

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

THIS DAY

Style

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025



JUMOKE ODUWOLE

UJU IFEJKA

OLUREMI TINUBU

NGOZI OKONJO IWEALA

CHIMAMANDA ADICHIE

NATASHA AKPOTI

NATASHA IBORI

BELLA DISU

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THE POWER 50 CELEBRATING NIGERIA'S LEADING WOMEN

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COVER NOTE



Society

SUSAN CHANEL UNVEILS ITS SKINLINE & SPA IN ABUJA
 Luxury beauty brand Susan Chanel marked a significant milestone with the grand opening of its Skinline and Spa in Abuja on February 20, 2025. The new spa aims to set a fresh standard in the beauty and wellness industry, offering an exclusive, opulent experience for beauty lovers and wellness seekers

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EDITOR'S LETTER



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Fight Continues....

It's been a week of many emotions—anger, disbelief, exhaustion, and an unshakable resolve. The suspension of Senator Natasha Akpoti, after she bravely spoke out about sexual harassment by the Senate President, has ignited a conversation that we cannot ignore.

And you know, this really isn't just about Natasha but about every woman who has ever been silenced, dismissed, or punished for daring to name the injustices she has faced. And how ironic, or perhaps telling, that this is happening in the same breath as International Women's Day—a day dedicated to the fight for gender equality.

It's moments like this that remind us of an uncomfortable truth: while we have come far from the days of our mothers, we haven't come far enough. Women are still being pushed aside when they make too much noise, still being made to fight twice as hard for the same respect, still being told to take up space—just not too much space. Natasha's suspension is not just about politics; it is about power and the way it is wielded against women who refuse to back down.

Interestingly there's also another angle to this that we must examine. When a woman stands up, how many other women truly stand with her? Women supporting women—it's a phrase we love to throw around, but when the stakes are high, when it's not just a hashtag but a real test of solidarity, how often do we show up for each other? It's a conversation we need to revisit because, if we're being honest, too many times, women have been complicit in the silencing of other women. Sometimes out of fear, sometimes for personal gain, and sometimes simply because society has conditioned us to believe that only a few of us can sit at the table, so why not protect our own seats? But we cannot afford to keep playing by those rules, which is why this issue is so special. Our cover story celebrates 50 leading ladies across different sectors, women who have defied the odds, shattered ceilings, and rewritten the script. These women—CEOs, entrepreneurs, politicians, activists, creatives—are proof that despite the hurdles, women are winning. Their stories are bold, raw, and inspiring. They remind us that while the fight is long, it is not without victories. Each of these women has faced her own version of resistance, and yet, here they are, still standing, still leading.

Alongside this, another must-read in this issue is What It Means to Be a Woman in 2025. Because beyond celebrating achievements, we need to acknowledge the realities. What does it mean to be a woman today? To navigate a world where progress and pushback walk hand in hand? To balance ambition with the constant demand to prove yourself? To exist in a space that celebrates women in headlines but still systemically undermines them in boardrooms, in politics, and in everyday life? This article is an exploration of where we are and where we need to be.

So, as we mark International Women's Day and celebrate Women's Month, here's to the women who keep pushing, the ones who refuse to shrink, the ones who break down doors so that others can walk through. Well done to the women leading this fight. And to the men who stand with us, who amplify our voices rather than suppress them—thank you.

The work is far from over, but if there's anything history has shown us, it's that women don't just fight—we win.

Happy International Women's Day. Happy Women's Month. Let's keep going.

Love,
Konye

SUSAN CHANEL Unveils Its SKINLINE & SPA IN ABUJA

Luxury beauty brand Susan Chanel marked a significant milestone with the grand opening of its Skinline and Spa in Abuja on February 20, 2025. The new spa aims to set a fresh standard in the beauty and wellness industry, offering an exclusive, opulent experience for beauty lovers and wellness seekers. The event was hosted by Susan Effiong Esi, the visionary founder of the brand, and attracted numerous celebrities, influencers, and beauty enthusiasts. Susan, known for her innovative approach to beauty care, has earned a reputation for redefining industry standards. The launch, held at 2 Bria Street, Wuse 2, in Abuja, transformed the venue into a glamorous space that exuded sophistication and luxury.

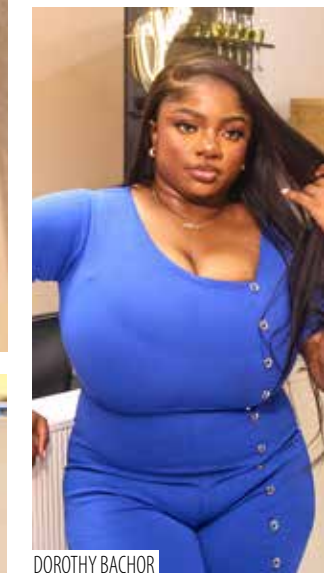
The evening featured a Wine & Dine session where guests enjoyed gourmet dishes paired with fine wines, creating an atmosphere of indulgence and celebration. In addition, exclusive shopping opportunities were available, showcasing Susan Chanel's luxurious range of beauty products and services. Guests had a chance to explore the spa's state-of-the-art facilities, including private treatment rooms, relaxation zones, and advanced beauty technology. Live entertainment kept the atmosphere vibrant, while complimentary beauty consultations offered attendees insight into the spa's premium treatments. Located underground in the heart of Abuja, Susan Chanel's Skinline and Spa is designed to combine beauty technology with tranquility, providing a rejuvenating experience for both body and mind. This new venture further cements Susan Chanel's position as a leading name in luxury beauty, continuing to redefine the industry and offering unparalleled luxury to its clientele.



SUSAN CHANEL ESISI



WASHINGTON ESISI



DOROTHY BACHOR



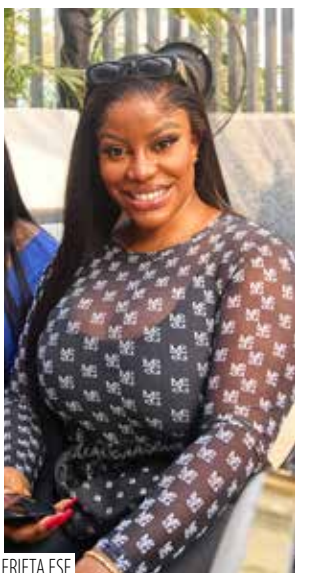
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YVABO OJO



RUTH KADIRI



SOPHIE & SANDRA UZODIMA



BEING A WOMAN IN 2025: A NIGERIAN PERSPECTIVE

By **Konye Chelsea Nwabogor**



On one hand, women are at the forefront of industries and cultural movements, making strides that were unimaginable just a decade ago. On the other, the old battles haven't vanished—barriers to economic opportunities, political underrepresentation, and constant societal scrutiny remain daily realities.

