

Humanity Behind the Walls

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

Detainees Welfare Foundation



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Detainees Welfare Foundation

Justice | Dignity | Reintegration





Who we are.

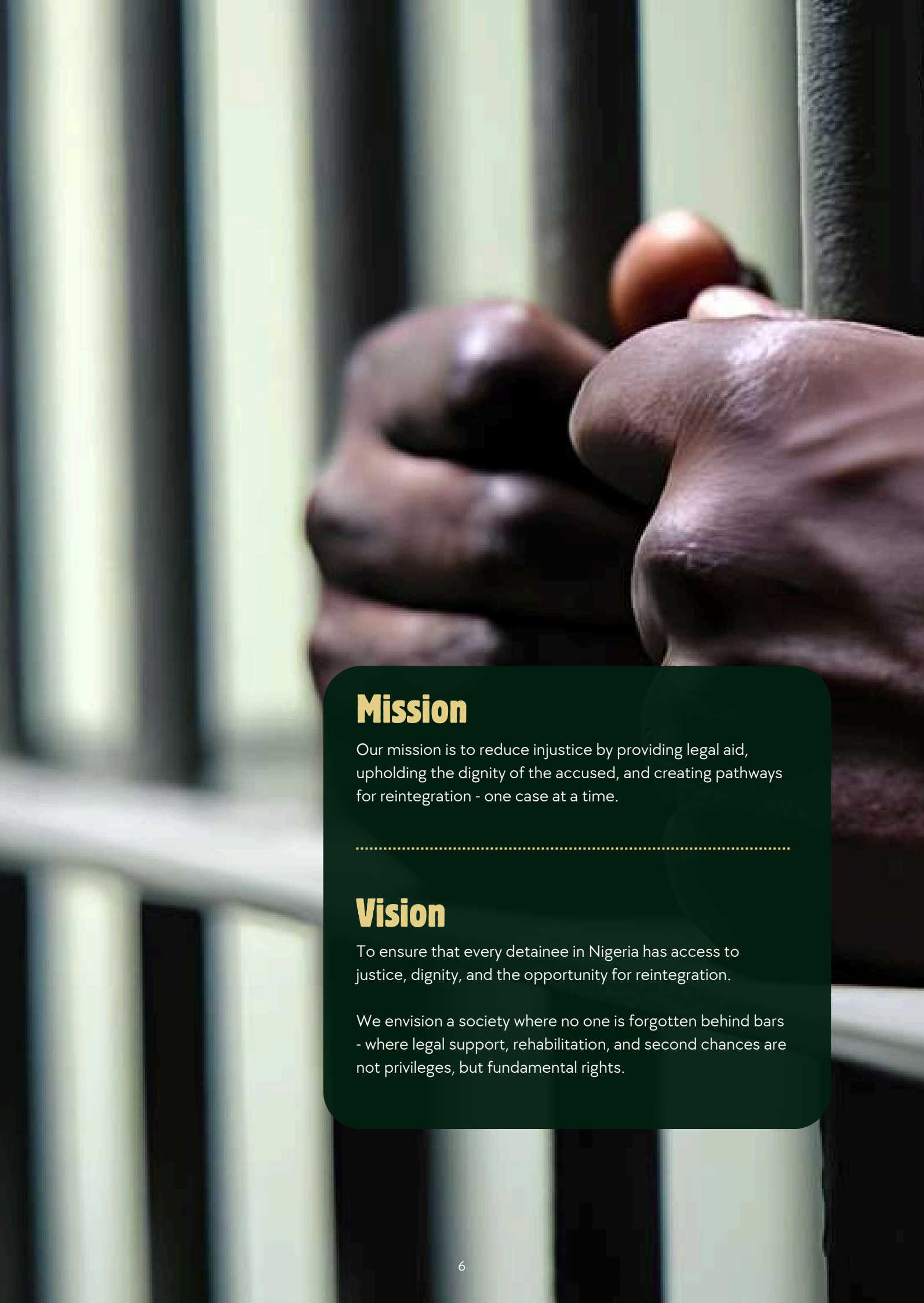
Detainees' Welfare Foundation (DWF) is a non-profit, non-political, philanthropic-oriented organization registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2005. Our goal is to decongest correctional facilities by providing comprehensive legal support and advocacy.

Our Objectives.

1. To organize & provide free legal assistance to detainees and all persons in the "awaiting trial" category and help in their reintegration back into society.

2. To ensure the implementation of welfare and rehabilitation programmes for detainees in collaboration with the relevant government agencies within the community and the nation at large.

3. To Liaise with the government and support the implementation of commitments made by the Government, the private sector and other agencies towards the enhancement of the welfare of detainees within the community and throughout the nation.



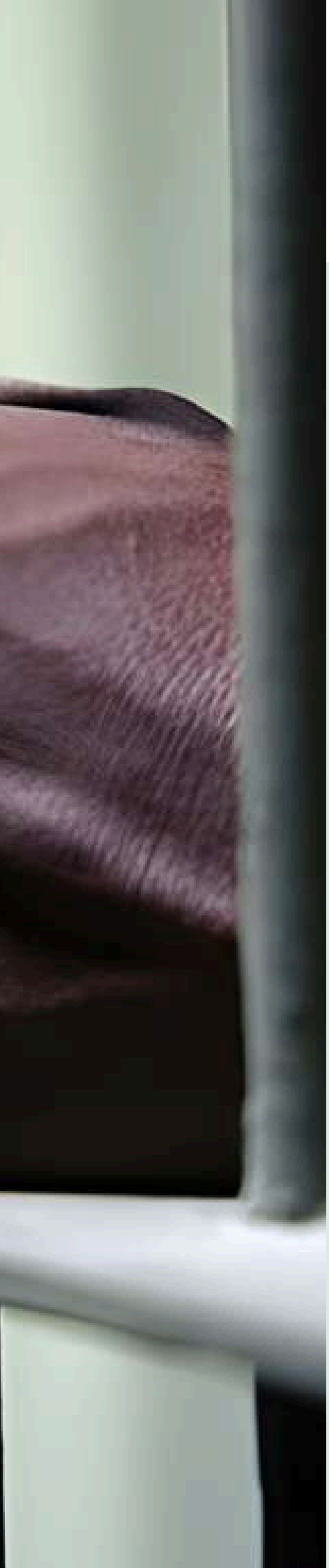
Mission

Our mission is to reduce injustice by providing legal aid, upholding the dignity of the accused, and creating pathways for reintegration - one case at a time.

Vision

To ensure that every detainee in Nigeria has access to justice, dignity, and the opportunity for reintegration.

We envision a society where no one is forgotten behind bars - where legal support, rehabilitation, and second chances are not privileges, but fundamental rights.



Together, It's Only A Matter of Time

It is not the critic who counts; not the one who points out how the strong person stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the person who is actually in the arena whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming;

But who continues to strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms and great devotions;

WHO SPENDS THEMSELVES IN A WORTHY CAUSE;

WHO, AT BEST, KNOWS IN THE END THE TRIUMPH OF HIGH ACHIEVEMENT, AND WHO, AT WORST, IF THEY FAIL; AT LEAST FAILS WHILE DARING GREATLY...

Theodore Roosevelt

Foreword

It is an honor to provide this foreword to the Annual Report of the Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF). This foundation reflects a deep commitment to justice, human dignity, and the fair treatment of every individual within our correctional system. Its work embodies the belief that society is strongest when even its most vulnerable members are not forgotten.

DWF was birthed on the conviction that every person deserves access to compassion, due process, and humane conditions, regardless of their circumstances. Over the years, the Foundation has remained steadfast in its mission to support detainees through interviews, legal advisory assistance, welfare interventions, and restorative programmes that promote hope and re-integration.

The impact of the foundations work is evident in our partnerships with institutions, our advocacy for improved detention conditions, and our efforts to expedite the resolution of cases. These initiatives contribute not only to a more humane justice process but also to strengthening public confidence and promoting social stability.

