AWAKE 54**

### PROGRAM PLATFORMS

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower Africa




[www.awlo.africa](http://www.awlo.africa)

### AWAKE HER AFRICA

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower HER Africa

Committed to ensuring that Africa is a land where the rights of women and children are protected. This AWAKE platform advocates for inclusion in education, empowering women and children through accessible learning opportunities and robust legal support.



4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

### AWAKE GREEN AFRICA

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower a Green Africa

Dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability and empowering communities to adopt eco-friendly practices that benefit both people and the planet. It stands as the pioneering platform uniting African women in a collective commitment to a greener, more sustainable Africa.






13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land)

### AWAKE AFRICAN ENTERPRISE

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower African Enterprise

Focused on supporting and promoting African businesses while advocating for the patronage of made-in-Africa products.

This campaign includes advocacy efforts aimed at organizations operating in Africa to buy local.

8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)

### AWAKE AFRICAN SCHOLARS

(FORMERLY #1MOTHER1CHILD)

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower African Scholars

AWAKE AFRICAN SCHOLARS is an innovative platform evolving from AWLO's #1mother1child pilot program launched in 2015, with a mission to transform Africa's educational landscape. [\[Click here for the progress report of the pilot program\]](#)

This initiative focuses on identifying, nurturing, and funding scholars emerging from Africa's out-of-school or indigent children, ensuring they receive the support needed to achieve academic success and empowerment.



4 (Quality Education), 1 (No Poverty), 10 (Reduced Inequalities)

### AWAKE AFRICAN YOUTH

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower African Youth

Dedicated to empowering and mobilizing African youth by fostering opportunities that enable them to develop and implement innovative solutions tailored to their community's challenges. Through TRANS4ME (Personal Development) and TRANS4MYCommunity (Community Transformation) programs, AWAKE Africa empowers African youth to become today's leaders by addressing challenges within their communities and contributing solutions to global issues.




4 (Quality Education) 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10 (Reduced Inequality).


### AWAKE HEALTHY AFRICA

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower a Healthy Africa

As part of Africa's Mind, Body, and Spirit R-Evolution, this AWAKE platform is focused on promoting holistic well-being by advocating for mental health, nurturing the soul, and strengthening the spirit. We recognize the critical role of health in community empowerment and nation building.




3 (Good Health and Well-Being)



### AWAKE AFRICAN ART

African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower African Arts

Dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rich tapestry of African arts, including visual arts, music, dance, literature, and traditional crafts, as well as preserving cultural heritage. By spotlighting creative talents and diverse cultural expressions, we aim to enhance cultural identity and drive economic growth across the continent.




8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)

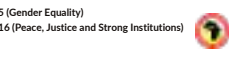
### AWAKE GOOD-GOVERNANCE AFRICA

**African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower Good Governance in Africa**

Focused on policy advocacy and creating platforms and podiums for good governance and to ensure more women attain influential positions.

5 (Gender Equality)  
16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)





### AWAKE AFRICAN DIASPORA

**African Women Activating Knowledge to Engage African Diaspora**

AWAKE AFRICAN DIASPORA is a dynamic platform that has evolved from the numerous diaspora conferences and dialogues conducted by AWLO over the years. Its aim is to work in partnership with the African Diaspora Impact Center (ADIC) to mobilize people of African descent to drive sustainable development in Africa.

This initiative focuses on leveraging the skills, resources, and networks of the African diaspora to foster growth and create impactful, sustainable change across the continent.

17 (Partnerships for the Goals)








### AWAKE AFRICAN VOLUNTEERS / MARSHALS

**African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower African Volunteer Marshals**

Aims to mobilize, activate, and mainstream 5.4 million frontline community development marshals to drive the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union (AU) Agenda, and AWAKE programs at the grassroots level.

17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

### DEVELOPMENT TARGET AREAS



### DEVELOPMENT IMPACT AGENDA

**AFRICAN WOMEN ACTIVATING SOLUTIONS TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**



### MARKET PLACE



SOCIETY AT 229

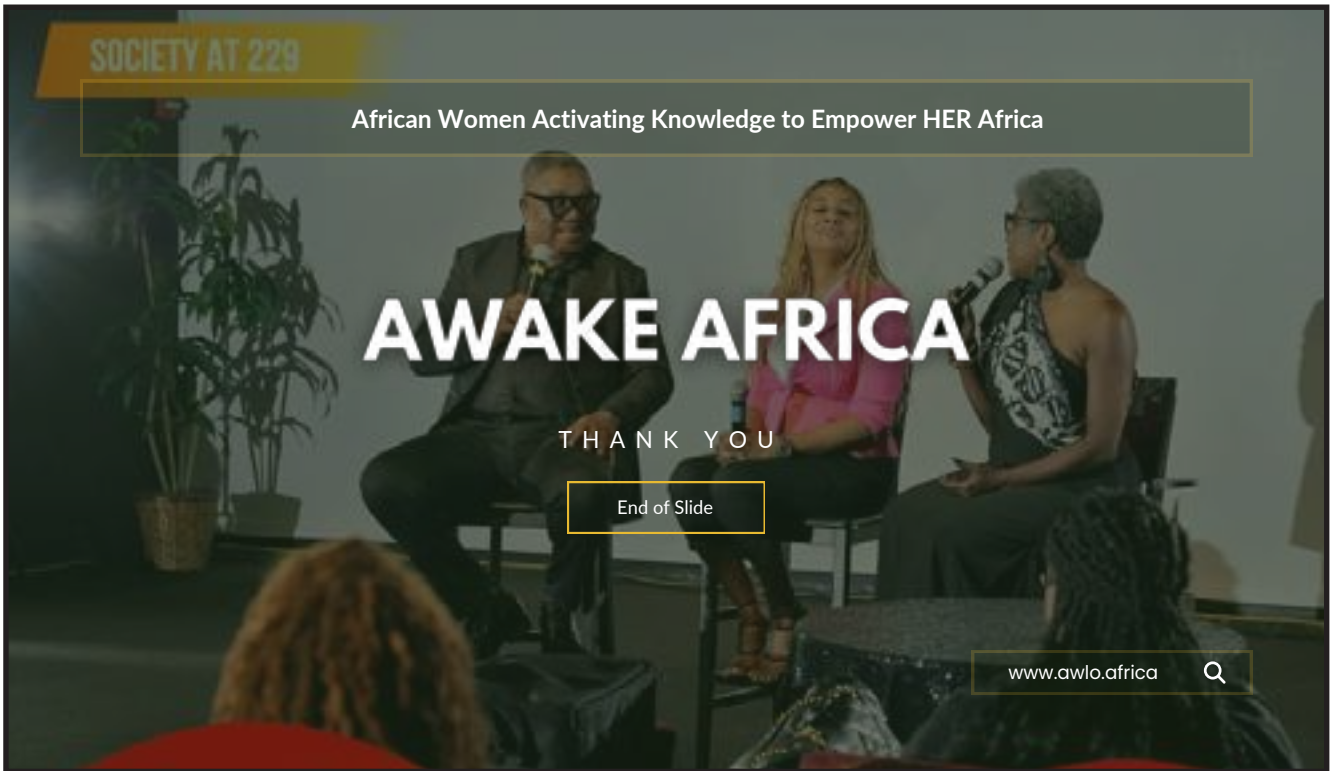
African Women Activating Knowledge to Empower HER Africa

# AWAKE AFRICA

THANK YOU

End of Slide

[www.awlo.africa](http://www.awlo.africa)



A close-up portrait of Dr. (Mrs) Aisha Sulaiman Achimugu. She is wearing a white headwrap and a dark blazer. She has a calm and professional expression, looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow.

