

## **Infopoint Nigeria**

**Event Title: Responding to Sexual and Gender Based Violence  
Lessons learnt from Nigeria's Sexual Assault Referral Centres Sexual Assault Referral  
Centres**

**Event Date: Tuesday, 8 June 2021**

Event Time: 10am to 11:30am (Nigerian Time)  
11am to 12:30pm (Brussels Time)

The objective of this Infopoint would be to discuss how to better address the challenge of SGBV, especially in fragile and conflict affected contexts.

### **Event Rationale**

British Council has been working for years with the State, the Federal levels and the Civil Society in Nigeria to develop the best possible response for the victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Many victims are reluctant to report crimes for fear of the social stigma associated with rape. The quality of response to sexual assault and victim support provided by government agencies is often inadequate, and largely inaccessible to many citizens. The Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) were established to address some of these gaps by providing confidential, free of charge, client focused services in a one-stop centre that includes medical and legal support allowing victims to receive advice and on-going support throughout any investigation and prosecution.

The first SARC was established in 2013 (with the support of DfID and now of the EU under the RoLAC, MCN and Spotlight projects), and since then the number has grown to 30 across 18 states. Between July 2013 and March 2021, the SARCs have assisted over 17,800 victims of sexual assault combined, over 70% of whom are under the age of 18 years old. The SARCs are now a network in Nigeria and exchange good practices on an ongoing basis.

This session will take the example of the SARCs to illustrate the success and challenges of addressing SGBV but also explore other models/approaches of providing assistance to SGBV survivors. After a short video showing the reality of the SARC Civil Society representatives from Nigeria will present an overview of the model and how it operates in the Nigerian context; another representative will explain the successes, challenges, funding opportunities and lessons learned of establishing SARCs in Lagos and Sokoto but also in Northeast Nigeria. Finally, we will look at the broader response ecosystem in response to SGBV, the Sex Offenders Register.

<b>AGENDA</b>		
10:00 – 10:05am	Welcome and Introductions	Moderator (British Council)
10:05 -10:10am	Opening remarks	<b>Francesca di Mauro</b> Deputy Director Africa and Head of Unit Western Africa, DG INTPA
10:10 -10:15am	Remarks	<b>Ambassador Ketil Karlsen</b> Head of Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS
10:15 -10:23am	8-minute video on SARCs	
10:23 – 10:30am	An overview of the SARC model and how it has been adjusted to suit context as needed in Nigeria	<b>Professor Joy Ezeilo</b> Chairperson, Network of Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Nigeria
10:30 – 10:40am	The Sex Offender Register and its complementarity to the SARCs	<b>Amina Salihu PhD</b>
10:40 – 10:50am	Establishing and operating SARCs in Lagos and Sokoto - successes, challenges, funding opportunities and lessons learned	<b>Itozo Eze Anaba</b> Founder, Mirabel Centre Lagos
10:50am – 11:05am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing and operating SARCs in NE Nigeria - successes, challenges, funding opportunities and lessons learned</li> <li>Assessing results and impact: the case for sustaining investments in the SARCs</li> </ul>	<b>Ukoha Ukiwo PhD</b> Technical Team Leader, Managing Conflict in Nigeria Programme (MCN)
11:05am – 11:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions and comments</li> <li>Gathering recommendations</li> <li>Conclusion and wrap up</li> </ul>	Moderator (British Council)