

# CHILDHOOD TRAUMA: THE EFFECT OF DOMESTIC ABUSE ON AFRICAN CHILDREN

**PROUD TO  
BE A 2025  
CHURCHILL  
FELLOW**



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## **Executive Summary**

Domestic abuse in African homes in the UK is on the rise, and this is causing so much emotional and mental trauma on children. My experience of working with victims of domestic abuse for almost 15 years in Greater Manchester (UK) shows that most African women will choose to stay in an abusive relationship due to a very high level of shame, stigma and isolation that they would face if they choose to leave which makes it very challenging, and this contributes to childhood trauma. The shame and stigma of being a single mother in the African community in the UK is one the major reasons women stay in an abusive home. While the women may be able to cope with abuse, the children are left with traumatic experiences that will eventually affect their wellbeing for a long time.

Domestic abuse in African households within the United Kingdom (UK) is a growing crisis, one that extends far beyond the immediate victims to leave a devastating and lasting imprint on the children who witness or experience it. This report presents the findings of a four-week Churchill Fellowship research journey undertaken in the United States of America (USA) and Nigeria, examining how communities in those countries are creating safe spaces, holistic recovery models, and culturally sensitive interventions for women affected by domestic abuse.

I set out to explore how African women are supported for them to be able to walk away using community engagement model and to come back to use the learning to influence policies, organisations on how to better support African women experiencing domestic abuse in the UK to be able to walk away, without fear or shame.

The research confirmed that childhood trauma resulting from domestic abuse is both widespread and deeply underreported within African diaspora communities in the UK. Shame, stigma, cultural expectations of family preservation, Immigration, and fear of social isolation act as powerful barriers to women seeking help and in so doing, inadvertently expose their children to repeated cycles of trauma.

The Fellowship visits revealed a rich body of international best practice from the Family Justice Center model in the USA and community-led healing frameworks in Nigeria and the USA. These approaches share a common thread, prioritising the child's voice, embedding trauma-informed

care across multiple systems, and engaging the non-abusive parent as the most powerful protective resource available.

**Key Recommendations Summary:**

- Establish dedicated Childhood Trauma Support Hubs within African community organisations in Greater Manchester.
- Embed mandatory trauma-informed training for all frontline workers, teachers, faith and community leaders, social workers, police, and healthcare staff.
- Fund and scale peer-led community advocacy programmes modelled on the USA's Survivor Advocate approach.
- Develop culturally specific resources and safe spaces that address the shame and stigma unique to African diaspora communities.
- Formally recognise children as primary victims in all domestic abuse service pathways, not secondary beneficiaries.

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*Fellowship or its partners, which have no responsibility or liability for any part of the report.*

## **Acknowledgements**

This research would not have been achievable without the generous support, trust, and open heartedness of many individuals and organisations. I am profoundly grateful to each of them.

I want to say a big thank you to The Churchill Fellowship for giving me the support, resources and the opportunity to travel for four weeks to USA and Nigeria to research my project. I also want to say a big thank you to the Trustees at Wonderfully Made Woman for permitting me the time to be away from work, and to the staff for covering in my absence.

Special thanks to Juliana Cambell, Omonor Gladys, Rofiyat Kareem, Bolu Kotun, Debbie Ariyo OBE, Melanie Bryan OBE DL.

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- Alma G Davis and the entire team at the Alma Domestic Violence Foundation
- Madeline Esezobor Osime
- Ella Ejutemieden and her team at Create Her Future (New York City and Nigeria)

### **Nigeria**

- Josephine Chukwuma and Nsini Udonta — Project Alert on Violence Against Women, Lagos
- Betty Abah — Founder, CEE-HOPE
- Joy Shokoya — Centre Manager, Mirabel Centre
- Patricia Otaigbe JP
- Barrister Paulyn O Abhulimen SAN — Abhulimen & Co, Arbitrators & Notaries Public

- Barrister Jane Egbo (DCR) — Director, Federal High Court, Asaba Division, Delta State
- Hon Commissioner; Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development , Edo State
- Pat Oseh — Founder, Moral Values and Ethics Support Foundation (MoVES) and her team: Martins U. Oviosun, Grace Ene Oghemeove Egajjive,
- Thanks to Mary Onome, Lulu Airudulu, Bethel Future, Showole Armah, Victoria Ibezim – Ohaeri and Bunmi Akin-Oni

## **About The Fellow**

Ehinor Otaigbe is the Founder and CEO of Wonderfully Made Woman, a charity that provides holistic support to women and girls who have experienced significant adversity, helping them build their confidence and support network, so they can thrive. A winner of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, an award equivalent to an MBE for their dedication and passion in supporting women in Greater Manchester.