**Dr (Mrs)  
Aisha  
Sulaiman  
Achimugu**<sub>OFR</sub>  
GCEO, FELAK CONCEPT GROUP

**I** Did you ever see yourself in Business as a child? What motivated you to go into Business and Management?

Absolutely, even as a child, I was fascinated by the world of business. I grew up observing how people around me created solutions to meet the needs of their communities. That planted a seed of curiosity and determination in me. I would often imagine myself leading a business that not only made an impact but also brought positive change to people's lives.

What truly motivated me to pursue business and management was the realization that I could turn my passion for problem-solving into tangible outcomes. As I grew older, I became more aware of the untapped potential in our communities—especially among women and young people. I wanted to be part of the solution, to build systems and organizations that provide opportunities, foster innovation, and contribute to societal progress. The desire to create and empower became my driving force.

2. How has it been serving as the Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of FELAK Concept Group?

It has been a deeply rewarding yet challenging journey. Leading FELAK Concept Group means carrying the responsibility of steering multiple companies across diverse sectors like engineering, ICT, and oil and gas. Each sector has its unique demands, so I am constantly learning, adapting, and finding innovative ways to lead effectively.

ake—creating jobs, driving innovation, and empowering individuals to grow personally and professionally. The role has also allowed me to push boundaries, both in terms of business growth and in fostering an inclusive work environment where everyone has a voice and a chance to succeed.

Of course, the demands of leadership require resilience and balance. There are days when the challenges feel overwhelming, but I find strength in the vision we have for the Group and the talented team that supports me. Serving in this capacity has shaped me into a better leader and person, and I am deeply grateful for the journey.

3. What is the place of Women in the Socio-Economic Development of the African continent?

Women are the cornerstone of socio-economic development in Africa. Across every sector—from agriculture to entrepreneurship and corporate leadership—women are driving change, often against significant odds. They are not only breadwinners but also community builders, educators, and innovators.

However, the potential of African women remains largely untapped due to systemic barriers like limited access to education, funding, and leadership opportunities. Imagine the possibilities if these barriers were removed. By empowering women, we are not just supporting individuals but also fostering the development of families, communities, and entire economies.

I believe that women must be given more opportunities to lead and contribute at all levels. Policies that prioritize gender equality, mentorship programs, and platforms for collaboration are critical for harnessing the full potential of African women. When

women thrive, nations prosper.

4. What are your top three guiding principles for life? And how have they helped to bring you to the place you are today?

1. Faith and Integrity – My faith grounds me, and integrity ensures that I remain true to my values and principles. These two qualities have been my compass in making tough decisions and earning the trust of those I work with.

2. Resilience – Life and business come with their fair share of challenges, but resilience has taught me to persevere, learn, and grow stronger through adversity. It's a quality I strive to instill in others, especially women.

3. Service to Others – I believe that leadership is ultimately about service. Whether it's through empowering my team, mentoring young women, or giving back to society, the principle of service has guided me to focus on impact rather than just success.

These principles have not only shaped my career but also enriched my personal life, allowing me to lead with purpose and humility.

5. What advice do you have for women who aspire to climb the career ladder, especially in roles of leadership and influence?

My advice to women is simple yet profound: believe in yourself and the value you bring to the table. Women often second-guess their abilities due to societal expectations or fear of failure, but your journey begins with self-confidence. Seek out mentors and role models who inspire you, and don't be afraid to ask for guidance. Build a strong support system of like-minded individuals who will cheer you on while challenging you to grow.

Be intentional about learning. Invest in developing your skills and knowledge, especially in areas that will make you indispensable in your field. At the same time, don't shy away from taking risks—whether it's leading a major project or stepping into a new role. Every step, no matter how small, builds your capacity for leadership.

Finally, always remember to lift others as you climb. Success is far more meaningful when it creates opportunities for others.

6. As an Industrialist, what specific strategies do you employ to manage all the companies and businesses under your care? How do you balance everything?

Managing multiple companies requires a clear vision, efficient systems, and a great deal of collaboration. One of my key strategies is building strong leadership teams in each business. I believe in empowering others to take ownership of their roles while ensuring alignment with the Group's overall goals.

Another important strategy is prioritization. With so many moving parts, it's essential to focus on what truly matters at any given time. I maintain regular communication with my teams to monitor progress, address challenges, and adapt to changing circumstances.

On a personal level, I have learned the importance of balance. While work is demanding, I make time for my family, personal growth, and moments of reflection. This balance keeps me grounded and energized to give my best to every aspect of my life.

7. What challenges have you faced as a woman in a leadership position, and how have you overcome them to achieve your goals?

As a woman in leadership, I have faced challenges ranging from gender bias to balancing professional and personal responsibilities. In male-dominated sectors, I've had to work twice as hard to prove my capabilities and earn respect.

I've overcome these challenges by staying true to my vision and letting my work speak for itself. Building a strong network of mentors and allies has also been invaluable. These individuals have supported and guided me through difficult moments, reminding me that I am not alone in this journey.

Most importantly, I have learned to view challenges as opportunities for growth. Each obstacle has strengthened my resolve and prepared me for greater responsibilities.

8. What is the place of mentoring the younger generation of women to take their place in leadership and management?

Mentoring the next generation of women leaders is one of the most important responsibilities we have. It's not just about passing down knowledge; it's about creating pathways for young women to dream boldly and take their place at decision-making tables.

I believe mentorship is a two-way street. While I guide and inspire younger women, I also learn from their energy, creativity, and fresh perspectives. Through platforms like workshops, empowerment programs, and one-on-one mentoring, I aim to help women build confidence, develop skills, and navigate challenges.

When we invest in mentoring, we create a ripple effect. Empowered women go on to empower others, shaping a future where women's leadership and contributions are celebrated.



# CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IMPACT: AWLO Partners *with* the African Diaspora Impact Center

As we proudly commemorate the 15th anniversary of the African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO), we are excited to announce a strategic partnership with the African Diaspora Impact Center, Inc. (ADIC). This collaboration signifies a monumental step toward empowering women of African descent and driving sustainable development initiatives across the African continent.

## STRENGTHENING OUR MISSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

AWLO is dedicated to uplifting women leaders across Africa and beyond. Our mission is to advocate for the advancement of women in leadership positions by fostering an empowering environment that capitalizes on the strengths of our diverse and dynamic membership. The African Diaspora Impact Center (ADIC) shares a similar vision, focusing on creating a global ecosystem that empowers individuals of African descent to drive sustainable development across the African continent through high-impact social initiatives in education and strategic investments that enhance food security. By aligning our goals, we aim to catalyze impactful social initiatives that will benefit communities across Africa.

## KEY BENEFITS FOR AWLO MEMBERS

1. Expanded Leadership and Networking Opportunities: This partnership opens doors for AWLO members to gain access to ADIC's extensive network and resources, fostering leadership development and collaborative opportunities critical for driving change.
2. Innovative Investment Strategies: With ADIC's de-risked investment vehicles, AWLO members will have the opportunity to participate in transformative projects that address pressing challenges in education and food security throughout Africa.

3. Tailored Educational Programs: Together, AWLO and ADIC will provide educational initiatives designed to equip women leaders with essential skills and knowledge, enhancing their ability to lead impactful projects and initiatives.

4. Support for Sustainable Development: Our unified efforts support the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in promoting gender equality and sustainable economic growth, directly aligning with AWLO's mission.

5. Empowerment of Women's Voices: This partnership amplifies the voices of women leaders of African descent, providing them with the platform to advocate for change and make significant contributions to society.