The foundation's impact this year is reflected in the stories, data, and outcomes captured in this report. They demonstrate our continued commitment to ensuring that justice is not merely an ideal, but a lived reality for those who need it most. Restoring dignity to individuals who often face the system alone and uncertain.

As we look toward 2026, I encourage our team to continue expanding its reach, deepening collaborations with key institutions, empowering communities, and sustaining programmes that uphold fairness, dignity, and equal access to justice. This work serves as a powerful reminder that our society advances when compassion meets purposeful action.

I extend heartfelt commendations to the Board, leadership, staff, partners, and volunteers of DWF. May your continued efforts help build a more just, accountable, and humane society. One where every individual has the opportunity to be heard, supported, and restored.

For: Detainees Welfare Foundation

Michael A. Owolabi (MFR),
Founder

> **"Society is strongest when even its most vulnerable members are not forgotten."**



Why We Do What We Do

From the Director's Desk

In moments of quiet reflection, I often return to the question that has shaped our journey from the beginning: Why do we do what we do?

The answer, though simple, has always been profound. We do it because we believe in impact. We believe in people. And we believe that purpose-driven work has the power to transform lives and communities.

From the early days of building this vision, our mission has never been about profit alone. It has always been about service—service to the people who trust us, service to the communities that depend on us, and in service to the ideals that inspired our foundation.

Every project we undertake, every initiative we champion, and every partnership we build is rooted in a deep commitment to creating meaningful, measurable, and lasting change.



Our work is guided by three core principles: Responsibility, Innovation, Humanity. At the heart of every decision we make are people; individuals with hopes, challenges, and dreams. Our work is meaningful only when it improves their lives in real and tangible ways.

As we continue to grow, I am reminded that purpose is not a destination; it is a daily commitment. It is seen in the dedication of our team, the trust of our partners, and the impact of our work across communities. This is why we do what we do. And this is why we will never relent.

Thank you for believing in our mission and walking this journey with us. Together, we will continue to build a legacy defined not by what we have, but by what we give.

With gratitude.

For: Detainees Welfare Foundation

Fatimah Akande
Programme Director

> "We will continue to build a legacy defined not by what we have, but by what we give."

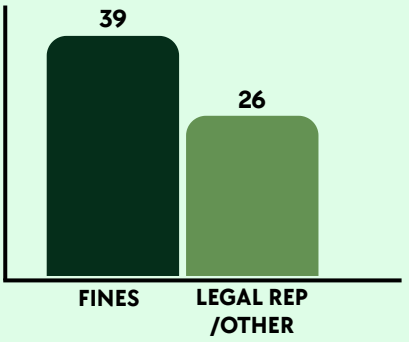
2025 in Numbers

OVERALL REACH:

200+ inmates

were interviewed across prison facilities and received legal advice tailored to their individual cases.

SPECIFIC METHOD OF RELEASE:



LOCATION-BASED IMPACT: INDIVIDUALS RELEASED



ABUJA



35
releases



LAGOS



2
releases

BAUCHI



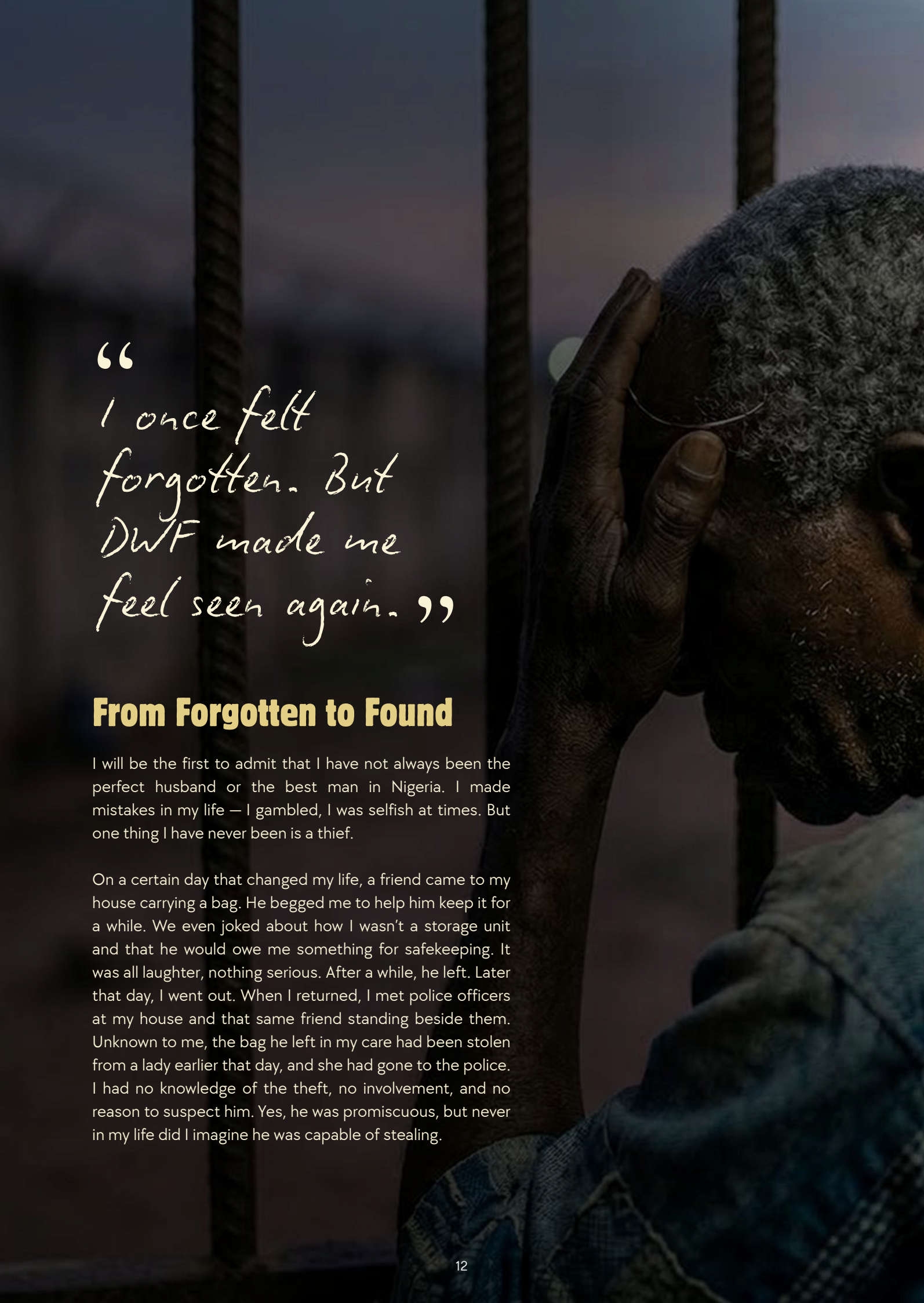
28
releases

65 **total individuals released in 2025**
across Abuja, Lagos, and Bauchi States

All done over the period of Nine Months

Stories of a Second Start





“I once felt forgotten. But DWF made me feel seen again.”

From Forgotten to Found

I will be the first to admit that I have not always been the perfect husband or the best man in Nigeria. I made mistakes in my life — I gambled, I was selfish at times. But one thing I have never been is a thief.

On a certain day that changed my life, a friend came to my house carrying a bag. He begged me to help him keep it for a while. We even joked about how I wasn't a storage unit and that he would owe me something for safekeeping. It was all laughter, nothing serious. After a while, he left. Later that day, I went out. When I returned, I met police officers at my house and that same friend standing beside them. Unknown to me, the bag he left in my care had been stolen from a lady earlier that day, and she had gone to the police. I had no knowledge of the theft, no involvement, and no reason to suspect him. Yes, he was promiscuous, but never in my life did I imagine he was capable of stealing.



