

NETWORK OF WOMEN IN LAW AND POLICY AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME

An initiative of the UNODC Global Programme on Implementing UNTOC



An introduction

We are thrilled to present the second issue of the Newsletter for the Network of Women in Law and Policy against Organized Crime. This issue features a variety of exciting updates and insightful content that highlights the Network's collective efforts and achievements.

In this issue, you'll have the opportunity to meet the Network's new Advisory Board members: Aida Samba Ndiaye, Chelsea Ifeyinwa Obianwu, Djeinaba Abdoul Wahab Touré, Horore Bell Bebga, Ngadi Edjenguele Sylvie, and Shallie Ezeh. Learn more about these amazing women, their inspiring stories and their visions for the Network's future (p.2-5).

This issue also features a summary of the CCPCJ side event, 'Mentoring Momentum: Empowering Women in Africa on Countering Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime,' held back in May, which featured two of our Network Members: Victoria Ibiwoye and Stephanie Fitswemila Philip (p.9). Additionally, be sure to read the thought-provoking article by Ngadi Edjenguele Sylvie, who explores sustainable solutions for combatting drug abuse and human trafficking in Cameroon (p.10-11). Lastly, stay updated with the latest news from our network members and UNODC, featuring information on upcoming events and opportunities (p.12).

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Meet your new Advisory Board (p.2-5)
- ◆ CCPCJ Side Event (p.6)
- ◆ Article on sustainable solutions for combatting drug abuse & human trafficking (p.7-8)
- ◆ Celebrating the Latest Achievements of our Network Members (p.9)
- ◆ Save the date: 19th September (p.10)

Introducing: *The Advisory Board*

We're excited to announce the launch of the first-ever Advisory Board for the Network of Women in Law and Policy Against Organized Crime. The primary role of the Advisory Board is to provide strategic guidance for managing the Network, to ensure it effectively meets the needs of its members. The board is made up of 6 representatives from the various countries within our Network, and they meet online quarterly to discuss the best strategies for ensuring the Network's continued progress.



Aida Samba Ndiaye

Aida Samba Ndiaye is a legal consultant and feminist activist in the fight to promote the rights of women and girls in Senegal and West Africa. She is currently head of the institutional governance division and a member of the legal unit of the Senegalese Ministry of Justice. She is Deputy Secretary General of the Women's Association of Senegalese Jurists and a member of the Federal Association of Experts and Consultants for International Technical Cooperation. Aida is also a lecturer in domestic and international criminal law, and an expert in consultancy and litigation, crisis management, negotiation, communication, and advocacy.

What do you aim to achieve on the Advisory Board?

In the Advisory Board, I aim to leverage the resources and expertise of national thematic schools with regional vocations (ENVR) to enhance our capacity-building efforts and foster bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation.



Djeinaba Abdoul Wahab Touré

Djeinaba Abdoul Wahab Touré is a consultant and social entrepreneur with a master's degree in French Language and Literature. While she is academically trained, her professional expertise is largely self-taught, supplemented by various specialized training courses and certifications. Seven years in the global Innovation for Change Hub Africa network has given her the experience and expertise in building networks and innovative, dynamic governance approaches. Additionally, as the President of the citizen organization Je m'engage, Djeinaba defines herself as a "Change Artisan," employing a flexible and adaptable approach to engage with youth and women.

What do you aim to achieve on the Advisory Board?

I aim to strengthen partnerships with international organizations, governments and other relevant stakeholders to coordinate our efforts and to maximize our impact. I am also eager to set up a monitoring and evaluation system to measure the effectiveness of our initiatives, this will allow us to improve on an ongoing basis. I am committed to promoting a safer and more equitable environment where women play a central role in the fight against organized crime.



Chelsea Ifeyinwa Obianwu

Chelsea Ifeyinwa Obianwu is a Legal Practitioner and has been in law practice since her call to the Nigerian Bar as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, in 2014. She presently works as a Senior Associate Counsel with Alpha-Juris Chambers, Jabi District, Abuja. Chelsea is a registered member of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), as well as the Chartered Institute of Arbitration (CI Arb.) Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree from the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, a Bachelor of Law (BL) Certificate from the Nigerian Law School, and a Masters in International Relations and Diplomacy (in view) from the University of Abuja. She enjoys travelling, reading, site-seeing, volunteering, and sports.

What do you aim to achieve on the Advisory Board?

I aim to leverage my skills and experiences to advocate for gender mainstreaming in policies and legislation against organized crime. Furthermore, as a member of the Legislative Advocacy and Law Reform Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association, I am committed to developing legislative and strategic frameworks to prevent and counter organized crime.