AWLO Founder, Dr. Elisha Attai & Rev. Chidi Jacob, President, African Diaspora Impact Center

## VISION FOR COLLABORATION

Rev. Chidi Jacob, President of the African Diaspora Impact Center, expressed enthusiasm about this partnership, stating, "We have always been part of the AWLO vision. This partnership opens the door to explore great opportunities for collaboration and impact that will empower women and drive sustainable development across the African continent

## Get in Touch with ADIC

To learn more about this exciting partnership and explore the innovative opportunities it presents, please visit the African Diaspora Impact Center's website at [www.adicenter.org](http://www.adicenter.org) or contact them via email at [info@adicenter.org](mailto:info@adicenter.org).

As we embark on this new journey, AWLO remains steadfast in our commitment to creating inclusive platforms that empower women of African descent globally. We look forward to leveraging this partnership to drive meaningful change and continue our legacy of excellence in leadership.

*Here's to 75 years of impact and the promising future ahead*



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CONCERT  
& AWARDS  
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- Oilfield Equipment Rental Services
- Chemical Blending Plant Services
- Warehousing/Stockholding Services
- Laboratory Services & Equipment including quality analysis & control
- Offshore Support & Engineering Services
- EPIC (Engineering, Procurement, Installation & Commissioning)
- Authorised lubricants OEM Agent

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ISO 9001: 2015  
CERTIFIED COMPANY  
Certificate No: 2302/04



AQC GLOBAL LLC



WOMEN OF DIGNITY INTERNATIONAL (WODI)

# WODI IMPACTING LIVES & COMMUNITIES



- 1 EMPOWERING WOMEN, YOUTHS, FAMILIES & SENIORS
- 2 VOLUNTEERING
- 3 INTEGRATING NEWCOMERS

**Our Activities Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

**FOOD BANK**

EVERY SECOND & FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
8AM TO 12 NOON

**\$10**

COORDINATOR: ASOGWA BLESSING  
548-577-3561

OUR PARTNERS

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**COOKING CRAFT SKILLS**

**FREE AFRO HAIR STYLING AND MAKE-UP TRAINING FOR WOMEN, YOUTHS, AND CHILDREN**

FREE TRAINING FOR ALL 2 TO 9 YEARS

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## ONE ON ONE WITH HER EXCELLENCY, PASTOR MRS PATIENCE UMO ENO.

**Q1:** Looking back, would you say that you are living the life you envisioned? How can more women live their dreams?

**A1:** Thank you for this sincere question! Yes! I would say I'm living the life I envisioned, having lost my mother at a tender age of 17, as the first child I was automatically saddled with the responsibility of catering for my younger ones, so that became a part of me, molding me to become the woman that I am today. Now I would say impacting humanity in my own little way has always been my call to duty, I have been doing this from a tender age till it became a part of me and I intentionally imbibed it into my daily life. So at every opportunity I have, I consciously strive to put smiles on faces and that gives me so much joy.

Women can live their dreams if they set their minds to it, life is a training ground for everyone and it is your responsibility to make the best out of what it offers, do not be deterred by the negatives, forge ahead in difficulties and with the help of God, you will overcome the setbacks and live your dreams someday.

**Q2:** As a woman in leadership, how would you say that you influence and shape the young girls in Akwa Ibom State?

**A2:** As a mother, philanthropist and humanitarian, impacting lives is what I love to do, naturally, even before I became a member of the noble organization- African Women in Leadership Organization (AWLO). I mentor so many young people- boys



and girls, so many of them, and women too and I pray God for the capacity and grace to impact much more.

The bible says to train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will never depart from it, so grooming young girls is easier when you catch them young! I have three beautiful and responsible daughters to show as proof to this fact. So as a woman in leadership, I ensure that we reach out to these little ones while we still can train, enlighten and mould them to who they ought to be by spreading out to schools, communities and even the rural areas with more sensitization programmes and unlimited sessions with them.

Having been a member of AWLO for more than 10 years and still counting, my genuine service to humanity got me globally recognized and honoured with a prestigious global award of "A Life Patroness" of the Organization- AWLO, in Chicago, USA last year, this is no mean feat as it behoves on me as a person, to do much more than I have done in the years past. I have several awards and recognitions to my honour and to the glory of God almighty.

**Q3: In what way does your initiative -Golden Initiative For All, promote Women's Leadership?**

A3: Golden Initiative For All (GIFA) is a project for all, not limited to a particular gender, class, status or what have you, but since your question

is on women leadership, let me answer from that angle (laughs)

Leadership is a task that can be easier carried out when one is well trained and prepared for it. I see women as great leaders because most of their lives have them trained for such, the home front already is a training ground for responsibility, management, resilience, tolerance, accountability, commitment and so on... so I support women leadership as I believe in women a lot, my husband and I share this belief, that's why we are set to do the much we can, within our capacity, to futher reduce the women representation gap in governance by investing more in women.

So GIFA promotes women leadership by offering leadership trainings, continuous sensitizations and enlightenment sessions to prepare and embolden more women to take up leadership roles in the society and world at large.

**Q4: What do you hope for your legacy to be after your tenure in office?**

A4: The Bible says in proverbs chapter 22 verse 1, that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, that is one of my greatest choices in life. William James said and I quote "the greatest purpose of life is to live it for something that will last longer than you..." in summary, that's a legacy and that is one of my philosophies in life.

I am here to serve, as I always have done throughout the greater part of my life, though this time in a much greater dimension, my earnest prayer is that God, who sees my heart and that of my husband, which is the heart of service to the people, would grant us grace in abundance, resources unlimited, immense capacity, human support and all that is needed to enable us create indelible impact in the lives of the good people of Akwa Ibom State, to leave a great legacy in history after our tenure expires as the Governor and First Lady of our dear state- Akwa Ibom. Amen!

**Q5: Do you believe that more men should support women to advance in leadership? Why is this important?**

A5: Yes! I strongly believe so, of course the man, as God ordained, is the head of the family, which transcends to the society at large and as such, if the men support the women to take up more leadership roles, it will not only boost the confidence of women and societal awareness, but would also create an ambience of peaceful coesistence where women are side by side with the men, working hand-in-hand to the betterment of our society.

Just like it is in the family setting, where the man is seen as the home leader and the woman is seen as the home manager, having such synergy in governance, organizations and so, as it were, would bring about cohesive interaction and engagement to churn out

the best of results. Now, this is important because it creates a more versatile government of inclusion and wealth of diverse ideas, positively affecting policies and decision-making, translating to a non-discriminative gender-inclusive society with a better balance.

**Q6: As a mother, humanitarian and philanthropist, what are some of your proud moments?**

A6: Wow! I sincerely do not like to blow my trumpet o (laughs) but since I have to answer this, let me say it's those moments where I see the young girls I mentor or mentored, become great women today, so many lives I have consciously groomed for many years, make me fulfilled as a woman having seen them become better, as a mother and as a person, it gives me this sense of accomplishment. I have so many children, apart from my biological offspring, so very many other children I have invested in their lives, you know, when you sow a seed and it germinates to a beautiful tree bearing lovely fruits, you cannot help being overjoyed by it hahaha.

One of the things that also gives me so much joy deep within, is seeing the downtrodden happy, the less privileged provided for, the incapable helped.

Being a humanitarian has had me dedicate my life to service in my little capacity, in the home, in church, in my community and infact wherever I find myself, and this always

leaves me so elated (smiles) So these moments are quite inexplicably pleasant for me, yea (smiles)

**Q7: Gender-based violence is wrecking so much havoc, what are some of the measures you would put in place to address this?**

A7: Oh my God! This violence must stop! Anyone caught violating anyone sexually, physically or whatever brutal form, will be caught and dealt with mercilessly by the law, and yes thank God for the VAPP law in Akwa Ibom state, that's the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law.

