ANNUAL REPORT
2019/2020

INTERSEX NIGERIA

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MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

The differences in our biology as humans do not make us superior or inferior to one another in any way. It only makes us unique and individually fit for all the goodness life has to offer. In many parts of the world these days, bodily differences have been used to justify sheer inequality.

I have relentlessly been on a journey to ensure that every individual in Nigeria and beyond has equitable rights to life and other social amenities. One of my goals is to eliminate the fact many people are denied these rights because they do not fit into any of the boxes that our binary society has created for them. Intersex people have suffered some of the hardest acts of discrimination because of the nature of their existence. Unlike many marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, most intersex people suffer hardships right from the point of their birth where they are made to suffer surgical pains to make their gender fit into what society allows.

It is encouraging and promising to see that more people are awakening to the call to promote visibility, safety, and security of intersex people and to promote laws and policies that protect their rights and cater to their specific needs.

Thank you to everyone who has put measures of efforts to this cause this year. We have stepping stones for much greater exploits in the coming year. It's a cause that concerns everyone.

Let's get all hands-on deck and do everything that needs to be done to protect our intersex friends, neighbors, and family relatives.

With Intersex Nigeria, let’s change the negative narratives and build a more inclusive Nigeria for everyone.

In solidarity,
Daniel Adams.
Who we are…
Intersex-Nigeria, legally known as Center for Healthcare Development and Youth Empowerment is an Intersex led and focused organization. We promote the human rights, self-determination and bodily autonomy of intersex persons in Nigeria. We build community evidence, strengthen capacity, and provide education and information resources. Our goals are to help create a society where our bodies are not stigmatized, and or rights recognized.

Our Mission
To create an enabling society that promotes the visibility, inclusion, bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health including mental wellbeing, and human rights of intersex persons in Nigeria, through community organizing, research, advocacy, and public engagements using a feminist lens.

Our Vision
A society where intersex persons, from birth, have rights to bodily integrity and autonomy and are free from stigma and discrimination.
MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to present the first annual report of the organization for the financial year which ended 30th June, 2020. Intersex Nigeria was born out of a strong belief that “things can only get better when we put in efforts”. I remember my conversation with a friend in 2019 about a world I envision for intersex persons. A world that understands diversity and recognition of different people as paramount tool in achieving an inclusive society.

The social, economic and political climate of Nigeria constantly puts intersex persons at risk of different human rights violation including but not limited to discrimination, intersex genital mutilation, isolation, stigmatization and victimization. Intersex Nigeria is driving the commitment to enable spaces and discussions around protection, wellbeing and provision of comprehensive healthcare services and information that allows full bodily autonomy and integrity of intersex persons from birth.

We are happy for the supports from our partners, allyships we have built, people who are strengthened by our resilience and movement building. We hope that spaces for different discussion on visibility of intersex persons will continue to be promoted and intersex voices strengthened. We hope our consistency as a team will lead us to our goal as an organization.

Looking Ahead
In the next Fiscal year, Intersex Nigeria is look forward to more collaborations from international, regional and national spaces, including grassroot organizations and institutions. Thank you to everyone who has made this journey beautiful so far, we will continue to count on your support and love to change minds and create a liveable world for intersex persons.

Obioma Chukwuike
Founder/Executive Director
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATING REVENUE
Grants - $15,800

Total Revenue - $15,800

EXPENSES
Programs implementation - $11,800
Operations and Administration - $4,000

Total Expenses - $15,800
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS


- Kano state is the most populated state in Northern Nigeria and it is guided by the Sharia law of the state.
- In Kano state, there is a rule that permits forceful and unwanted surgeries on intersex babies and adults.

Intersex Nigeria in collaboration with Women Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment and Equality (WISE) who is a lesbian led and focused organization in Kano state, we organized a workshop on sensitizing and creating visibility for intersex persons and LGBTQ persons.

Participants were excited about this as it was a realization for some persons about their bodies, conversations around issues and challenges of intersex in Nigeria was discussed and ways to provide support to intersex persons and the organization through referrals were identified.
2. Covid 19 Relief support

The Covid 19 pandemic increased risk of intersex people not being able to access financial support with a history of discrimination at workplaces and an inability to gain employment in cooperate and non-cooperate spaces.

