



NATIONAL ANTHEM

Arise, O Compatriots,
Nigeria's Call Obey,
To Serve Our Fatherland,
With Love And Strength And Faith,
The Labour of Our Heroes Past Shall Never Be In Vain
To Serve With Heart And Might,
One Nation Bound In Freedom Peace And Unity

NATIONAL PLEDGE

I Pledge To Nigeria My Country;
To Be Faithful Loyal And Honest;
To Serve Nigeria With all My Strength;
To Defend Her Unity;
And Uphold Her Honour Glory;
So Help Me God;





FIDA NIGERIA ANTHEM

VERSE 1

FIDA serves to bring Liberation
To all men in Contemplation
To enhance our world together
Is our noble goal for richer life

VERSE 2

We bring light through Education
To dislodge deeds of ignorance
with the tools of right Conviction
By the Lawa and Equity combined

VERSE 3

FIDA Stands for all the Children
FIDA Stands for equal Justice
FIDA Stands for all our Women
Who eill rise to have their best for all
Who will rise to have their best for all
Who will rise... to have their... best... for
... all...!



THE ORGANISATION

The International Federation of Woman Lawyers (FIDA) is a Non-Government, No-Profit Organization made up of women lawyers which was formed in 1964. FIDA is the acronym for the Spanish name “Federacion Internacional De Abogadas” which translates to 'International Federation of Women Lawyers'. FIDA was formally established in Mexico in 1944, and in 1964, Ambassador Aduke Alakija established the Nigerian branch of the organisation, FIDA Nigeria. Over the years, the Organisation has formally inaugurated branches in the 36 States of the federation (including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja), and these branches are headed by duly elected State Officers and overseen by the National Executive Officers and staff of the National Secretariat. The FIDA Kano State Branch is one of the early branches inaugurated in Nigeria which was established in 1986 and has Hajia Fatima Kwaku as the first Chairperson of the Branch.

FIDA is made up of over 4500 female lawyers with several years' experience in utilizing the law to address social problems in Nigeria. The organisation's mandate is the enhancement, promotion, protection and preservation of the rights and welfare of women and children in Nigeria. FIDA implements key projects and activities aimed at providing access to justice to indigent persons, particularly women and children. It actualizes its objectives through providing free legal representation for indigent women and children, advocacy and policy campaigns, education and training, mediation and counselling services, as well as publishing information resources.



OUR MISSION

To promote, protect and preserve the rights, interests and well being of women and children through the use of legal framework to ensure that they live free from all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse in the society.

OUR VISION

A just, peaceful and equitable Nigerian society where women and children's rights and interests are guaranteed, in which they have the freedom to choose and live their own future.

OUR CORE VALUES

Transparency, Accountability, Teamwork, Integrity, Mutual Respect, Commitment and Service.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To enhance and promote the welfare of women and children, realizing that the happiness of the home and strength of the society depends on the wellbeing of women and children.
- To establish friendly international relations on the basis of equitability and mutual respect for all peoples.
- To promote the principles and aims of United Nations in their legal and social aspects.
- To promote the study of comparative law.
- To proffer advice to the government in all cases of neglect relating to women and children.

OUR APPROACH

We work with community leaders, women, government officials, state level actors and non-governmental organisations in addressing societal issues as it affects women and children in Kano State. This is geared towards an impressive practical implementation of leadership ideas that features new methods of rendering effective services in FIDA Kano state branch, using the following framework (See the next page)





HADIYA ALIYU
CHIEF EDITOR



HAJARA MAGASHI
EDITOR



SAMIRA ABUBAKAR
EDITOR



AMINA A. IBRAHIM
EDITOR



ABDULYASAR D. MUHD
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Editors' Note



Welcome to this special maiden edition of our magazine, dedicated to the remarkable women who are shaping the legal profession through their dedication, intelligence, and resilience. In it, we are honoured to spotlight the achievements, challenges, and inspiring experiences of women lawyers who are breaking barriers and driving positive change in the legal industry under the umbrella of International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kano Branch.

Throughout history, women have faced numerous obstacles in pursuing careers in law. From discriminatory practices to societal stereotypes, their journey has often been marked by adversity. However, today we celebrate the remarkable progress made by women within the legal profession, thanks to the relentless efforts of organizations like International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kano Branch.

In this edition, we delve into the experiences of female lawyers who have triumphed over adversity, shattered glass ceilings, and paved the way for future generations. We have the privilege of featuring excerpts with trailblazers who have climbed the ranks of prestigious law firms, championed important causes, and played pivotal roles in landmark legal cases. Their experiences serve as a testament to the power of perseverance, determination, and the belief that gender should never be a barrier to success.

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Beyond individual accomplishments, we also explore the collective impact of FIDA Kano. Through networking opportunities, mentorship programs, and advocacy initiatives, this organization has created a vibrant community of support for women in the legal field. We delve into their programs, examine the challenges that still persist, and celebrate the progress that has been made in fostering inclusivity and diversity within the profession.

We hope that this edition serves as a source of inspiration, empowerment, and encouragement to all our readers, regardless of their gender. It is our belief that by highlighting the achievements of women lawyers and shedding light on the challenges they face, we contribute to the ongoing conversation about gender diversity, and inclusion in the legal field.

We extend our deepest gratitude to FIDA for their collaboration and tireless efforts in supporting women lawyers. Together, we strive to create a future where talent and merit transcend gender, and where the legal profession reflects the diverse societies we serve.

Enjoy this edition, and may it inspire you to reach for the stars, challenge the status quo, and forge your own path in the legal world.

Warm regards,

Hadiya Aliyu (Editor-in-Chief)

Hajara Magashi (Editor)

Samira Abubakar (Editor)

Amina Ado Ibrahim (Editor)

Abdulyasar D. Muhd (Graphic Designer)

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Chairperson's Remark

It is with great joy and pride that I am introducing the maiden Magazine of this auspicious association to you as the Chairperson of this remarkable international federation of Women lawyers Association Kano state branch as we embark on an exciting new chapter in our journey. we celebrate the launch of our maiden magazine, a platform that will amplify our voices, share our stories, and inspire change.

In this magazine, we have woven together the threads of empowerment, advocacy, and solidarity. It is a testament to the resilience and strength of women everywhere, a testament to the power of unity in the face of adversity. It is a beacon of hope, shedding light on the challenges we still face, while showcasing the victories we have achieved.

Through the written word, we shall break the chains of silence and give voice to the silenced. We shall expose injustices and demand equality for all. Based on our religious and constitutional dictates We shall uplift, educate, and inspire, fostering a future where every woman's rights are respected and protected.

Within these pages, you will find stories of triumph, of perseverance, and of courage. Each article, and each photograph tells a unique tale of resilience, of dreams realized, and battles won. Together, we will shine a spotlight on the issues that matter most, from gender-based violence to economic empowerment, from



reproductive rights to political representation.

As members of this association, we have committed ourselves to the cause of human rights, and in particular, the rights of women and children. We recognize the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, irrespective of gender, and we strive for a world where these rights are not just written on paper, but woven into the fabric of society.

Today, as we unveil this magazine to the world, let us remember the countless women who fought tirelessly for the rights we enjoy today. Let their sacrifices be our inspiration, their courage our fuel, and their victories our guiding light.

I extend my deepest gratitude to every member of this association, our dedicated team of writers, editors, and artists, and our generous supporters. It is your unwavering commitment and passion that have made this magazine a reality. Together, let us continue to work towards a future where every woman can live with dignity, respect, and equality.

Thank you, and as this Maiden Magazine track. the record of this branch activities and leadership from onset. It equally reveals its achievements and challenges. May this magazine be a catalyst for change, a testament to our unity, and a source of hope for women around the world. May this Magazine continue to inspire more women lawyers to community service. My prayers is this Magazine continues to be produced annually by this branch as a dedicated means of propagating the quality and value of this noble Association in Kano state in such a way that Fida Kano would be a leading branch in Nigeria in its efforts to promote, protect and preserve the rights of women and children

*Yours sincerely,
Bilkisu Ibrahim Suleman Esq
Chairperson, International Federation of Women
Lawyers Association' (FiDA) Kano state branch*





Past Chairpersons

KANO BRANCH



Late Haj. Hashiya Ben Umar
1995- 1997 | 1997 - 1999



Haj. Fatima Kwaku
1991- 1993 | 1993 - 1995 | 2006 - 2008



Justice Maryam Sabo
2009 - 2011 | 2011 - 2013



Huwaila Ibrahim
2018 - 2022



Late Haj. Aisha Bello Mahmoud
2000 -2002



Justice Amina Adamu Aliyu
2002 - 2004 | 2004 - 2006



Haj. Hussaina Ibrahim
20013 - 2016 | 2015 - 2018



FIDA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



AMINA SUZANAH AGBAJE (MRS.)