My predecessor- Dr Martha Udom, had already done a lot in this aspect by setting up the Gender Based Violence Committee Management in the state, which I am now the Chairperson of that committee and I'm continuing from where she stopped to ensure that every culprit is brought to book, we will curb this menace by engaging more agencies to look specifically into these areas of endangerment, it really has to stop, NO MERCY! Is our watch word, all hands are on deck so let the violators beware!!

Interviewer: Wow! Wow! Wow! This was such a passionate, engaging and invigorating session with you, Your Excellency, we deeply appreciate your time and sharing your insight and we are greatly privileged to draw from your deep well of knowledge, thank you sincerely your Excellency Ma'am

Response by Her Excellency : I'm so obliged, humbled and honoured, thank you too!



# AWLO CANADA INAUGURATION SUMMIT 2024 EMPOWERS AFRICAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP.

The African Women In Leadership Organisation (AWLO) proudly announces the successful inauguration of its Canadian chapter during the AWLO Canada Inauguration Summit. Held on the 19th to 21st of April, this landmark event marked a significant milestone in the journey towards Investing in Women and Closing the Representation Gap.

The summit's theme, "Investing in Women, Closing the Representation Gap," underscored AWLO's unwavering commitment to addressing challenges faced by African women in leadership roles, while recognizing their invaluable contributions to diverse sectors. The event brought together a diverse array of leaders, influencers, and advocates to ignite a transformative conversation and foster collaborative actions that empower and elevate African women in Canada.

Highlights of the AWLO Canada Inauguration Summit included engaging panel discussions, thought-provoking workshops, and inspiring success stories shared by remarkable women who have shattered

barriers in their respective fields. Participants had the opportunity to delve into strategies for empowerment, network, and forge lasting connections aimed at creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

"The AWLO Canada Inauguration Summit is not just an event; it is a call to action," said Dr. Elisha Attai, Founder of AWLO. "We are thrilled to inaugurate our Canadian chapter and celebrate the diversity, resilience, and brilliance of African women in leadership. Together, we will write a new narrative—one where women are not only represented but celebrated and supported in their leadership endeavors."

The summit received overwhelming participation from individuals and organisations committed to championing women's empowerment and advancing gender equality. AWLO Canada extends heartfelt gratitude to all attendees for their dedication and contribution to making this inaugural summit a resounding success.

For more information about AWLO Canada and upcoming initiatives, please visit, [www.awlo.africa](http://www.awlo.africa)





# AWLO WOMEN LEADERS DIALOGUE 2024, UN HEADQUATERS, NEW YORK.

**African Women In Leadership Organization (AWLO) proudly announces the successful conclusion of the Women Leaders Dialogue, a thought-provoking event centered around the theme 'Investing in Women, Closing the Representation Gap.'**

The event took place on the 21st of March 2024 at UN Headquarters, New York, bringing together prominent leaders, influencers, and advocates for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Women Leaders Dialogue served as a platform for engaging discussions, insightful perspectives, and actionable strategies aimed at addressing the challenges faced by women in various sectors and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Participants explored the importance of investing in women, both economically and socially, and discussed strategies to bridge the representation gap in leadership positions and decision-making roles.

Engaging panel discussions and

interactive sessions delved into key topics such as women's economic empowerment, leadership development, and the role of mentorship and networking in advancing women's careers.

Renowned speakers and thought leaders shared their experiences, expertise, and visionary insights on how to create opportunities for women to thrive and succeed in diverse fields.

The event also provided a valuable networking platform for participants to connect, collaborate, and build meaningful relationships with like-minded individuals and organizations committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

A resounding call to action was made to stakeholders, policymakers, businesses, and communities to prioritize investments in women, eliminate barriers to women's leadership, and create an enabling environment for women to excel and contribute meaningfully to society.

The Women Leaders Dialogue underscored AWLO's commitment to driving positive change, championing

women's rights, and building a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

African Women In Leadership Organization (AWLO) is a leading non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, promoting gender equality, and fostering leadership development across Africa. AWLO's mission is to inspire, educate, and support women to excel in leadership and contribute positively to their communities and the continent at large.

Founded in 2009 through the visionary leadership of Hon. Dr. Elisha Attai, AWLO continues to impact countless women across the African continent and its diaspora.

AWLO extends its gratitude to all participants, speakers, sponsors, and partners for their valuable contributions and unwavering support in making the Women Leaders Dialogue a resounding success.

For more information about African Women In Leadership Organization (AWLO) and upcoming events, please visit [www.awlo.africa](http://www.awlo.africa).







# MARY SLESSOR - AKAN GLO FOUNDATION (MASLAG)



Mary Slessor - Akan Glo Foundation (MASLAG) is a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) established on the values of love, empathy and solidarity to empower multiple-birth (twins, triplets, quadroplets, etc.) children and parents, poor women and widows, orphans, aged, persons with disabilities, etc

MASLAG has Mary Slessor as part of its name to commemorate the remarkable Scottish Missionary who made a lasting impact on human history. She stopped the killing of twins and other multiple-birth children and the banishment of their mothers. She fought against gender-based

violence and was a voice to the voiceless, while in Nigeria, especially in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Abia states. MASLAG Founder's grandfather lived with Mary Slessor while she was in Africa (Nigeria) and witnessed her relentless efforts to lead an impactful life.

MASLAG has done a lot including but not limited to: Building and Furnishing a Chapel named after Mary Slessor in Akwa Ibom State, where She lived and died. Full sponsorship of fifteen (15) students in Higher Institutions, skills acquisition and donation of 60 sewing machines, hair dryers and accessories to women across Akwa Ibom State, empowerment of 150 Pastors' widows across the state, small scale business grant to widows and multiple-birth parents, supports to children in orphanage homes, mobility aids to persons with disabilities. etc.

International and local organisations, corporate and individual donors as well as government agencies who are passionate about supporting vulnerable groups are welcomed to support MASLAG as it has an efficient operational and strong technical capacity to channel their efforts and donations to interventions that will have positive impacts on the targeted beneficiaries.



The Founder with a Parent of Triplets during one of the Empowerment Programmes



Empowerment of Skilled Akwa Ibom Women with Sewing Machines, Hair Dryers & Accessories.



School Fees Support to Indigent Medical Students



A Cross-section of Multi-birth Children and Parents Seated During 2023 Mary Slessor's Birth Day Anniversary, where Food Items, Gifts & Financial Supports were Given to over 1,000 Multiple-birth Parents.



Dr. Glory Edet  
Founder/President



Hospital Bills & Financial Support for a less Privileged Quintuplets Mother



Visit and Support to School Girls during Int'l Day of the Girl Child



The Foundation Celebrates Pastors' Wives Widows with Food Items & Financial Supports

# AWLC 2024 COMMUNIQUE

**P**REAMBLE: Women represent about half of the total working population, but way fewer than half of the leadership positions for proper representation. There is little attention given to how to properly invest in the education, business and leadership of women, even as we are clear that as we develop the human capital of African women, our economies thrive.

The gender disparities in governance and the barriers to entry are reflected in the low numbers of African women leaders represented in governments throughout the continent and beyond. Women's issues are not fully addressed as African women leaders are not sufficiently represented at the table where big decisions are being made on their behalf.

Furthermore, many African women leaders are leading only in face, but not in voice, along the antiquated social norms of being seen and not heard. The biases that both men and women hold against women in leadership further complicate bridging the representation gap.

The African Women in Leadership Conference-AWLC 2024-was such a timely gathering to address a pivotal theme: "Investing in Women; Closing the Representation Gap."

Our Chairperson, the first female Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor together with other highly reputable dignitaries and delegates from all over the world, made this year's conference very unique and impactful.

The 2024 African Women in Leadership Conference had the following main objectives:

1. Explore the impact of strategic investments in women's education, entrepreneurship, and

leadership.

2. Raise Awareness: Shed light on the existing gender disparities in governance and the importance of closing the representation gap.