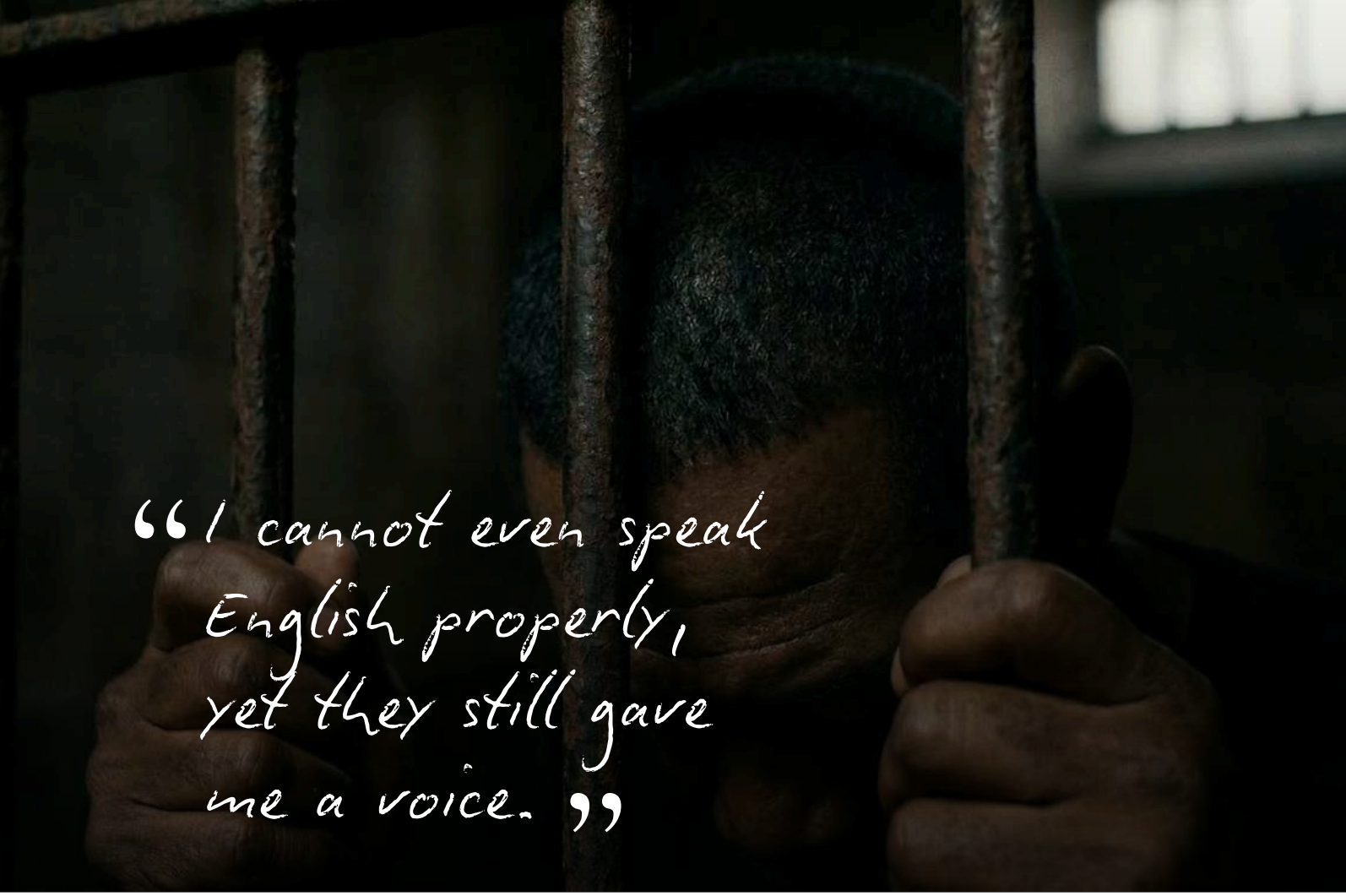
Before I could understand what was happening, the people in my community gathered, chaos erupted, and both of us were arrested. Even though I was innocent, I found myself in handcuffs. We were taken into custody, and that was the beginning of the darkest period of my life. They beat me. They beat me so badly that till today, my hip throbs painfully whenever I sit or stand. Sometimes I cannot even rise properly from a chair. My friend eventually found money and bought his way out, but I had nothing. So, I remained there... forgotten.

I was taken to court only once. They asked if I committed the crime, and I said, *"No."* That was the last time I ever saw a courtroom. From there, I was transferred to Kuje Prison. I spent more than two years inside, with no trial, no lawyer, no family searching for me. I had no money to call anyone. My wife and I had not been on good terms before my arrest, and she had travelled out of state. So no one knew where I was. It felt like my life had ended. Like I had been buried alive for a crime I did not commit.

Then, one evening, a prison welfare officer called my name. He said a young lady had come asking for cases, and he wanted me to meet her. When I saw her, she reminded me of my daughter. That day, for the first time in years, I cried, not because of pain, but because someone finally looked at me and saw a human being. I had nobody to give her as a contact. I had burnt those bridges long ago. But by the mercy of Allah, this foundation did what I never expected. In less than two months after meeting her, my case was discharged and I regained my freedom. The foundation did not stop there. They went out, looked for my family, and informed them of my whereabouts. After years of silence and loneliness, I returned home to my family. That feeling... no words can describe it.

To DWF, and the individuals who stood by me, who fought for me, who believed me when no one else did — I will forever be grateful. I once felt forgotten. But DWF made me feel seen again.

S. Aminu
Kuje Correctional Facility



A Voice Restored

I used to work as a security guard on a farm along Gwagwalada Road. The place was called Halima’s Farmhouse. During my time there, my madam and I had a misunderstanding, and she eventually sacked me. I am originally from Bauchi, so after losing the job, I moved myself and my wife, who was eight months pregnant at the time to stay with a friend.

A few weeks after we settled in, the police suddenly came looking for me. They said cows had entered my former workplace and eaten the beans, corn, and other crops on the farm. My madam accused me of intentionally luring the cows into her compound. She claimed she had once seen the herdsman speaking to me, and from that assumption alone, she concluded I must be responsible.
I told her clearly that I had nothing to do with it, but she insisted. What was supposed to be a simple “invite” to the police station turned into a full criminal charge. Before I knew what was happening, I was taken to court that same day and immediately remanded at Kuje Correctional Facility.

For one year and seven months, I had no contact with my wife, who by then should have given birth. The only phone number I had for her stopped going through after my first month in custody. I could not even speak English well enough to ask for help. I felt trapped inside a world where no one could understand me, and I could not understand them.

It was another inmate who told me about a foundation that had helped his friend. I was afraid to speak to them because of my language barrier. But the day they came, I met a young lady and a young man, both lawyers and to my surprise, they spoke Hausa. For the first time since my arrest, I could explain what truly happened. I gave them my wife's last known address and her phone number. After that, I could only pray and ask Allah to remember me. Two weeks later, the young lady returned with news. She had spoken to my wife. My wife had delivered our baby boy safely, but due to hardship, she had travelled back to our home state. She told them she had not heard from me for more than a year, and believing I must have died, she dissolved our marriage. Hearing that broke my heart in a way I cannot describe. But at least she finally knew I was alive.

The foundation didn't stop there they also contacted the prosecution. By that time, the complainant had lost interest in pursuing the matter. With that, the prosecution agreed to drop the case. And just like that, in less than one month from the day I met them, the foundation helped me regain my freedom.Yes, I lost my family because of everything that happened. But now, at least, I have a chance to try and rebuild what was broken. I was caught in something beyond my control. But this foundation saved me. I cannot even speak English properly, yet they still gave me a voice. They listened to me. They fought for me. They brought me out of the darkness.

May God bless this foundation and everyone who stood for me when I could not stand for myself.

Abubakar M.
Kuje Correctional Facility





Freedom in Ramadan

I was arrested on Sallah day, a day that was supposed to be filled with peace and celebration. The morning started well. I went to the mosque, prayed, and was on my way back home when my friend suggested that we should all go to a neighbouring village. I agreed.

We stopped a bike, and the rider said he would take the three of us for ₦1,500. My friend accepted the price. When we reached the destination, we all brought out our contributions — but we were ₦500 short. We tried to reason with the bike man, but he refused to listen. The argument escalated quickly, and before long, he started to fight my friend physically.

