



2025 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

Bridging Gaps, Building Futures: Women's Rights,
Justice and Sustainable Development in Nigeria



FIDA NIGERIA 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE

24TH TO 27TH OF NOVEMBER 2025

IKEJA, LAGOS

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS (FIDA) NIGERIA HELD AT THE WATERCRESS EVENT CENTRE, IKEJA, LAGOS FROM THE 24TH TO 27TH OF NOVEMBER 2025

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria successfully held its 2025 Annual General Conference (AGC) **from November 24 to 27, 2025**, at the Watercress Events Center, Ikeja, Lagos, with the theme: **"Bridging Gaps, Building Futures: Women's Rights, Justice, and Sustainable Development in Nigeria."**

The Conference served as a united reaffirmation of FIDA's unrelenting mandate to promote, protect, and preserve the rights, interests, and wellbeing of women and children. Keynote speakers, panel discussants, as well as other speakers and major play actors during the four-day event presented and highlighted various achievements and impacts of FIDA Nigeria as well as identifying various issues and recommendations to ensure advancing gender justice, inclusive governance, increased visibility, and equal opportunities for women and children essential for national development and peace. After diligent discussions and meeting the following recommendations and resolutions were reached;

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. A call for immediate and uncompromising strengthening of enforcement of existing laws, particularly the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act 2015 and the Cyber Crime Act 2015, and demand swift prosecution of all reported offenders.
2. Technology companies must be held accountable for actively monitoring and removing harmful content and for promoting digital literacy to ensure online spaces are free for all women and girls.
3. The government must provide adequate resources to support the establishment of safe online environments and endorse a comprehensive survival approach encouraging timely reporting and providing necessary legal, psycho-social, and rehabilitation services.
4. FIDA Nigeria reiterates its call for inclusiveness of women in governance at all levels. We urge the government to enforce the political will required to enforce relevant laws and judgments including the 35% affirmative action judgment and

called for **reserved seats** as vital for correcting structural imbalance. Women were therefore urged to register, join politics, and participate actively at the grassroots level to ensure a better and more equitable society.

5. To operate a functional centre/secretariat to increase visibility and stand as a symbol of hope and refuge for the vulnerable with focus on the rededicated Lagos Secretariat Annex.
6. To ensure the protection of children including the boy child with the enforcement of the **Child Rights Act** and interactions with children in conflict with the law in the best interest of the children.
7. To address gender inequality, rise above persistent challenges, including gender bias, limited access to leadership opportunities, and work-life balance constraints and strengthen laws and policies to prevent violence against women.
8. Mentorship was underscored as foundational for intergenerational knowledge transfer and building leadership capacity among younger female lawyers. FIDA Nigeria should strengthen mentorship, networking, and collaboration, as well as **leveraging technology** for research, advocacy, and data-driven change and to develop a **digital reporting tool/app** to facilitate real-time tracking and response and to **advance women's rights**, empower, provide support to survivors of gender-based violence and promote sustainable development.
9. All FIDA branches were charged to increase education, advocacy, and empowerment through community dialogues, inclusion of indigenes or language proficient FIDANs to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps and digital safety campaigns, stressing that "**Technology must serve humanity — not weaponize harm.**"
10. **The Power of Male Allyship:** the recognition and appreciation of Male allyship was affirmed as indispensable for FIDA's advancement, requiring men to move beyond financial contributions to active participation as partners, paralegals, advocates against gender based violence (GBV) and the creation and inclusion leadership spaces for women.
11. **Collaborations:** Collaboration with key agencies like the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) and NAPTIP was highlighted as crucial for resource-sharing and institutional growth.
12. The Conference incorporated a practical **self-defense session** for Women Human Rights Defenders, emphasizing the ABCDE of self-defense (Awareness, Be Bold and Calm, Communicate, Defend, Escape).
13. FIDA Nigeria urged members to live and work the mandate of FIDA by complying with provisions of the FIDA Constitution and uniform Byelaws.
14. Continuous Legal Education and Institutional Growth for members focused on strengthening FIDA's institutional capacity and future impact.

CONCLUSION

FIDA Nigeria is strategically positioned for continued transformation, with a renewed commitment to strengthening women's rights, advancing justice systems, and building a safer, more inclusive future for all to equipping members with the skills and partnerships necessary to bridge legal, institutional, and cultural gaps for a more equitable and sustainable future.

Issued this 9th day of December, 2025



Eliana Martins
Country Vice President/
National President
FIDA Nigeria



Rachael Adejo Andrew
National Secretary

FIDA Nigeria