■ CVP, FIDA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

EVELYN MEMBERE-ASIMIEA

■ DCVP

BEATRICE ABONGE AWAH

■ ASST. NATIONAL SECRETARY

OLUBUNMI NIYI-ARAJUWA

■ NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

NACHAMADA SHALTHA

■ ASST. NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

ELIANA MARTINS

■ NATIONAL SECRETARY

CHINEZW OBIANYO

■ NATIONAL TREASURE

MRS. CHRISTIANA OYANVUTU

■ NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

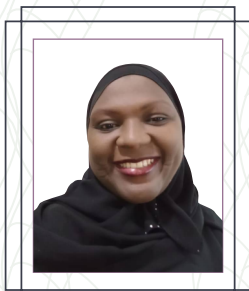
RHODA PREVAIL TYODEN

■ EX-OFFICIO

FIDA STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



BILKISU IBRAHIM SULEMAN ESQ
■ CHAIRPERSON, FIDA KANO BRANCH



HAJARA HAMZA
V/CHAIRMAN



KALTUM MUHAMMAD
SECRETARY



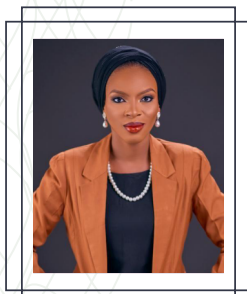
AMINA A. IBRAHIM
ASST. SECRETARY



HAUWA ABBA MUSA
TREASURER



HADIZA BASHIR
FINANCIAL SECRETARY



SA'ADA M. IBRAHIM
PRO I



JAZIRA AHMADU BELLO
PRO II



ZALEEHA ZAKARI
WELFARE SECRETARY

Acting
Chief Judge
KANO STATE



HON. JUSTICE DIJE ABOKI
Chief Judge, Kano State

Haj. fatima Kwaku_{MFR}

Mrs Fatima kwaku (Yee Fatima Agafi), member of the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (MFR), a true daughter of Borno State was born on the 22nd of October 1949 in Maiduguri, Borno State. She had her primary school education in Maiduguri (1956-60) and went to England for her secondary school (1961-70) and returned to Nigeria to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (1970-75) where she obtained her Bachelor Degree in Law (1975) and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1976 at the Nigerian Law School, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The first female lawyer from the North to open her own chamber in 1977- YA FATIMA CHAMBERS. Mrs Fatima kwaku has been in active legal practice for 46 years. She has been a member and chairperson of several Election Petition Tribunals in Jigawa and kano states, where she based.

She was the Vice Chairperson Steering Committee Kano Multi-door Court House and currently Kano State Justice Sector Reform Team, member National Executive Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association and Life Bencher member of the Body of Benchers in Nigeria.

She served as commissioner of the Federal Judicial Service Commission of Nigeria from 2013 till 2018.

Active member of the National and International Bar Association. She is the first female chairperson of the Nigerian Bar Association Kano State Branch, in 1988 and the initiator and first chairperson of International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kano State Branch in 1992. Also the initiator of FIDA Legal Aid Clinic in Kano where legal services are offered to women and children, a staunch defender of women and children's rights. She was a founding council member of the National Human Rights Commission (where she was the special rapporteur on women) from 1996-



2004 and was elected and served as expert (representing Nigeria) on the United Nations CEDAW Committee from January 2001 to December 2004.

She is also a founding member of the Women Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) and Chairman Board of Directors/founding member of Women Health and Development Network (WHADNET). She was the first Chairperson Steering Committee of Arewa Lawyers Forum from 2007 to 2012.

As a dedicated and highly supportive member of her Legal profession Mrs Fatima kwaku was appointed as a Trustee in 2019 of both the Nigerian Bar Association and FIDA.

Mrs Fatima kwaku is a proud mother of four lovely daughters all of whom are graduates of (Engineering, Computers Scientist, Medical Doctor and a Lawyer) and has five grandchildren. She loves music, dancing and good food.



LEADERSHIP HISTORY OF THE BRANCH (FROM INAUGURATION TILL DATE)

1991–1993

Chairperson- Fatima Kwaku
Vice Chair- Aisha Dankani
Secretary- Patricia Mahmoud
Assistant Secretary- Nana Aisha Abdullahi
Treasurer- Dije Abdu Aboki
P.R.O- Amina Adamu Aliyu

1993–1995

Chairperson – Fatima Kwaku
Vice Chair- Aisha Dankani
Secretary- Timi Ogun
Assistant Secretary- Binta Iliasu
Treasurer- Dije Abdu Aboki
Financial Secretary- Aisha Bello
P.R.O- Eucharia Anyichie

1995–1997

Chairperson- Hashiya Ben Umar
Vice Chairperson- Aisha Bello
Secretary- Timi Ogun
Assistant Secretary- Eucharia Anyichie
Treasurer- Maryam Ahmed Sabo
Financial Secretary- Aisha Mahmoud
P.R.O- Eucharia Duru

1998–1999

Chairperson-Hashiya Ben Umar
Vice Chair- Aisha Bello
Secretary- Helen Balami
Assistant Secretary-Codiliar Nwabuzor
Treasurer-Maryam Ahmed Sabo
Financial Secretary- Aisha Mahmoud
P.R.O- Eucharia Duru

2000–2002

Chairperson- Aisha Bello
Vice Chair- Dije Abdu Aboki
Secretary- Cordiliar Nwabuzor
Assistant Secretary- Aisha Rogo
Treasurer- Eucharia Duru
Financial Secretary- Hadiza Jambo
P.R.O- Zuwaira Yusuf

2002–2004

Chairperson- Amina Adamu Aliyu
Vice Chair- Zuwaira Yusuf
Secretary- Bilkisu Suleiman
Assistant Secretary- Yadi Nwuche
Treasurer- Aisha Rogo
Financial Secretary- Juwairiyya Badamasi
P.R.O- Rabi Waya

2004–2006

Chairperson- Amina Adamu Aliyu
Vice Chair- Zuwaira Yusuf
Secretary- Bilkisu Suleiman
Assistant Secretary- Yadi Nwuche
Treasurer- Aisha Rogo
Financial Secretary- Juwairiyya Badamasi
P.R.O- Rabi Waya

2006–2008

Chairperson- Fatima Kwaku
Vice Chair-Eucharia Duru
Secretary- Hadiza Jambo
Assistant Secretary- Fatima Ojo
Treasurer-Maryam Ahmed Sabo
Financial Secretary- Hajara Buhari
P.R.O- Huwaila Ibrahim

2009–2011

Chairperson- Maryam Ahmed Sabo





Vice Chair- Hussaina Aliyu Ibrahim
Secretary- Sakina Datti Abubakar
Assistant Secretary- Fatima Ojo
Treasurer- Fatima Imam
Financial Secretary- Hadiza Rufai Idris
P.R.O- Maryam Inuwa

2011 – 2013

Chairperson- Maryam Ahmed Sabo
Vice Chair- Hussaina Aliyu Ibrahim
Secretary- Sakina Datti Abubakar
Assistant Secretary- Fatima Ojo
Treasurer- Fatima Imam
Financial Secretary- Hadiza Rufai Idris
P.R.O- Maryam Inuwa

2013 – 2015

Chairperson- Hussaina Aliyu Ibrahim
Vice Chair- Zuwaira Yusuf
Secretary- Huwaila Ibrahim
Assistant Secretary- Asmau Muhammed Haruna
Treasurer- Bilkisu Suleiman
Financial Secretary- Zainab Kwaku
P.R.O- Aisha Ado Abdullahi

2015 – 2018

Chairperson- Hussaina Aliyu Ibrahim
Vice Chair- Zuwaira Yusuf
Secretary- Huwaila Ibrahim
Assistant Secretary- Asmau Muhammed Haruna
Treasurer- Bilkisu Suleiman
Financial Secretary- Zainab Kwaku
P.R.O- Aisha Ado Abdullahi

Interim EXCO

Chairperson- Bilkisu Suleiman
Vice Chairperson- Salma Ahmad Danbappa

Secretary- Nibras Tahir Jalalain

2018 – 2022

Chairperson- Huwaila Ibrahim
Vice Chair- Nibras Tahir Jalalain
Secretary- Late Hassana Bashir/Amina Umar Hussein
Assistant Secretary- Amina Ado Ibrahim
Treasurer- Salma Ahmad Danbappa
Financial Secretary- Saadatu Mahmoud Ibrahim
PRO- Amina Umar Hussein/Zaleeha Zakari

2022 -2024

Chairperson – Bilkisu Ibrahim Suleiman
Vice-Chairperson – Hajara Safiyo Hamza
Secretary – Katumi Muhammad Oboiren
Asst. Secretary – Amina Ado Ibrahim
Treasurer – Hauwa Abba Musa
Financial Secretary – Hadiza Bashir Buhari
P.R.O – Sa'adatu Mahmoud Ibrahim
Asst. P.R.O – Jazira Ahmadu Bello





Recognitions & Accomplishments Of Fida Kano Branch

Our Goals

Effective implementation of Legal Frameworks

Innovation and Impactful Organization

Improved access to Justice for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities.

Participation of Women , Youths and Persons with Disabilities in Governance at all levels.

Impactful Grassroot Presence.

In the year 1991, FIDA had embarked on a lot of activities, one of such activities was attending the 8th FIDA Regional African Congress in Abuja represented by two members of the Association, the congress took place between

To engage and create partnerships for progress Fida had also been invited by the Women Law and Development centre Lagos which invited FIDA Kano to participate in executing a project in all the Northern States, the proposed sponsors were John Hopkins University Population Communication Services. The span of the project was between March 99- February 2000.

