



Taking All Men Brother (TAMEB)

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



**An Activity
report covering
January 2019 to
December 2019**



+2348081823323



TAMEB



www.takingallmenbrother.org



FOR: TAMEB

PREPARED BY:

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PRESENTED BY:

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“

*When we let go and let God,
Freedom and peace are
revealed. When Freedom and
peace is revealed, God's light
never goes out.*

”

Chris Tayeton

Contents

A summary of our activities in 2019



Freedom of Religion Conference

The Freedom of Religion Conference, which held in Ibadan in June 2019, explored the themes of religious tolerance and peace, in a quest to find solutions to the challenges that plague the Nigerian peace, sovereignty and unity.

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Counselling and Mentorship Programme

The program, which has registered successes across secondary schools in Lagos in guiding vulnerable youths toward a path of peace and towards making better choices away from juvenile delinquencies.

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In-House Staff and Volunteer Training

The training programme that was designed to upskill our staff and volunteers, in order to help them carry out their duties effectively and efficiently

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Welcome

Taking All Men Brother (TAMEB) Annual Report 2019

2019 was a year of productivity and growth for TAMEB.

We hosted our first ever Freedom of Religion Conference, held a successful webinar that illuminated perceptions on religious freedom and tolerance, as well as grew our TAMEB Counselling and Mentorship Program.

We could not have achieved all the aforementioned without the unwavering support of our donors, dedicated members, committed staff and selfless volunteers. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I say thank you as we look forward to more growth and development in 2020.



Iyabo Ogundiran
Executive Chairman



Understanding Religion and Its Positive Effects

The webinar, which held for two days in September, was designed to bring together individuals across religions, in order to examine the difference between conceptual knowledge of religious tolerance and practice.

Our Team

The TAMEB team is made up of a dynamic group of vibrant activists who work tirelessly to realize our dream of a peaceful and harmonious Nigeria for all, by ensuring that we imbibe the values of the organization in our operations, activities, programs and partnerships.

The Values that drive our Team

Integrity

To perform our duties to God and man in adherence to high moral and ethical principles.

Diversity

To be an inclusive organization devoid of all forms of religious, tribal, racial, gender or social discrimination.

Teamwork

To work in unison with every member of the organization, as well as being open and receptive to ideas of others on the team. To collaborate with organizations with similar values that are key to achieving our goals.

Communication

To be open and willing to share valuable information aptly with the relevant members of the team, partners and stakeholders

Consistency

To be known for reliable and steadfast delivery of our duties at all times



ABOUT US

Taking All Men Brother (TAMEB)

ABOUT TAMEB

TAMEB is a peace advocacy organisation that is focused on creating a better society by promoting intercultural and interreligious relationships, peace and harmony

OUR VISION

TAMEB envisions a Nigeria where different cultural and religious beliefs are not a factor in creating societal conflicts and violence, thus people are able to live cohesively in peace

OUR PROJECTS

I-TAMEB Fellowship Program
Freedom of Religion Conference
Freedom of Religion Workshop
Youth Counselling and
Mentorship Program

THEMATIC AREAS



Interfaith and intercultural awareness and enlightenment



Capacity Building and Skill Acquisition



Building Community Based Network



Peace and Conflict Resolution

OUR MISSION

We work to build a better Nigeria by promoting better understanding and tolerance of the diverse cultures and religions by engaging community stakeholders, thus creating a peaceful society void of religious and cultural conflicts and violence.

The organization was created to address the problem of religious and cultural instability in Nigeria.

This was necessary because of the lack of understanding and tolerance between adherents of the major triadic religions being practised in the country. TAMEB aims to achieve a better Nigeria that is devoid of culturally and religiously motivated violence, by promoting better understanding and bolstering tolerance among the people. Thus, we engage community stakeholders such as: religious leaders, community leaders and youth leaders, as well as educationists, scholars and media professionals among others, through deliberations, conferences and workshops etc.

Inter-organizational Alliances and Recognition

In an effort to expand our network and reach, TAMEB joined three international peace advocacy networks. United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), CIVICUS and West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP).