There has never been a singular definition of womanhood, and in 2025, its meaning is as layered and complex as ever. It is power wrapped in softness, ambition tempered by expectation, freedom laced with invisible barriers. It is resilience and exhaustion, privilege and struggle, triumph and the quiet, unspoken battles that come with simply existing in a world that has never quite known what to do with women who refuse to fit neatly into a mould. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Nigeria, where being a woman is to walk a tightrope between tradition and modernity, between the weight of history and the urgency of progress.

The contradictions are striking. Women are leading multinational corporations, running for office, breaking records in sports and the arts, and reshaping the cultural landscape in ways that would have been unthinkable a generation ago. And yet, the same battles persist: access to economic opportunities, the right to bodily autonomy, fair representation in politics, and the simple demand to be respected in professional spaces. A Nigerian woman in 2025 knows she can dream of building a billion-dollar company, but she also knows that in many boardrooms, she will still be the only woman at the table. She knows there are conversations about gender equity, but that implementation often lags behind the rhetoric. And she knows that while women are now space travellers, some people still believe she is unfit to govern simply because of her gender.

Politics tells a familiar story. Nigerian women remain vastly underrepresented in government despite making up nearly half the population. Every election cycle, a few brave women step forward, daring to challenge a system that was not built for them. They are outnumbered, out-funded, and dismissed with a casual sexism so ingrained that it is barely noticed. The scrutiny they endure is relentless—criticised for being too strong, too soft, too ambitious, too emotional, too outspoken, too quiet. Meanwhile, male politicians operate without the burden of proving they belong.

In the age of hypervisibility, the scrutiny extends far beyond politics. Social media has given women a voice like never before, but it has also made them more vulnerable to attack. Nigerian women in the public eye—actresses, musicians, journalists, entrepreneurs—find themselves judged not only on their work but on their appearance, their relationships, their tone, and their choices. A man can fail, and it is unfortunate. A woman can fail, and it is used as evidence

that women should not try in the first place. But they try anyway. They succeed anyway. The Nigerian music industry, once overwhelmingly male-dominated, now has women shaping global conversations. Nollywood's female directors and producers are rejecting the tired narratives of women as tragic victims or perfect wives, instead telling stories that reflect the full, complicated spectrum of womanhood.

Yet, for all the progress, the weight remains. The weight of culture, of expectation, of unspoken rules. Marriage and children are still treated as a woman's ultimate achievement, no matter how many empires she builds. A woman can be the breadwinner, but she must never let her husband feel emasculated. She can be powerful, but not too powerful. Independent, but not so independent that she forgets her "place." The right to make decisions about one's own body remains a battle, even in an era where reproductive health conversations have gone mainstream. A woman who speaks openly about contraception or reproductive rights is met with suspicion. A single woman who chooses motherhood on her own terms is whispered about. In a world where technology has made family planning easier than ever, stigma remains a formidable barrier.

Safety, too, is a battle that should have been won long ago but continues to be fought daily. To be a woman in 2025 is to still calculate risks before stepping out alone, to second-guess the intentions of strangers, to carry the quiet knowledge that no matter how many awareness campaigns exist, women are still the ones told to be careful, to adjust their behaviour, to shrink themselves for survival. Gender-based violence is still an unrelenting crisis, and justice remains elusive for many.

And yet, if there is one defining characteristic of womanhood in 2025, it is the refusal to shrink. Nigerian women are rewriting the script in real time, unlearning, reimagining, and creating space for themselves where none was given. They are building businesses that prioritise inclusion, leading organisations that challenge the status quo, and raising daughters who know their worth is not tied to societal validation. They are rejecting labels that no longer serve them and embracing identities that reflect their evolution. They are tired of explaining themselves, tired of proving their worth over and over again, tired of justifying ambition, success, confidence, and the right to live on their own terms. And so, they are simply doing—taking the space, making the decisions, building the world they want to exist in. Because no one else will do it for them.

HOW MANY HANDBAGS DO YOU REALLY NEED?

If you've ever found yourself standing in your closet, staring at a row of handbags and wondering whether you really need yet another one, you're certainly not alone.

For some people, handbags are more than just a way to carry essentials; they're symbols of status, creativity, and personal style. But at what point does our love affair with bags become excessive? How many handbags does one truly need, and how do we strike the balance between indulgence and practicality?

I'll never forget the day I realised I might have gone a bit overboard. I was preparing for a weekend trip and spotted a half-forgotten satchel collecting dust in the corner of my wardrobe. It was beautiful—sleek black leather, gold hardware, and a shape that managed to be both timeless and contemporary. But there it was, sitting in an abyss of seldom-used bags. Had I wasted money on a piece that was destined for neglect? If handbags were humans, that one would have been filing a complaint against me for blatant disregard.

Part of the handbag conundrum comes down to the emotional connection we form with them. Handbags are, in many ways, the perfect accessory: they serve a functional purpose, yet they can also represent our personality. You might buy a bag because it reminds you of your grandmother's vintage purse or because it's the perfect statement piece for a big night out. Each handbag can feel like a keepsake of a particular memory or milestone—your first big splurge purchase, your holiday souvenir, or the gift from your significant other. No wonder it's easy to justify adding just one more to the collection.

Yet, there's a difference between a sensible selection of bags and an avalanche that takes over every available closet shelf. The reality is we can only use so many handbags in a given period. If you're rotating the same two or three, that begs the question: what's happening to the rest? Some people subscribe to the idea of a "capsule wardrobe," where you select versatile, high-quality items that you can mix and match throughout the year. The same philosophy can apply to handbags. Instead of chasing every new trend, investing in a few well-made classics—think a structured tote, a crossbody for hands-free convenience, a classy evening clutch, and perhaps a fun statement bag—could be more than enough.

Then again, collectors exist in every realm, from sneakers to comic books. If you genuinely love handbags as art pieces, curating a selection could be a source of joy. For these enthusiasts, each piece might stand out for its design, heritage, or sentimental significance. The question then moves from "How many do I need?" to "Does my collection still bring me delight?" If each bag still sparks excitement and you're not drowning under a mountain of leather and suede, then maybe there's no need to limit your passion.