To improve access to Justice for women, children and persons with disabilities the

Legal committee was inaugurated and it's first meeting was held on 20th January, 1993. Mrs Ben Umar's Chambers was suggested as contact address for the Legal Counseling committee. The Child Abuse committee was also inaugurated and saddled with the responsibility of handling child abuse matters such cases received may be referred to the Legal Counseling committee.

With the Inauguration of the committee FIDA was provided with free media coverage which was a directive by the Governor of the state with the aim to sensitize the public on the existence of this committees. In the year 1995 to 1999 under the Chairperson, FIDA remained a pillar of strength were Progressive attempts of partnership with organizations that share similar objectives. Modalities on how best to run the clinics (legal counselling committee and Child Abuse committee). It was important as well for FIDA to engage in sensitization tours with religious organizations and cultural leaders who were identified as key stakeholders. the council of Ulama's were visited to provide adequate sensitization on the activities of FIDA. In 2007, FIDA has celebrated children's day in Nassarawa motherless baby and Torry homes were gifts were provided to the children.

FIDA Kano attended the International trafficking in women conference in Brazil in 2002., the branch was represented by 6





members. The Nigerian ports Authority sponsored two (2) of it's members for that conference , FIDA also attended the Malaysian convention in 2006 , International Convention in Lagos in 2011 and this has continued over the years with active participation of the branch in regional conventions across the world and NEC FIDA Kano hosted the National Executive Council meeting which was held from the 15th to 17th of March in 2011.

FIDA has continued to play a vital role by being a member of the Kano State Justice Sector reform team from it's inception. As a key stakeholder FIDA has been an active member and has been involved in all it's activities which includes assessment and analysis of the status quo of the Justice system and penal system in the context of the institutional environment and In relation to other powers , identification of problem areas and the need for reform and also development and design of suggested reforms and multi sectoral strategies for improving the Justice system and the penal system both in the operational area and in the area for principles for legislation.

To promote and ensure effective implementation of legal frameworks, Fida has been involved and organised programs and activities one of which is a public lecture on the Right of Women living with VVF under Nigerian Laws. While at the Second quarter some of the activities included the indepth study into Kano State Laws affecting women and children with a view to seeking their amendment were necessary this was of paramount importance, this also led to having a

workshop seminar on Child Rape on the 7th March 2007. The campaign on Violence against Women and Girls was flagged off in November 2010 and the aim of the exercise is to sensitize the general public on violence against women

FIDA Kano with support from FIDA Nigeria sponsored a jingle at Radio Kano and Freedom Radio during the 2011 voters exercise to encourage women to exercise their voting rights. In the same vein the organization set up a committee for the monitoring of election petition for female candidates that filed a petition before the election tribunal.

In it's effort to promote girl child education FIDA Kano also organized an outreach campaign to senior girls secondary schools within and outside the metropolis to sensitize them on the dangers of unwanted and teenage pregnancies. During the course of the outreach, lectures were delivered on career guidance by the guidance and counseling office Kano. furthermore, On May 21st 2010. Schools were visited as well for sensitization purposes during the Day of the Girl Child were GGC Dala and GSSS Shekara was visited. Courtesy calls to female High court judges in the state to discuss prosecution of rape cases and the local trafficking of young girls to serve as domestic help.

On the 16th of March 2011, a one day capacity building workshop was organized where a lecture titled " Electoral Act 2010, Filing and Defending of Election Petition" was delivered by the guest speaker, Barr. M. M Duru, a senior lawyer in Kano state. FIDA





was equally represented by the Chairperson at the CSW U.N Headquarters in New York which took place from 22nd February to 11th March 2011. During this time, FIDA Kano received 75 cases, mostly on custody, maintenance and rape.

To further partnerships in ensuring the effective implementation of legal frameworks, FIDA with support from Mac Arthur foundation in 2018 implemented a project on the Domestication of the ACJL in Kano State. This consisted of round table discussions with religious and community leaders, Women groups as well as the Criminal Justice sector i.e the Ministry of Justice, The Nigerian Police, the Judiciary, the Nigerian correctional service etc.

A Joint Partnership project "Legal Aid at your Door Step" with German Embassy and Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative were paralegals from 300 wards selected from 4 local governments in Kano namely Dawakin Kudu, Bagwai, KMC and Bichi were given professional training and also partnered with the Rule of Law and Anti Corruption Programme on the passage of the Child Rights Act in Kano State.

Underpinning this various activities, initiatives and partnerships and streamlining some of our standard operating practices, we are committed to ensuring the key elements in meeting our current and future goals of creating a more agile organisation that is entrenched with a culture that supports innovation and continuous improvement and ensuring accessibility to Justice, continuous engagement with Government, critical stakeholders and partnerships.

OUR ACTIVITIES

1. MONTHLY VISITS TO CORRECTIONAL CENTRES

The Kano State Branch of the International Federation of Women Lawyers has achieved a lot towards realizing the aims and objectives of the Association which is primarily centred on promoting and protecting the rights of women and children through pro bono legal services, counselling and other programmes and activities such as conducting prison visits on monthly basis to deliver donations and take brief of indigent female inmates, sensitization and awareness campaign on rape, domestic violence, Gender Based Violence (GBV), etc.

2. MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This is also carried out monthly under a program titled "CATCH THEM YOUNG" where students in public schools are mentored and counselled on various career pathways, their roles as future leaders of tomorrow and also enlighten them on sexual and gender-based violence.

Aside from being a member of Kano State Justice Sector Reform Team (JSRT), FIDA Kano works in collaboration with other stakeholders in the State in its effort to achieve the desired objectives. In a bid to promote girl child education, FIDA Kano organizes outreach campaigns occasionally to Girls Secondary Schools within and outside the metropolis in order to sensitize young girls/teenagers on the dangers of the





social media and other vices in the society especially unwanted and teenage pregnancy. Again, apart from the prison cases, FIDA Kano also receives cases (relating to women and children) mostly on custody, maintenance, rape and the likes. One of its classical cases was the case of Wasila, a young girl of 12 years old who was married off to a man she disliked and she poisoned him to death. The case was very much publicized which drew the attention of the Government, and with FIDA Kano's intervention, she was discharged under nolle prosequi on grounds that it was a child marriage. After discharging the victim, FIDA Kano made sure she had a better life out of her environment, And many more cases, some of which are still pending in court.

3. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

a. ENABLING CAPACITY FOR THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACJA 2015;

With funding by MacArthur Foundation and with the support of FIDA Nigeria, Kano State branch facilitated the implementation of a project on capacity building and community outreach for the adoption of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) in the State, and the project was carried out from 2017-2020. In the first year of the program, a number of 100 lawyers and members of the judiciary were educated on the innovative provisions of the ACJL, and in the second year, it focused the support on simplifying and translating the law (ACJL) into native language and carrying out

sensitization using same. In the third year, the branch also convened a stakeholders meeting to review the provisions of the ACJL and the challenges faced by each stakeholder in the implementing the Law, as well as to create an environment to enable networking between the Bar, Bench, Police Force and Correctional Services to ensure effective implementation of the Law in the State.

b. LEGAL AID AT YOUR DOOR (LA-DOOR) PROJECT

With sponsorship by the German Embassy, the Legal-aid-at-your-Door (LA-DOOR) project was carried out in collaboration of IWEI with FIDA. The project focused on rendering community legal education and free legal aid services to women and other vulnerable groups such as youths and persons with disabilities in villages of 4 Local government areas in Kano through community-based paralegals and lawyers working with the mobile legal clinics. A total of 3500 community members comprising of 70% women, young persons and people with disabilities (PWD) in the ratio: 40:20:10 respectively, were targeted and reached.

The project was coordinated with the local government and local authorities using a community driven approach so as to ensure sustainability. All activities were planned and implemented together with the community stakeholders comprising of representatives from the government, traditional leaders, legal enforcement agencies and community volunteers who acted as advisories to the project team and





helped to give insights into community thinking and perspectives on best practices that worked for the communities.

The project was aimed at contributing towards achieving SDGs goal 4, 5 & 16 "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

c. THE RULE OF LAW AND ANTI CORRUPTION PROGRAMME (ROLAC)/ FIDA KANO BRANCH PROJECT

The Rule of Law and Anti Corruption Program supported the International Federation of Women Lawyer's leading a team of civil society organisations to sensitize the Nigerian Police Force on the Proper Utilization of S52 of the Administration of criminal Justice Law in Kano State and the CSO's advocacy which establishes a supervisory framework on reporting obligation of register of arrest to the magistrate within the nearest geographical location at the last day of every month. Unlawful detention of criminal suspects and the lack of adequate data regarding the number of people detained in police custody is one of the significant flaws that existed before the introduction of the ACJL.

Uneven distribution of cases amongst magistrates have been an issue when it comes to undue delay of Justice. Implementing this provision will promote, transparency, accountability and speedy dispensation of Justice in the administration

of criminal Justice.