In January 2019, WANEP, a regional peacebuilding organization, welcomed TAMEB into their network of civil society, governments, intergovernmental bodies, women groups and peacebuilding partners. What this means is we can now forge collaborations and partnerships with other peacebuilding stakeholders within the West African region.

On the 2nd of February 2019, TAMEB joined CIVICUS Alliance, a network of civil society organizations that works to protect and grow civic space where people can express and organise themselves. The organisation particularly focuses on regions where participatory democracy and freedom of association, which includes freedom of religion, are at risk. The alliance was joined in a bid to strengthen TAMEB's global presence in peacebuilding, as well as collaborate with other civil society organizations in creating peacebuilding programs that will serve a wider audience.

On the 6th of February 2019, UNOY, a global network of young people and youth organisations active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, officially welcomed TAMEB into their global network. The implication of this is TAMEB youth advocates can tap into the vast resources and opportunities of UNOY, as well as forge strong alliances and relationships with other member organizations and youth leaders around the world.

On the 13th of November 2019, the Ministry of Education of Lagos State officially awarded a letter of recognition to the TAMEB Youth Counselling and Mentorship Program. The state government stated in their letter that they appreciate the efforts and contribution of TAMEB towards the development of education in the state, and also gave their approval for the continuation of the program.



UNOY



CIVICUS



Lagos
Ministry of
Education



WANEP

Freedom of Religion

Historically, religion has been used as a tool to unite individuals across varying backgrounds, cultures and race. However, the challenge today is finding a common ground among individuals from varying backgrounds who practise different religions