Ehinor has over 15 years' practice experience in supporting victims of domestic abuse and has received many awards for her work. This includes, The Prime Minister's Point of Light award, and a Special recognition from Pride of Britain.

Ehinor was Appointed a Member Of The Order of the British Empire (MBE), in The King's New Year Honours list, for services to women in Greater Manchester.

Ehinor founded the charity in 2011 initially to support Nigerian women who were experiencing domestic abuse in Manchester and had no confidence to walk away or did not know what to do, these women had no recourse to public funds, and they were on their spouse's visa so, had little or no support to leave. Ehinor with her lived experience, decided to create a safe and supportive space for these women to be able get speak out and get help. The charity now supports all women regardless of ethnicity in Greater Manchester and beyond. She has been raising awareness on the effect of domestic abuse on women and children for the past 15years in the UK.

Ehinor is a British Certified trainer, she helps individuals and organisations to improve their performance, so they can become great leaders. An advocate in confidence building, a mental health first aider ,a UK Community researcher ,she is Part of the Greater Manchester Black and Asian Research Advisory Group (BRAG) advising on health research strategy and research projects facilitated by Vocal, The Greater Manchester Live Well community researcher, she is also a member of

The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network(BASNET) advocacy and research team.

Apart from working with women who have experienced domestic abuse, she also has lived experience of the chosen topic. She had experienced childhood trauma, but was able to overcome this. Her work within the community in Greater Manchester also motivated her to research this topic because many still have a fixed mentality on domestic abuse and find it hard to walk away. Unfortunately, some fail to realise the impact this has on their children.

Most African women usually stay in abusive marriages for their children and having that mentally to uphold a nuclear family that society portrays. However, they fail to realise that this has a negative impact on their children which can affect their upbringing and how they deal with it later in life.

The purpose of her research is to advocate more about childhood trauma, spread awareness about all the effects that it can have, and how to better support victims of abuse, to be able to walk away without fear or shame.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

#### 1.1 The Fellowship Purpose

Most African women usually stay in abusive marriages for their children and want to uphold a nuclear family that society portrays and seems to prefer. However, they fail to realise that this has a negative impact on their children's upbringing and how they deal with things later in life. My work within the community also motivated me to research this topic as many still have a fixed mentality on domestic abuse and find it hard to talk about it, and even when they do, they would rather stay.

Having spent 15 years working directly with victims of domestic abuse across Greater Manchester, I have observed first-hand how shame, stigma, and social isolation and of course immigration prevent African women from accessing the support they desperately need. This culture of silence does not protect children, it places them in the centre of a storm they are entirely ill-equipped to navigate.

#### 1.2 Defining the Scope: What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as abusive behaviour between two people aged 16 years or above that are personally connected to each other, regardless of whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct (pattern of behaviour). It may include one or more of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour

- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional and other forms of abuse

This definition created a legal framework that includes other forms of abuse, allowing those who experienced any type of abuse other than physical abuse to be formally recognised as victims.

### **1.3 The UK Landscape and Policy Framework**

Within the UK there are policies that deal with such issues. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 made it clear that children under 18 who see, hear or experience the effect of abuse are legally recognised as victims in their own right. Although the Act does implement effective measures to try and tackle abuse, there are still gaps that need to be filled. This research aims to gain more community support, as the majority of victims seek help within the community rather than from local authority.

The United Kingdom has made significant legislative and policy strides in tackling domestic abuse over the past decade. However, legislation alone cannot close the gap between policy intent and lived community reality. A critical shortfall remains the majority of victims particularly within African diaspora communities, do not seek help from statutory authorities. They turn first to community networks, faith leaders, and peer relationships.

### **1.4 The African Diaspora Context in the UK**

African women in the UK face a uniquely compounded set of barriers when it comes to leaving abusive relationships. Beyond the universal challenges of fear, financial dependency, and concern for children, they often contend with immigration status anxiety, the profound shame of being perceived as a 'failed wife' within their community, the threat of family and community ostracism, and cultural beliefs that frame endurance of hardship as a virtue.