Achievements

1. FIDA led an advocacy to the Nigerian to the Chief Registrar of the Kano State high court to implement even distribution of cases among magistrates to avoid overburdening some magistrates at the detriment of others and monitoring of compliance
2. FIDA led an advocacy to the Kano State Nigerian Police Force to implement S52 of the ACJL on reporting obligation of register of arrests. This activities was carried out to ensure the implementation of S52 of the ACJL It is therefore evident that ensuring the implementation of S52 will promote transparency and Accountability in the Nigerian Police Force. Kano Nigerian Police has eleven (11); Area commands. with 76 divisions spread across the Commands Division.

d. FIDA/ MACARTHUR FOUNDATION ON NIGERIA 2.0 PROJECT

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria is supporting the adoption and implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Laws and other complimentary laws and policies which aims to strengthen anti-corruption agencies to work independently and effectively to carry out their mandates. FIDA supported by the Mac Arthur Foundation On Nigeria Project is implementing the project "Strengthening the Collaboration between criminal justice actors, to deepen the Criminal Justice architecture and to ensure the effective implementation of the ACJA/ACJL in Anambra, Bayelsa, Ekiti, Rivers, Kano and





the FCT' . Increasing the possibility of effective utilization and strengthening of the criminal justice system to reduce corruption. This is aimed to reduce impunity, strengthen the legal environment and advance anti-corruption norms while the project intends to further gender equity and social inclusion as it advances and implements the larger anti-corruption goal by also attentively monitoring how accountability, transparency and participation disproportionately affects women and girls, youth and the elderly , people with disabilities and other typically excluded groups.

Achievements Of The Ptoject

Community Sensitization/awareness of the citizenry on the importance of the state ACJL using the simplified copy of the laws carried out in Gwale Community of Kano State in March 2022 to Sensitize the Community members on the proper utilization of the ACJL to inform, educate and create an avenue for proper utilization of the ACJL in Kano.(Vanguard Online publication, FIDA/Mac Arthur takes sensitization campaign to Kano Community published Feb 13th 2022) The sensitization was targeted at members of the community from different sectors of the society ranging from Community leaders, women led organizations, Hisbah officials situated in the community, Vigilantes etc.

Continuing Legal Education training for FIDA members in Kano and other female legal professionals on the Administration of criminal Justice law and

other Anti-Corruption legal frameworks in the state. (Stallion times online publication : FIDA/Mac Arthur trains FIDA members on ACJL and other Anti-Corruption legal frameworks)

Technical support to the Kano State Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee's meeting with priority on addressing Corruption in the Criminal Justice sector.(Vanguard online publication, FIDA; Record of low compliance of the implementation of ACJL in Kano Secretary ACJMC published June 18, 2022. This provided for an avenue to have a more coordinated discussion that will lead to a more detailed work plan for the committee.

Provided technical support for the development of the Kano State practice directions of the ACJL 2023 signed by the Chief Judge of Kano State Nura Sagir (Rtd) for the effective utilization of the ACJA/ACJL by improving the speedy dispensation of corruption cases. (<http://www.vanguardngr.com> corruption-kano-chief-judge-fida-expresses-worry-over-nigerias-ranking). Increasing judicial efficiency reduces opportunities for corruption in all court proceedings, not just those dealing with corruption. Therefore, a supportive legal framework and strong judicial system in the fight against corruption is of paramount importance in cases of corruption and also enhances efficiency. Indicators measuring judicial integrity and corruption are thus also used to assess judicial efficiency in handling corruption cases.





Debate for 80 stakeholders (partners and the network) on the constitutionality of s 396(7) and how it can be utilized for speedy trials. The debate was held to facilitate the process of review of the unconstitutionality of S396(7) of ACJA 2015 in the light of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Ude Jones Udeogu vs. Federal Republic of Nigeria & Ors (2020) LPELR-57034 (SC). The debate contributed in deepening the discussion and understanding around the need to preserve the S396(7) of ACJA 2015, provide reasons and rationale for lifting the veil of unconstitutionality of the section as well as making additional recommendations to ensure speedy dispensation of justice particularly in corruption cases. It is expected that recommended actions will feed into a consolidated policy document that will be used as an advocacy tool to effect the necessary constitutional amendment as well as preservation of the section of the law in consideration. This is further expected to result in the reduction in corruption due to an improved and synergized Criminal Justice Sector in Nigeria in the long term.

4. SENSITIZATION ACTIVITIES ON SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

FIDA Kano in collaboration with other Civil Society Organizations (CSO) conducted sensitization on sexual and gender-based violence in the areas of Guringawa, Challawa, Naibawa and Madobi. More of these sensitization exercises are being planned to cover the entire state, this will be a continuous activity.

5. PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS

FIDA Kano in conjunction with Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative (IWEI) marked the 16

days of activism 2019 by visiting four remote villages each in the local governments of Rano, Warawa, Dawakin Tofa, and Bichi, in Kano State. They were educated on Persons with Disability Law, Human Rights, Children and Young Person's Law and also Rape (preventive measures and steps to take after occurrence). More than ten thousand hijabs and caps were distributed and also more than twenty thousand flyers and stickers.

The branch in coalition with other stakeholders and governmental bodies embarked on various activities to support the passage of the Kano State Child Protection Law in the State. FIDA was engaged by RoLAC to support the children parliament and the ministry of women affairs to push for the passage into law the Child Protection Bill into law. The bill seeks to grantee the protection and care of the children as is necessary for their well-being, prohibits force or exploitative labour including begging, hawking, sexual exploitation and prostitution.

6. LEGAL CLINIC/ ACCESS TO JUSTICE

In fulfillment of one of the major objectives of fida, we run clinic every day which include cases bordering on sexual assault and violence, marital dispute, maintainance , custody and divorce, 68 percent of cases received by fida were resolved through mediation

Fida encourage mediation rather than litigation especially among family ties while in rarely case we could not avoid litigation. At times already the= couples are in court or the case could not be resolved by mediation

Thus. Our members follow up with the case to the court. Lastly, fida find the idea of being able to represent someone and make a difference in their lives to be extremely rewarding and fulfilling.



Pictures Arena







LAW AND THE SOCIETY: BRIEF INSIGHTS

BREACH OF TRUST: LAWYER CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

The Rules of professional conduct of a Lawyer, 2007 have designed some duties which if breached the Lawyer will face disciplinary measures through the Legal practitioners Disciplinary Committee of Body of Benchers. In this regard, a Lawyer should know his duties and limitation with regards to professional practice.

RELATIONSHIP OF LAWYER WITH HIS CLIENT

1. Duty to take instruction in the chambers not in the Office or house of a Client except on issue of public security.
2. Duty to accept brief: a lawyer should not deny anybody legal representation no matter what he is being charged.
3. Control in Incidence of Litigation: A Client should not dictate to him what to do and how he should conduct a case. He should apply his skill and knowledge.
4. A Lawyer represents his clients within the boundary of law. He should put interest of Law over the interest of his client.
5. Privilege and Confidence of his Client: He is

expected to keep the information concerning a case, confidential and prepare against surprises from his opponent.

6. Conflict of Interest: He should not allow his personal proprietary or business interest to conflict with the interest of his Client. He should not acquire proprietary interest in the subject matter he is handling. And should not act for opposing party unless he discloses same and have their consent.

7. A Lawyer and Clients Property: He should not misappropriate, or convert the property of his Client to his own use. He should not even mix the two together.

8. Fiduciary relationship: This means where a person place some types of trust, confidence, reliance on another person and that 2 person delegated the trust have Fiduciary duty to act for the benefit and interest of the party.

Where a Lawyer acts in his professional capacity in breach of his duty to his client he is liable to disciplinary action of the legal practitioners Disciplinary committee of Body of Benchers or punishment by the court. See FRN vs Yakubu Mohd Lawal Na Allah (2013) case of Kano Federal High Court. Where a Lawyer was charged by EFCC to Federal High Court Kano, he was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and for forfeiture of property worth N50,000,000.00 (Fifty Million Naira Only). See Also NBA vs





Okoku (2006) 11 NWLR Pg. 431.

Infamous conduct varies from different facts and circumstances in *Allison vs General Council of Medicals Education* (1894) 1 QB Lord Esher M. R., in condemning the act of the plaintiff held;

"It seems to me that it may be fairly said that the plaintiff has endeavored to defame his brother practitioners and by that defamation to induce suffering people to avoid going to them for advice and to come to himself in order that he may obtain remuneration or fees which otherwise he would not obtain".

In the case, the Plaintiff, a Medical Practitioner published some advertisement in several newspapers which contained the reflection upon his medical colleagues generally and their method of treating patients. He advised the public to have nothing to do with their drugs and come to him. He was found guilty of infamous conduct by medical council.

Some Infamous Conducts are:

1. Refusing to pay clients' money
2. Misappropriate of Clients Money or Property
3. Neglecting Patients for a longtime.
4. Obtaining enrolment by fraud. Conducts not amounting to infamous conduct but not compatible with status of a Lawyer are;

- a) Conviction by a court which is not set aside
 - b) Misbehavior of fighting in the public act.
- A Lawyer should always maintain good and standard of behavior and gain public confidence.

LAWYERS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COURT

A Lawyer is regarded as Personnel of Court involved in the Administration of Justice. He is expected to show utmost respect to the court in his conduct, his speech and dressing.

