

## **2023: THE YOUTHS, DIFFERING OPINIONS, AND WOMEN PARTICIPATION.**

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Location: Zoom webinar.

Host: Lawyers Alert

### **• Webinar Objectives.**

As the 2023 election approaches, the questions of the youths, differing opinions, and women's participation are vital issues that can deepen democracy, yet largely unattended to.

The Youths form 65% of the registered voters in Nigeria, this is not only in regard to the 2023 election but also the preceding elections. Trends have shown that youths (men and women) have largely been unable to impact the elections and/or contest and win political offices.

The objective of the webinar was to have youth activists and the youth discuss issues, challenges, and way forward of the above.

The one-hour webinar was hosted by the Media officer of Lawyers Alert, Aishat Abdullahi, with three panelists, Miss Oluwatoyin Oladejo, Prince Okunade, and Ademola Emmanuel, having about 30 participants present.



- **Overview:**

The webinar was an enlightening one as participants acknowledged learning more in regard to the upcoming election and voting process in Nigeria.

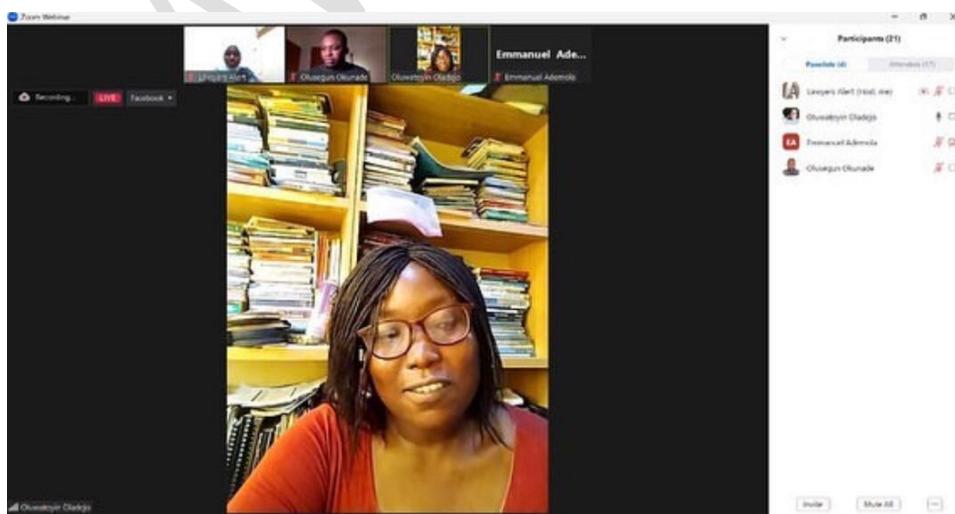
The Panelists gave deep insights as to the youth's preparedness towards the election, women's involvement, and participation, and also the need for tolerance of differing opinions, especially in the social media space.

Prince, the first speaker noted that the COVID-19 stay-at-home period triggered the active engagement of the youth especially on social media platforms.



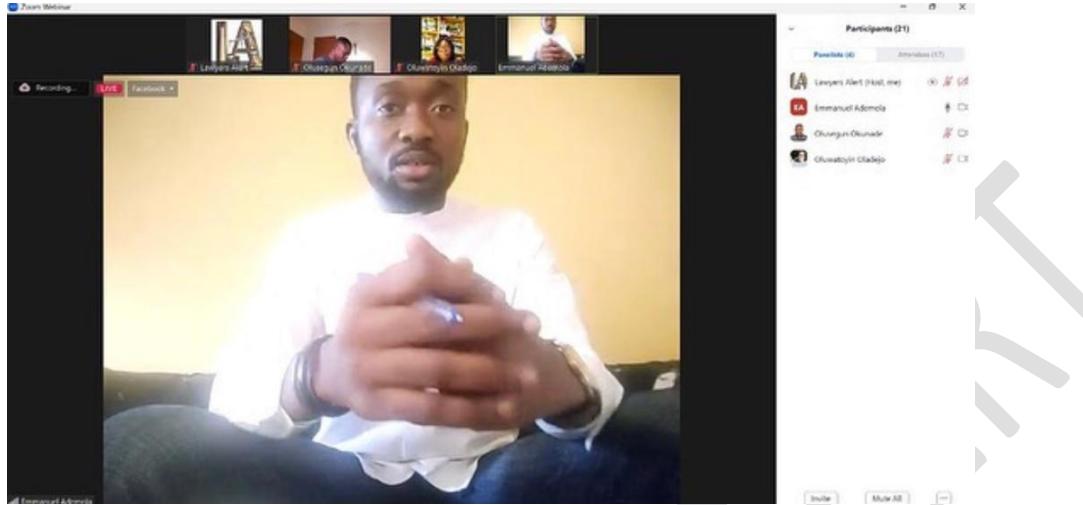
*First speaker: Prince*

Oluwatoyin the second speaker pressed on the need for grassroots sensitization and how eligible youths at the grassroots level need to understand the importance of exercising their voting rights during the voting period.



*Second speaker: Oluwatoyin*

In regards to issues about the majority of the youth having a preferred candidate, panelists while airing their views explained that the upcoming election is going to be a very free and fair one as different youths have their preferred candidates and will vote for the candidate who they believe is most qualified and eligible to lead.



*Third speaker: Ademola*

Also mentioned was the trend of using social media to spread fake news which has been causing both offline & online harm and inciting violence among citizens and should not be encouraged.

Miss Oluwatoyin a legal practitioner emphasized that cyberbullying and hate speech is a crime in Nigeria that is punishable and urges the youths to be wary of inciting negative issues on the social media space.

She mentioned that as much as there is a need for awareness for people to exercise their voting rights, it should be done in the right way.

As the conversation continues, we encourage us to continue to create more awareness in various capacities on the importance of voting and educating the youth more on the electoral system.

Remember your vote is your power to the change you desire. On the day of the election, go out and exercise your voting rights.

You can listen to the webinar recording via the link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vGWOQQHgsbQsSVIiigLhDnct4gfyc2J7jZWUMO3pm6UbMyuud3sFFgpZPdY4\\_KG.CeiIDJ26MCRd760G](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vGWOQQHgsbQsSVIiigLhDnct4gfyc2J7jZWUMO3pm6UbMyuud3sFFgpZPdY4_KG.CeiIDJ26MCRd760G)

Passcode: A1#!#8e2A