3. Share Insights: Provide a platform for thought leaders and experts to share insights on the benefits of gender-inclusive governance.

4. Break Barriers in Leadership: Examine challenges hindering women's representation in leadership roles.

5. Propose actionable strategies to eliminate barriers and promote inclusivity.

6. Develop and Promote Inclusive Policies and Advocacy: Deliberate on the role of policies in creating an inclusive environment.

After several panel discussions and thought-provoking presentations on the state of affairs of African women in leadership, the conference rose with the following recommendations as its resolutions:

- To create a safe space for African women in leadership, where they can voice the challenges they have and get support

- To challenge the biases that many African women have against other African women in leadership, changing the narrative, through a She-for-She campaign and advocacy

- To create programs that develop young African women leaders, for a constant funnel of leaders, who will hold the fort in all arenas of government and business, sustainably

- To forge an alliance with an African Women's caucus, to amplify the voice of African women political leaders, to support these leaders to become better lawmakers and to address and solve the

challenges they have as African women lawmakers

- To sit with policy makers to develop executable plans that ensure sufficient investment in educating and building the capacity of African women, for leadership; providing access to leadership opportunities for African women; shoring up equal representation of women, on all levels of government and in all Industries; and developing structures of accountability, to confirm execution of these plans

- To develop programs and/or platforms where He-for-She advocates can mentor young men to become He-for-She advocates

- To facilitate conversations between African women political and business leaders, to enable them to build synergies

- To create an African Women Leadership research institute, for use in addressing challenges and lobbying for equal representation of African women in leadership

**CONCLUSION:** Investing in women has a profound impact on accelerating progress in our communities, nations and the continent of Africa.

When we invest in women, we invest in the future. We unlock potentials, drive innovations and create opportunities that benefit us all. It is not just about equality; it's about amplifying voices, breaking barriers, and building a world where everyone can thrive.

In our pursuit of gender equality and inclusive leadership, this conference served as a platform to amplify the voices of women across Africa, celebrate their achievements, and chart a path towards a future where every woman has equal opportunities to lead and thrive.

The discussions, observations and recommendations of this conference will inspire us to drive positive change in our communities and beyond- through initiatives, programs, strategic partnerships and continuous dialogue.

Here are the speakers at the African Women in Leadership Conference 2024 in Accra , Ghana :

1. Amb. Dr. Tanya Jones
2. Sika Twum
3. H.E. Lordina Mahama
4. Amb. Dr. Frances Virginia Anderson
5. Nana Yaar Serpong
6. Anna Yerimah Endouh
7. Oheneyere Gifty Anti
8. Dr. Safiya Musa
9. Montez Alford
10. Monique Douglas
11. Hon. Kafilat Ogbara
12. Ken Eneduwa
13. Kelly Daniels
14. Makafui Aikins
15. Mwangaza Jafari
16. Abraham Attram
17. Natalie Fort
18. Etim Essang
19. Nannette Atuahene
20. Vivian Douglor







# AWLO DIASPORA SUMMIT



Congratulations to African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO) Texas Chapter for the successful hosting of AWLO 2024 Diaspora Summit that ended with a glorious Thanksgiving Service at the Christ Purpose International Church, Dallas, Texas, USA.

Themed “Investing in Women; Closing the Representation Gap,” this year’s summit was to unite, empower, and inspire African women living in the diaspora to drive positive change and foster development within their communities. By providing a platform for collaboration, networking, and leadership development, the summit aims to harness the potential of African women globally, bridging gaps and creating opportunities for impactful contributions to the social, economic, and cultural advancement of Africa and the world.

Our founder, Dr. Elisha Attai @elishaattai appreciate all the speakers for making this year’s diaspora summit very impactful, from the strong keynote address by Her Excellency Amb Dr. HE Arikana Chihombori-Quao @arikanachihomboriupdates, to the powerful panel sessions that includes,

Dr. Liza Ekole @drlizaekole, Mariam Ally, Fatoumata Diarra @diarrafatoumata, Pastor Mercy Djenebou Bouare, Dr Angela Harris, Amb. Dr Tanya Jones @justmetanyajones, Linda Middleton, Rosemary Akaette, Attorney Emem Akpabio, Dee Burrowes, Dr. Oyinkansola Jinadu and Ify The Dominator (Ify Nkwokedi).

The summit brought together Women in leadership, including elective and appointive office holders, High-level leaders across public institutions, Political leaders, Business leaders, Women professionals and male allies, Third Sector organizations (Academia), religious organizations, youth organization representatives, and the media.

Join AWLO in shaping the future of women’s leadership in Africa and closing the representation gap.

AWLO is a leading organization dedicated to empowering women and promoting gender equality across Africa. Through advocacy, capacity-building, and networking initiatives, AWLO continues to inspire and support women leaders in driving positive change.







# FAAIA

**PAN-AFRICAN AMERICAN  
LEADERSHIP AWARDS '24**



**ATLANTA, USA-19TH OCTOBER, '24**



African Women In Leadership Organisation (AWLO) had the pleasure of hosting it's 2024 Pan African American Leadership Award (PAALA) on the 19th of October, 2024 in Atlanta, USA.

The Pan African American Leadership Award is an initiative of African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO) to preserve the Pan Africanism ideals.

The 2024 PAALA Awards Ceremony was held to celebrate the exceptional leaders of African descent and their contributions to the growth of African American communities in the United States of America and the African continent as a whole. This prestigious award is in alignment with resolutions of Pan African congresses for the benefit of black heritage.

Awards were presented to Senator Donzella James, Her Excellency Shanta Lana Hereford, Mr. Bobby Otu Onofok, Ramatu Ahmed, Her Excellency Rev. Dr. Barbara Stewart, Honorable Mahmoud Mohammed Mussa, Dr. April Ripley, Udemé Ikaidi, Olorogun Dr. Onome Bernice Dema, Ekole, H.E Senator Princess Florence Ita Giwa, Ada Wikina, Olubunmi Sonubi, Elma Okogba, Katherine Maduforo, Nikki Oluseye, Fatoumata Diarra, Ejiro Ineneji, Tanya Jones, Victor Mbaba, Maureen Joseph and Mr Aniekpeno Mkpangang for their outstanding performance as leaders.

There were participants from USA, Canada, UK, Nigeria, and other African countries.

With more than a decade-long history of impact behind, the African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO) remains a powerful force to reckon with where the advancement of the African woman's leadership development is concerned.









# Inside AWLO



# AWLO NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER



**H**urray! Our founder @elishaattai is in Charlotte, North Carolina to officially launch AWLO NC Chapter ...

Are you in North Carolina? Or you know anyone in this State? Please be nice by whispering to her that AWLO is finally in the Neighborhood!! join him, and some global impact leaders on Monday, the 29th of July as we unveil AWLO NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER in style, details on the flyer.

Our goal is to foster meaningful connections, provide resources and support, and create opportunities for women to thrive in leadership roles across various sectors.

AWLO is not just an organization; it is a movement—a movement towards gender equality, empowerment, and inclusive leadership. Through our programs, initiatives, and partnerships, we aim to break barriers, shatter stereotypes, and create a more equitable world for all.

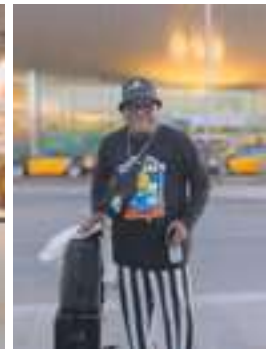




# THE FOUNDER'S 2024

Global Activities In Pictures







The African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO) proudly introduced its distinguished Ghana Chapter in Accra, Ghana, in May 2024, a moment of profound significance celebrated further by the induction of eleven esteemed Executive Committee members at AWLO's Thanksgiving Inauguration in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2024. This marks a noteworthy milestone in the organisation's unwavering commitment to empower, support, and champion the aspirations of women across the African continent. Firmly anchored in AWLO's mission to cultivate leadership and advocate for gender parity, the Ghana Chapter stands as a beacon of excellence, uniting accomplished women from various spheres who share a steadfast commitment to instigate transformative change within their communities, nation, and across Africa as a whole.