1. He should not delay, obstruct, administration of justice.
 2. He should treat the court with dignity and honour.
 3. He should disclose to the court any relevant authority for determination of a case even if it is against his own interest.
 4. A Lawyer as Witness to Client: He can testify for his Client when he appear as representative not as a counsel.
 5. Withdrawal from a Case: He can withdraw his services for non-payment of legal fee.
- In conclusion, a Lawyer should remember his position in the society; not do anything that would tarnish his image, and lose his integrity.

***Presented By: HALIMA ALIYUNASIR
CHIEF MAGISTRATE***





DIVORCE ON GROUND OF MAINTENANCE AND ILL TREATMENT (IDRAR)

A wife is entitled to maintenance from her husband as long as she's under his control. In addition, she is also entitled to maintenance after dissolution of marriage under the following condition;

1. If the dissolution is revocable
2. If the dissolution is irrevocable but she is pregnant
3. Wages for suckling young child
4. Maintenance of children under her custody.

On proof of lack of maintenance by a husband generally, every claim has to be proved by 2 witnesses. But because of the nature of our traditional settings where the couple lives together in the family house of the husband, whenever there is misunderstanding between the couple or maltreatment or lack of maintenance it is the husband's relatives that will witness the incident. If these kind of cases end up in court, the husband usually denies the fact that he maltreat his wife and due to sentiment his relatives will not testify in her favor against their brother. This makes the case very cumbersome on the wife to prove Idrar. Hence, the only option left for the wife if she really wants to end the marriage is to file for divorce by way of *KHUL'I* rather than divorce on the basis of Idrar.

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN AFTER DIVORCE

The majority of the Jurist are of the view that after divorce, the mother should take custody of the

young children. According to Maliki School, the custody of a male child given to a mother should be before attaining puberty and that of a female child should be after the consummation of her marriage.

CONDITIONS ATTACH TO CUSTODY

The following are the conditions attached to custodian of a child;

1. The custodian should live in place where the child should not face any risk.
2. The custodian should not have an infectious disease.
3. The custodian must be capable of taking care of the child.
4. The custodian must not be an extravagant (Assafiy)
5. The custodian must not be married to a stranger.

MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN

A child who had no property is entitled to maintenance from his father or Grandfather. The child's right to maintenance is provided under Qur'an 2 verse 233. The maintenance of a male child is until attainment of puberty and female child until consummation of her marriage. Maintenance include the following;

1. Feedings
2. Clothing
3. Shelter
4. Education Expenses
5. Medical Expenses etc.

BY: ISAH IDRIS MAKODA.
Upper Sharia Court, JSC Kano





PROPER APPROACH TO CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES IN COURTS

Upon receiving directed FIR in criminal cases or complaint in civil cases, you need to do the following:

1. Check whether you have jurisdiction under S.16 ACJL and S.15 Magistrate Court Laws 2018 or restriction of land and other matters in special cases. S.14 (b) Magistrate Court Laws on all activities between landlord and tenants for recovery of rent or possession of land or premises.

2. S.16 MCL on jurisdiction to hear and determine any action where the debt or demand claimed in an action. According to S.17, criminal jurisdiction consideration should be given to the fact whether you have jurisdiction to entertain the matter. In an event a magistrate has no jurisdiction he should transfer the case to another magistrate that have jurisdiction. As there is nothing as useless as conducting a trial flawlessly only to find out that the court had no jurisdiction to hear the matter. *See ANAMBRA STATE V AGFERERATION (1993) 6 NWLR (pr 302) 692.*

S. 33 MCL gave power to magistrate to transfer case to Sharia Court.

S. 10 MCL to transfer where magistrate is personally interested.

On effect of proceedings conducted without jurisdiction see *OLABOMI AND ANOR V OYEWINLE AND ORS (2013) LPELR 20969 (sc)*

3. Followed by arraignment in criminal cases in

accordance with the provision of S. 36 (6) (a) and (e) of the CFRN 1999 as amended, in the language well understood where he does not understand English language. The language is not limit to Hausa language, it should be extended to any language as the official language of the court is English language *See SOWEMIMO V STATE (2012) 2 NWLR (pt 1261) p. 372.*

In civil cases where the claim of the plaintiff is within the jurisdiction of the court the claim should be read to the hearing and understanding of the defendant.

4. Then followed by taking plea in criminal case and accepting or denying liability in civil case.

5. Where the defendant/defendants plead guilty to the Contents of the FIR he should be tried summarily. An accused who pleads guilty to an offence is not entitled to hearing. By entering a guilty plea, hearing is foreclosed as the right and last procedural step of the judge is to convict and pass appropriate sentence *see IWONZE V FRN (2013) IWWLR (pt 1334) pt 119 CA.*

In civil case where the defendant admit liability judgement should entered on the terms and conditions agreed by both parties. The most important element in a consent judgement as the consensus of the parties without where there can be no consent judgement. When the court makes an order based upon such terms of settlement, such emerges a consent judgement *see UBA V TAAN (1993) 4 NWLR (pt 287) page 368, KAMBA V BAWA (2005) 4 NWLR (pt 914) 43.*

There is no right of appeal against a consent judgement without the leave of court S. 241 (2) (c) 1999 CFRN and *AHAMEFULE V IMPERIAL MEDICAL CENTRE (2005) pt 917 pg. 51*

6. Where the defendant plead not guilty trial should be conducted to the logical conclusion see S.129 (9) ACJL.





In non-capital offences bail should be granted depending on the facts and circumstances of each case which may be granted in 3 different stages namely; before his trial, during his trial and pending his appeal *see CHEDI V ATTORNEY GENERAL OF FEDERATION (2006) 13 NWLR (pt 997) 308.*

In civil case where the defendant denied the claim of the plaintiff trial should be conducted to the logical conclusion.

At the end of the trial in criminal case sentence should be imposed when found guilty and convicted. Either upon summary trial or full trial see S. 312 (1) (2) ACJL on sentence and sentencing hearing

S. 19 ACJL is on jurisdiction of magistrate to pass sentence for instance S. 19 (5) provide for the following sentences;

- a) imprisonment
- b) fine see S. 32b (1) ACJL, S. 75 PC S. 432 (1) ACJL and S. 327 (1) ACJL. The law allows for fine to be paid instalmentally.
- c) canning S. 77 penal code, S. 432 (1) ACJL, S. 431 (1) ACJL.

Consideration should be given to the jurisdiction of the magistrate imposing the punishment.

The judgement in civil cases in monetary claim is for order to pay as per the plaintiff's claim. The payment should be either in whole or in instalment. For vacant possession in recovery of commercial and residential premises, payment of mesne property, arrears of rent as the case may be.

Written By: UMMA SANI KURAWA
CHIEF MAGISTRATE GRADE 1





FIDA KANO IN ACTION: OUR EXPERIENCES

1. *Binta Mansur* ***Chief Magistrate Court, Kano***

FIDA Kano branch then was fully functioning in 1996 when I joined, whenever a case was brought, a meeting would be held by all members including exco's where the matter would be tabled and appropriate measures to be taken would be discussed, these meetings were sometimes the regular monthly meetings or where the matter was urgent, an emergency meeting may be called.

I started out as the person in charge of the FIDA legal clinic as it was a position for the youngest lawyer at the bar which happened to be me. My job included lodging in complaints filed by women and interviewing the clients. Where Mrs. Eucharria was near, I usually called her so we can interview the clients together after which the matter is taken before all members at the monthly meeting. The complainant would be called back and if there is need to invite the respondents too for mediation, they're invited and advised appropriately or sometimes if the need arises, the women were empowered with whatever little thing FIDA had.

I can remember a case of some two young adults, a boy and a girl who wanted to get married. The complained that her father was starving her and beating her up every day, she had been locked in a room at home and food was given to her through the window. Her father did all this because he did not want her to marry the boy. I tendered the issue before the monthly meeting and the girl was

invited for further questioning after which the boy, the girl, and her father who come along with his brother were also invited, the meeting was adjourned in order to consult religious leaders. They concluded that the father had to marry her off himself since she had never been married before, the girl's mother was not together with her father and it was resolved that she stay with her temporarily until FIDA was able to convince the father that the boy was a good person. FIDA also helped them with foodstuff to help them since the father was not providing it, at the end we were informed that they had eloped to Saudi since the boy was quite knowledgeable in the Quran. In 1991 when I went for Hajj, a lady with twins approached me; I did not recognize her till she described herself. It was the same girl from years ago. So many similar cases like this where we helped women and they remember us for the rest of their lives.

A minor once came to FIDA to complain about sexual abuse from her husband, the husband was a well-known man in the society. We invited him, talked to him and told him that she wanted a divorce which he promptly gave her.

FIDA Kano in 1990s when I was working there was always ready to help women and children. I recall many times when mothers came to report lack of maintenance and custody issues, FIDA Kano welcomed them with open arms and provided them with capital to start small businesses to feed their children. We also sponsored children to schools and provided uniforms and books. We also visited orphanages and prisons to donate





food and clothing items, we also regularly carried out prison visits to help inmates and provide free legal services. Senior FIDA members were always ready to help us juniors and always gave us listening ears. All members were also very active, they regularly attended meetings and where cases were assigned to the lawyers, they diligently followed the case till the very end.