In the struggle, my friend picked up a metal rod and threatened him with it. The bike man, frightened, abandoned his motorcycle and ran into the village. There, he reported that we tried to steal his bike. Everything spiraled out of control from that moment. Before we understood what was happening, the vigilantes arrived, arrested the three of us, and handed us over for prosecution. We were all sentenced to prison. I never imagined help would come from anywhere. I was only 19 years old, but Allah had another plan.

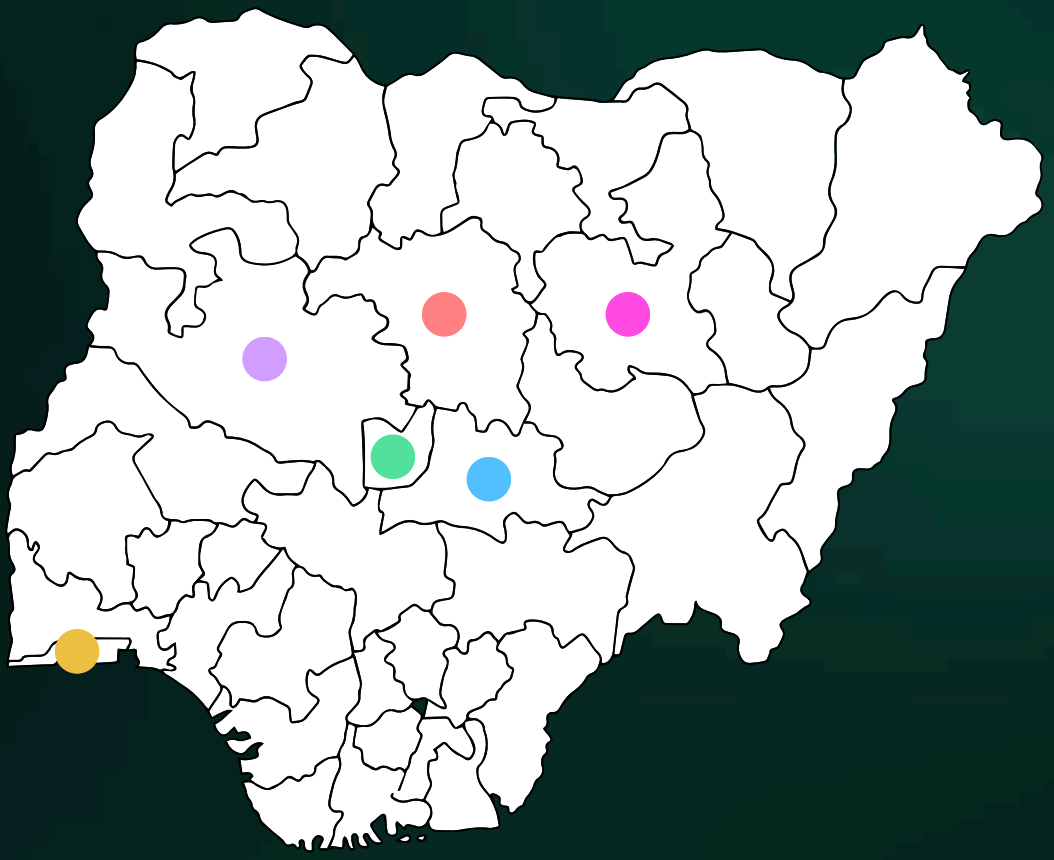
A few months after I was sentenced in Minna, Niger State, I was transferred to Dukpa Farm in Gwagwalada FCT. I had no idea that a prison welfare officer at my new location had spoken to a foundation about my case. A fine had been attached to my sentence ₦60,000, or 7 years in prison. Because my court was in another state, many people in Abuja were reluctant to get involved. My release seemed impossible.

Then one day, everything changed. Turns out the foundation reached out to their connections in Minna requesting for assistance to pay my fine. Within a week during the holy month of Ramadan, I was released. Like an answered prayer, freedom came when I least expected it. Last Eid I spent it in a police station, thinking my life was over. The next Eid I spent it with my family, something I thought I would never experience again for many years. I had lost all hope, but the foundation restored it. They paid the fine that stood between me and seven years of imprisonment. This foundation saved me.

I.A. Ibrahim
Dukpa Prison Farm Centre.

Areas We Have Touched

Prisons and Courts



FCT:

- Kuje Correctional Facility
- Gwagwalada Magistrate Court
- Magistrate Court, Airport. Abuja
- Kuje Magistrate Court
- Gwagwalada Duka Farm Correctional Facility
- FCT High Court
- Karu Magistrate Court
- Lifecamp Magistrate Court
- Apo High Court

NIGER STATE:

- Suleja Correctional Facility
- Sabon Wuse, Niger State Magistrate Court

NASARAWA STATE:

- Old Keffi Correctional Facility
- New Keffi Correctional Facility

BAUCHI STATE:

- Bauchi State Correctional Facility

KADUNA STATE:

- Kafanchan Correctional Facility

LAGOS:

- Ikoyi Correctional Facility
- Igbosere Court
- Magistrate Court Ikoyi
- Tinubu Court
- Yaba Court
- Magbon Ibeju Lekki Court

How We Impact: Our Initiatives

Gift Your Kit (GYK)

The Gift Your Kit (GYK) Initiative by the Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF) is a humanitarian program designed to transform unused international flight amenity kits into sources of comfort and hope for vulnerable individuals in Nigeria, particularly children. This initiative repurposes these kits to provide essential items that improve personal care and well-being for those in need.



In 2025, DWF successfully hosted two GYK events, where amenity kits were distributed to vulnerable children, reinforcing our commitment to restoring dignity and providing relief to less privileged communities.

What is Gift Your Kit?

GYK is a simple yet impactful way for travelers to donate their unused airline amenity kits. Rather than allowing them go to waste, we repurpose them to deliver essential hygiene items to underserved communities restoring dignity, promoting care and supporting reintegration.

Why It Matters

- **Restores Dignity:** Many children lack access to basic hygiene items.
- **Promotes Sustainability:** Repurposing amenity kits reduces waste.
- **Spreads Hope:** A small act of kindness can make a big difference.



DWF CleanCare Initiative



The **DWF CleanCare Initiative** is a flagship program of the **Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF)** dedicated to promoting hygiene and health within correctional facilities. It addresses the critical need for cleanliness and sanitation in environments where overcrowding and limited resources often lead to poor living conditions. Through this initiative, DWF seeks to uphold human dignity by ensuring detainees have access to basic hygiene essentials and a cleaner, safer environment.

What is DWF CleanCare?

DWF CleanCare is a hygiene and wellbeing initiative designed to restore dignity and improve daily living conditions for detainees. Through the distribution of essential hygiene kits, clean clothing, and targeted sanitation activities, the program ensures access to items like soap, toothpaste, detergent, body creams, and clean wear.

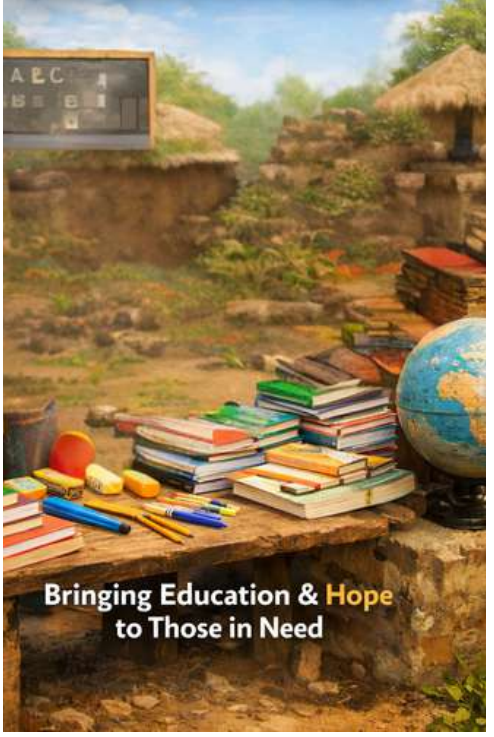
Beyond supplies, DWF CleanCare drives lasting change by offering health education sessions, organizing facility fumigation, and leading clothing donation drives. Together, these efforts promote healthier environments, reduce preventable diseases, and support the rehabilitation journey of detainees.