The Ghana Chapter represents an illustrious cadre of female leaders, each of whom epitomizes consummate expertise, influence, and dedication to progress. Its distinguished members comprise seasoned professionals, advocates, and executives spanning sectors such as law, international maritime, finance, healthcare, information technology and data security, education, and public service. United by a common vision, they are dedicated to inspiring and uplifting future generations. This elite assembly

not only personifies AWLO's noble mission but also stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit and resilience of Ghanaian and African women.

Endowed with its official charter, the AWLO Ghana Chapter is primed to undertake a series of impactful initiatives aimed at addressing pressing issues concerning women's advancement, advocating for fair representation, and championing policy reforms that promote sustainable development and social empowerment.

The chapter's initiatives shall include mentorship programmes, humanitarian galas, and the establishment of town hall forums that advance thought leadership and build capacity in legislation and policy, particularly where they intersect with women's interests. Central to these activities will be the continued installments of The AWLOGH Fireside Chat – a monthly engagement with prominent women leaders whose influence spans both public and private institutions nationally and on a global stage. In all respects, the AWLO Ghana Chapter is poised to become a vital pillar in AWLO's ongoing mission, heralding a new era of collaboration, empowerment, and visionary leadership among Africa's women.

# AWLO WOMEN: BUILDING, ELEVATING AND CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF POWER, INFLUENCE, AND DIVINE FAVOR.

BY DR MARLYN MORRIS,

## PATRONESS OF THE AWLO CANADIAN CHAPTER

Ladies and gentlemen, this year we celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the formation of the AWLO. We are celebrating, AWLO women as women of power, influence and Divine favour, coming together for a shared destiny purpose, to nurture humanity in peace, love, and harmony from Africa the cradle of civilization and into the diasporic countries of the world. I come before you today, in awe of the collective brilliance, power, and influence gathered in this room. We are not just women; we are **Women of Divine Favor**, destined to shape the course of humanity with wisdom, strength, and grace.

From the ancient soil of **Africa**, the cradle of civilization, we emerged, rooted in a legacy that stretches back to the beginning of time. We came from the very lands where humanity first breathed the air of life, where kingdoms flourished, and where queens ruled with hearts of wisdom and justice. Today, we honour that ancestry, and we stand as the modern torchbearers of that rich heritage.

We are **AWLO Women!** women who refuse to be confined by the limitations of circumstances. In each of us lies a unique spark of divine purpose, a calling to nurture the world in peace, love, and harmony. We are not only mothers and daughters but also leaders, innovators, and trailblazers. Our influence extends far beyond the borders of our homelands, transcending the continent of Africa and reaching into the diasporic nations of the world.

As women of **power and divine Favor**, we know that our strength lies in our unity. Today, we come together in the spirit of **shared destiny**, not just for ourselves but for the generations that will follow. Our journey is not merely about breaking barriers; it is about building bridges, bridges that connect our ancient wisdom to modern progress, that unify our diverse cultures and experiences, and that pave the way for a future of **global sisterhood**. This is a sisterhood of women who are **bold, brave, bright and beautiful of mind, body and spirit, because they are fearless!**

Together, we have and will continue to nurture **humanity** with compassion, justice, and vision. We will inspire change in a world that desperately needs our leadership. We will foster environments where our children

can thrive, where peace is not an ideal but a reality, and where love is the foundation upon which all human interaction is built.

In this juncture, we celebrate our collective power, our **divine influence**, and our eternal bond with the continent that gave birth to us. But more importantly, we commit to using our influence to transform the world, one community, one nation, one soul at a time. From the shores of Africa to every corner of the world, our light will shine, and our legacy will endure.

Together, we will build a future that reflects the strength of our past and the brilliance of our divine purpose. Together, we will carry forward the torch of **peace, love, and harmony**, ensuring that our shared destiny as **AWLO Women** leaves a lasting impact on humanity.

Let us rise, let us shine, and let us embrace our calling as **Women of Power, Influence, and Divine Favor**, dedicated to shaping the world in the image of our highest ideals. We are the legacy, we are the future, and our time is now! For us to highlight the divine purpose, unity, and leadership of AWLO women, in the motherland of Africa and the Diaspora, celebrating their unique position in shaping the future while staying true to their rich heritage.

**The AWLO Women are Elevating and celebrating the Virtue and Worth of the Proverbs 31 Woman!**

Ladies and gentlemen, today we stand in awe of the strength, wisdom, and divine Favor embodied by each of the **AWLO Women as the Proverbs 31 woman**—a woman whose virtues transcends time. She is industrious, wise, compassionate, and resilient, a true reflection of the power that every woman carries. As it is written: *“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come”* (Proverbs 31:25).

The **Proverbs 31 woman** is not only a model of personal excellence; she is the foundation of her family, her community, and the future of humanity. She rises early, caring for her household, and works with diligence to bring forth abundance. Her hands hold not only the tools of her trade but also the future of generations. **Her worth is beyond rubies**, and any man who truly understands her value must seek to acknowledge her greatness, **elevate her, and celebrate her**, for in doing so, he honours both the divine and the gift she is to the world.

In this century, we recognize that there should be no limits—no glass ceilings—holding back the ascension of women who possess these qualities. Men who recognize the worth of the **Proverbs 31 woman** must actively **dismantle barriers**, creating spaces where women are not just participants but leaders. It is their duty to amplify her voice, to stand beside her in strength, ensuring that her pathway to advancement is clear. Her **unimaginable**

**heights** are not just dreams; they are a reality waiting to unfold. He is the **he-for-she** man, who is not afraid to celebrate and support her.

The legacy she builds does not simply enrich herself but the **generations to come**. From her loins, she births not only children but a legacy of human dignity, self-worth, and value that permeates all who comes into her sphere. Her actions create ripple effects that sustain and uplift humanity, ensuring that **human dignity** is not a privilege but an **inalienable right for all**.

The man who celebrates this woman does not simply honour her for today; he helps build a future rooted in **sustainability, dignity, and empowerment**. For it is through the nurturing hands and visionary hearts of these women that nations rise, families thrive, and communities flourish. The call is clear: to embrace the virtues of the **Proverbs 31 woman**, elevate her, and together, create a legacy of **equity, empowerment, and inalienable rights** for all of humanity. This links the timeless virtues of the Proverbs 31 woman to modern leadership and legacy, encouraging men to actively dismantle barriers and celebrate women’s worth, while focusing on a future where dignity and self-worth are inalienable rights

Together, as we stand in unity, women and men, lifting each other higher, we craft a future where every woman can ascend without limitation, breaking through every ceiling, reaching heights previously thought unimaginable. This is our call, this is our destiny, and this is our shared future.

Thank you!



## Dr. Marlyn Morris

Ph.D.; M.Sc. (Econ.); LLB (Hons); BA (Hons); Post Grad. Dip. in Education; Certificate in Legislative Drafting; Certified Professional Coach (CPC); Teachers’ Certificate.

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# AWLO FOUNDER'S PARTICIPATION AT THE 2025 CSW69 AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK.

As the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) came to a close at UN Headquarters in New York, Member States, civil society, and stakeholders reflected on progress, challenges, and renewed commitments to gender equality. Soroptimist International extends its sincere thanks to our delegates and members for their valuable participation, advocacy, and engagement throughout this year's session.