Even though FIDA was being recognized for the good activities of helping women and children we were carrying out, we still received backlash from some persons in the society, they claimed FIDA was an organization set to destroy marriages and family. It reached a point where we were reported to the chief judge for this, the Chief Judge rightly conducted his research and saw otherwise, our main goals were to empower and help women and children, the vulnerable members of the society.

***2. Maryam Mudi Lawan Esq.
Asst Chief Legal Officer
Ministry of Information and Culture.***

The legal profession is one that has always fascinated me. From a young age, I was captivated by courtroom dramas and legal thrillers that painted a picture of lawyers as individuals who fought for justice and upheld the law. I believe that individuals should have the right to be heard and have their rights protected, regardless of their social, economic, or political status. Lawyers have the ability to take on the case of those who may not have the resources or legal knowledge to defend themselves. I find the idea of being able to represent someone and make a difference in their lives to be extremely rewarding and fulfilling.

Similarly, I had been drawn to the legal profession because of its impact on society. Lawyers play a crucial role in the creation, enforcement, and interpretation of laws, which in turn shape society

and the behaviour of individuals. As a lawyer, I have the potential to make a positive impact in the society by standing up for societal injustices, supporting meaningful causes, and promoting laws that benefit society as a whole.

It is also worthy to note that there are specific areas of law that still need to be either refined or amended. From my experience, an area of law that I feel should be given more attention to is; sharing of inheritance under the Shari'a, disputes between wives, and maintenance in divorce cases. However, I will illustrate the challenges I have faced and how I successfully overcame them using two case studies. Case 1 is the case which was settled in the Shari'a Court in Kano State, while Case 2 was a dispute between two wives which was settled in a mediation session between the parties (XXXX and her husband) at the FIDA office in Kano state.

The first case was a case of the distribution of the estate seven and a half years after the death of the deceased. The deceased was survived by two wives and 12 children. In conclusion, the estate was distributed according to the Shari'a amongst the wives and children. A lesson learnt from this case was that- with persistence and determination, even complex cases would have their day in court. Although the justice system is saddled with many tons of cases, sometimes some cases might not necessarily require to be settled in court, but due to the complexities of the parties involved in the cases, there is no option but to turn to courts.

In the second case, Fatima and her husband were invited to a mediation session at the FIDA office in Kano state in order to settle the disputes between the co-wives. Although the first wife was not invited to the meeting, her absence did not in any way stall the progress of the meeting. This was mainly due to the observation that women would





be able to live peacefully together so long as the husband has a good footing and relationship with the wives. In this instance, Fatima (the second wife) was being mistreated by the first wife. Fatima reported the issue to FIDA and upon discussions with her and the husband, FIDA was able to remind him on the importance of keeping a happy home, and his responsibility as a husband to ensure that the wives live peacefully for the comfort and happiness of all.

We also went to a follow up visit after the session, and I am happy to state that there was an improvement in their relationship after FIDA intervention. The wives were chatting gleefully, they were laughing, and the second wife was looking after the first wife's baby which was only possible through our efforts and that of the parties.

In conclusion, it might be tedious to mediate or to ensure justice for someone, and there will always be challenges, however I never believed that anything is impossible. Additionally, I have never considered failure as an obstacle, but rather a stepping stone to success. For instance, losing a case at the trial court does not mean failure as the law gives us the opportunity to appeal in order to make our cases stronger, and provide justice to those worthy and in need of it.

3. Aishat Garba Musa

The first case I handled was a case for dissolution of marriage via Khul'i under FIDA. The Court pronounced its verdict for dissolution of the marriage via divorce. While the subsistence of the marriage, the husband has refused to maintain and provide for the wife and their two Children. Parents of both parties intervened but to no avail. The wife sought for divorce but the husband insisted that he be taken to the appropriate authority before he divorces her.

Under Islamic law, maintenance during the subsistence of a marriage is a right and lack of which can bring a marriage to an end. The wife is duty bound to prove lack of maintenance by the husband in order to succeed in a trial for dissolution of her marriage for lack of maintenance. In the instant case, the plaintiff sued for dissolution of her marriage with the defendant via khul'i but lacks evidence. In the end, the husband willfully opted for divorce and gave the custody of the second child to the wife.

The second case is a criminal case where Kano State is suing the defendant for culpable homicide punishable with death. It was alleged that the defendant (a Chinese) stabbed the victim at her residence at Janbulo in Kano. The case is still pending before the Court but International Federation of Women Lawyers, FIDA Kano Branch is estopped by the Court from putting appearance in the case.

The defendant and the victim were alleged to be in a relationship and both were planning to get married before the incidence. It was alleged that the defendant spent money in millions of naira for the victim before she dumped the defendant and got married to another. It was further alleged that the victim got divorced and continued relationship with the defendant which later got sour and the defendant allegedly stabbed the victim that resulted to her death.

International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) as an organization whose mandate is to protect the rights and interest of women and children, and the victim of the alleged offence being a woman, FIDA paid a condolence visit to the family of the victim and also put appearances in the case before the Court to see to the justice of the case.

FIDA through its Counsel put appearances in the





case as watching brief from the arraignment of the defendant to when PW₁ to PW₄ testified after which a Preliminary Objection was filed by the defence Counsel. The defence through its preliminary objection dated and filed the 16th day of Nov, 2022 applied to the Court that FIDA and other organisations that appeared as watching brief should be expunge from the record and estopped from further appearing in the case.

FIDA's Counsel informed the Court that the said preliminary objection was not served on FIDA for appropriate response. Yet the Court heard and granted the preliminary objection thereby expunging FIDA from the record and estopping FIDA from further appearing in the case.

FIDA still have two options; either to file an application before the trial Court for the setting aside of the Preliminary Objection dated and filed the 16th Nov, 2022 for lack of fair hearing, or to file an appeal to the Court of Appeal, Kano Division against the ruling of the trial Court on the preliminary objection.

4. Hasiya M. Imam **Legal Aid Council, Kano Office**

I joined FIDA Kano in 2021. I participate in all FIDA activities especially mediation and settlement of disputes at the FIDA office. Similarly, I have also handled some cases, one of which is Binta's case. It is an action instituted by the plaintiff (wife) seeking for divorce, custody and maintenance of her children. The court ruled that the plaintiff and her children should move to the defendant's hometown where he wanted them to be, and that he should take care of all his responsibilities.

5. Amina Umar Hussain **Legal Aid Council,**

I was the former PRO of FIDA Kano branch and after Hassana's demise, I became the Secretary. I took over the office with lots of grief and also thinking that I will not be able to fill late Hassana's void because of her diligent approach in all ramifications. As it is, the responsibility of the Secretary of FIDA is very tasking and overwhelming because it also involves office management, attending courts, and public relations with others. I am happy to say that I am the lawyer with highest number of FIDA cases. Most of the cases handled by FIDA bothers on family issues, custody, maintenance, divorce, rape among others. Despite these achievements, FIDA Kano still faces some challenges ranging from lack of commitment by some members and insufficient funds to run the office satisfactorily.

6. Abashiyya L. Maiwada

I was called in 2017 and I joined FIDA in 2021. As a member of the litigation committee I was assigned the case of *Fatima Adamu* a young girl whom change her faith to Islam. Fatima was charged with conspiracy, theft and attempted murder before magistrate court 14 and was remanded at kurmawa correctional center. The case of Fatima was a critical one because non of her family member was following the case to support her and each time the FIR was read to her she falls of Jinn, I started pursuing the case from having an interview with Fatima at kurmawa and her story was a sad one, I took time to counsel her appropriately and she promise to cooperate. I then proceed to trace her family and I also try to convince them to show up in Fatima's case. I then move to the court and make some inquiries on the current position of the case. Impressively, the legal advice was in favour of Fatima, the FIR was terminated and she was released on our first appearance in court.





WOMEN LAWYERS AND TECH; BRIDGING THE GAP

FIDA's mandate is to protect, promote and preserve the rights and interests of women and children. Over the years women and girls continue to face persistent challenges in access to resources, productive employment and services all underpinned by redundant economic growth, political conflicts, terrorism and persistent discriminatory cultural and social norms. Despite the repeated commitment towards development failure to effectively implement legal frameworks, policies and investment strategies at all stages contributes to the neglect of the rights and aspirations of women and girls globally. This is manifested in the limited access to health care services, technological advancement, agricultural resources, decision making power, assets, income and social protection. There is a need to leverage the power of technology to promote gender equality and empowerment for women and girls. As the technological error is explored it is critical to acknowledge the importance of digital technology and digital literacy as we prioritize the empowerment of women.

While so much has changed from the time where women were denied to practice law, on regards of their gender a paradigm shift has been witnessed overtime but not enough to bridge the gender equality gap. That been said the legal profession in itself is in a period of profound change which is driven by technology and Innovation and might change the future for women in the legal profession. The potential changes that the advancement of digital innovation will bring to the legal profession is been given a wide range of

attention and even more so during the covid 19 lockdown were it was imminent that digital innovation and technology is here to stay yet there is no focus on how this changes might positively impact women in the legal practice and address the existing gender gap in the legal profession.

Unconscious bias, unacceptable work balance and traditional network/ routes to promotion are some of the barriers. These are barriers that demand systematic changes in social structure which also requires a strong political will through laws and policies although laws alone will not change attitudes and mindsets they are very significant in establishing standards and sending the right messages that gender biased attitudes can no longer be tolerated. Therefore what is needed is to create a long term change, transforming traditional mindsets that perpetuate gender inequality in the legal sector as well as providing a conducive environment for women in practice.