For their children, the consequences are equally layered. These children are often navigating dual cultural identities, British by birth or upbringing, African by heritage and household expectation, while simultaneously managing the psychological fallout of exposure to violence and coercion at home.

## CHAPTER TWO

### METHODOLOGY OF GLOBAL LEARNING

#### 2.1 Research Approach and Design

This research was conducted using a qualitative, practice-based methodology, combining semi-structured interviews, site visits, direct observation, and reflective dialogue with practitioners, survivors, community and faith leaders, and government officers. The approach was deliberately rooted in lived experience,- recognising that the most transformative insights into domestic abuse and childhood trauma are rarely found in academic papers alone, but in the voices of those who have survived it and those who have dedicated their lives to addressing it.

#### 2.2 Countries and Organisations Visited

The four-week research visit encompassed two countries, each offering a distinct but complementary perspective on the core research question.

Country	Key Organisations	Focus Areas
USA (Atlanta and New York City)	Alma Domestic Violence Foundation; Create Her Future	Community advocacy models; Survivor-led service design; Family Justice Center approach
Nigeria (Lagos State, Edo State and Abuja)	Project Alert on Violence Against Women; CEE-HOPE; Mirabel Centre;	Legal frameworks; Community healing models; Cultural barriers; NGO best practice

Country	Key Organisations	Focus Areas
	<p>Abhulimen &amp; Co, Abitrators &amp; Notories Public of Federal Republic of Nigeria</p> <p>MoVES Foundation;</p> <p>Hon Commissioner Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Edo State</p>	

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON THE DEVELOPING CHILD**

#### **3.1 Neurobiological Implications**

One of the most striking revelations of this Fellowship was the weight of scientific evidence encountered consistently across both the USA and Nigeria regarding the neurobiological impact of early childhood exposure to domestic abuse. Trauma does not merely leave emotional scars, it fundamentally alters the developing brain.

Research shared by practitioners in the USA confirmed that children who are repeatedly exposed to domestic violence experience measurable changes in the structure and functioning of the brain's stress-response systems. The amygdala, the brain's alarm system becomes chronically hyperactivated. The prefrontal cortex, responsible for reasoning, impulse control, and emotional regulation, develops more slowly. The result is a child whose nervous system is effectively locked in a permanent state of threat-readiness, hypervigilant, reactive, and unable to fully engage with the safety and learning opportunities that school and social environments are intended to provide.

#### **3.2 The Psychological Burden**

Beyond the neurobiological, the psychological burden carried by children in domestically abusive homes is vast and multifaceted. Research and practitioner testimony gathered across both countries consistently identified the following patterns:

- Hypervigilance: A constant state of alertness, scanning the environment for danger even in safe settings.
- Emotional dysregulation: Difficulty managing strong emotions, outbursts of anger, tearfulness, or sudden withdrawal.
- Internalised trauma: Many children, absorb their distress inwardly presenting as withdrawn, anxious, or compliant.
- Parentification: Older children frequently assume adult responsibilities protecting younger siblings, managing a parent's emotional state.
- Normalisation of violence: Without intervention, children who grow up witnessing abuse come to understand violence and control as normal features of intimate relationships.
- Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD): Prolonged exposure creates a form of trauma response that is qualitatively distinct and requires specialist therapeutic approaches.

### **3.3 Educational and Social Outcomes**

The consequences of unaddressed childhood trauma extend deeply into educational performance and social development. Children from abusive homes arrive in school carrying a weight their teachers cannot see and are rarely trained to address.

In the classroom, this manifests as difficulty concentrating, poor memory consolidation, deteriorating academic performance, and frequent disciplinary issues that reflect dysregulation rather than defiance. In social settings, these children struggle to form trusting relationships with peers and adults alike.

Perhaps most alarmingly, the research confirmed a well-documented pattern of intergenerational cycle, without early skilled intervention, children who witness domestic abuse are statistically more likely to either experience or perpetrate abuse in their own future relationships. Childhood trauma affects many people and their daily lives even within their adulthood, some even become the abuser in order to seek revenge.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE AND INNOVATIONS

#### **4.1 Holistic Recovery Models — United States of America**

The USA provided some of the most advanced and well-resourced models for integrated domestic abuse and childhood trauma response. The Alma Domestic Violence Foundation, founded and led by Alma G Davis, and Ella Ejutemieden founder of Create Her Future, exemplifies a trauma-informed, survivor-centred approach that treats the entire family unit, mother and child together, rather than addressing their needs in isolation. The Family Justice Center model encountered during the USA visit was of particular interest. This is a co-location model in which legal, medical, therapeutic, housing, financial, and advocacy services are all housed under one roof. For a woman leaving an abusive relationship, the practical and psychological barriers of navigating multiple agencies are immense. The Family Justice Center removes those barriers entirely, enabling a survivor to access everything she and her children need in a single, safe visit.