Horore Bebga

Horore Bebga is an entrepreneur and international consultant in digital governance, cybersecurity education and cybercrime public policies, with more than nine years of experiences working for the development, of tech ecosystems in Cameroon and Central Africa. As the founder and president of African Women in Tech Startups, she leads a professional network and civil society organization dedicated to bridging the digital gender gap in both urban and rural areas of Cameroon. Horore has earned several international awards for her contributions to technology and governance. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Action.

What do you aim to achieve on the Advisory Board?

I aim to ensure the network effectively supports governments, especially in Central Africa, where governance and legislation gaps pose significant challenges in combating organized crime. Additionally, I plan to enhance the network's visibility and promote its mission across Central and West Africa, while encouraging greater participation and engagement from French-speaking women. My goal is also to contribute my expertise to support and empower fellow board members.

Ngadi Edjenguele Sylvie

Ngadi Edjenguele Sylvie is the founder and CEO of the Kolum Ngohla Therese Foundation, dedicated to advancing the participation of women and girls across various spheres. With an International Business Higher Graduate Diploma and extensive experience working with both NGOs and profit-driven companies since 2005, her work is deeply informed by her personal experiences and the ongoing crisis in her community. Inspired by her grandmother, Kolum Ngohla Therese, who was a pillar of support in Kumbo, Cameroon, before her passing in 1998, Ngadi strives to continue her legacy of community care and support.



What do you aim to achieve on the Advisory Board?

I aim to enhance resilience in conflict management through innovative strategies and evidence-based approaches. My goal is to contribute to the development of effective solutions for preventing organized crime and gender-based violence, as well as promoting peacebuilding and increased women's participation.

Shallie Ezeh

Shallie Ezeh is a Policy Advocate and Data Protection Officer dedicated to safeguarding women's digital identities. She believes that the digital realm is an extension of the physical world and recognizes the internet as a powerful platform for perpetuating organized crimes against women. Her mission is to contribute significantly to creating safe and empowering environments, both physical and digital, where women can thrive. Shallie also holds a BSc in Political Science, which she uses to advocate vigorously for the increased political inclusion of Gen Z women, with a particular focus on West Africa.



What do you aim to achieve on the Advisory Board?

My major goal as a board member is to represent the interests of the younger generation, whose needs are often mistranslated in the context of combating drug abuse and organized crime. I aim to help the Network better understand them and the challenges that drive them toward drugs and crime as an escape.

CCPCJ Side event – Mentoring Momentum: Empowering Women in Africa on Countering Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime

On 13 May 2024, UNODC organized a side event entitled ‘Mentoring Momentum: Empowering Women in Africa on Countering Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime’ during the margins of the 33rd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Research has shown that women's networks can be a powerful tool in advocating for and improving women’s representation in decision-making positions. Networks have the potential to equip women with the skills and contacts necessary to excel in their careers and to ultimately strengthen female representation in crime prevention and criminal justice responses.



During the event, **Victoria Ibiwoye** highlighted the significant impact the Network of Women in Law and Policy against Organized Crime has had on her personal development, explaining that the Network allowed her to connect with powerful women who are not only overcoming challenges, but achieving incredible things in the fight against organized crime. **Stephanie Fitswemilia Philip** further emphasised how being part of several Networks, including the African Women in Cyber Network, has provided her with valuable resources in the fight against cybercrime.

When asked what she enjoyed most about the event, Stephanie shared:

“The event highlighted the importance of utilizing various platforms to engage with female law and policymakers working on organized crime, to contribute to the empowerment of women and to achieve a safer and more equitable society for all.”

The event concluded with a clear message: women are integral to effectively preventing and countering cyber and transnational organized crime, and women’s networks are a powerful tool for women to create the necessary space to do so. Thank you to Victoria and Stephanie for your participation in the event and your invaluable insights!

For a Sustainable Solution in Fighting Drugs and Human Trafficking in Cameroon

By NGADI EDJENGUELE Sylvie
Founder/CEO Kolum Ngohla Therese's Foundation
Field Coordinator Camyosfop East

The content of this article does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UNODC, nor does it imply any endorsement.



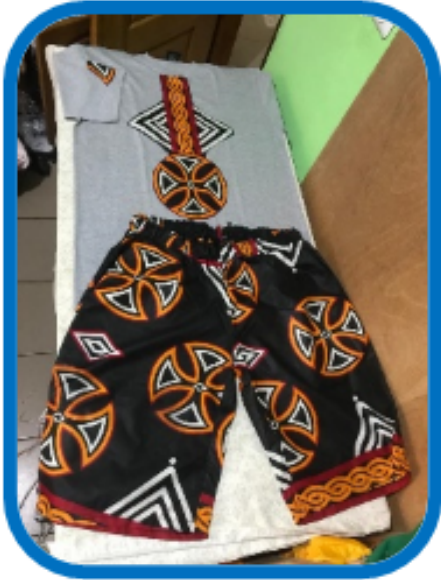
The abuse of drugs is a major public health concern and puts women, girls, and young people at serious risk. Similarly, human trafficking has a profound impact on these groups and is a fast-growing area of organized crime, involving networks that operate across transnational, national, and local levels. These criminal activities often deceive victims with false promises, targeting particularly vulnerable populations in diverse contexts. Consequently, the combined issues of drug abuse, and human trafficking often result in a modern form of slavery, leading to involuntary isolation, forced prostitution, and labor exploitation.