- Encourage women by providing mentorship, networking opportunities and access to resources.
- Promote the visibility of women in the legal profession by highlighting their accomplishments and contributions
- Create a safe and inclusive work environment that encourages open conversation that empowers women to speak up and be heard.





·Support initiatives and organizations that promote women advancement.

With the increasing challenges to women and girls across the globe, the situation of women in Law is as important as ever. There should be no room for regression or complacency, the political will and commitment from all stakeholders including firms, businesses, clients, Bar associations and law societies are essential to ensure the progression of women in the legal sector. The future generation deserves to have equal access to the profession and to progress in their careers without fear of exclusion of exploitation or stigma.

To address this risk, some solutions highlighted here are; FIDA members can thrive to be bloggers, loggers as well as have their YouTube channel to inform and educate on critical legal issues, It is also easier to train and mentor younger members online. Whatever that is done in the social media space should be compatible with the Law, FIDA members should expand their frontier and ensure they incorporate social commerce and ICT. Gender bias is not only a male problem and gender bias and social norms still exist around the world in different dimensions. Artificial Intelligence has been found to be gender focused as the bias amongst humans has crept into Artificial Intelligence programming and has been found to in most instances used to solve GBV, cyber bullying et.c

By: Fatima Ahmad



'MY FRIEND' THE PRO BONO ANGEL: *In Memory Of Late Hassana Bashir*



Going down the memory lane for the umpteenth time since her demise some 4 years ago, and actually writing it down is a nostalgic journey full of pains, tears and reflections. Not a day goes by without a single thought of her and the remarkable things she did to change the lives of others. But nothing had prepared me for the agony that was to come afterwards as I reminisce of the cases that happened through the memorable years. I could only pen down a few....

AISHA TOFA'S CASE: Our early days as FIDA members were the best memories of all. They were marked with pleasant adventures and incredible experiences, cherished escapades, learning and relearning we explored together through timeless efforts at sharing and experimenting the legal practice. It met with the optimism of youthful lawyers ready to excel (testing the waters so to say). But above all, was being in company of people with common ideologies about life and sincerity of purpose, who made every passing moment an enchanting memory to behold.

I still remember Aisha Tofa's case, a case that was referred to the office by a magistrate pleading for FIDA to intervene as the victim had no legal representation. The facts were not really clear then, but notwithstanding (as the eager young lawyers and new members of the association we were) Hassana, Sa'ada and I arranged to go to the court on the slated date of the hearing, with the intention of representing the victim, while hoping to find more facts and details of the case along the line. However, the first challenge was how to get to the court (which was at the outskirts of Kano), being financially constrained, with no prior experience or direction to the location, and using a public vehicle. But being so determined, Hassana had discreetly chartered a tricycle whom she knew was familiar with the area to convey us that day, and when she eventually shared her plan with us, I was uneasy. Why should we take on such a risk? What if we got lost? What if something happened? What if....? I kept on thinking. In truth, I was scared and looking for all the reasons to back out. To me, it was a seemingly impossible task. Sa'ada



on the other hand, was more courageous and less perturbed than I was; as far as we were all going together, she was fine. And before the set date, Hassana had all the right words to convince us that it was 'a learning process' and an experience worth taking the risk for. 'Rimin Gado isn't so distant after all', she insisted. She inspired us that life was all about taking chances, making expedient sacrifices, and all the while finding fulfilment in doing what you feel is right and changing the lives of those around you. It was her words more than anything that steered our resolve, and on the slated date we set out on our mission. And that was the beginning of the journey...

On arrival, the court had not commenced sitting yet, but we were met at the entrance by the client and her older brother, and while we awaited the commencement, we got the actual facts from her. Aisha was barely 16years old, but was 7 months pregnant and from what she said, her boyfriend Sani (who was the defendant) was the person responsible for the pregnancy. She was in tears as she recounted the circumstances. She disclosed that Sani usually visited their house (mostly in the evenings), and often enough, brought her gifts and refreshments. But he had the habit of making inappropriate advances at her, to which she always objected. Although she never complained to anyone nor reported it at home, Aisha kept declining and urging him to stop, appealing to him to wait until they got married, as she truly loved him. But Sani seemed not ready and obviously had no intention of settling down with her. And when the advances became incessant, Aisha started withdrawing from the relationship. Unknown to her, Sani was scheming a plan against her. When he visited her on a fateful day and presented her with some refreshments

(assorted juice) Aisha had no reason to suspect a foul play. He insisted that she drinks the juice while they were still discussing, which she opened and readily obliged. But unknown to her, the juice had been drugged. And while in her daze, Sani used the opportunity to sexually assault her. Again, Aisha failed to mention this to anyone at home, but from then on refused any further engagements with him. In fact, she promptly got a new and serious suitor whom she planned on settling down with.

Aisha was quite young and oblivious to the changes in her body, and neither of her folks noticed or even had reason to suspect that she was pregnant. Not until it became obvious, and revealing. When a few months to her wedding she became seriously sick, a random test and examination revealed that she was in fact only 2 months due. Her parents were devastated and very disappointed with her. Only then did she spilled the beans and Sani was summoned to account. Of course, he denied, and even threatened to institute an action of defamation against her family should they make the issue public (he was a uniformed officer). Needless to say, Aisha's wedding was cancelled, she was dejected by her family (except the only brother) and became a subject of ridicule by the community. To make matters worse, Sani began spreading rumors against her, claiming she was wayward and that was why he had refused marrying her. Hence, with her brother's support, she had instituted an action against him for defiling her and to compel him to accept paternity of the baby she was carrying. She ended her narration in tears.





Aisha's case lasted more than 3 years in court, and all through the years, Hassana consistently followed up with the case till the end. The case was eventually transferred to Koki (within the metropolis) which eased the distance for us, but on the other hand was difficult for poor Aisha, as she had to make the trip down to Kano for every sitting, alongside the brother and eventually the baby she delivered. To ease the burden, Hassana insisted on shouldering their transportation and even feeding for each trip they made. In her naivety, Aisha had vowed that if she could not get rid of the baby, she would dump it at birth with the father, whether or not he accepts responsibility for the child. However, with the moral guidance and emotional support she continuously got (especially from Hassana who had become her mentor and role model), Aisha got the courage to wade off the stigma and in time realized the consequences of her intention. The baby's arrival (behold, a carbon copy of the defendant) was the tie breaker and Aisha was vindicated. But by then, she had matured enough and felt much attached to her baby and therefore, could not let go. Struggling it all, Hassana independently empowered her to support herself and her family. She eventually got married (in another state), while taking full custody of her child.

Aisha Tofa was indeed, a success story.

It was some few months after Hassana's death that an unknown number called through my phone, and it took me only a while to place the hysterical voice; it was Aisha's. She was incoherent and seemed completely out of breath. And in my effort to calm her down, I instructed her to disconnect the call and pull herself together so we could talk, then I would call her back afterwards (assuming she will be

calmer). But Aisha was inconsolable. In her cracked voice, she explained how she had been out of reach and offline for some time and as such was not aware of Hassana's death until that very afternoon when she spoke with the brother. And the only person connected to Hassana she knew and could find, was me. Aisha was completely shattered as she cried out, and I could only listen in silent tears... She said she had just wanted to update 'her mentor' on the achievements she'd made and to thank her over again for the role she had played (in her words) 'more than any other person had ever done in her life'. As at then, she had 2 steady businesses she was successfully running (which Hassana had encouraged and supported her financially to set up); she was fending for her daughter who was staying with her mother and she was doing very well; was very much happy in her marriage and even pregnant again. She said she will never forget Hassana in her life and swore that if she hadn't been so heavily pregnant, she would come over to Kano at once even if it meant the end of her marriage, (like her visit would make any difference). And only then did I interject. I reasoned with Aisha to remain in her marital home even after she put to bed as there was no point of her coming to Kano at all. I also made her promise to stay back, safe and happy in her marriage as that's what even Hassana would have wanted for her, and then I urged her to always and continue praying for 'my friend' wherever she was, which she repeatedly did over and over and over again. Aisha was still crying heavily as I ended the call.





HAUWA JA'AFARU'S CASE: Like many others, Hauwa was a victim of circumstances. During one of our FIDA visits to the prison, helpless Hauwa was found in tears, seriously ill and pregnant. Upon enquires she was found to be in prison custody for financial misconduct; she was heavily indebted to many people, which had accrued over time from series of unfortunate transactions and agreements she couldn't perfect. She ached for her family, especially her small children who were alone at home with no one to take care of them in her absence. And to cap it all, Hauwa was suffering from a severe ailment and seemed depressed. Neither her husband nor her family could come to her rescue as there had no means whatsoever to raise the huge sum of money she was owing.

Hassana secured a bail for Hauwa and promptly arranged for out of court settlement with all her debtors at the office, to which they all obliged. And at the meeting, she pleaded on Hauwa's behalf for their consideration and amicable settlement between them. Meanwhile, she found a donor based in abroad (who chose to remain anonymous) who had earlier been in contact with her, and she offered to settle the debt in monthly instalments. The money was sent through Hassana's account for onward distribution among the debtors, which was settled in batches. An undertaking was signed and the donation was transferred every month and shared based on mutual agreement.