A further key innovation observed in the USA was the formalisation of the Survivor Advocate role, trained practitioners who have themselves lived through domestic abuse and who are embedded within service teams. The impact of peer advocacy on survivor engagement cannot be overstated, a woman who has been told for years that her experience is

shameful responds very differently to someone who can truthfully say, “I have been where you are, and I know the way out.”

## **4.2 Community-Led Healing Frameworks — Nigeria**

Project Alert on Violence Against Women, led by Josephine Chukwuma and Nsini Udonta in Lagos, operates at the intersection of legal advocacy, community mobilisation, and survivor support. Their approach centres on engaging community gatekeepers, elders, faith leaders, and women's group leaders as agents of cultural change, rather than positioning them as obstacles to it.

**CEE-HOPE**, founded by Betty Abah, works with women and children directly providing safe spaces, psychosocial support, and child-friendly legal information to young people affected by violence in the home.

**The Mirabel Centre** in Lagos, a dedicated Sexual Assault Referral Centre demonstrated the power of specialist, purpose-built environments in enabling survivors to come forward.

**The MoVES Foundation** (Moral Values and Ethics Support Foundation), founded by Pat Oseh, presented a distinctive approach, using moral and ethical education frameworks within communities to challenge the value systems that normalise domestic abuse, rather than addressing only its symptoms.

## **4.3 Early Intervention Strategies**

Across both countries, the most consistently cited factor in positive childhood outcomes was the speed and quality of early identification. In the USA, several school districts visited had embedded trauma-informed screening protocols for all children entering the school system. In Nigeria,

community health workers trained by CEE-HOPE and Project Alert were conducting home visit programmes in high-risk neighbourhoods.

#### **4.4 Engaging the Non-Abusive Parent**

A recurring theme in both countries was the critical importance of the non-abusive parent, almost always the mother as the single most powerful protective factor in a traumatised child's recovery. The Alma Foundation's model in the USA was particularly instructive, mothers and children participate in parallel but connected therapeutic programmes, with regular joint sessions designed to restore the mother-child bond. The message that healing the mother heals the child was one of the most profound insights of the entire Fellowship.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **KEY FINDINGS: THE GLOBAL TRUTHS**

#### **5.1 The Importance of Early Identification**

The most consistent finding across all sites visited whether in the USA or Nigeria was unequivocal, early identification saves lives and transforms outcomes. Every practitioner, researcher, and survivor advocate encountered during the Fellowship emphasised that the earlier a child is identified as being affected by domestic abuse, the greater the probability of a full and healthy developmental recovery.

Early identification requires two things that are currently in short supply in UK services, and almost entirely absent from African diaspora community contexts, first, professionals who are trained to recognise the signs of trauma, and second, pathways that are trusted, accessible, and culturally safe enough that families will actually use them.

#### **5.2 Moving from Trauma-Informed to Trauma-Responsive**

A significant insight from the Fellowship was the distinction articulated with particular clarity by practitioners in the USA between being trauma-informed and being trauma-responsive. Trauma-informed means understanding, intellectually, the impact of trauma. Trauma-responsive means organising the entire structure, culture, and practice of a service around that understanding.

### **5.3 The Role of Lived Experience in Service Design**

Perhaps the most powerful recurring theme of the entire Fellowship was the indispensable role of lived experience in the design and delivery of services. In every country visited, the most effective organisations were those led by, or substantially shaped by, people who had themselves experienced domestic abuse and its consequences.

### **5.4 The role of Faith leaders**

The role of faith leaders cannot be ignored. Many women who experienced domestic abuse will first go to their faith leaders, to seek help. The leaders should be trained on how to better support victims

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **TRANSLATING INSIGHTS TO UK PRACTICE**

#### **6.1 Strategic Policy Recommendations**

The following strategic recommendations are directed at national and regional policymakers, including the Home Office, the Department for Education, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and NHS commissioners.