Intersex Nigeria provided funds for 23 intersex persons to cater for their personal needs which included, foodstuff, health needs and emergency.

psychosocial support services such counseling was also provided. The national lockdown during the pandemic, caused a mental health breakdown within intersex persons in Nigeria as violations of their physical and psychological integrity was at a rise, they began living in secrecy, staying in isolation (this was worse among intersex persons who were also LGBTIQ persons) the stigma they experienced during this period made them more vulnerable within the society.
3. ANYONE CAN BE BORN INTERSEX:
A PHOTO-PORTRAIT STORY BY INTERSEX-NIGERIA
In collaboration with Henreich Böll Stiftung

The photo-portrait story was a project focused on advocacy, using our pictures with strong quotes from individuals to talk about our lived experiences and challenges as intersex persons in Nigeria, 9 intersex persons participated in this project.

The photo portraits intend to encourage public education, conversations and awareness campaigns on intersex persons and their rights against discrimination, stigmatization and bullying. They are a call to government to wake up and embark on public discourse about the need to embrace people who are rejected by the society due to ignorance and stigmatization. People need to be educated on why it is not okay to de-humanize others because they are different. The government needs to create infrastructures for people who do not fit into what is considered “normal”. A lot of groups are marginalized in our society because they are perceived to be different.
IMPACT STORIES
Stories from Intersex persons in Nigeria.

Anita
All my life, I have never been in a space or had someone think specifically about my needs and I mean someone who knows my pain, struggles and existence. Intersex-Nigeria have taken up responsibility for people like me who have experienced a lot of challenges because of our bodies not being typically male or female, for dressing like the society’s definition of a man instead of a woman they have chosen for you and refusing to undergo harmful surgeries. I am very grateful to Obioma for finding the courage and dedicating their time to advocating for our rights and building the intersex community in Nigeria which have become family and a home for most of us.

Tolu
I started volunteering with Intersex Nigeria in December 2019, the drive for me was being part of the intersex community that was consciously or unconsciously excluded from LGBTQ programming in Nigeria, it has been challenging for the organization in terms of funding and Covid 19 pandemic but the well-being of intersex persons is highly prioritized by the organization. I am really excited about the start of intersex Nigeria, it came at the time we the intersex persons needed it the most, it came and gave us a voice, provided us with a safe space to feel at home, we are always welcome here.

Points to Take Away
Anyone can be born intersex. An intersex person is normal, being intersex is not a curse, neither is it a disease that needs to be cured, rather it is a variation in sex characteristics of an individual that doesn’t typically fit into male and female sex binary notion and this occurs naturally. Living as an intersex person does not come with a lifetime physical challenge. People need to know that when they see something they do not understand, it is okay to ask questions respectfully. Misconceptions should not be used to treat people in a discriminatory manner. Society should interact with persons who are considered different based on facts and not myths. People should make efforts to understand differences and they should be more accepting, especially if no harm is brought to them by being accepting of others.

“When human beings fail to explain the complexity of nature, they categorize them as abnormal. They gull the way to normalize it rather than trying to understand its very nature!”

-Chips
HOW TO SUPPORT US

There are various ways you can support Intersex Nigeria in achieving our goals for Intersex persons in Nigeria, we appreciate and welcome your contributions, thank you very much.

Follow all our social media accounts and repost our contents. Connecting with us via social media will keep you updated with all necessary information and education on intersex in Nigeria and globally. Reposting our content on your social media account will bring visibility on intersex issues and challenges in Nigeria to the public and educate them on how we can collectively advance these rights.

Donate to us. We accept donations in different forms, financial donations, technical support and working materials are all essential donations. These donations will contribute to smooth operation of the organization in implementing projects that promote the well-being of intersex persons in Nigeria.

Volunteer with us. Human resources are important in our work. In volunteering with us, you are contributing to creating the change that we all seek in the society.

Thank you to our partners Our partners are the core source of our support at Intersex Nigeria, we appreciate your support towards the intersex community in Nigeria. Thank you for supporting us especially in a year full of challenges, and we look forward to more years of collaboration and partnership as we create a favorable society for intersex persons to live.