Hassana maintained a steady, seamless and transparent structure of the settlement which seemed fair and acceptable to everyone, not one of the debtors complained of any misgivings throughout the process. And although Hauwa had lost the baby she was carrying, she was back and happy in the midst of her family, ever grateful for what she said 'only a Godsend' could have done. Whenever she came to the office, her prayers for

Hassana were unending, and she always left in grateful tears knowing she'll never be able to pay back the kind gesture.

It took almost 15 months to completely settle the debt. By then Hauwa had fully recovered from her depression, was on treatment for the ailment, and pregnant again with another baby.

But as fate would have it, Hassana died towards the end of the agreement. Hauwa was devastated at the news. but thankfully, this time around she safely put to bed (barely 9 days after Hassana's death), giving birth to a bouncing baby girl, who was named 'Hassana'. Make no mistake, the baby was named after my friend. Hauwa and her husband forwarded a picture of the baby to the office later on, with fervent prayers for Hassana and hopes for the baby to take after her deceased namesake.

NB: Hassana had everything carefully documented and detailed that even in her absence, Hauwa's debt was continuously paid through another colleague who had connection with the anonymous donor, and the issue was successfully concluded to the latter.

ZAINABU ABU'S CASE: Abu's case was Hassana's last FIDA case in court, and she celebrated her achievements through the year with friends and family even on social media, as she wrote thus:

And which of the Favours of your Lord will you deny?

Alhamdulillah, I started my day, my week and the last day of the year 2018 with a blessed victory in a case at Sharia Court of Appeal Kano Division 2 (My 22nd pro bono case in 2018). I am ending the year with much gratitude and appreciation. This victory is God's reward for all the hard work during the year and before.

A wicked ex-husband and father of 5 kids dragged a poor mother and ex-wife from Sharia Court D/Kudu to USC Kofar Kudu and again to Sharia Court Appeal Kano all because he was useless enough not to take





responsibility of his children. Today, finally, judgement has been given once more against him, and he has been ordered to pay the maintenance of the past 3 years, 2015- till date. He has not been feeding his children for the past 3 years. What a shame. I hope the New Year brings more blessings and success.

Adieu 2018!!!

My friend had ended the year 2018 with a resolution to step back a bit and focus on her academics, while continuously following up with her numerous clients who had turned family. But she never got to bid farewell to another year. She had made her landmark. Within the few years she had served as a FIDA member, Hassana had touched the lives of uncountable indigents and impacted in multiple ways; in her words and in her actions, on individuals, families and organisations even beyond her expectation.

Below were the last words she posted;

Alhamdulillah the prison release was a success, 15 inmates (mostly youths and teenagers) with various fines got their freedom and have spent the Eid with their families today. Thank you so much to everyone who made donations or had intention to, May Allah accept your Ibadan and grant you Jannah. Remain blessed.

With support from a charitable foundation, Hassana had secured the freedom of several youths from the prison, and she found solace in the fact that although she wasn't actively involved in court cases, she was reuniting inmates with their loved ones. She was also on countless number of radio programs advocating for the rights of women and children, while mentoring children under the flagship of the Children Parliament and championing their movement towards the passage of the Child Protection Bill in the state. Her last post on social

media as she bowed off the stage was full of gratitude and appreciation for the life she lived and the lasting impression she had attained. She left us sooner afterwards, haven dedicated her life all the way, doing what she did best; selfless service to humanity.

I have a mentor. I call her 'my friend'. But we have lost her. A sister, hero, icon and role model. The pro bono angel...

'My friend' passed away on Friday, the 21st of June 2019.

As at the time of her death, she was the Secretary of FIDA Kano State Branch, a PhD student and a lecturer with Bayero University Kano (BUK).

May the soul of Hassana Bashir and all our beloved departed rest in eternal Bliss.

May God in His Infinite Mercy Grant her the Highest Rank in Jannatul-Firdaus, ameen.

Rest on 'my friend'...

*Memory by Amina Ado Ibrahim,
Assistant Secretary, FIDA Kano*





Success And Challenges

In the journey of the Association of Women Rights, we have witnessed both significant achievements and persistent challenges. Let's delve into some of them:

Achievements:

1. Awareness and Advocacy: The association has successfully raised awareness about women's rights issues, shedding light on gender inequality, violence against women, and discriminatory practices. Through campaigns, workshops, and public engagements, we have empowered women to speak up and assert their rights.

2. Legal Reforms: Our collective efforts have contributed to legislative changes aimed at protecting and promoting women's rights. We have advocated for laws addressing domestic violence, sexual harassment, equal pay, and gender-based discrimination. These milestones are a testament to our advocacy and the recognition of women's rights as fundamental human rights.

3. Empowerment Initiatives: The association has implemented various programs and initiatives to empower women economically, socially, and politically. By providing skill-building workshops, entrepreneurship support, and leadership training, we have helped women gain autonomy and achieve their full potential.

Challenges:

1. Gender-Based Violence: Despite progress, gender-based violence remains a pervasive challenge. Our association continues to tackle issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. Efforts are underway to provide support services,

advocate for survivor rights, and challenge the cultural norms that perpetuate violence against women.

2. Socio-cultural Barriers: Deep-rooted social and cultural norms often pose obstacles to women's rights. Traditional gender roles, discriminatory practices, and limited access to education hinder progress. Our association works diligently to challenge these barriers through education, awareness campaigns, and community engagement.

3. Intersectionality and Inclusivity: Recognizing the diverse experiences of women is crucial. We strive to address the intersectional nature of discrimination and oppression, ensuring that the voices and rights of marginalized women, including those from minority communities, are amplified and included in our work.

4. Political and Economic Empowerment: Achieving equal political representation and economic opportunities for women remains a challenge. We advocate for gender parity in decision-making positions, promote women's participation in politics, and push for equitable economic policies that bridge the gender gap.

As we move forward, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing these challenges, amplifying the voices of women, and fostering a society where every woman's rights are upheld and respected. Together, we can create a world that embraces gender equality, empowers women, and celebrates the inherent dignity and worth of every individual.

*By: Haj. Bilisu Sulaiman
Fida Kano chairperson*



Our Partners





The Disappearance And Murder Of A Girl Child By Her School Teacher

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to go there. Yet, it is a destination we must all go says an adage. However the story is always different when a person's life is cut short by disgruntled elements especially when it involves an innocent child. This was what happened to one Hanifa Abubakar a beautiful 5 year old girl of the Hausa/Fulani extraction in Kano State. Hanifa was kidnapped and murdered by one Abdulmalik Tanko her proprietor in Noble Kids Academy in 2021. The pathetic story of the innocent girl garnered both national and international attention due to the tender age of the girl.

Hanifa Abubakar was kidnapped on 2nd of December 2021, outside the Islamic school she attended in Kwanar Dakata, Nasarawa Local Government Area in Kano State by one Abdulmalik Tanko. He took her to his house at Tudun Murtala Nasarawa Local Government Area in Kano state and told his wife that she was kept under his care by one of the teachers in his school who travelled.

On the 4th December, he contacted her family and demanded for a ransom of N6,000,000.00. Few days later Abdulmalik Tanko realized that Hanifa Abubakar recognized him as her teacher in school. Apparently there would be a change in plans. After taking his tea in the office he poured some of the tea in an empty bobo container (A popular drink that is loved by many Children) and poured a rat poison inside the tea. He picked her from his house while she was asleep and told her that he was taking her back to her uncle's house. On their way he gave Hanifa the drink in the container which would obviously appear to be Bobo drink and she drank it innocently. On their way he also told Hanifa that he had something to do in his office at one of his schools at Kwanar Yan Gana Tudun Murtala, Nasarawa. When they entered the school, Hanifa finally died and he put her

corpse in a sack and buried her with the assistance of one Hashim Isyaku.

Hanifa's distraught parents made an emotional complaint to Security Operatives in Kano State. After a thorough and prolonged investigation by the Police and DSS, Abdulmalik who was arrested confessed that he killed Hanifa because she recognized him. He conspired with One Hashim Isyaku and buried her in the school premises. Abdulmalik led the team of investigators to the grave where Hanifa's body was buried in the school. The body was exhumed and taken to Mohammed Abdullahi hospital in Kano State and was examined by specialist before it was finally given to the family to bury.

For the law to take its course, Abdulmalik Tanko, Hashim Isyaku and Fatima Jibril were arraigned before the High court of Kano State on a Four (4) Count charge of Criminal Conspiracy, Kidnapping, Concealment and Culpable Homicide Punishable with Death. The matter was granted accelerated hearing. The matter took a very exhilarating dimension with the mass turn out of the member of "The International Federation of Female lawyers (FIDA) Kano State Chapter who are promoters of the rule of law. FIDA also saw it as an opportunity to pursue and defend one of its core values which is promoting the interest of a child and a mother keenly followed the matter to its logical conclusion in court.

At the end of the trial Abdulmalik Tanko and Hashim Isyaku were sentenced to death by hanging after (6) six months while Fatima Jibril was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

Written by P.A Edamaku Esq.