Why It Matters

- **Health Protection:** Reduces the spread of communicable diseases in overcrowded detention facilities.
- **Human Dignity:** Upholds basic rights to cleanliness and well-being for detainees.
- **Rehabilitation Support:** Creates a healthier environment that fosters mental and physical stability.
- **Public Health Impact:** Prevents outbreaks that could affect correctional staff and the wider community.



EDUreach Initiative



The **EDUreach** Initiative is a program of **Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF)** that is dedicated to promoting literacy and educational empowerment among underserved communities

It targets students in public schools, children in orphanages, and inmates in correctional facilities, ensuring they have access to essential learning resources and opportunities for personal growth.

What does this initiative offer?

EDUreach provides educational materials such as exercise books, reading resources, pencils, pens, sharpeners, and other learning essentials to individuals who lack access to quality education. Beyond material support, the initiative fosters a culture of learning and self-improvement, helping beneficiaries build skills that can transform their future.

Why It Matters

Education is a powerful tool for breaking cycles of poverty and marginalization. Many vulnerable individuals, especially children in public schools in Nigeria are deprived of comfort and basic learning opportunities. EDUreach bridges this gap by providing resources that empower them to learn, grow, and reintegrate into society with confidence. By investing in education, we invest in hope, dignity, and long-term societal progress.








LEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
PYGBLA FCT ABUJA

Adoption of Schools

About Adopting LEA Pigba

The Adoption of Public Schools Initiative is a flagship project of the Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF) designed to enhance the learning environment for pupils in LEA Nursery and Primary Schools across Nigeria. The initiative focuses on revitalizing essential infrastructure to create safe, conducive, and inspiring spaces where children can learn, grow, and thrive.

LEA Nursery and Primary School, Pigba 1, serves as the pilot location for this transformative program.



What Motivated the School Renovation Project?

The renovation project was prompted by the urgent need to address the deteriorating condition of school's facilities. Classrooms in significant disrepair; broken furniture, leaking roofs, damaged flooring, and inadequate sanitation structures. These conditions posed safety risks and made effective teaching and learning nearly impossible.

Recognizing that a healthy and functional learning environment is fundamental to academic success and personal development, DWF will be stepping in to restore dignity to the school and give children a fair chance at quality education.

Why Is it Necessary?

Education is a fundamental right, yet many public schools in communities continue to struggle with poor infrastructure and limited resources. The renovation project is essential to:

- Reduce health and safety risks linked to deteriorated facilities
- Encourage regular school attendance
- Improve learning outcomes by providing a conducive environment
- Support teachers with functional classrooms and proper teaching resources
- Reinforce community trust in public education systems.

By improving the physical environment, this initiative helps bridge inequality gaps and empowers young learners with the foundation they need for future success.


AMAC PROJECT 2009


DONATED BY GCOU & SWISS EMBASSY









What Does the Adoption of a School Entail?

When DWF adopts a public school, the process involves a **holistic, structured, and long-term commitment** that goes beyond basic renovation. It includes:

- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Repairing classrooms, roofing, windows, doors, desks, toilets, and playgrounds.
- **Sanitation & Hygiene Support:** Providing water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene supplies.
- **Learning Enhancement:** Supplying instructional materials, books, teaching aids, and classroom tools.
- **Child Welfare Support:** Interventions addressing educational materials, and additional amenities to enforce a conducive educational environment.

What Happens When DWF Adopts a School?

Adopting a school activates a structured transformation process:

1. **Needs Assessment:** DWF conducts a detailed evaluation of infrastructure, sanitation, academic needs, and safety conditions.
2. **Legal & Administrative Due Diligence:** DWF confirms that there is no pending litigation or legal encumbrance affecting the school or its property. Formal approvals and written consent are obtained from relevant education authorities, school management, and stakeholders before renovation activities commence.
3. **Project Implementation:** Renovation and supply of essential facilities begin, prioritizing the most urgent issues.
4. **Monitoring & Support:** DWF implements periodic check-ins, maintenance support, and learning reinforcement programs.
5. **Sustainability Collaboration:** The foundation partners with school management, and community groups to ensure long-term impact.
6. **Continuous Empowerment:** Students and teachers receive ongoing support through DWF Initiatives, mentorship programs, talent development, and educational engagement activities.

Through this approach, DWF ensures that improvements are not temporary, but serve as lasting investments in the future of the children.













DWF Know Your Rights Initiative: The Law in Your Language

The Law in Your Language is a social media initiative by the **Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF)** created to spread knowledge and awareness about the rights of Nigerian citizens. Through this program, the DWF team research key legal topics and simplifies them into short, engaging videos that are shared on our LinkedIn and Instagram pages. The goal is to make legal information accessible and understandable for everyone, regardless of background or education level.

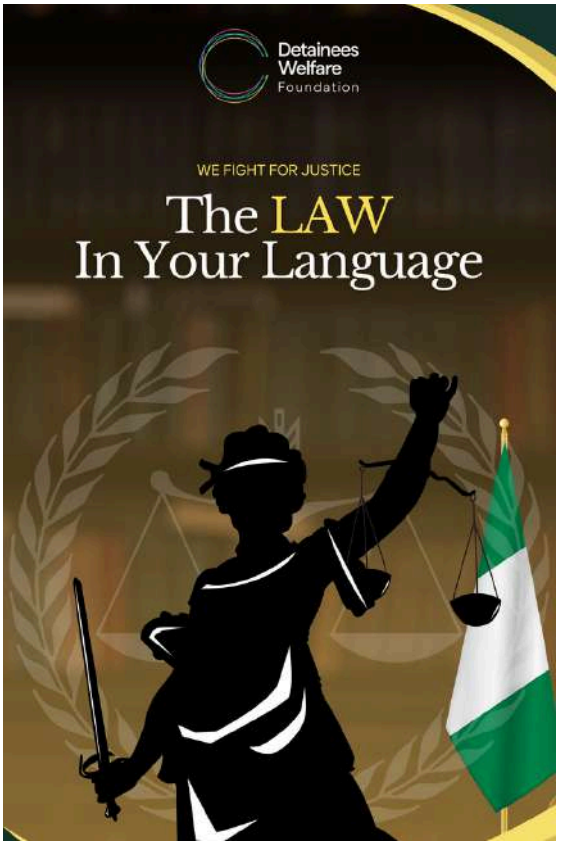
What Does This Initiative Offer?

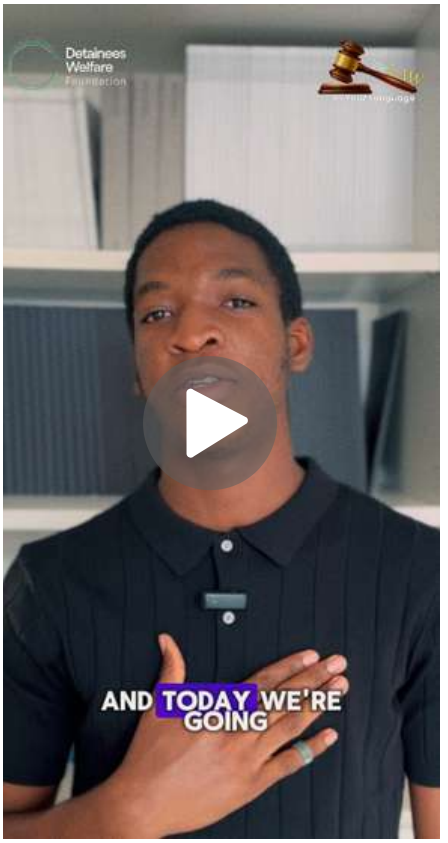
- **Simplified Legal Education:** Breaking down complex laws into easy-to-understand language.
- **Engaging Content:** Short videos and posts that explain citizens' rights in practical terms.
- **Accessibility:** Free access to legal knowledge through social media platforms.
- **Empowerment:** Equipping individuals with the information they need to protect their rights.