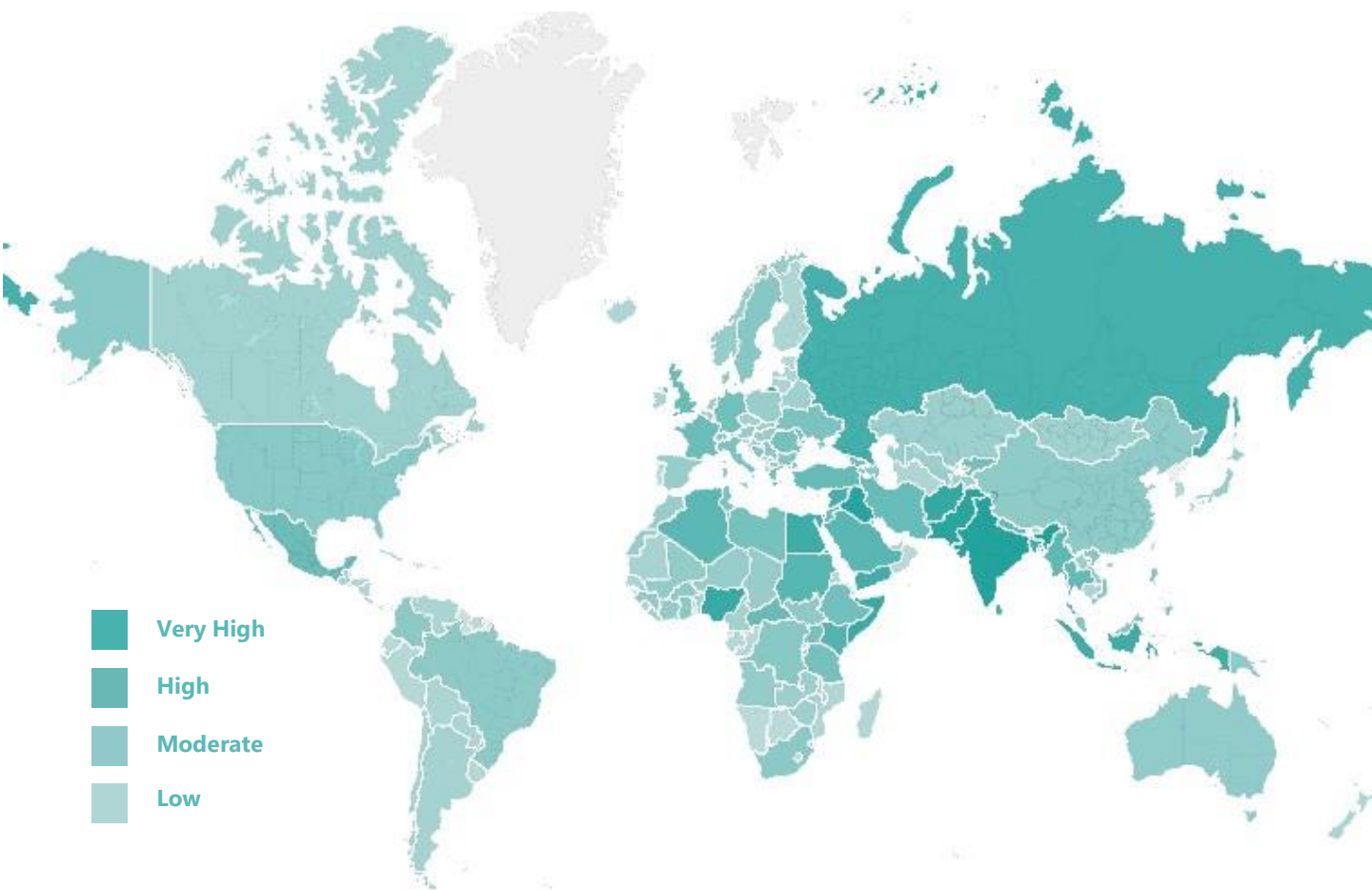


Chart 1: The spread of Religion Induced Social Hostilities around the world
Source: Pew Research Data on Social Hostilities Index (2007-2017)

Religious freedom - which is enshrined in the constitution of most countries - has faced its greatest threat around the world in years. As more terrorists attacks occur, some governments provide special privileges to some religions and deny same from others.

This tension between religious adherents has led to an increase in social hostilities that are inspired by religion. As a result of these tensions, various governments have also reacted by placing levels of restrictions on practise of religion, and in so doing, suppressed constitutionally protected freedom of religion.

Social Hostilities to Government Restrictions Index around the world between 2007 and 2017

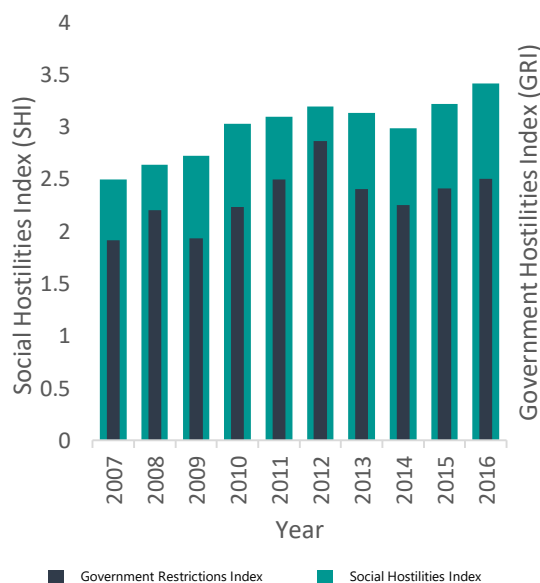


Chart 2: Relationship between Social Hostilities Index (SHI) and Government Restrictions Index (GRI) around the world.

