

Human Rights &

Conflict Resolution Centre



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2021

End of Year Report



ST PATRICK'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICTS
RESOLUTION CENTRE HRCRC, ABAKALIKI
Concise Narrative Report
12/29/2021

Dear Chairman and members of the Board of Trustees,

Rev. Fr. Kevin O'Hara (SPS),

St. Patrick's Missionary Society,

Season's Greetings from HRCRC Abakaliki.

This concise report builds on the midyear report circulated earlier in the year; whilst summarizing the activities and initiatives of the year 2021.

ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENTS

HRCRC has tried to maintain the administrative structure of the Centre as depicted by and in the organogram. Still worthy of note is the fact that the staff cum volunteers have not received any salaries or remuneration for over five years. However, their dedication to duty, continuous presence in the office, attending to cases, and their humane and selfless dedication to the human and peace cause is indeed inspirational.

Thus, current admin structure is:

Ag. Executive Director: George Etamesor

HOD Peace Building and Conflict Resolution: Jude Mgbechikwere

HOD Women and Children: Eva Okafor

HOD Access to Justice: Chioma Ikegbunam Udeh Esq

Registry: Uche Odah

There is also a standby contracted financial administrator, who is not a workaday member of staff – as she does not participate in the everyday business of the Centre; she is however activated when the need arises, such as funded projects.

INTERVENTIONS

HRCRC made more spontaneous interventions in 2021 more than preceding years. These interventions resulting from abuses by Security Operatives, especially the Nigerian Police and the regional Security outfit – Ebubeagu, and thugs



operating under the aegis of the State Board of Internal Revenue, conflicts not formally reported to the office, are worthy of note because, while there is no formal file for each case present in the registry, our intervention saw to the service of some kind of justice for victims. They are however recorded.

In the year 2021 ending, records from the registry indicate that a total of **230** new cases were registered, and attended to. Whilst some ongoing cases from last year carried on this year, about 85 percent of all cases handled this year were resolved whilst 15 percent are still ongoing.

These records only contain the new cases reported and registered within the year ending 2021:

❖ Physical Assault / Domestic violence	2
❖ Family Dispute / Domestic Violence / Maintenance	58
❖ Family Dispute / Child Custody	22
❖ Family Dispute / Property / Intimidation	6
❖ Family Dispute / Intimidation / Debt	4
❖ Family Dispute / Maintenance	26
❖ Maintenance	10
❖ Pregnancy Care / Maintenance	4
❖ Child Abuse	6
❖ Negligence	1
❖ Intimidation / Police Illegal detention	6
❖ Extrajudicial Killing	2
❖ Fraud / Debt	5
❖ Landlord – Tenant / Debt	5
❖ Intimidation / Debt	20
❖ Property / intimidation	8
❖ Accident	1
❖ Land Dispute	44



Furthermore, the Access to Justice Department have 15 cases ongoing in court *probono*, and also facilitated the decongestion of the Nigeria Correctional Service Custodial Centers in the State through Gaol Deliveries by the Chief Justice

of the State and conventionally expediting the bail of about 20 inmates.

BRANCHES

HRCRC currently have active branches in 13 communities, while about 11 others are dormant and passive. Due to our inability to branch summit yet, the ardour of and their leadership have wane. This is evident in the attendance to our monthly State meetings.

We are however very grateful for generosity. We also always primarily our branches in all our



organise the branches continued to paucity of Branch

While we continue with initiatives to rekindle the branches such as visits and the likes, we are adopting an individual branch approach to confront the challenges as they are peculiar to each.

Currently, we are in the process of training and inaugurating three new branches, while dissolving and reforming two existing branches.

Odomoke Land

It was reported that a piece of land gifted HRCRC due to her intervention in and by *Odomoke* Community is being encroached on by an individual. On our visit to the Community leadership, they reaffirmed their commitment to the gift; they however admonished that the land be developed immediately to forestall any further controversy on said piece of land.



their consider activities.

We are in the process of formally documenting ownership of the land and a precursor to other enterprises on the land.

PARTNERSHIPS

HRCRC has continued to maintain a symbiotic relationship with other CSOs both within and without the state, National Human Rights Commission – Ebonyi State office especially, the Ministries of Justice and Women Affairs, The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, the Nigerian Police Force, the Nigerian Correctional Service, MDAs, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Ebonyi State Judiciary, the Department of State Services, amongst others.

More Concretely, HRCRC is starting a partnership with the Ministry of Internal Security and Boarder Peace, where control of the State's Security outfit – ***Ebubeagu*** is



domiciled. This partnership will see to the training and retraining of personnel of the outfit in basic law enforcement and peace techniques. This will hopefully lead to a drop in the amount of Human Rights abuses and excesses perpetuated by the outfit.

Also, with our reaffirmed partnership with the DSS, peace interventions especially in the hinterlands will be more fluidly facilitated by our branches, in collaboration with the personnel in these Communities.



ONLINE PRESENCE AND REFERRALS

HRCRC is slowly becoming a referral hub in the virtual world as our presence in the internet is gradually becoming very apparent. Through our social media handles, website and google hub, we are contacted quite regularly by survivors seeking advice, referral or intervention from all over Nigeria and the world. This is also helping in enhancing our partnerships and referrals to other organizations outside the state for interventions.

SECURITY AND THEFT

As earlier reported, due to the damage in our perimeter fencing, HRCRC office complex is now susceptible to attacks from petty thieves and burglars. HRCRC suffered a theft of one of her computers to a thief. This was reported to the police, an arrest was made, but in the spirit of justice and respect for Human Rights, HRCRC facilitated the bail of the suspect as there was no tangible evidence against him to charge him to court.

CONCLUSION

We continue to be deeply grateful to Fr. Kevin O'Hara SPS, and St. Patrick's Missionary Society and her benefactors for their unrelenting support and maternal care for the Centre and her activities. We further congratulate Fr. O'Hara once again for the Irish Presidential Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his work in Peace Building, Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation in Nigeria. And, we thank you – Esteemed members of the Board of Trustees for your continued support for HRCRC. Finally, we thank all our partners and collaborators for their support and partnership the year ending.



We look forward to a more engaging and productive year 2022; starting with a Board Meeting in January.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Warmly



George Etamesor

Ag. Ex. Director, HRCRC

29/12/2021

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