Why It Matters

Legal literacy is essential for justice and equality, yet many Nigerians are unaware of their basic rights. This lack of knowledge often leads to exploitation and abuse. The Law in Your Language bridges this gap by providing clear, relatable, and easily accessible legal education. By empowering citizens with knowledge, the initiative promotes accountability, strengthens democracy, and helps individuals make informed decisions in everyday life.

About The Law in Your Language





In line with DWF's mission, several multimedia contents were developed to translate intricate legal concepts into accessible knowledge to empower Nigerian citizens and bridge the gap in legal awareness.

Message from our Team

Over 21 Years and Counting

As we celebrate 21 years of impact, growth, and unwavering commitment to our mission, we take a moment to honor the journey that brought us here, and the bold vision that continues to propel us forward.

These two decades have been marked by challenges overcome, milestones achieved, and countless stories of hope restored.

Every initiative launched, every partnership built, and every life touched reflects what becomes possible when compassion is matched with purposeful action.

Looking ahead, our resolve is stronger than ever. We are poised to deepen our impact, broaden our reach, and innovate in ways that meaningfully transform lives.

Through our programs such as DWF CleanCare, Gift Your Kit (GYK), EDUreach, and The Law in Your Language, we will continue championing health, education, and human rights for the individuals and communities who need them most.

This is more than a task, it is a renewed promise. A promise to keep advocating for dignity, equality, and opportunity for all.

We invite you to journey forward with us, because together, we can create a world where hope is not a privilege, but a shared right.

Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to 21 years of impact and to many more years of meaningful change ahead.

With Gratitude and Determination,

The DWF Team



Key Wins of 2025

Gift Your Kit (GYK)

- **Donated over 200+ kits** within Abuja and Lagos Nigeria
- **Hosted 2 events** in LEA nursery and primary school Pigba. during which kits were donated to the students.

EDUreach initiative

- **Donated over 200+ books** to nursery and primary school students in Abuja, Nigeria.

ATTENDED PROGRAMS

- DWF participated in the Young Lawyers Forum (YLF) in Collaboration with NBA Event: **Know Your Rights initiative** event held in Abuja Nigeria.
- DWF honored the invitation to a custodial review visit at Dawaki Division Police Headquarters, Abuja, alongside Hon. Justice Mohammed Tahir A. Omeiza, Chief Magistrate Judge at the Airport Magistrate Court
- DWF honored the invitation to the Prison Visit, scheduled by FCT Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) at Kuje Prison Abuja
- Represented DWF at the FCT Legal Aid Council Event, scheduled. Rockview Hotel Abuja
- DWF honored the invitation facilitated by Legend Golden Care Foundation, the producers of the film Private Screening: Caged Birds at the UN Building Abuja.
- DWF attended the UNDP in Partnership with Social Justice Sector High-Level Observatory on Public Health Custodial Services in Nigeria Abuja
- DWF attended a Stakeholders Review and Validation Meeting of the E-Filing and Case Management System (EFCMS) facilitated by PPDC For FCT Magistrate Courts in Abuja Nigeria.



Stories from the Field

Stories from Our DWF Team

Working at the Detainees Welfare Foundation has been deeply eye-opening. It has exposed me to the realities of Nigeria while revealing the humanity, empathy, and resilience that bind us as a people. This journey has been truly memorable, and I look forward to contributing to even more impactful change.

Hajara Umar Nataala
Legal Associate & Programme Coordinator, DWF

Detainees Welfare Foundation is dedicated to supporting a part of our society that is too often overlooked; a group whose needs rarely stay in focus, even when they matter most. Working here has been deeply fulfilling, and each day reminds me why this work is necessary. I look forward to creating even more impact in the lives we touch.

Fatimah Akande
Programme Director, DWF

Working with the media team at the Detainees Welfare Foundation has been a profoundly transformative experience. It has allowed me to tell the stories that matter, amplify unheard voices, and document the realities faced by detainees across Nigeria. Through every outreach, visit, and intervention, I have witnessed resilience, hope, and the power of compassion in action. This role has strengthened my commitment to responsible storytelling and advocacy, and I remain deeply inspired to continue using media as a tool for awareness, accountability, and lasting social impact.

Ajisola Samuel
PR & Media Officer, DWF

Stories From Individuals We Have Released

My name is Hassan Abidun and I was remanded to the Kuje Prison for over a year for assault. I honestly don't know how long I had left, but I know that the life I was living there has been unbearable. I really appreciate the DWF team for all the assistance they have given to me to ensure that I was released as soon as possible. They perfected my bail and I owe my freedom to them. I know better now and I will use this second opportunity to do better in the world.

Hassan Abidun
Kuje Prison, Abuja

I was remanded to Suleja Prison for drug possession. I stayed there for several months and it was a very painful and confusing time for me. Life inside was hard and I had lost hope of coming out anytime soon. The day DWF came to visit was the day my story changed. They listened to me, took up my case, and helped ensure that my bail was perfected. Today, I am free because of their support. I am deeply grateful to the DWF team and I promise to use this second chance to live a better life.

Zainab Sadiya
Suleja Prison, Niger State

My name is Sadiq Lawal. I was in Kuje Prison for almost two years because of a misunderstanding. Life inside was very hard and frustrating. When DWF came, it was like God remembered me. They helped process my bail and followed everything up. Today, I am free and very grateful. May God bless the DWF team for remembering people like us.

Sadiq Lawal
Kuje Prison, Abuja

My name is Isah Mohammed. I was locked up for over eight months for a family issue. It was a painful experience for me. DWF stood for me and helped me regain my freedom. I am grateful and I pray God will bless their work.

Isah Mohammedl
Kuje Prison, Abuja

Stories from LEA Pigba Staff and Students

On behalf of the teachers and pupils of LEA Primary School, Pigba, I want to sincerely thank DWF for coming to visit our school and for the wonderful gifts of hygiene and study materials given to our pupils. We are truly grateful for this kind gesture.

For some time now, our school has been in a bit of a dilapidated condition. We do not have enough teachers, and support from the authorities has been very limited. In spite of all these challenges, we have continued to do our best for the children.

The visit from DWF has really encouraged us and brought happiness and hope to both the pupils and staff.

The children were very excited to receive the gifts, and it has greatly motivated them to take their studies and personal hygiene more seriously.

We are also very happy and thankful that DWF mentioned their plans to return to renovate the school. This has given us great hope, and we are truly looking forward to their coming back.

We pray that God blesses DWF for remembering us and for the good work they are doing. Thank you very much for your love, care, and support.

Mrs. Francis Ejeh

Former Head Mistress, LEA Primary School, Pigba Abuja

Stories From Individuals That Have Associated With DWF

Working with DWF has honestly been one of the most fulfilling experiences for me. One thing that stands out the most is our collaboration with Community Wardrobe, where we were able to gather clothes for men, women, and children. Seeing people come together with so much intention and love to put smiles on people's faces reminds me of why I started this in the first place.

DWF does not just create impact, we create real, tangible change that leaves long-lasting memories, and I am truly grateful for this opportunity.



Pamimo Johnson

Volunteering with DWF reminded me that even the smallest act of service can restore dignity and hope to people's lives in ways that truly matter.



Nemi Ataboh

Volunteering with Detainees Welfare Foundation has taught me that every act of service, no matter how small, restores dignity. Hope grows when we choose compassion.



Confidence Eke

My experiences at DWF proved that change begins with showing up. Every moment I invested transformed someone's story for the better, re-aligning my perspective and views in life.



JohnPaul Nwune

Partnering with DWF has strengthened my commitment to meaningful legal advocacy. Representing individuals in need of fair and humane treatment is both humbling and motivating, and I am honoured to contribute to this impactful work.



Bar. Ibrahim Wali

Working with DWF gave me a deeper understanding of the realities within our justice system. The exposure realigned my focus and brought clarity to the kind of lawyer I want to be. Thank you, I wish the foundation more success in 2026.