The excessive consumption of drugs can impair individual judgment and escalate the risk of involvement in coercive behaviors. Crime and drug prevention should be a paramount concern for governmental authorities and stakeholders committed to combating and preventing organized crime. Given the multifaceted socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors at play, it is evident that current efforts will shape future outcomes.



Recognizing the collective responsibility for creating a better world for future generations, it is imperative to address the root causes of drug abuse and human trafficking, including economic challenges, exploitation, gender-based violence (GBV), social disintegration, and discrimination, especially among vulnerable populations such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and marginalized communities.

For a Sustainable Solution in Fighting Drugs and Human Trafficking in Cameroon (cont.)



Since 2017, amidst the ongoing crisis in Cameroon, the Kolum Ngohla Therese's Foundation has been independently funding initiatives to address the widespread emergence of drugs and human trafficking. The foundation utilizes sports, fashion, and cultural events to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, human trafficking, and illegal migration. These efforts are inclusive, targeting individuals irrespective of age, gender, education, or religious affiliation, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as IDPs and those residing in hostile environments.

To support young girls who have been forced to abandon their education due to threats of abduction, gender-based violence (GBV), or other dangers, the Kolum Ngohla Therese's Foundation has introduced vocational training programs in catering, fashion, and design. These programs provide practical skills and promote social integration, enabling young girls to reclaim agency over their lives and futures. Additionally, the foundation collaborates with artists to enhance awareness of the risks associated with irregular migration and drug-related activities through various cultural and sporting events, such as mini-concerts and rugby tournaments.

The enthusiastic participation of youth, women, and girls from crisis-affected areas in rugby events has been remarkable, garnering significant attention and support. Building on this success, similar initiatives have been introduced in selected host communities from 2019 to 2023, encouraging community engagement and leadership in addressing the interconnected challenges of drug abuse, human trafficking, and social empowerment.



Celebrating the Latest Achievements of Our Network Members

Judge Oumou Niare

Oumou Niare was recently honored with the prestigious **TIP Hero Award** from the U.S. Government for her dedicated efforts to combat human trafficking in Mali. Upon receiving the award, she expressed her feelings by saying, "I am truly happy but mostly humbled to have received this award. It is an international recognition of my commitment and work to combat human trafficking in Mali. This award serves as a reminder that, although much has been accomplished, there is still much more to do. Many victims need assistance and protection, numerous traffickers must be brought to justice, and many individuals need education and training about human trafficking and related practices to aid in prevention. The TIP Hero 2024 Award gives me the courage to continue moving forward and face challenges until we achieve zero cases of human trafficking in Mali."



Dr Ifeoma E. Nwafor



Dr. Ifeoma E. Nwafor recently published an article examining gender, artificial intelligence (AI), and AI governance in Africa. The article highlights the issue of AI gender bias, which reinforces negative gender stereotypes and, in severe cases, endangers women's lives. It also addresses intersectional bias, where women face compounded discrimination based on factors including religion, disabilities, sexual orientation, age, and economic status. The article reviews the efforts of African countries, particularly Egypt, Rwanda, and Mauritius, in achieving gender equality through AI governance. It emphasizes the impact of AI on gender and the need to

integrate gender considerations into AI policies. The findings highlight that gender has yet to be mainstreamed into the AI policies of the case study nations. Therefore, the study provides key recommendations to support policymakers in meaningfully and adequately articulating gender into AI policies to harness the opportunities and address the shortcomings of AI for women and ensure their implementation. [You can access the article here.](#)

General Updates



Stay up to date with the latest UNODC initiatives and activities, including the important work being done by the Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention (GLOTOC). [Read more here.](#)



Did you know that UNODC offers a variety of tools that the public can access to learn more about organized crime? [Discover them here!](#)

[SHERLOC.UNODC.ORG](https://sherloc.unodc.org)



Save the date!

On **September 19th, 12:00 (Vienna time); 11:00 (Nigeria time); 10:00 (Dakar time)**, we will be hosting an online event for the Women's Network featuring two keynote speakers who will share their insights and experiences as women navigating careers in the organized crime sector. This event will also provide an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow network members. Register here: <https://bit.ly/473UTWB>

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NETWORK?

CONTACT US AT:



implement.UNTOC@un.org