AWLO was fully represented by our members from around the world led by AWLO global Heforshe champion and ambassador, Dr. Elisha Attai, founder/global President of African Women in Leadership Organization (AWLO).









# AWLO YOUTH COUNCIL CORNER

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 2024

**A**WLO Youth Council celebrate the power and potential of girls around the world! This year's theme, "Girls' Vision for the Future," reminds us of the incredible dreams and voices shaping tomorrow.

At African Women in Leadership Organization (AWLO), we believe in the limitless potential of girls to lead and transform communities. Let's continue to support, empower, and invest in the vision and voices of girls everywhere. Let's do our very best to build a future where every girl's dream is possible.

Congratulations to the AWLO Global Youth Council for celebrating this year's edition in style through their chapters around the world.



Across their chapters, they celebrated the special day with PAD UP A GIRL PROJECT in Lagos, Port Harcourt, South Africa, Imo and Akwa IBOM.







## AFRICAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ORGANISATION (AWLO)

had the pleasure of hosting its 2024 Pan African HeForShe Summit from the 6th to 7th of March, 2024, at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.



*The conference was themed:*

### Investing in Women: **CLOSING THE REPRESENTATION GAP**

The conference featured a One Million Man Walk against Violence on Women, which took place on Wednesday, the 6th of March, 2024.

The Pan African Men HeForShe Summit, which took place on the 7th of March, was put together to foster collaboration among male allies and HeForShe heroes to actively contribute to closing the female representation gap in governance.

The conference was full of empowering sessions with high-profile speakers such as: *Onofiok Akpan Luke, Mr. Tony Afia, Ali Baba, Dr. Emem Ette Esq, Dr. Favour Ayodele, David Raymond Edet, Amaka Echetabu, Dr. Imoh Imoh-Ita, Hon. Itoro Columba, Mr. Akpan Emmanuel, Mrs. Pauline Amos Ibude and the moderator, Theodora Ayeni. The Master of Ceremony was Mr. Francis Oyoima Edet.*



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This 2024 Pan African HeForShe Summit brought together HeForShe ambassadors, male and female executives, professionals, male leaders, and political leaders to further advance the leadership status of women in the continent of Africa, by harnessing the influence of men in facilitating a transformative change that promotes women's active participation in governance.

The summit was truly an inspiring and impactful experience for all attendees, with participants from Nigeria and other African countries.

**Our talking points included:**

- Acknowledging the existing gender disparities in governance
- The role of men in championing equal opportunities for women in governance
- How men can use their platforms to ensure that women's perspectives are heard, valued, and integrated into decision-making processes
- How to create a more inclusive and representative governance structure.

With more than a decade-long history of impact behind, the African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO) remains a powerful force to reckon with where the advancement of the African woman's leadership development is concerned.

Founded in 2009 through the visionary leadership of Hon. Dr. Elisha Attai, AWLO, continues to impact countless women across the African continent and its diaspora.

*Signed*

**Dr. Elisha Attai**  
**Founder & President,**

*African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO).*















**Jessica Edem** is a self-improvement enthusiast, possessing a strong desire to better herself through the pursuit of knowledge and connecting with her community on a personal level. Her dedication to these pursuits led her to become a Senior Features Editor in her high school’s newspaper, a tutor for elementary school students, and a volunteer at her local Food Warehouse—where she completed over 100 hours of service. She volunteers at the Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc., where she earned a ‘Dedicated Team Member’ award for her service. She completed high school with a 4.32 Cumulative GPA, and continues striving for academic excellence as an Early Excellence scholar and first-year student at Dickinson College.

Outside of the academic setting, Jessica loves to read and expand her skill set through pageantry. With a passion for children’s healthcare, Jessica aspires to finish medical school to become a Neonatologist in the future. As the Miss Akwa Ibom USA 2024-2025, Jessica aims to use her projects to support the Akwa Ibom children and families in her community. She is partnering with Nedeke Children’s Hospital in Uyo and aims to provide an incubator for the center, inspired by her own story as

a premature baby and the knowledge of how proper care can save children’s lives. She is also partnering with the Primary Health Center in Nung Udoe, Ibesikpo-Asutan, hoping to provide them with beddings, a maternity bed, and materials for their health education classes.

During her reign, Jessica has a goal of combining her academic and extracurricular experiences to improve healthcare for those most vulnerable.



African Women in Leadership Organisation (AWLO) successfully hosted its prestigious Induction & Awards Night on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the magnificent Continental Hotel, Abuja. This grand event celebrated excellence, honored trailblazers, and reinforced AWLO's commitment to empowering African women and fostering impactful leadership.

The evening was graced by an esteemed gathering of dignitaries and speakers, including Dr. Linus Okorie MFR, Chief Executive Officer of GOTNI, Adedayo Benjamins-Laniyi, Hon.

Mandate Secretary, Women Affairs Secretariat (WAS) Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), the First Lady of African Women in Leadership Organisation, Mrs. Eno Attai, Mr. Fidelis Anosike, CEO Daily Times, Dr. Mrs Aisha Achimugu, GMD FELAK CONCEPT GROUP, Mr. Aniekpeno Mkpanang, AWLO Global Heforshe champion and Patron, Dr. Kelvin Igumbor, Healthcare Labor and Employment Executive, USA, Dr. Tina Njoku-Opara, Founder/CEO of Tin Group of Companies, Hon. Anielan Umanah, former Commissioner, former House of Representative, Akwa Ibom State, Dr. Glory Edet, former Commissioner of Women





Affairs, Akwa Ibom State and founder Mary Slessor-Akan Glo Foundation, Nigeria, Fatumata Diara, United Nations Central Emergency, New York, USA , Comrade Hafsat Shoaib, Chairperson Trade Union Congress Nigeria, Mrs. Geraldine Etuk , Acting National President of National Council of Women Society, Nigeria and many more from around the world.

These distinguished leaders joined other high-profile guests to celebrate and recognize individuals whose remarkable contributions are shaping Africa's future.

The event also welcomed new members into the AWLO family through an inspiring Induction Ceremony, new Global Patrons and Patronesses had their official decoration too, further strengthening the organization's global network of changemakers.

The Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, held on Friday, December 15, 2024, at RCCG, The Throne Room, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, was a heartfelt conclusion to the two-day celebration, offering gratitude for AWLO's journey and milestones.

As we reflect on this remarkable event, we extend our deepest gratitude to all attendees, speakers, leaders and honorees who made it a night to remember. Together, we continue to advance the cause of African women in leadership and drive meaningful change across the continent.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Leadership

**Dr. Elisha Attai**

Founder, African Women in Leadership Organisation, (AWLO).





Today, we honor an icon whose influence has shaped the landscape of Nigerian fashion, entrepreneurship, and education for decades. Opral Benson, fondly known as 'Iya Oge of Lagos,' turns 90 today, and we celebrate a life marked by unwavering dedication and success.

As the first woman to be bestowed the title of 'Iya Oge' by a traditional ruler in Nigeria, Opral has broken barriers and inspired generations of women. She holds multiple prestigious awards, including the Commander of the Star of Africa by the President of Liberia and the Member of the Order of the Niger (MON) and Order of the Niger (OON) by the President of Nigeria.

Her achievements go beyond her personal accolades. As the founder of one of Nigeria's largest fashion houses, she continues to influence the fashion industry through The Opral Benson Fashion Institute, where she has trained countless beauticians and fashion designers for over 35 years.

Opral is also a pillar of leadership in Africa and the global community. As the Global Chairperson Emeritus of the African Women In Leadership Organisation (AWLO), she has been an unwavering advocate for women's empowerment across the continent. Her involvement in AWLO has seen her attend and contribute to major events in cities like Atlanta, Washington DC, South Africa, and many more across Africa, inspiring countless women in leadership.

