

**REPORT OF THE WORLD DAY  
OF PRAYER AND ACTION  
FOR CHILDREN**

**NIGERIA**

*November 2012*

A Joint Initiative

Between

**The African Council of Religious Leaders—*Religions for Peace* (ACRL—RfP),**

**The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC Africa)**

**And the**

**The Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)**

## Introduction

Observed on 20<sup>th</sup> November every year, the Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC) is celebrated globally on Universal Children's Day (1958) and on the anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Purposely commemorated on this date, this further emphasizes that children are the priority. They have rights that need to be protected, respected and enjoyed.

The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children brings people together to pray for the well-being of children and recommit to take specific action in ensuring each child duly enjoys his/her rights. Universal Children's Day, established by the United Nations in 1954, also commemorates the 1989 adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children connects people and organizations to protect children. Improving the welfare of children is an urgent global challenge. By working with the world's diverse faith communities, governments and non-governmental organizations can accelerate and magnify their efforts to help children worldwide.

## Nigeria

The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children, in Nigeria was organised by the Abuja Women of Faith Network (WOF) and the Abuja Interfaith Youth Forum and was held at the National Centre for Women Development in Abuja. A total of 627 participants comprising pupils from 19 primary schools, as well as senior and junior secondary schools, governmental, inter-religious and other civil society organisations attended the event.



*Photos: Some of the children participants in Nigeria*

The Chief Guest, Cardinal John Onaiyekan, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja and Co-Chair of the Abuja Interfaith Peace building Forum, emphasized on the spiritual value of children in the society. He spoke against the blind following of bad policies that discouraged child bearing and promoted abortion, saying that those are notions that had already failed elsewhere hence as religious communities; religious traditions should be given priority.

On her part, Sister Agatha Chikelue, the Co-Chair of the Abuja Women of Faith Network challenged all religions to collaborate with each other in uniting various communities in Nigeria to take action aimed at bettering the lives of children by preventing violence against them. The successful day ended in prayers for the wellbeing of all children in the world.