On the flip side, if you can't remember the last time you used half your bags, it might be time for a reality check. Take stock of your entire collection—pull them all out, line them up, and really see what's there. You might rediscover a hidden gem or realise you've



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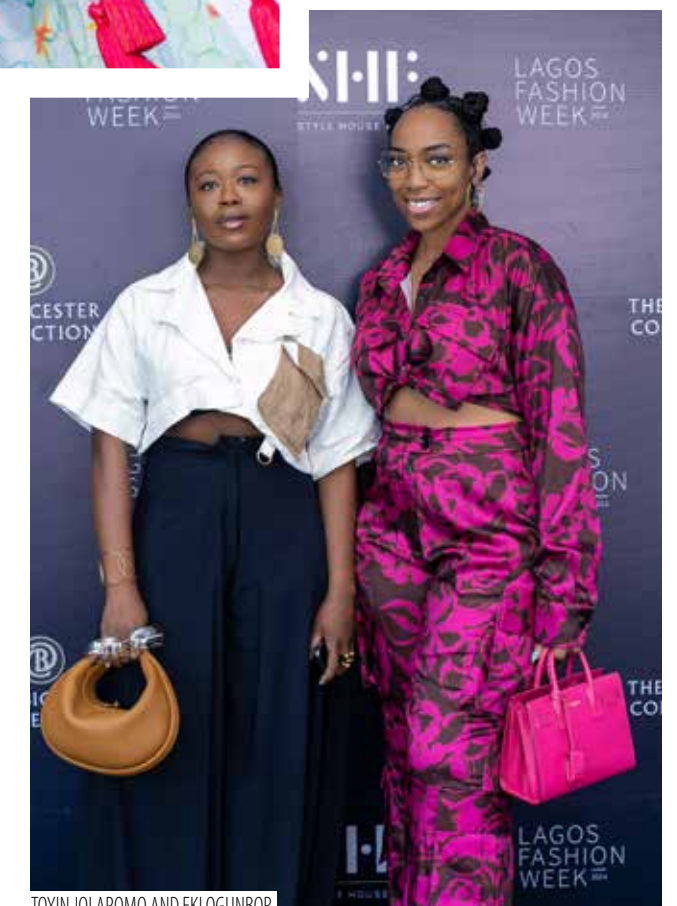
KAMSI NNAMANI



purchased nearly identical designs in three different colors. Sometimes the simple act of sorting through your stash can help clarify which handbags deserve a place in your everyday rotation and which ones should be rehomed. Platforms for secondhand fashion make it easier than ever to sell or donate items you're not using. Parting ways with an underused bag can feel surprisingly liberating—plus, you might make someone else's day when they find that item they've been dreaming about at a more affordable price.

Ultimately, the answer to "How many handbags do you really need?" depends on your lifestyle and personal preference. If you find that a curated collection of four or five suits you just fine, that might be your magic number. If your passion and budget allow for more—and you truly appreciate each piece

without feeling overwhelmed—then build that dream collection. It's less about imposing an arbitrary limit and more about making conscious choices. Think about practicality: Will this bag serve a distinct purpose? Will it stand the test of time in terms of both quality and style? Reflect on your space and finances as well—handbags should enhance your life, not clutter it up or burden you financially.



TOYIN JULAPOMO AND EKI OGUNBOR

There comes a moment in every woman's life when she looks in the mirror and realises she's outgrown herself. Not in a bad way, but in the way a butterfly outgrows its cocoon. It's time for an upgrade, a shedding of the old, a reinvention—because the woman you were five years ago, or even last year, is not the woman you're meant to be now.

Rebranding yourself isn't just about switching up your wardrobe or posting aesthetically pleasing photos on Instagram. It's about stepping into your full power, refining your presence, and curating the life you know you deserve. It's about becoming her—the version of you who commands attention exudes confidence and moves with purpose.

If you're ready to step into your new era, here's your killer checklist to rebrand yourself and become that girl.



REBRAND YOURSELF:

A KILLER CHECKLIST TO BECOMING HER



L-R: NEYA KALU, ONYEKA UGWU



VERONICA EBIE



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IBRA

1. Define Your New Narrative

Who is she? Before anything else, get crystal clear on the woman you're becoming. Is she powerful, graceful, and effortlessly stylish? Does she speak with authority, walk into a room like she owns it, and make smart financial decisions? Whatever your vision is, write it down. Build a mood board. Speak it into existence. Your new personal brand starts with the story you tell yourself about who you are. So, let's make it a bestseller.

2. Audit Your Current Brand

Before you can evolve, you need to take a hard look at where you are now. What's working? What's not? How do people currently perceive you? Check your social media, your wardrobe, your habits, even the way you communicate. Are you still holding onto an old aesthetic, outdated beliefs, or friendships that no longer align with your growth? It's time to declutter.

3. Upgrade Your Style & Presence

The way you present yourself speaks before you even open your mouth. And no, this isn't about designer labels or spending beyond your means—it's about refinement.

Clothing: Dress like the woman you envision. Does she wear structured blazers? Flowy silk dresses? Bold colours or a minimalistic palette?

Grooming: Invest in skincare, a signature fragrance, and hairstyles that make you feel powerful.

Posture & Demeanor: Stand tall, make eye contact, and perfect your resting boss face. When you walk into a room, let them feel your presence before you even say a word.

4. Curate Your Digital Footprint

In 2025, your online presence is your brand. Take control of your digital identity.

Social Media Clean-Up: Archive or delete posts that don't align with your new image. No more chaotic rants or blurry party photos.

Content Strategy: Share content that aligns with your goals. Are you a businesswoman? Post insights. A creative? Showcase your work. A socialite? Document your experiences with style.

LinkedIn & Email Signature Glow-Up: Even if you're not job-hunting, your professional brand should be polished. Update your bio, refresh your headshots, and create a sleek email signature.

Be intentional. Let every tweet, post,

or comment reflect the you you're stepping into.

5. Develop a Signature Move

The most iconic women in history all have something uniquely them. Think of Rihanna's effortless cool, Beyoncé's mystery, or Zendaya's red-carpet presence. What's your signature? Is it your witty one-liners, your undeniable confidence, or the way you always leave people feeling inspired? Own it and amplify it.

6. Upgrade Your Mindset & Network

You can't become a new version of yourself with the same mindset that got you here. Shift your thoughts, level up your conversations, and get in the right rooms.

Books & Podcasts: Read and listen to things that expand your mind.

New Circles: Seek out friendships and mentors who reflect where you're headed, not where you've been.

Say Yes to Opportunities: The woman you're becoming isn't scared to take risks. Go after that dream job, start that business, or move to that new city.

The right people and opportunities will start aligning when you start showing up as her.

7. Own Your Energy & Boundaries

Becoming her also means moving differently. No more over-explaining. No more shrinking yourself. No more entertaining drama.

Set Boundaries: Protect your time, energy, and peace.

Speak with Confidence: Even when unsure, talk like you believe in yourself.

Embrace Soft Power: Strength doesn't always have to be loud. A knowing smile, a well-timed pause, and an aura of quiet confidence can be just as powerful.

You don't need to beg for a seat at the table when you carry the energy of someone who owns the building.

8. Reinvent Fearlessly & Consistently

Rebranding isn't a one-time thing: it's a lifelong commitment to becoming your best self repeatedly. It's okay to evolve, change your mind, or switch lanes completely if that's what feels right.

The world belongs to the women who aren't afraid to reinvent themselves. The question is—are you ready to become her?

SHOULDERS OF STRENGTH: A TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN WHO RAISED ME

By Ayo Lawal



MUM, M. O. LAWAL



AYO LAWAL



MY EDITOR, KONYE NWABOGOR

International Women's Day has always stirred a deep reflection within me—a reminder of the countless ways women have shaped my life and the lives of so many others. In the quiet corners of our everyday existence, the influence of these remarkable souls unfolds in subtle yet profound ways. There's a Yoruba saying that's ringing loud in my ears: "There are people who are like shoulders and don't let your clothes fall."