Rukkaya Idris

My work with DWF reinforces why I entered the legal profession, to ensure that every deserving individual has a voice. It is an honour to stand for justice where it is needed most.



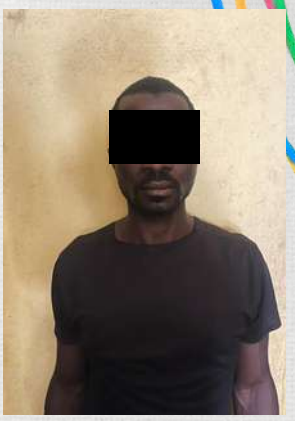
Bar. Hanif Wali

Photos from Our Interventions

Inmates who were released from the correctional facility























PHILA
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Intervention Activities and Official Visits



Dawaki Division Police Headquarters visit in Abuja, alongside Hon. Justice Mohammed Tahir A. Omeiza, Chief Magistrate Judge at the Airport Magistrate Court



Prison Visit, scheduled by FCT Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) at Kuje Prison Abuja



NDLEA in Collaboration with Legal Aid Nigeria Intervention Program at Suleja Correctional Facilities, Niger State





NDLEA in Collaboration with Legal Aid Nigeria Intervention Program at New Keffi Correctional Facilities, Nasarawa State







DWF participated in the Young Lawyers Forum (YLF) in Collaboration with NBA Event: Know Your Rights initiative event held in Wuse Market, Abuja Nigeria.









DWF honored the invitation facilitated by Legend Golden Care Foundation, the producers of the film Private Screening: Caged Birds at the UN Building Abuja.





DWF honored the invitation facilitated by UNDP in Partnership with Justice Sector High-Level Observatory on Public Health Custodial Services in Nigeria





DWF at the Independent Investigation Panel on the Alleged Corruption, Abuse of Power, Torture, Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment Against the Nigerian Correctional Service held at Abuja Continential.



DWF at the FCT Legal Aid Council Event, scheduled. Rockview Hotel Abuja



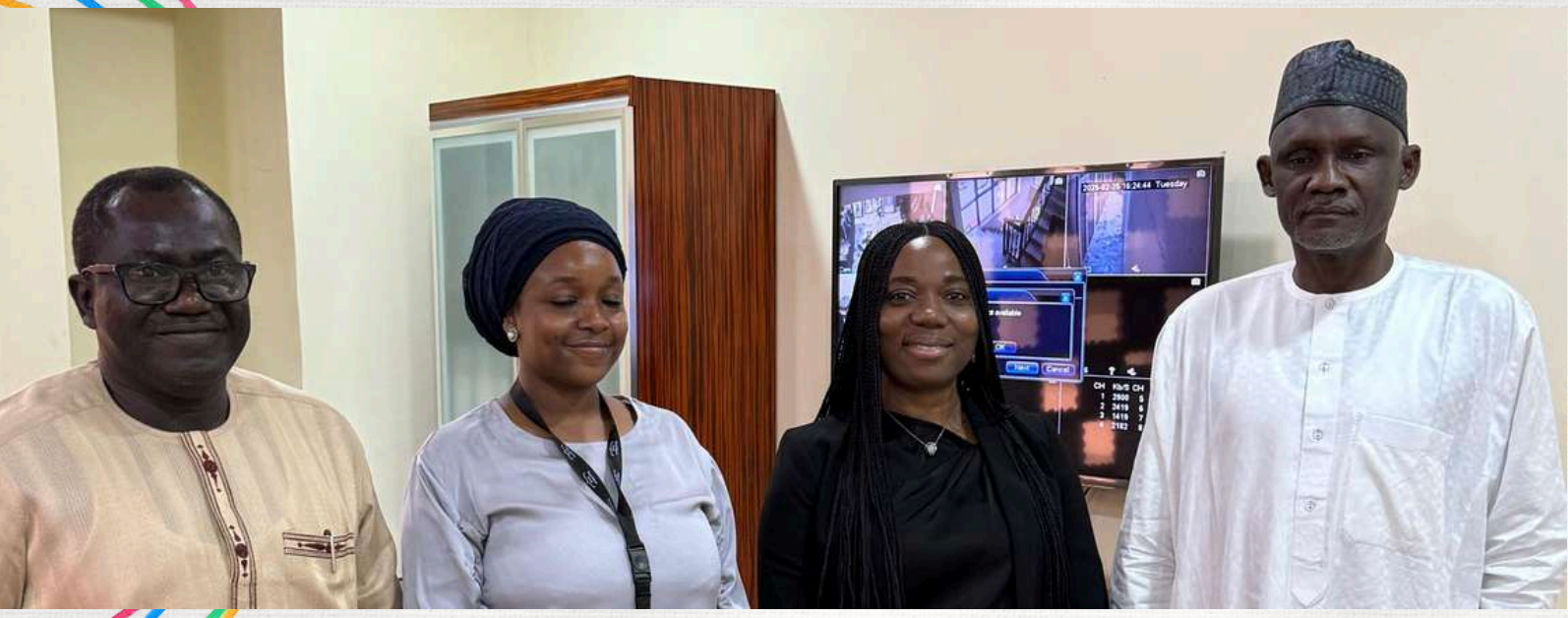
DWF attended Reserve Seats for Women Event at Abuja Continental



DWF Attended Stakeholders Review and Validation Meeting of the E-Filing and Case Management System (EFCMS) facilitated by PPDC For FCT Magistrate Courts in Abuja Nigeria.



DWF Visited the DG of Legal Aid Nigeria Mr. Aliyu Bagudu Abubakar





DWF visited the Village Chief of Pigba Sama; Chief Zakwoyi James Dogo

Other Success Stories

Partnership with Community Wardrobe for clothing donations

On the 27th of December 2025, the Detainee Welfare Foundation proudly partnered with The Community Wardrobe to host a clothing drive at the Nicon Town Recreation Centre in Ikate, Lekki. The day was a beautiful expression of compassion in action, as people from different walks of life came together with one shared goal: to restore dignity and offer practical support to those who need it most.

Through the kindness and generosity of our community, we received over 1,000 donated items including clothing for men, women, and children, as well as shoes and a variety of essential household items. Every donation, whether large or small, represented a thoughtful decision to help someone stay warm, feel seen, and have one less burden to carry. From neatly folded shirts and dresses to children's outfits, footwear, and everyday necessities, the contributions reflected both quality and care.

Beyond the items collected, what stood out most was the spirit of unity that filled the venue. Volunteers gave their time, supporters came through with donations, and partners ensured the drive ran smoothly, showing that meaningful change does not always start with big speeches, but with consistent, intentional acts of service. This initiative reminded us that when purpose meets community, impact becomes inevitable.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who showed up, donated, shared our message, encouraged others to participate, and supported this cause in any way. Your generosity is helping us extend hope, strengthen lives, and continue building pathways to dignity for underserved individuals and communities.

Together, we can create real impact, and together, we will keep showing up for humanity.





Our Partners

Together We Establish Possibilities

Black Pelican Group

• BPL Wellness • IL Bagno • BPL Logistix
• Bagno Technik • Bathrooms Direct

Federal Republic of Nigeria
Legal Aid Council
JUSTICE FOR ALL

ABIGAILMICHAEL
PROPERTIES | LIFESTYLE

workforce

COMMUNITY
WARDROBE NG

bpl
RC: 1446224 ENERGY

Etact Systems Limited
terrestrial company, stellar performance

ED

The People Behind the Mission



Board of Trustees & Leadership:



MICHAEL ADEKUNLE OWOLABI

Founder & Chairman, Board of Trustee

Michael Owolabi MFR is a qualified Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

He attended Edo State University (LL.B 1992), Nigeria Law School (BL 1993) and the University of Lagos (LL.M 1997). Starting from 1994, Michael spent the first years of his career in Investment Banking, Treasury and Strategy with Guaranty Trust Bank PLC and Societe Generale Bank Limited before becoming an entrepreneur in 2004 with the founding of Black Pelican Limited (IL Bagno, Bathroom Direct, BPL Wellness, BPL Logistix and Bagno Technik) other companies include BPL Energy Limited.