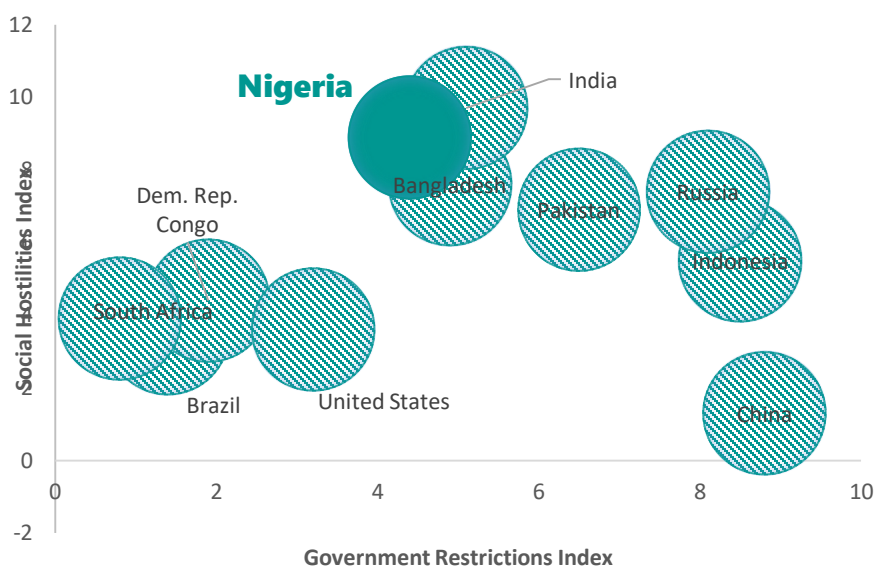


Chart 3: Nigeria's ranking among the most populous nations on the Social Hostilities Index (SHI) and the Government Restrictions Index

As the rate of religiously-induced hostilities rise globally (either as a direct or indirect result of recent religion-inspired attacks on communities and individuals), governments around the world have increased policies that target members of a specific religion, while allowing privileges to be extended to others.

Over the years, Nigeria has experienced a constant rise in Social Hostilities as evidenced by its 7.82 average out of 10 over a 10-year period. In 2017, Nigeria ranked second highest among populous nations around the world where social hostilities influenced by religion was high. However, in recent years, the government has retraced its steps from a regime of high-handed restrictions on sects within the country, even as hostilities continued an upward climb.

However, this drives home the importance of religious tolerance in a nation whose religious adherents are split among Christians, Muslims, Jews and African Traditional Religion Practitioners. Nigeria, same as many other states, has freedom of religion enshrined in its constitution. However, due to an environment of bigotry, fanaticism, violence and terrorism, it is often the case that this freedom of religion is not respected by the government, groups and individuals.

This atmosphere of distrust and intolerance motivated the creation of our first Freedom of Religion Conference which held in Ibadan, South-West Nigeria in 2019.

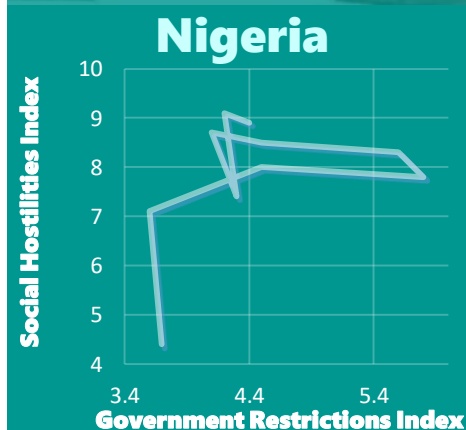
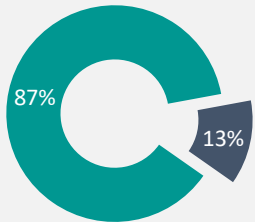


Chart 4: Changes in The relationship between SRI and GRI between 2007-2017

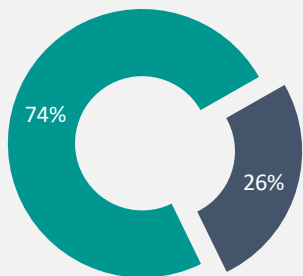
Support For Religious Tolerance



■ Support ■ Not Support

Chart 5: Support for Religious Tolerance among conference’ participants

Support For Community Based Advocacy



■ Support ■ Not Support

Chart 6: Support for advocacy on Religious Tolerance among conference’ participants

On the 26th and 27th of June 2019, we hosted our first freedom of religion conference. It was themed Freedom of Religion: A Panacea for Peace and Harmony in Nigeria.