THESE ARE MY SHOULDERS

I find myself recalling the gentle strength of my mother **M. O. Lawal**, whose nurturing presence laid the groundwork for all that followed. Her quiet sacrifices, the soft reassurance in times of doubt, and the enduring resilience she embodied are lessons that echo far beyond the boundaries of childhood. They are the essence of support that continues to inspire every step I take.

As I ventured into the wider world, I discovered the transformative power of mentorship. In the relentless pace of professional life, a guiding hand emerged in the form of **Konye Nwabogor**, my editor, whose wisdom was both a beacon and a steady force. Through her, I learned that the journey to growth is rarely solitary; it is enriched by the insights and encouragement of those who have travelled a similar path. Her guidance was a reminder that behind every accomplishment lies a network of support, often unnoticed yet critical in shaping our



TINU, SOLA AND I

destiny. The influence of kindness and empathy is not confined to moments of overt guidance—it often resides in the quiet acts of care that we encounter daily. **Mrs. Olabinjo** is one of those women whose compassion is evident in every small, meaningful gesture. There is an unspoken power in such kindness, a strength that quietly transforms lives. Like a soft light in the midst of darkness, her presence revealed that true power lies not in grand declarations but in consistent, heartfelt actions.

In the realm of creativity and innovation, I found inspiration in the leadership of the women I work with—**Tinu and Sola at 245 Creative**, whose approach to business is a lesson in collaboration and shared ambition. Then there is **Grace Ladoja**, whose brilliance is nothing short of infectious. To witness her work is to witness the embodiment of excellence. Already accomplished—an MBE from the Queen of England for context—yet her hunger to do more, push further, and build something greater is relentless. It's a privilege to learn from her, to be in

her orbit, and to be reminded every day that greatness is not a place you arrive at but a standard you continue to raise. Something funny happened once, and all parties involved agreed—**Jola Ayeye** must really love me. It wasn't even up for debate. She is always there, always present, like the big sister I never had. Always ready to show up whenever I tap on her, never making me feel like I'm asking for too much. Her kindness and beauty are unmatched, and in a world that can often feel isolating, knowing someone like her is in my corner is a gift I don't take for granted.

And then there is **FVO**—a new presence in my life but already one that has left an imprint. Sometimes, the impact of a brief encounter can resonate with unexpected depth. A simple act of thoughtfulness—a gesture that might seem insignificant in isolation—can, in the right moment, speak volumes about the beauty of human connection. It is in these delicate exchanges that we witness the transformative power of empathy and the importance of cherishing every encounter as a gift.

Beyond these personal and professional influences, I have been blessed with the steadfast support of friends who believe in me, even when I doubt myself. **Adeola Akinloye, Ese Ambrose, Tolu Oloidi, and Khadijah Okoya** are those friends who call my name in rooms I have yet to enter and who advocate for me in ways I sometimes don't even realise. Their unwavering encouragement and shared dreams have opened countless doors, reminding me that true strength is found in community.

And then there are those who remind me daily of the power of simply showing up—**Valerie and Leah Ettintinwo, Keziah Mallam**—the ones who are there when I'm feeling down, who lift me up, who remind me that friendship is not just about presence but about intention. They rise with me, stand with me, and in their unwavering support,



FVO



WITH GRACE LAJOJA

I find a foundation that steadies me when the world's weight feels too much. There are also the women who inspire me from afar—women like **Sheri Mohammed, Ayo Amusan Elizabeth Sho, Funke Akindele and Mo Abudu**. Women whose stories, work, and achievements remind me that the possibilities are endless, that there is still so much to build, to create, to dream into reality.

Yet, even as I reflect on these diverse influences, I am struck by a profound and unsettling truth: while many of us share similar stories of support and resilience, women, as a collective, are among the most endangered in our society. Their intrinsic worth is too often overshadowed by a world that fails to fully recognise their contributions. Across the globe, countless women face challenges that diminish their voices and limit their opportunities. The very qualities that make them indispensable—compassion, resilience, and the ability to nurture growth—are frequently met with indifference or exploitation.

This stark reality casts a shadow over all the love and support I have been fortunate to receive. It compels me to acknowledge that while our personal stories of empowerment and connection are deeply moving, they also highlight a broader societal need. The value of women extends far beyond their roles in our personal lives; it is a matter of collective survival and progress. Their strength, creativity, and unwavering spirit are the bedrock upon which communities are built, yet they remain vulnerable to forces that seek to diminish their impact.

As I continue on my journey, I carry with me a profound sense of gratitude for every woman who has silently and steadfastly influenced my life. Their collective presence is a powerful reminder that support and strength are often found in the quiet, enduring acts of care. In celebrating their contributions, I am reminded of the urgency to protect and uplift them—not just on a day marked for remembrance, but every single day. It is a call to honour their value, to fight for their rights, and to ensure that their stories, so often shared in hushed tones, are given the recognition they deserve.



JOLA AYEYE

THE POWER 50

CELEBRATING NIGERIA'S LEADING WOMEN

There's an unspoken weight that comes with being a woman. A silent expectation that you must be everything at once—strong yet soft, ambitious yet accommodating, powerful but not too powerful. You must balance the home, boardroom, and community to make it all look effortless. In Nigeria, where the stakes are even higher, the expectation is amplified. But despite these invisible boundaries, women continue to push through, breaking barriers in industries that once considered them outsiders.

This year, in honour of International Women's Day, we spotlight 50 leading women who are redefining what's possible. From boardrooms to creative studios and legislative chambers, these women are proving that excellence is not a gendered trait—it's the result of hard work, resilience, and an unyielding belief in oneself.

They are the women leading billion-dollar conglomerates, pioneering advancements in tech, spearheading social movements, and making history in governance. They are the ones challenging the status quo in male-dominated sectors, proving that gender is not a limitation but a perspective that adds depth to leadership. And yet, they do all this while navigating the everyday realities of womanhood—expected to be nurturers, caregivers, and moral compasses for society. What makes these women truly remarkable isn't just their success—it's the road they took to get there. The unspoken battles, the doors slammed in their faces, the casual dismissals, the moments they had to fight twice as hard just to be seen. Yet, they persisted. They didn't just demand a seat at the table; they built their own tables and opened doors for others to walk through.

This feature isn't just about their titles or accomplishments—it's about their impact. It's about the younger generation of girls watching them and realising I, too, can be more. It's about the ripple effect of representation and the power of knowing that ceilings are meant to be shattered.

So, here's to the 50 powerhouses who continue to rise and prove that leadership, innovation, and brilliance are not defined by gender. This is their moment, and it is only the beginning.



POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Senator Oluremi Tinubu
First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

From Lagos politics to the national stage, Senator Oluremi Tinubu has carved a path of service and impact. As the First Lady of Lagos State, she championed women's empowerment, and upon joining the Senate in 2011, she spent over a decade shaping policies that addressed education, social welfare, and youth development. Now, as Nigeria's First Lady, she leads the Renewed Hope Initiative, offering relief and empowerment programs for women, children, and displaced communities. Her commitment to healthcare saw her advocating for HPV vaccinations to prevent cervical cancer, while her humanitarian efforts include a ₦500 million donation to victims of communal clashes in Plateau State. Her leadership is hands-on—whether renaming the National Women Development Centre in honour of Maryam Babangida or standing in solidarity with survivors of terrorism, she continues to push for tangible change in the lives of Nigerians.



Amb. Dr. Olufolake Abdulrazaq
First Lady of Kwara State & Chairperson, Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum

With an illustrious career spanning diplomacy, trade, and public service, Amb. Dr. Olufolake Abdulrazaq is a force for social change. A career diplomat with degrees from the University of Lagos, she served in key diplomatic positions in London, Paris, and Pretoria before turning her focus to advocacy. As Chairperson of the Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum, she has influenced policies on healthcare, gender equity, and youth empowerment. Through her Ajike People Support Centre, she champions causes that uplift women, children, and marginalised communities. Her accolades include honorary doctorate degrees in Gender Development and Social Policy, underscoring her dedication to progressive governance and humanitarian service.



Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan
Senator Representing Kogi Central

Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan is rewriting the script for women in Nigerian politics. A lawyer, social entrepreneur, and advocate for industrialisation, she has fiercely championed economic development, education, and infrastructure. Her Builders Hub Impact Investment Program birthed Nigeria's first integrated technology development and business growth hub, while her scholarship schemes have supported hundreds of students. She is also addressing critical infrastructure gaps, from lighting 30km of roads in Kogi Central to constructing new schools and providing potable water to over 1,800 locations. Her legislative agenda is bold, focusing on reviving the Ajaokuta Steel Company and expanding the National Iron Ore Mining Company's mandate. For Natasha, representation is more than a title—it's action.



Hadiza Bala Usman
Special Adviser to the President on Policy Coordination & Former MD, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA)

A trailblazer in governance, Hadiza Bala Usman has broken barriers in both the public and private sectors. As the first female Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), she led critical reforms in port administration, driving transparency and efficiency. Beyond that, her role in the #BringBackOurGirls movement showcased her activism and dedication to human rights. Now, as Special Adviser to the President on Policy Coordination, she ensures the smooth execution of national priorities, reinforcing accountability across government programs. Whether advocating for girl-child education, anti-corruption, or gender inclusivity in governance, Hadiza remains one of Nigeria's most influential voices in policy and reform.



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POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT cont'd



Dr. Jumoke Oduwale
Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment

A brilliant policy reformer and legal expert, Dr. Jumoke Oduwale, is shaping Nigeria's economic future. She played a pivotal role in over 200 business reforms, catapulting Nigeria's ease of doing business rankings on the global stage. As the brain behind PEPEC (Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council), she championed policies that enhanced trade, investment, and SME growth. With degrees from Harvard, Cambridge, and Stanford, her expertise is globally recognised. Her tenure as Minister is focused on revitalising investor confidence, spearheading Nigeria's Af-CFTA implementation, and ensuring that women and youth have a stronger presence in trade and industry.

Amina J. Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

A woman of vision and impact, Amina Mohammed is leading global development efforts as Deputy Secretary-General of the UN. She was instrumental in creating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that women, children, and marginalised communities are prioritised in global policies. Before this, she served as Nigeria's Minister of Environment, overseeing climate action and reforestation projects. A trusted advisor to four Nigerian Presidents, her expertise in poverty alleviation and sustainable growth has left an indelible mark on international governance.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BUSINESS & FINANCE

Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe
Managing Director/CEO, Fidelity Bank Plc

As the first female CEO of Fidelity Bank, Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe is shattering glass ceilings in the banking sector. Under her leadership, the bank's profits surged from ₦25.22 billion in 2021 to a record ₦124.26 billion in 2023. She spearheaded Fidelity Bank's expansion into the UK, launching Fidelity Bank UK Limited. She is passionate about SME growth, establishing the Fidelity International Trade & Creative Connect (FITCC) to foster business partnerships between Africa and global markets. A Harvard, Oxford, and Wharton alumna, her financial expertise and innovative banking solutions have positioned Fidelity as a leader in commercial and SME banking.



GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)

There are powerhouses, and then there is Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. The first African and first woman to lead the WTO, she has redefined global trade by prioritising developing nations, fair economic policies, and sustainable commerce. As Nigeria's former Minister of Finance, she negotiated a groundbreaking \$18 billion debt relief, stabilising the nation's economy. Her leadership extends beyond finance—she champions women's empowerment, climate change policies, and equitable vaccine distribution. Forbes, TIME, and The Financial Times have named her one of the most influential women in the world, and rightly so.



Adaora Umeoji
Group Managing Director/CEO, Zenith Bank Plc

When Adaora Umeoji took the helm at Zenith Bank, she made history as the first female CEO in the bank's decades-long legacy. With over 26 years of banking experience, her leadership has propelled Zenith Bank to record-breaking financial performance, solidifying its status as one of Africa's most successful financial institutions. An alumna of Harvard Business School, Columbia Business School, and MIT Sloan, she has combined cutting-edge banking strategies with a commitment to women's empowerment and financial literacy. Outside the boardroom, her Pink Breathe Cancer Foundation and Adorable Foundation provide crucial support for cancer patients and girl-child education. In 2023, she was recognised as a Humanitarian Service Icon—proof that her impact extends far beyond finance.

Damilola Ogunbiyi
CEO & UN Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)

A global advocate for energy access, Damilola Ogunbiyi is on a mission to provide universal electricity by 2030. As CEO of SEforALL, she has secured over \$1.4 trillion in energy finance, launched climate-friendly initiatives, and led electrification projects across Africa. Recognised in the TIME100 Climate List, she is shaping the future of sustainable energy and ensuring that no community is left in the dark.



Tariye Gbadegesin
CEO, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)

As CEO of Climate Investment Funds (CIF), Tariye Gbadegesin is leading a \$11 billion initiative to fight climate change in over 70 developing countries. A powerhouse in climate finance, she has structured over \$3 billion in clean energy projects and is at the forefront of Africa's energy transition. Her expertise spans renewable energy, carbon markets, and sustainable development, positioning her as a key player in the fight against climate change.



Moji Hunponu-Wusu
Founder, Woodhall Capital

In the fast-paced world of investment banking, Moji Hunponu-Wusu has built a name synonymous with excellence, integrity, and high-stakes financial strategy. With 25 years of experience, she founded Woodhall Capital Limited, a leading financial advisory firm specialising in securing international funding for governments, corporations, and financial institutions. Under her leadership, Woodhall Capital has raised over \$5 billion and expanded globally, opening offices in London, Dubai, and Abuja. A master of contract negotiations and project finance, Hunponu-Wusu is not just a finance expert—she is a power player shaping Africa's economic landscape.

