

## **COURTESY VISIT BY THE HOPE SISTERS AGAINST HIV/AIDS, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION INITIATIVE**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 2018, the Hope Sisters Against HIV/AIDS, Stigma and Discrimination Initiative, a Women-Led Grassroot Civic Group in Makurdi, Benue State paid a Courtesy Visit to Lawyers Alert Head Office in order to identify with the LA and strengthen the existing working relationship between both Organizations.

The group was led by Miss. Maria Okwoli, the Executive Director, she was received by Mr Lazarus

M. Ahangba, the Programs Manager of the Head Office. In her address, Miss. Okwoli prays LA for their assistance and support to the members of their group since the partnership started a few months ago. She said the visit was necessary owing to changes within the organization, especially at the leadership level. As a key partner and stakeholder to the Organization, it becomes pertinent to formally visit and intimate the Organization of the changes that had occurred within the period. She went ahead to create the indulgence of LA to continue with the support it has always given to the group even with this new leadership that they look forward to a harmonious relationship with LA going forward.



In response, Mr Lazarus, thanked the group for their visit and expressed delight over the group commitment to the course of Women Human Rights especially those of the most vulnerable which they represent. He promised LA will continue to work and partner with the group particularly in areas of mutual interests. Furthermore, he told the group that the offer to build the capacity of its members on Monitoring/Documentation of Human Rights Violations, Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights is still open and they can liaise with the appropriate officers in charge of those areas.



In addition, R.A. Hwande Esq mentioned the efforts of LA in providing pro bono services to vulnerable women and how they can also explore the same. He went ahead to give examples of past and recent incidences LA had offered pro bono to some members of their group in conflict with the law.

After this, the meeting came to an end with a vote of thanks by Miss. Okwoli. She thanked LA for finding time to host them and look forward to a better working relationship. Shortly after this, a group photograph was taken.



The meeting was fruitful and timely as it strengthened the working relationship between both organizations and further brought their staff closer together for more bonding and understanding amongst them.