It was designed to address the strained relationships between the different ethnic and religious groups in Nigeria. This conference was particularly timely, considering the current state of unrest in the country and the divisive atmosphere that has permeated the religious, political and social space.

During the conference, we analysed the common stereotypes and misinforming views through expert analyses from prominent scholars in Islam, Christianity, African Traditional Religions, Sociology, Economics, Law, Youths and Civil Society. Their analyses covered the current spate of religious intolerance in Nigeria, as it affects the various spheres of life. Furthermore, solutions that bring meaningful progress were recommended.

The paper presentations from contributors in academia and religious leaders helped shine more light on the diverse perspectives with which religion may be examined. They widened the scope of religion from the pigeon-holed frame from which most religion adherents view other religions and their practitioners.

The focus group discussions, which we framed to support individual contributions, enabled us to task participants with providing recommendations on the roles they expect the family, religious leaders, educational institutions, members of parliaments, the media, the public and private sectors to play in stimulating and maintaining an atmosphere of religious tolerance and acceptance. It was also recommended that other religions, besides Christianity and Islam, should be given proper recognition in the country.

At the end of the conference, the aim of enlightening individuals, stimulating conversations and enabling others to advocate for the continuous presence and enforcement of rights to freedom of religion was achieved. There was overwhelming support for the propagation of religious tolerance in Nigeria (83% of participants agree there is the need for interreligious tolerance, while 74% declared their willingness to advocate for it). The participants also recommended that TAMEB organize conferences and workshops for stakeholders and policymakers.

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8

Experts across the religious and Academic spectrum broadened the scope of understanding religion

7

Focus groups that examined the underlying roles and impact varying arts of society play in promoting religious tolerance

146

Participants attended the two-day event that hosted multiple experts across the religious spectrum

340

Materials were distributed during and after the program to aid the sensitization process

45

Generated recommendations to enable and encourage an increased tolerance of others of varying faiths and belief system



Summary Stats

56.54
percent of the total
population are between
the ages of 0 and 19

17.9
Median age of the
population with over 43
percent between 0 and 14



5.3

Births
per woman

In a growing nation of over 200 million people where the average birth rate is 5.3 per woman, it is inevitable that the population will increase rapidly. This rapid growth rate has led to a larger population of young people in Nigeria. The proportion of children under 19 years of age constitute over 53 percent of the total population. The rate of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria is high due to high youth population, lack of parental care, poor socio-economic factors, violence in their social circles, low school attendance and falling education standards.



1/5

In every 5
out-of-school
students is in
Nigeria

In order to tackle this problem of high rates of juvenile delinquency, especially in a nation where the juvenile justice system is in a state of disrepair (despite adopting the Child Rights Act (CRA) in 2003), we designed a program that helps young people between the ages of 11 and 19 years, who are still in secondary schools. The TAMEB Counselling and Mentorship Program works with secondary school guidance and counselling units to guide the students towards making better choices away from violence, cultism and other deviant activities, as well as provide them with life skills that will aid their thinking about future career opportunities and becoming role models among their peers.

TAMEB Counselling and Mentorship Program

We continued our Counselling and Mentorship program which was launched in September 2018. In addition to helping deviant youths, the program also mentors students who have displayed exceptional academic excellence and focus, in order to ensure that they make the right choices and do not derail from their aspirations and goals.

The program currently runs in two schools namely; Iloro Junior Grammar School and Agege Junior College, located in Agege local government area, Lagos State. During the year, the total number of students in the program rose from 114 to 144. The beneficiaries represent diverse ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds, which helps TAMEB foster its mission of peaceful and harmonious coexistence.

The counselling and mentorship program has recorded some positive impacts, among which is building a sense of belonging and trust between the beneficiaries and the TAMEB team. This has made the students more receptive to the program and more willing to discuss their personal and educational challenges. Also, the school administrators have observed positive changes in some of the deviant students in their attitude towards their education and other members of the school community.

“ Since the inception of the program in the school, some of the students that are still in the junior school have changed for the better and they are now more receptive towards being corrected. The students who were formerly under the program but are now in the senior section of the school have displayed signs of responsibility and cool-headedness.