Bella Disu
Executive Vice Chairman, Globacom & CEO, Cobblestone Properties and Estates Ltd

With a career that spans telecommunications, real estate, and philanthropy, Bella Disu is a multi-dimensional leader reshaping industries. As Executive Vice Chairman of Globacom, she is helping to expand Nigeria's telecommunications sector, driving innovation and connectivity. As CEO of Cobblestone Properties, she has overseen the development of luxury real estate projects, including Sisi Paris and Ile Oja Shopping Malls. A Harvard-trained strategist, Disu also sits on the board of Julius Berger Nigeria Plc and leads major corporate negotiations. Beyond business, her Bella Disu Foundation supports education and social development, while her SheGlows program empowers female professionals within Globacom.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BUSINESS & FINANCE cont'd



Joke Bakare
Founder & CEO, Medplus Pharmacy Limited

When Joke Bakare launched Medplus Pharmacy in 1993, she pioneered the chain pharmacy concept in Nigeria—a move that reshaped healthcare retail in the country. What started as a single outlet has grown into over 40 branches nationwide, making Medplus a household name for authentic pharmaceuticals, health, and beauty products. A registered pharmacist with a keen eye for business trends, Bakare has successfully blended medicine with retail innovation, proving that pharmacy is not just about prescriptions but total wellness. Her commitment to quality, accessibility, and superior customer service has set Medplus apart, making it one of Nigeria's most trusted healthcare brands.



Winifred Akpani
Founder & CEO, Northwest Petroleum & Gas Company Limited

From a trainee accountant to the CEO of one of Nigeria's largest petroleum companies, Winifred Akpani is a true visionary in the oil and gas sector. After honing her skills at Arthur Andersen (now KPMG) and Flame Petroleum, she took the bold step of founding Northwest Petroleum & Gas in 1998—with just ₦200,000 in startup capital. Today, her company has grown into a multi-million-dollar oil and gas giant, operating mega-filling stations, petroleum storage terminals, and crude oil export ventures. She remains deeply involved in quality assurance, business strategy, and the company's expansion into the upstream sector. Akpani is a testament to the power of determination, strategic foresight, and industry expertise.



Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan
Executive Vice President, Upstream, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Ltd.

With a career spanning over three decades in Nigeria's oil industry, Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan has scaled the ranks of NNPC to become one of its most influential leaders. Starting as a Material Traffic Officer, she has held various high-level positions in planning, procurement, and strategic operations, shaping policies that drive Nigeria's upstream sector. Her expertise in corporate strategy, sustainability, and national energy policy has positioned her as a key player in Nigeria's oil and gas transformation. Now, as Executive Vice President Upstream, she is overseeing some of NNPC's most critical projects, ensuring that the corporation remains at the forefront of Africa's energy evolution.

OIL AND GAS

Uju Ifejika
Chairman/CEO, Brittanica-U Nigeria Limited

Uju Ifejika is a trailblazer in Nigeria's oil and gas sector, proving that ambition and resilience can break barriers. She started her career as a legal counsel at Texaco (now Chevron) and rose to become Regional Company Secretary, overseeing operations across multiple African nations. In 2007, she took a bold leap, founding Brittanica-U, an indigenous oil exploration and production company. Today, her company is one of Nigeria's top petroleum producers, achieving feats that rival global industry players. As one of the few women at the helm of an oil company in Africa, Ifejika continues to push boundaries, demonstrating that leadership in energy knows no gender.



Adesuwa Dozie
Vice Chairman, ExxonMobil Companies in Nigeria

As the Vice Chairman of ExxonMobil in Nigeria, Adesuwa Dozie holds one of the most powerful positions in the energy sector. With over 20 years of legal and corporate governance experience, she has advised on multi-billion-dollar transactions, driving investments and strengthening compliance across Africa's energy industry. A graduate of Cornell Law School, she has worked across various sectors, from finance to oil and gas, before rising to the top of one of the world's biggest energy firms. Beyond boardrooms, she is a passionate advocate for workplace diversity, ensuring that the next generation of female leaders in energy can rise even higher.



Daisy Danjuma
Chairman, South Atlantic Petroleum (SAPETRO)

Daisy Danjuma has navigated the worlds of law, politics, and energy with distinction. A former Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, she played a key role in advancing women's rights and youth development during her time in office. Now, as Chairman of SAPETRO, one of Nigeria's largest indigenous oil exploration companies, she leads the next phase of the company's growth. A seasoned legal professional, she has held high-profile board positions across multiple industries, proving that leadership is her second nature.

Elohor Aiboni
Managing Director, Shell Nigeria Exploration & Production Company (SNEPCo)

In over 60 years of Shell's operations in Nigeria, no woman had ever led one of its strategic subsidiaries—until Elohor Aiboni. An engineering powerhouse, she climbed the ranks from a field engineer to asset manager of Bonga FPSO, Nigeria's first deep-water oilfield. Now, as MD of SNEPCo, she oversees offshore oil production that contributes significantly to Nigeria's economy. Aiboni is a champion for women in STEM, proving that technical expertise and leadership can shatter any glass ceiling.



Olu Verheijen
Special Adviser to the President on Energy

A seasoned energy expert with nearly 20 years of experience, Olu Verheijen is a key figure in Nigeria's energy transition strategy. Appointed as Special Adviser to the President on Energy, she is driving initiatives that maximise Nigeria's oil, gas, and renewable energy potential. Before this, she founded Latimer Energy, an advisory firm that specialises in energy investments, commercial negotiations, and portfolio optimisation. She has worked with global energy leaders like Shell, Persistent Energy, and Moody's, leading multi-billion-dollar M&A transactions. Beyond her corporate achievements, Verheijen is committed to renewable energy growth, inclusive energy policies, and bridging Africa's energy gap.



FASHION, ARTS, CULTURE, MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

Folake Coker
Founder & Creative Director, Tiffany Amber

For 25 years, Folake Coker has been the creative force behind Tiffany Amber, a brand that redefined luxury African fashion. She was the first African designer to showcase at New York Fashion Week—twice, solidifying Nigeria's place in global couture. From dressing celebrities to pioneering modern African womenswear, her legacy is unmatched. Beyond fashion, her brand is evolving into a full lifestyle empire, with expansions into spa, café, and home décor.



Jade Osiberu
Filmmaker & Founder, Greoh Studios

Jade Osiberu is Nollywood's fearless storyteller. She made history with *Gangs of Lagos*, Amazon Prime's first African Original, which topped streaming charts worldwide. From the box-office smash *Brotherhood* to the award-winning *Isoken*, her films break boundaries and challenge stereotypes. Her three-year exclusive deal with Amazon Prime marks a new chapter for Nigerian cinema, positioning Nollywood as a global force. With multiple AMVCA wins and a seat at The Oscars Academy, Osiberu is shaping the future of African storytelling.



