

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HER EXCELLENCY, MRS. BOLANLE AMBODE, WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE, AT THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL-CHILD, ORGANISED BY LIVE ABUNDANTLY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE, HELD AT THE WESLEY SCHOOL FOR HEARING IMPAIRED, SURULERE, LAGOS, ON THURSDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 2018

PROTOCOL

I am pleased to be part of this programme organized to commemorate the United Nations Day of the girl-child.

Though measures are being taken by governments at all levels, as well as advocacy from NGOs and kind-spirited concerns across the country, to advance the cause of the girl child, more grounds still need to be covered to attain desired goals for her.

The girl-child needs assistance in the area of equal access to quality education, general protection from social evils like rape, domestic violence, molestations and other right abuses.

Many public-spirited organizations like yours, have played commendable roles in this regard but all hands must remain on deck to achieve more and quickly too.

I am aware of the passion you have continuously demonstrated in raising awareness about the plight of the girl-child, as well as canvassing their rights and privileges. I assure you that this passion is not misplaced, even as more efforts and commitments are still needed, to give them hope and sustain the vision of a better society.

It is imperative that we strengthen the family unit and spread the values of love, in order to build and sustain a healthy polity for our children.

Towards achieving this therefore, we must increase awareness in the areas of child rights, parental obligations and the need for extraordinary care and protection of the girl-child.

Lagos State has taken proactive steps in this direction. It was the first state in the country to pass the Child Rights Law after the Federal Government pioneered the process in 2003. Under the law, children are fully protected and those who infringe on those rights are apprehended and prosecuted.

The state also has a law in place against Domestic Violence. That law protects women and children against all forms of violence in the home. Through these laws, Lagos State has ensured that the girl-child, women and children are reasonably insulated from reckless rights infringements with impunity.

Protecting the girl-child is our collective responsibility and we must all collaborate to give it deserved attention.

Very importantly my dear girls, I urge you to be bold and courageous at all times. I urge you to also shun the culture of silence and speak up boldly anytime and anywhere your right is being violated. In the event of any form of rights infringement or violence against you, report quickly to the appropriate government agencies for immediate action.

I commend **Live Abundantly Empowerment Initiative**, for all the effort at ensuring a secure environment and better future for our girls. May God reward you abundantly.

Thank you and God bless everyone.

Her Excellency,

Mrs. Bolanle Ambode

Wife of the Governor of Lagos State

Thursday, 11th October, 2018