-Mr. Olasupo

Agege Junior College, Agege,
Lagos.

“ The counselling program has helped me to understand the dangers of juvenile delinquencies, most especially after my friend was killed in a gang fight. Also, the sessions have allowed me open up to people who can counsel me about my choices and the effects they can have on my future.

- A Beneficiary of the program

In November 2019, the Lagos State Ministry of Education commended the efforts of the organization and gave us permission to extend the counselling and mentorship program to other secondary schools within the state.



The training program gave me a better approach on the issues of interfaith and peacebuilding which is birthed on humanity. I will also like there to be further trainings for both members and volunteers.

- Mr. Oborakpororo Ofuya
TAMEB Volunteer

In-House Staff and Volunteer Training

Highlights



Our volunteers are based in Lagos and Ibadan. This training gave them an opportunity to get to know each other and build a support network for a more efficient approach to coordination in their duties regardless of geographical differences



As part of the training and sensitization program, new staff and volunteers were helped to familiarize themselves with the organizational structure and hierarchy



Portfolio and roles were given to newly recruited staff and volunteers



Taking All Men Brother (TAMEB) volunteers from Ibadan and Lagos gathered for an in-house training on 21st October 2019. The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of TAMEB staff and volunteers, in order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of programs and service delivery.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Ramon Babamole. During the training, he enlightened the volunteers on the need to understand the organization's vision, mission and objectives, as this would help deliver effective results towards the progress of the organization. He further added that each volunteer has an impact to make to the organization.

The organizational hierarchy was graphically illustrated and explained to the new volunteers, so that they understand the various departments, duties and responsibilities, as well as how each individual fit into the structure.

The working relationships of the various departments were also explained for organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

Sheikh Abdulrahman Adangba, a member of the Board of Trustees, educated the volunteers on importance of interfaith tolerance and freedom of religion in building a harmonious society. He enlightened the volunteers on the relationship between culture and religion, as well as its significance to humanity. He highlighted the need for respect for humanity, human dignity and spirituality.

He also motivated the volunteers to inculcate the teachings into their lifestyles and commit to the vision and mission of TAMEB. The new volunteers were enthusiastic about working with TAMEB. They shared the various areas within the structure they can also function efficiently aside from their initially declared areas of interest.

Key Recommendations

- ❑ Routine training and upskilling of staff, members and volunteers to enable them carry out their duties in the most effective and time-efficient way.
- ❑ Broaden the scope of future trainings as we lay more groundwork for future expansion and growth

// **...the training was educative and impressive, I learnt how to communicate and interact with love. I intend to apply what I have learnt in carrying out my duties.**

-Ms. Seyifunmi Adefemi

2

days

29

contributors

6

in

10

interactions
were skewed
toward
interreligious
tolerance

Understanding Religion and its Positive Effects Webinar

It is a widely accepted notion that the fabric of society is woven with the threads of the four constants: family, religion, government and money. As the consensus converge on what the other fundamental elements (i.e. family, government, money) mean, symbolize or represent for different sections of society, mankind is yet split by their interpretations of what religion means. Today, many people associate with one form of religion or the other, it is therefore at the bifurcation of their beliefs that the strife, suffering and unpleasantness of modern humankind stem.

A religion is typically an organized approach to human spirituality which usually encompasses a set of narratives, beliefs, symbols and practices, often with a supernatural or transcendent quality that gives meaning to the practitioners' experiences of life through reference to a higher power. This may be expressed through prayer, ritual, meditation, music and art among other things. It may focus on specific supernatural, metaphysical, and moral claims about reality which may yield a set of religious laws and a particular lifestyle.

The differences between these laws and moral claims about reality is often the root cause of dispute and hostilities. Hence, we held a webinar where individuals from varying religious backgrounds met to discuss the positive effects of religion. The aim of that webinar was to gain a deeper insight into the levels of thought that shape perceptions of other religions different from ours. From the conversation during the webinar, we were able to extract nuggets of insight that has defined how we approach interreligious tolerance and advocacy.