Mo Abudu
CEO, EbonyLife Group

Mo Abudu isn't just a media mogul—she is a cultural powerhouse. As the CEO of EbonyLife Group, she has revolutionised African storytelling on the global stage. From producing blockbuster films like *"The Wedding Party"* to signing groundbreaking deals with Netflix, Sony, and Westbrook Studios, she has redefined Nollywood's global reach. The first African woman invited to join The Oscars Academy, she has also been recognised by *Forbes* as one of the world's most powerful women. Her EbonyLife Creative Academy is nurturing a new generation of African storytellers, proving that when it comes to media, Africa is not just participating—it is leading.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Award Winning Author, Activist

Few writers shape culture the way Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie does. With bestsellers like *Half of a Yellow Sun*, *Americanah*, and *We Should All Be Feminists*, she has sparked global conversations on identity, race, and gender. Her TEDx talk became a cultural manifesto, her words sampled by Beyoncé, and her books required reading worldwide. In 2025, she returned to fiction with *Dream Count*, a powerful exploration of love and resilience. A literary icon and unapologetic feminist, Adichie is not just writing stories—she's shaping history.



Uche Pedro
Founder & CEO, BellaNaija

Uche Pedro turned a simple blog into a digital media empire. As the founder of BellaNaija, she revolutionised how Africans consume lifestyle, fashion, and entertainment content. From *BellaNaija Weddings to BellaNaija Style*, her platforms reach millions, influencing trends and conversations across the continent. Named one of *Forbes Africa's* 50 Most Powerful Women, she's also a champion for social impact through #BNDogood and PVCitizen, encouraging youth engagement in politics. Uche Pedro isn't just documenting culture—she's shaping it.

Banke Kuku
Founder & Creative Director, Banke Kuku Textiles

Banke Kuku isn't just a designer—she is a textile revolutionary. Her bold, colourful prints and fusion of African and Western aesthetics have made her brand a must-have among fashion lovers. Over the years, her designs have become a cultural movement, earning her a devoted following known as the KukuTribe. From dressing Gabrielle Union to launching collaborations with global retailers, Banke is turning African textiles into high fashion. With international stockists and a growing presence in luxury fashion, she is leading a new wave of Afro-luxe design.



Ayra Starr
Singer, Songwriter

Ayra Starr isn't just a rising star—she's a supernova blazing across the global music scene. Since making her debut in 2021, the Beninese-Nigerian singer-songwriter has redefined Afropop with her sultry vocals and genre-blending sound. Her chart-topping hit *Bloody Samaritan* made history as the first solo song by a Nigerian female artist to top the *TurnTable* Top 50. Then came *Rush*, an international sensation that became the most-streamed solo song by a Nigerian female artist on Spotify, earning her a Grammy nomination. From electrifying performances on *The World Tour* to collaborations with heavyweights like Wizkid, Chris Brown, and David Guetta, Ayra Starr is the future of African music—and the future is now.

Tems
Singer, Songwriter, Producer

Tems is the voice of a generation, a sonic powerhouse who has reshaped Afrobeats with her soulful, genre-defying sound. She first caught the world's attention with *Try Me* before skyrocketing to global fame on Wizkid's *Essence*—a song so infectious it became a Grammy-nominated anthem. With collaborations alongside Drake, Future, and Beyoncé, she has cemented her place as a force in global music. Her Grammy win for *Wait for U* with Future made her the first female Nigerian artist to take home the coveted award. Tems doesn't just make music—she makes history, one hauntingly beautiful track at a time.



Funke Akindele
Filmmaker, Actress, Director, Producer

If Nollywood had a hall of fame, Funke Akindele would have her own wing. The actress-turned-director has not only dominated Nigerian cinema but also smashed box office records. From *Jenifa*—the movie that became a movement—to *Every Body Loves Jenifa*, Funke has redefined what's possible in African filmmaking. With six AMVCA wins, a successful foray into politics, and her *Jenifa* Foundation empowering young creatives, she's proof that talent and tenacity can rewrite the rules.



FASHION, ARTS, CULTURE, MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT contd



Nike Okundaye
Batik and Adire Textile Artist

A living legend in African art, Nike Okundaye has dedicated her life to preserving and elevating traditional Nigerian textiles. As the force behind the Nike Art Gallery—one of the largest in Nigeria—she has nurtured generations of artists while showcasing indigenous craftsmanship on the global stage. Her work has been exhibited in top museums worldwide, and her advocacy for women in the arts remains unparalleled. With a brush, a loom, and an unstoppable vision, she continues to weave Nigeria's artistic legacy into the world's cultural fabric.



Amina Oyagbola
Business Executive, Founder, WISCAR

Amina Oyagbola is the kind of leader who reshapes industries and leaves a lasting imprint. As a former top executive at MTN Nigeria, she played a pivotal role in shaping the company's corporate strategy and workforce transformation. But Amina's influence goes far beyond the boardroom. She founded WISCAR (Women in Successful Careers), a mentorship program that has empowered countless women to break into leadership roles. With expertise spanning law, banking, telecommunications, and corporate governance, she remains a formidable force in Nigeria's business landscape. Amina isn't just part of the conversation—she's leading it.

LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP

Nkiru Olumide-Ojo
Corporate Communications Leader, Founder, the Lighthouse Network

If storytelling is an art, then Nkiru Olumide-Ojo is a master painter. With a career spanning some of Africa's biggest multinationals, she has elevated brands through strategic communications and corporate leadership. But her influence doesn't stop at business—she founded The Lighthouse Network to mentor young professionals, particularly women, guiding them to navigate the corporate world with confidence and excellence. Whether she's shaping billion-dollar brands or shaping the next generation of female leaders, Nkiru is always ahead of the curve.



Ibukun Awosika
Entrepreneur, First Female Chairperson, First Bank of Nigeria

As the first female Chairman of First Bank of Nigeria, she shattered glass ceilings with her exceptional leadership. Beyond the boardroom, she has lent her expertise to global platforms like IESE's International Advisory Board and serves on the boards of Digital Jewel Limited and Cadbury Nigeria. Her entrepreneurial spirit shone on Dragon's Den Africa, while her role in the film Citation showcased her versatility. Through Life Series with Ibukun Awosika, she has empowered thousands, shaping a new generation of purpose-driven leaders. A force in finance, media, and mentorship—Dr. Awosika embodies the power of women changing the world.

ACTIVISM & SOCIAL IMPACT

Ndidi Nwuneli
CEO, President OneCampaign; Founder, LEAP Africa

Ndidi Nwuneli is building Africa's future—one leader at a time. As the founder of LEAP Africa, she has empowered thousands of young changemakers, fostering leadership and entrepreneurship across the continent. At One-Campaign, she's driving initiatives that tackle poverty and inequality head-on. Whether she's advocating for women in agribusiness or launching initiatives with the Clinton Global Initiative, Ndidi's mission remains clear: empower, uplift, and transform Africa.



