

LARDI CELEBRATES WORLD DRUG DAY 2020 IN AKWA-IBOM, SOKOTO AND BENUE STATE

Theme: Better Knowledge for Better Care
#FactsForSolidarity, #WDD

Members of the Legal Advocacy Response to Drugs Initiative (LARDI) in Akwa Ibom State (Clifford Thomas Esq.); Benue State (Kelvin Iorzenia, Sunday Akoh and A. A. Andenira); Sokoto State (Rashidat Mohammed); and Ogun State (Isaac Izunya and George Oyeniyi) represented LARDI in this year's celebration of the World Drug Day in their respective states. Here are highlights of the activities carried out:

Benue State

In Benue State, a Sensitization Campaign was made to the general public on Radio Nigeria, Harvest FM 103.5, Makurdi. This was aired between the hours of 9am and 10am. The legal consequences of illegal drug use, drug trafficking and remedies or options available to drug users standing trial, including the pro bono services of LARDI were discussed to enlighten members of the public.



Akwa Ibom State

A phone-in-program was aired on Passion FM, Uyo (www.passionfm.ng) at 9am to 10am with the Host panel comprising of LARDI members, Dr. Polycarp Ekpe of faculty of Pharmacy and a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Akwa Ibom State Chapter and PSN representatives. The mandate of LARDI, UNODC's commitments to drug issues in Nigeria and this year's theme for the World Drug Day celebration were discussed.



Sokoto State

In Sokoto State, the following activities were carried out:

A Press briefing and Drug Exhibition via media was conducted to sensitize members of the general public on the need to see drug users as persons in need of treatment support and care rather than stigmatization.



A visit to the Nigerian Correctional Service, Sokoto State where we had a chat with inmates accused of drug related offences. We advised them on how to stay safe and positive during the pending Covid 19 pandemic and to stay hopeful as we await full resumption of court activities.

LARDI crested T-Shirts and Caps were donated by Sokoto State LARDI members to the Representatives of the DC of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Sokoto State while detergents and sanitizers were donated to inmates standing trial for drug offences.



Ogun State

LARDI Ogun State was at a Health Conference organized by the Ogun State Drug Control Committee and established contacts with members of the committee for greater effectiveness.



LARDI remains committed towards fulfilling its pro bono mandate for indigent drug arrestees.