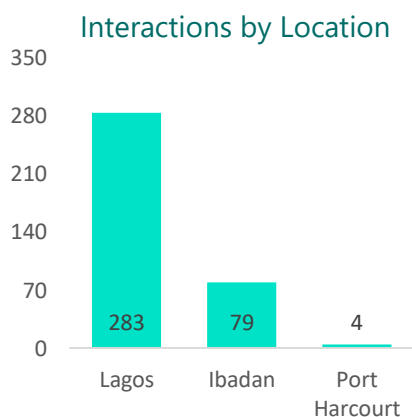


Chart 7: Volume of interactions from participants in varying locations

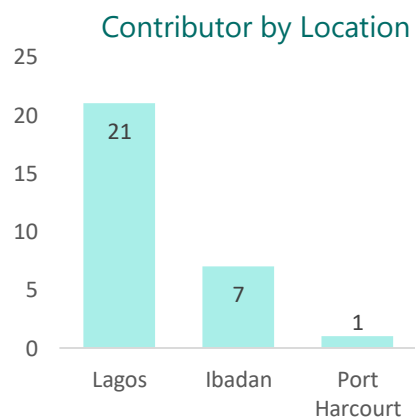


Chart 8: Active Contributors in varying locations

Top 10 Contributors

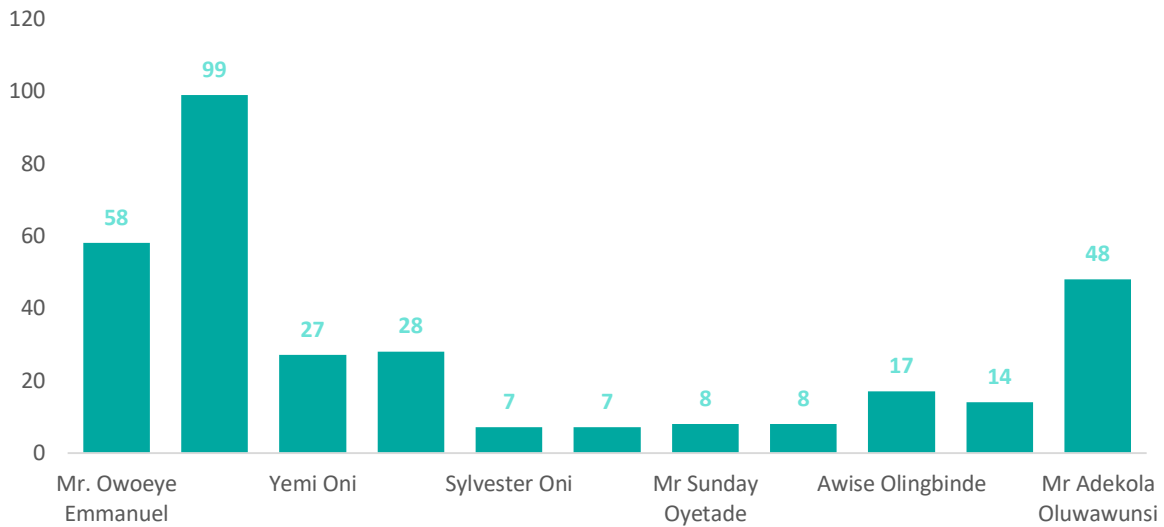


Chart 9: Chart showing the most relevant and frequent contributors during the webinar

Over the course of the webinar, 29 contributors across three states in Nigeria generated over 360 interactions in the ongoing conversation on the Understanding Religion and its positive effects Webinar. With wide ranging views on the same foundational concepts on Religion and tolerance, through text and media files, they made their voices heard.

The webinar shed more light on the gaps in the understanding of the need for interreligious tolerance and practical steps that need to be taken compared to those that have been taken.

Over the two days of the webinar, the need for more enlightenment and advocacy campaigns that shed more light on the delicate relationship between religions and the need to bridge the divide was made clearer. The understanding of religious tolerance concepts has not necessarily helped adherents become more open to understanding and appreciating the differences in their religions without resorting to a comparison or superiority contest based on their moral claims of reality.