Bisi Fayemi
Feminist, Writer, Policy Advocate and Former First Lady of Ekiti State

Bisi Fayemi is a force of nature when it comes to gender equality. As a co-founder of the African Women's Development Fund, she has empowered thousands of women across the continent, funding initiatives that uplift communities and drive systemic change. A fierce policy advocate, she has played a key role in passing groundbreaking gender laws in Nigeria. Whether she's writing, speaking, or advocating, one thing is clear—when Bisi Fayemi fights for women, progress follows.



Yemi Adamolekun
Founder, Enough is Enough Nigeria

Yemi Adamolekun is the voice that refuses to be silenced. As the Executive Director of Enough is Enough Nigeria (EiE), she has led some of the country's most impactful civic engagement movements, encouraging young Nigerians to demand accountability from their leaders. From voter education to fighting for human rights, she has become a symbol of resistance against corruption and bad governance. Yemi isn't just shaping conversations—she's shaping Nigeria's democratic future.



Kemi Ibru
Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Founder, Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF)

Dr. Kemi DaSilva-Ibru is on the front lines of the fight against gender-based violence. As the founder of WARIF, she has built a safe space for survivors of abuse, offering them medical care, counseling, and legal support. A renowned obstetrician and gynaecologist, she merges healthcare with activism, ensuring that women's health remains a priority in Nigeria. With every life she touches, Kemi is proving that medicine isn't just about healing—it's about changing society for the better.



Aisha Yesufu
Socio-Political Advocate, Civic & Community Development Crusader

Aisha Yesufu is fearless. From leading the #BringBackOurGirls movement to standing at the forefront of Nigeria's democracy struggles, she has become an unrelenting force for justice. A vocal critic of corruption, advocate for women's rights, and champion for youth political engagement, Aisha refuses to be silenced. Her Let's Do Business with Aisha initiative empowers female entrepreneurs, proving that activism and economic growth can go hand in hand.



Awele Elumelu
Chairperson, Avon Medical Practice; Co-Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation

Awele Elumelu is where healthcare meets impact. As the Chairperson of Avon Medical, she is revolutionising access to quality healthcare in Nigeria. As co-founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, she is empowering Africa's next generation of entrepreneurs, ensuring they have the tools and funding to transform their communities. In health or business, Awele's mission is clear—build, uplift, and leave a legacy of lasting change.

ACTIVISM & SOCIAL IMPACT cont'd



Toyin Saraki
Founder, Wellbeing Foundation Africa

For Toyin Saraki, maternal and child health isn't just a passion—it's a movement. Through Wellbeing Foundation Africa, she has worked to improve healthcare systems, reduce maternal mortality rates, and provide life-saving resources for women and children. With global partnerships spanning the UN, WHO, and the private sector, Toyin is proving that when women lead in healthcare, the entire society thrives.



Adaeze Oreh
Commissioner for Health, Rivers State; Founder, Adaeze Oreh Foundation

Dr. Adaeze Oreh is on a mission to revolutionise Nigeria's healthcare system. As Rivers State's Commissioner for Health, she drives policies that ensure quality medical care is accessible to all, especially underserved communities. Through the Adaeze Oreh Foundation, she extends this impact even further, tackling maternal health challenges and improving healthcare outcomes. Passionate, strategic, and relentless, Adaeze is setting new standards for medical excellence in Nigeria.

Oby Ezekwesili
Founder, FixPolitics Initiative & SPPG

A political powerhouse and economist, Oby Ezekwesili has spent her career fighting for transparency, governance, and social justice. As a former minister and co-founder of the Bring Back Our Girls campaign, she has mobilised global movements for change. Through the FixPolitics Initiative and School of Politics, Policy & Governance, she's grooming a new generation of ethical leaders. Oby doesn't just talk about change—she makes it happen.



TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Odunayo Eweniyi
Founder, PiggyVest

Saving money has never been this cool. Odunayo Eweniyi is the brain behind PiggyVest, Nigeria's leading digital savings and investment platform. By revolutionising financial literacy and inclusion, she's helping millions of Nigerians take control of their finances. Named one of Forbes Africa's 30 Under 30, Odunayo is also a passionate advocate for women in tech, proving that fintech isn't just about numbers—it's about impact.



Kofo Akinkugbe
Founder & CEO, SecureID

Kofo Akinkugbe is Nigeria's queen of cybersecurity. As the founder of SecureID, she built the first indigenous smart card manufacturing company, revolutionising identity security across banking, telecommunications, and government sectors. Her company produces national ID cards and payment solutions that power Nigeria's financial system. A pioneer in tech and a mentor for women in STEM, Kofo is securing Nigeria's digital future, one innovation at a time.



Natasha Ibori
Founder, Uwanna Energy

In an industry dominated by men, Natasha Ibori is proving that women belong at the top. As the founder of Uwanna Energy, she is championing Africa's transition to sustainable energy, providing renewable power solutions to homes and businesses across the continent. Her vision is bold: an Africa where clean energy drives economic growth, innovation, and environmental sustainability. With every project she spearheads, Natasha is lighting the way—literally and figuratively.

SPORTS

Tobi Amusan
Track & Field Athlete, 100m Hurdles

Tobi Amusan isn't just fast—she's record-breaking. In 2022, she became the first Nigerian to win a World Championship gold in the 100m hurdles, shattering records with a jaw-dropping 12.06 seconds. From the African Championships to the Commonwealth Games, she has dominated the track, inspiring a new generation of Nigerian athletes. As she gears up for the Paris 2024 Olympics, one thing is clear—Tobi Amusan is just getting started.



Ese Brume
Track & Field Athlete, Long Jump

When Ese Brume takes off, the world watches. A long jump sensation, she made history at the Tokyo Olympics, bringing home a bronze medal and solidifying her status as one of Nigeria's greatest athletes. With multiple African and Commonwealth titles, Ese has set records and broken barriers, proving that Nigerian athletes can dominate on the world stage. With her sights set on even bigger wins, she's leaping towards a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

Rena Wakama
Head Coach, Nigeria's Women's Basketball Team

Rena Wakama is rewriting the history of African basketball—one game at a time. As the first female head coach to lead Nigeria's women's basketball team, D'Tigress, to an Afrobasket championship, she has shattered long-standing barriers and proven that women belong at the helm of sports leadership. But that's not all—Wakama also made history as the first female coach to win the Afrobasket tournament since its inception in 1966, breaking a 57-year streak of male dominance in women's basketball on the continent.

Despite being appointed just weeks before the tournament in Rwanda, Wakama orchestrated a flawless campaign, guiding D'Tigress to yet another African championship title. Under her leadership, the team maintained its reputation as a continental powerhouse, continuing its unbeaten streak and reinforcing Nigeria's dominance in African women's basketball.



Asisat Oshoala
Footballer

Asisat Oshoala is a football icon. The five-time African Women's Player of the Year has dominated club and international football, from leading Nigeria's Super Falcons to glory to making history with FC Barcelona. A UEFA Women's Champions League winner, she continues to shatter records, proving that African female footballers deserve the global spotlight. Off the pitch, she's mentoring young girls through the Asisat Oshoala Foundation, ensuring the next generation of stars rises even higher.

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