

Wishes you Happy

Women's EQUALITY DAY

August 26th 2025

Every woman – LBQ and trans women too – deserve to be safe, seen, and heard



NOTABLE PROGRESS FOR LBQ WOMEN IN NIGERIA

A court win isn't just legal—it's a lifeline

- In October 2022, a Lagos Federal High Court struck down sections 4(1), 5(2), and 5(3) of the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, ruling that criminalizing LGBTQ+ associations and expressions was unconstitutional. This judgment means organizations, clubs, and gatherings for LGBTQ Nigeria can now operate—at least legally—with greater freedom.

Stories heal: 'Ifé' dared to center LBQ love.

- Filmmaker Uyaiedu Ikpe-Etim and producer Pamela Adie created *Ifé*, Nigeria's first authentic, loving romantic film between two women. Despite legal threats, it broke boundaries—showing what queer love truly looks like.

Safe Digital Spaces: Finding Each Other Online

- Digital spaces offer connection and solidarity for queer Nigerians, particularly LBQ women. Platforms like TikTok serve as lifelines, allowing them to share stories, build community, and maintain visibility in a country where being out can be unsafe.



INSPIRING WOMEN ACROSS NIGERIA



Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti

Fearless activist who fought for women's voting rights.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

She champions a practical, inclusive feminism that challenges gender roles and calls for equality.



Akudo Oguaghamba

A women's rights activist, educator, and founder of WHER, focusing on LBQ+ issues.



Fola Francis

A trans activist who advocated for queer women's visibility in Nigeria's fashion and creative sectors.



The Feminist Coalition

Founded in July 2020 by Damilola Odufuwa and Odunayo Eweniyi, the group champions equality for women in Nigeria.

NIGERIAN FEMINISM IN THE AGE OF “GENDER WARS”

In Nigeria today, feminism is both powerful and contested. On X, conversations about gender equality often spiral into “gender wars.” Some argue feminism is hostile toward men, while others dismiss it as a Western idea that undermines tradition. But Nigerian feminism is not one-size-fits-all. In Lagos, it may look like women demanding equal pay in tech and creative industries. In the North, it may mean quietly challenging child marriage or advocating for girls’ education. These differences reflect diverse realities—not levels of “enlightenment.”

What unites them is the core of feminism: the fight for dignity, equity, and safety for women in homes, workplaces, and communities. Movements like #BeingFemaleinNigeria, #ArewaMeToo, and the Feminist Coalition during #EndSARS show how digital spaces can spark conversations and inspire change.

The backlash to these efforts is telling. It shows that feminism is not just about laws or hashtags, it’s about shifting mindsets, creating empathy, and making space for every woman’s voice.

Equality is not a battle of sexes or a contest, its a shared goal. When we walk toward it together, with empathy and respect, society becomes stronger, fairer, and freer.

HIDDEN LAPSES IN WOMEN’S RIGHTS

On paper, the Nigerian Constitution guarantees equality. In practice, gaps remain that continue to disadvantage women. For example, a Nigerian man can automatically pass citizenship to his foreign wife, but a Nigerian woman cannot do the same for her husband. In cases of assault, attacks on men are often treated as felonies, while violence against women is classified as a lesser crime.

Politics also reflects this imbalance: while the Constitution “encourages” equal opportunity, it does not require measures like quotas to ensure women’s representation. In the workplace, women are still barred from certain “hazardous” jobs, a rule that reinforces stereotypes rather than protecting rights.

And in inheritance, many customary and Sharia laws still deny widows and daughters equal claims to property.

True equality is more than promises written in law. Until these hidden lapses are addressed, Nigerian women—especially the most marginalized—will continue to face barriers that limit their full potential.



HOW WOMEN CAN ADVOCATE FOR DEI IN DAILY LIFE

Equity, diversity, and inclusion often sound like boardroom terms, but their real power shows in daily choices. Advocacy is not always about leading a march or holding a microphone, it begins with the spaces women occupy every day.

At work, it could mean mentoring younger colleagues who may feel unseen. In schools and communities, it could be as simple as creating opportunities for girls to participate fully in debates, sports, and leadership roles, regardless of sexual orientation or identity. Online, it might be challenging harmful stereotypes or amplifying voices that are often silenced.

Practicing inclusion also requires grace. Women live different realities: the struggles of a professional in Lagos are not the same as those of a young mother in Sokoto. Recognizing these differences, and still standing together, strengthens the collective fight for equality.

True advocacy is not about perfection—it is about consistency in small actions that add up to lasting change.

LBQ WOMEN & EQUALITY: THE OVERLOOKED GAP

When we talk about women's rights in Nigeria, LBQ women are often pushed to the margins. But their stories cut right to the heart of what inequality really looks like—double the silence, double the struggle.

- **Work:** Too many LBQ women can't be fully themselves on the job. They hide parts of their lives just to stay safe.
- **Politics:** Nigerian women already fight to be heard, but LBQ women are almost invisible in decision-making spaces.
- **Community:** Safety isn't guaranteed. Online setups ("kito") and street harassment are a daily

If we leave LBQ women behind, we leave the fight for equality unfinished. Feminism only holds power when it makes room for all of us.

Equality that excludes some women isn't equality at all. Our struggle must be big enough to carry every voice—straight, queer, visible, or unseen





WHERE WOMEN STAND TODAY

1. Education Gap

129 million girls are out of school due to early marriage, poverty, and cultural barriers. Educating girls reduces child marriage, boosts economies, and improves health outcomes.

2. Gender Pay Gap

Women earn 20% less than men worldwide, and at the current pace, equality is over 130 years away. In Nigeria, women in informal work face exploitation without protections.

3. Violence Against Women

1 in 3 women face physical or sexual violence. LBQ women face compounded risks, while conflict zones often weaponize sexual violence.

4. Political Representation

Women hold only 26.7% of global parliamentary seats and less than 10% in Nigeria. Quotas in countries like Rwanda and Senegal show systemic change is possible.

5. Economic Inequality

Women perform 76% of unpaid care work, valued at \$10.8 trillion annually. LBQ women, often excluded from family and safety nets, face unique economic struggles.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

Equality is still unfinished work. Progress is real, but uneven. The future depends on the choices we make now.



WHAT'S NEXT? WHAT YOU CAN DO

Vote for women. Strong, intelligent female candidates and leaders.



Educate a girl. Support access to schools and scholarships.

Stand together. Inclusion grows when we hold the line for each other.



Uplift LBQ women. Protect spaces where all women, regardless of identity, can belong and thrive.

Equality is not a dream—it's a daily practice. The more we act, the closer we get.



DID YOU KNOW?

1. Nigeria's Aba Women's Riot of 1929 was one of the first major anti-colonial revolts – led entirely by women.
2. The Super Falcons are Africa's most successful football team.
3. Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti was the first Nigerian woman to drive a car.
4. Nigeria has one of the lowest rates of women in parliament in Africa.
5. Yoruba and Igbo traditions once gave women strong leadership roles.
6. More than 60% of Nigerian university graduates are women.



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