Opral Benson's contributions to the Nigerian fashion world are immeasurable, and her legacy as a dazzling fashion icon, business mogul, and philanthropist will continue to inspire and uplift the future of the industry and beyond.

Cheers to a life of grace and achievement. Happy 90th birthday, Iya Oge of Lagos!





We are delighted to sit down with Mai Youssef for this special interview as we celebrate International Women's Day 2025. As the Communications and Corporate Marketing Director for Canon Middle East, Turkey, Central & North Africa, Mai has been a driving force in shaping the brand's presence across diverse markets.

In this conversation, we'll explore her journey as a leader in the corporate world, her insights on the evolving role of women in business, and how she continues to champion innovation and inclusivity in the industry.

**1. It's a pleasure to feature you, Mai! Can you introduce yourself to our audience?**

I'm Mai Youssef, driven by a passion for building genuine connections between people and brands through trust and authentic communication. Beyond my work, I am committed to giving back to communities and advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), believing in the power of representation and positive social impact. My marketing approach is rooted in collaboration, continuous learning, and the strategic use of data and analytics to craft personalized, human-centered experiences. In today's evolving landscape, I believe trust is the foundation of successful marketing, and I strive to create meaningful connections that truly resonate with diverse audiences. This commitment to connection extends into my passion for innovation and transformation. I'm constantly exploring how emerging technologies, particularly AI, are reshaping the communication industry. I'm excited about its potential to revolutionize the industry and redefine customer engagement, and I'm fortunate to be a part of this evolution, driving meaningful change and fostering deeper connections between brands and audiences.

**2. What is your guiding principle?**

My guiding principle is simple: "Lead with purpose, and everything else will follow." I believe that when you align your work with a clear sense of purpose—whether it's making a positive impact, creating meaningful connections, or championing innovation—you naturally pave the way for success.



For me, it's not just about what you achieve, but why you're doing it and how it can help others along the way. Purpose drives passion, and passion fuels everything I do. Whether it's pushing boundaries in Communications, advocating for DEI, or exploring the latest tech innovations, I'm always grounded in the belief that genuine, purposeful work can inspire real change.

3. *What do you think is the biggest challenge in marketing today, and what opportunities do you see?*

The Communications and Marketing landscape is evolving at a rapid pace, driven by the rise of new tools and technologies. This shift presents both opportunities and challenges, as marketers and communication experts must not only stay ahead of digital marketing trends but also ensure they maintain authentic connections with customers. In an increasingly saturated market, the ability to leverage emerging technologies while preserving brand authenticity is critical.

A recent Salesforce State of Marketing report highlights that building client trust is a top priority for CMOs. Trust is cultivated through compelling storytelling—crafting narratives that resonate with audiences, define a brand's identity, and reinforce authenticity. In a world where consumers are more discerning than ever, businesses must communicate with transparency and purpose to foster meaningful relationships.

At the same time, technological advancements—particularly AI—are transforming the industry, offering unprecedented opportunities for personalization and engagement. AI-driven insights enable brands to understand their audiences better, optimize content strategies, and deliver more relevant, meaningful experiences. Additionally, workflow automation and project management tools enhance efficiency, allowing teams to focus on creativity and strategy rather than operational bottlenecks.

4. *However, as marketing evolves, so do expectations. Demonstrating ROI is now more crucial than ever, yet it remains a significant challenge for*

*many organizations. To drive measurable success, businesses must make strategic hires, invest in the right technologies, and foster a culture of continuous innovation. Notably, the report also found that 91% of CMOs believe ongoing innovation is the key to maintaining a competitive edge. Those who embrace change, leverage technology effectively, and prioritize trust-building will be best positioned for long-term success. In your opinion, how can women actively drive meaningful progress toward gender equality, and how does your own position influence or reflect this?*

Women can drive meaningful progress toward gender equality by leading with authenticity, embracing collaboration, and advocating for inclusive opportunities. As key catalysts for change, when empowered, they significantly impact the well-being and productivity of their families, communities, and nations, creating a ripple effect that benefits all. It's about empowering each other to break barriers and create spaces where women can thrive without limitations. By standing up for our voices and supporting each other, we not only pave the way for future generations of women but also challenge societal norms.

At Canon, we recognize the power of representation and are committed to driving real change in the creative industries. Through our Women Who Empower program, we provide women entrepreneurs with the mentorship, resources, and platform they need to succeed, grow, and lead. This initiative is more than just support—it's about equipping women with the tools to redefine industry standards, claim their space, and inspire the next wave of leaders. When organizations actively invest in gender equality, we don't just work toward a more inclusive industry; we create a world where equity is ingrained in every opportunity.

5. *How do you believe DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) are influencing business and communication in the corporate sector and how is Canon pushing the DEI initiatives?*

As the world becomes more interconnected, businesses are increasingly recognizing the need for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Embracing DEI not only strengthens decision-making and problem-solving capabilities but also fosters innovation, engagement, and a more dynamic workplace.

At Canon, our core philosophy, *Kyosei*—meaning “living and working for the common good”—guides our commitment to building an inclusive culture where everyone feels respected, valued, and empowered. This vision is reflected in initiatives like Canon Clubs, an agile engagement program designed to foster open communication, leverage collective intelligence, and enhance skill development. Led by our Managing Director and HR, these sessions provide employees with a safe space for dialogue, followed by expert-led workshops that drive professional growth.

Additionally, Canon’s DEI efforts extend to programs like Women Who Empower, which supports women entrepreneurs in collaboration with leading African Women associations. By embedding DEI into every aspect of our business, we create an environment that drives both individual and organizational success.

6. *What strategies or principles do you believe are critical for women to thrive in their professional journeys?*

The first step to success is understanding who we are and what we want to achieve. An open mindset toward continuous learning and self-improvement makes our path clearer and more attainable. Equally important is surrounding ourselves with individuals who inspire us and challenge us to grow. I’ve been fortunate to work with incredible women who have pushed me to reach new heights, reinforcing the power of mentorship, collaboration, and representation in the workplace.

This belief in growth and empowerment is deeply embedded in the culture of Canon Central & North Africa (CCNA). With six local sales offices across Africa and a diverse regional team, CCNA is committed to fostering an inclusive workplace that drives meaningful change. Women make up 41% of our workforce, with three women, including

myself, in key leadership positions, leading efforts to shape an environment where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. True progress comes when inclusion is not just a goal but a fundamental part of how we operate, ensuring that diversity fuels innovation and long-term success.

7. *In your opinion, what are the key elements driving success for purpose-driven leaders and organizations in today’s business landscape?*

In today’s business landscape, purpose-driven leaders succeed by having a clear vision, remaining authentic, and staying deeply committed to creating a meaningful, tangible impact. These leaders are not solely focused on profits but prioritize responsibility toward their communities, employees, and the broader world. Success stems from staying true to one’s core values, even when the path is difficult, and making decisions that align with the greater good. Authenticity is essential because it fosters trust—something that consumers, employees, and partners can easily identify and value. Building trust through transparency in communication and actions is fundamental for strong, lasting relationships.

Purpose-driven organizations also thrive when they embrace innovation and collaboration, continually evolving to meet emerging challenges. By co-creating with diverse voices and perspectives, they can adapt more effectively to an ever-changing world. Empowering employees and offering opportunities for personal and professional growth cultivates a culture where people are motivated to contribute to the organization’s mission.


Leaders who show empathy and commitment to their values inspire others to do the same, creating a shared sense of purpose that drives collective success. For me, true success isn’t just about achieving business goals—it’s about leaving a legacy of positive change, whether through advocacy for diversity, driving innovation, or uplifting those around us. The lasting, positive impact we have on people, communities, and the world is the true measure of success



## N I G E R I A

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