Michael gained substantial experience working in advisory roles at both Federal and State Governments levels (first in the Office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Special Assistant in the Budget Office and later as Special Adviser to the Governor of Kwara State) where he developed skills in the areas of budgeting, strategy, debt management, scenario planning, governance, public administration, and leadership.

Michael has attended several management courses within and outside Nigeria including Citibank School of Banking, New York, Harvard Business School, Boston, Institute Européen d 'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD) Fontainebleau, France and IMD Lausanne, Switzerland.

Adetola Owolabi holds a B.Sc in Business Administration from the University of Lagos and an MBA from the University of Liverpool.

She spent the first 15 years of her career in Relationship Management at Guaranty Trust Bank PLC where she specialized in the structuring of complex commercial credit transactions and international trade finance.

She was Group Head of the Commercial Banking Group responsible for commercial banking clients in the Lagos area. Her last position was Assistant General Manager and Group Head of the Bank's Maritime Group charged with developing the maritime sector as a core business focus of the bank. Adetola has attended several management courses at Harvard Business School, Columbia University Graduate School of Business, IMD, INSEAD and The Leonard Stern Business School of New York University.

She is currently the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer in Black Pelican limited, and a Board of Trustee Member for Detainees Welfare Foundation.



ADETOLA OWOLABI
Co-Founder & Member, Board of Trustee



MAJ. GEN. CYRIL AGULANNA (RTD.)
Member, Board of Trustee

Major General Cyril U. Agulanna (rtd), was born on January 11, 1966, in Nguru, Imo State, is a distinguished retired officer of the Nigerian Army Finance Corps with 35 years of meritorious service.

A graduate of the Nigerian Military School Zaria and the University of Ibadan (B.Sc. Computer Science), he also holds an MBA from the University of Lagos and is a Fellow of several professional bodies. He played a pivotal role in modernizing the Nigerian Army's financial systems, including the biometric enrolment and e-payment systems, and served in key positions such as Deputy Defence Attaché in Washington DC, Commandant of the Nigerian Army School of Finance and Administration, and Director at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre.

He is a graduate of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (mni) and has attended numerous leadership and technical courses globally, including Harvard Business School. His contributions extend beyond the military, notably in environmental sustainability through the development of the Sanitation Assessment Application Software for Health (SAASH).

Bolaji Olagunju is the Executive Chairman of Workforce Group, where he drives strategic initiatives and mentors the leadership team to deliver innovative business and HR solutions across Africa. He also invests in and supports entrepreneurs through his project, **Bolajiolagunju.com**.

Before becoming Executive Chairman in August 2019, Bolaji served as CEO for 15 years, growing Workforce Group from a small startup to a major player operating in 9 African countries, with a headquarters spanning 10,000 square meters, annual revenue over a billion naira, and a staff of over 8,000. Bolaji collaborates with CEOs, HR executives, and business leaders to provide integrated business and workforce solutions.

As a serial entrepreneur, he is passionate about helping others succeed and is the bestselling author of two practical, value-laden books. He also engages in coaching and mentoring the leadership team, advise on key strategic initiatives, drive high level execution imperatives, and help the company to acquire the right to win in its Marketplace.



DR. BOLAJI OLAGUNJU
Member, Board of Trustee



FATIMAH AKANDE
Member, Board of Trustee & Programme Director

Fatimah Akande holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) from Olabisi Onabanjo University, thereafter, proceeded to obtain a master's degree, LL.M in International and Commercial Law from the University of Buckingham and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2008.

She has extensive Legal (Corporate & Commercial law), Company Secretarial, Compliance, Corporate Governance, Merger & Acquisition and Crisis Management experience with vast Legal Consulting portfolio spanning 15 years. She has gained several certifications in Leadership, Negotiation Mastery, Crisis Management, Compliance & Risks from institutions such as Harvard Business School, INSEAD, Lagos Business School and John Hopkins University.

She is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). Prior to Joining Black Pelican as the Group General Counsel, some positions she held were Head of Legal and Regional Compliance Officer of Synlab Nigeria Limited, Head Legal/Company Secretary of ETACT Systems Limited. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustee and Program Director for DWF.

Our Team:

Hajara Umar Nataala holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Bedfordshire and is a Barrister and Solicitor to the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Currently, she is pursuing a master's in law enforcement and criminal justice at Ahmadu Bello University.



HAJARA UMAR NATAALA
Legal Associate & Programme Coordinator

She currently holds the position of Executive Secretary/Legal Officer at Black Pelican Limited, where she excels in managing legal correspondence, case administration, and providing expert legal advice. Her role involves overseeing HR functions, ensuring legal compliance, and fostering a culture of risk management. Previously, Hajara served as a Legal Specialist at the Nigerian University Pension Management Company Ltd., and as Executive Secretary/Legal Officer at Barnksforte Group where she supported the company secretary and Managing Directors to ensure compliance with legal obligations and company policies. .

In addition to her legal career, she is an entrepreneur, running her own baking business, Muffins by Hajjo and Nibbles by Hajjo. Hajara is passionate about making substantial contributions to her organization and thrives in collaborative environments. She currently is a programme officer for Detainees Welfare Foundation, Abuja Branch.

Edikan Ondiok is a results-driven Legal Practitioner, Designate Compliance Professional (DCP), and Programme Coordinator at Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF), with over five years of post-call experience spanning corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and commercial litigation.
She is recognized for her strong record in safeguarding corporate interests through effective risk management, strategic legal advisory, and courtroom advocacy.



EDIKAN ONDIOK
Legal Associate & Programme Coordinator

Edikan holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2021 after completing her training at the Nigerian Law School, Kano Campus. Edikan is committed to giving back through free legal advocacy, ensuring access to justice for individuals who cannot afford representation.

In 2024, Edikan became a member of the Compliance Institute of Nigeria, further strengthening her expertise in compliance and risk management. Her core competencies span corporate governance, development of internal control frameworks, contract lifecycle management, and dispute resolution before Courts of Record in Nigeria. She has served as a strategic legal advisor to corporate entities, led incorporation and regulatory filings, and managed the drafting and perfection of real estate documentation including Deeds of Assignment, Contracts of Sale, and other conveyancing instruments.



SAMUEL AJISOLA
PR & Media Officer

Samuel Ajisola is our multifaceted Creative Director at Detainees Welfare Foundation (DWF). He holds a B.Sc. in Physics with Electronics from Redeemer's University and has certifications in CISCO networking, video editing, and graphic design. Samuel brings a unique blend of technical precision and creative storytelling to the world of media and corporate communication.

With a strong foundation in visual design, digital media production, and brand communication strategy, Samuel excels in crafting impactful narratives that drive engagement, elevate brand perception, and support DWF's strategic objectives. His background in electronics empowers him with analytical thinking and a systems-based approach to media planning, while his creative training ensures high-quality content production across print, digital, and broadcast platforms.

From managing press relations to curating visual campaigns and optimizing digital presence, Samuel is committed to delivering excellence, innovation, and measurable results in every communication initiative at Detainees Welfare Foundation.

Future Roadmaps: 2026

Detainees
Welfare
Foundation

A

DWF CleanCare Initiative

- Officially launch the **DWF CleanCare Initiative** in 2026.
- Pilot the project with a **fumigation exercise at New Keffi Prison.**
- Donate the clothes received through the collaborative project with **Community Wardrobe.**
- Medical & Hygiene Supply Outreach

B

Legal Representation Program

- Increased number of prison releases within the year.
- Strengthen case management processes to attain over **60% conversion rate.**

C

Gift Your Kit Initiative

- Distribute **welfare kits** to Nursery and Primary Schools across selected schools

D

EDUReach Initiative

- Expand our footprint for distribution of books.

E

Adoption of LEA School Project

- Completion of renovation project



Support justice in your own way: volunteer, partner, or give. Your contributions helps us to continue providing legal support, welfare interventions, and rehabilitation programs.



Contact us:

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@detaineewf