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2019

Financial Report (Summary)

The financial year started on 1st January, 2019 and came to an end on the 24th December, 2019. Below are the break down;

Sources Of Funds	Amount
Board Chair	1,993,500
Donations	155,000
Total	₦2,148,500

All the funds used by the organization were donated by the chairperson of the board and members of the organization.

Throughout the year 2019, the organisation embarked on various project and programs. Below were the costs incurred:

Programs	Expenditure
Freedom of Religion Conference	1,783,700
Youth Counselling and Mentorship Program	101,000
Staff Training Program	141,000
Overhead and Administrative Cost	194,782
Total	₦2,220,482

Flow of Funds

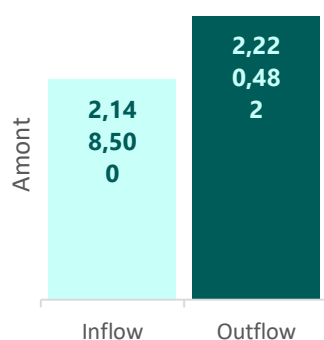


Chart 10: Income flow within the year in review

Proportion of Expenditure

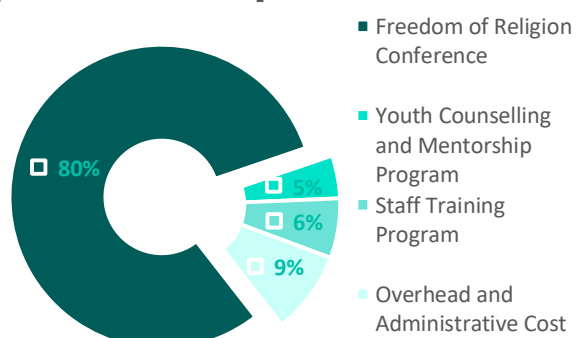


Chart 11: Proportion of funds in the varying expenditure projects.

Our Past Events

Over the past years, we have held multiple events, programs, conferences and workshops designed to educate, enlighten and stimulate conversations and friendly policies on interreligious tolerance and coexistence.

Maiden Interfaith Dialogue

2

Themes, "Who is God?" addressed how religion interprets the concept of the universal God and "How to help others in this economic climate" looked at non-monetary ways to help others.

62

Participants across the major triadic religions – Christianity, Islam, African Traditional Religions - in Nigeria were present.

21 January 2017

2nd Interfaith Dialogue

2

Themes, "Finding the Christian, Muslim and Traditional God" explored the channel through which each religion interprets and understand their God. "Social and economic implications of religious intolerance" explored the numerous positive effects of peaceful coexistence.

40

Percent increase from the maiden edition to a total of 103 participants.

22 April 2017

3rd Interfaith Dialogue



This interfaith dialogue was targeted at the youths, who are often left out of the policy and decision making that affect their lives. The themes discussed were "Religiosity and the Youths" and "Self-emancipation in a recession: beating the odds"



The 202.9% growth from our previous dialogue was a tremendous boon as we reached more young people across varying universities

23 September 2017

Women Empowerment Project

10

women were empowered with skills such as: manufacturing of soap (washing and bathing soaps), shampoo, clutch purse and auto-gele. The women were also taught basic business development skills as part of our women empowerment program. This Program launched our Skills and Acquisition Programme.



300



Participants

4th Interfaith Dialogue

The themes for the discussions on 17th March 2018 were "Nigeria: A Nation in Need of Healing" and "Who is Your Neighbour? How do we Impact Positively in Each Other's Lives?" The dialogue had over 300 attendees that cut across the major triadic religions in the country, representatives of media groups, as well as other civil society groups and the Honourable Commissioner for Lagos State Ministry of Home Affairs and Culture. The beneficiaries of the Women Empowerment Project were present at the fourth interfaith dialogue to present their products to the attendees who were potential customers.





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Twitter



Youtube



Website



Instagram



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