##### **Recommendation 1: Recognise Children as Primary Victims**

Fully operationalise the Domestic Abuse Act 2021's recognition of children as victims in their own right. This must be reflected in funding allocations, service commissioning requirements, and outcome frameworks, not merely in legislative language.

##### **Recommendation 2: Fund Community-Based Childhood Trauma Hubs**

Commission and fund dedicated Childhood Trauma Support Hubs within established African diaspora community organisations. These hubs should offer integrated therapeutic, advocacy, and practical support in a culturally safe environment, modelled on the Family Justice Center approach observed in the USA.

### **Recommendation 3: Mandate Trauma-Responsive Training**

Make trauma-responsive practice training mandatory for all professionals working with children and families in education, health, social care, and policing. Training must be co-developed with lived experience practitioners and updated regularly to reflect emerging evidence.

### **Recommendation 4: Invest in Survivor Advocacy**

Develop a funded, accredited Survivor Advocate programme in Greater Manchester, modelled on the USA approach. Survivor advocates should be embedded in schools, GP surgeries, housing providers, and community centres, serving as trusted bridges between vulnerable families and statutory services.

## **6.2 Operational Recommendations for Frontline Workers**

- Ask the question: Professionals must be empowered and required to ask sensitively and directly about domestic abuse and its impact on children. Silence is not safety.
- Believe and record: When a child or parent discloses, believe them. Document accurately and completely. Inconsistent recording is one of the most common failures in domestic abuse case management.
- Think child, not just case: In every interaction, the child's lived experience not the bureaucratic process must be the organising principle.

- Partner with community: Build genuine, equal partnerships with African diaspora community organisations. They are not referral endpoints, they are co-providers of support with irreplaceable cultural insight.
- Challenge your assumptions: Professionals must examine their own cultural biases including assumptions that African families are 'resistant to help'.

### **6.3 Barriers to Implementation**

- Funding Constrains: Public sector austerity has depleted domestic abuse services severely over the past decade. Community organisations are surviving on short-term grants and volunteer labour.
- Workforce Capacity: Social work and education workforces are stretched beyond sustainable limits. Mandating new training without addressing workload is counterproductive.
- Cultural Resistance: Within African diaspora communities, there remains deep resistance to external intervention in family matters. Changing this requires sustained, relationship-based community engagement over years, not months.
- Data Gaps: There is insufficient ethnicity-disaggregated data on domestic abuse and childhood trauma in the UK. Without this, it is impossible to make a robust evidence-based case for targeted investment.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

#### **7.1 Final Reflections**

This Churchill Fellowship has been a transformative professional and personal experience. Travelling to the United States and Nigeria, sitting with practitioners, survivors, advocates, lawyers, and faith/community leaders has deepened the Fellow's understanding of childhood trauma in ways that 15 years of UK-based frontline work, valuable as that has been, could not have achieved alone.

The silence surrounding domestic abuse in African communities is not unique to the UK diaspora. It is a global pattern, rooted in patriarchal cultural norms, religious frameworks, economic dependency, and the criminalisation of vulnerability. But it is also and this is the note of profound hope upon which this report closes, a pattern that is being successfully disrupted, by courageous women and men in communities around the world who have decided that silence is no longer acceptable.

The Fellow returns to Manchester carrying specific, evidenced, actionable insights and an amplified sense of urgency. The children affected by domestic abuse in African diaspora communities in the UK are not invisible. The report is a call to begin to raise more awareness to victims on the importance of walking away.

#### **7.2 Dissemination Plan**

- Publication and distribution of this report through Wonderfully Made Woman's networks and The Churchill Fellowship platform.

- Presentation of key findings to Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Domestic Abuse and VAWG strategic board.
- Development of a community-facing summary document in accessible language for distribution within African diaspora communities across Greater Manchester.
- Hosting of a cross-sector Learning Event in Greater Manchester, and across The UK bringing together statutory agencies, community organisations, Faith and community leaders and lived experience practitioners.
- Submission of key policy recommendations to the Home Office Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office.
- Development of a training module co-designed with Survivor Advocates on culturally responsive childhood trauma identification, for delivery within schools and community settings.
- Write a book on the topic in a simple way that can be read by anyone
- Create a UK Anti Domestic Abuse Network that will bring professionals, community and faith leaders, people with lived experience together to come together, sign up to be community advocate to continue to support and encourage victims of domestic abuse to walk away.

## FIELD RESEARCH: PHOTO GALLERY

The following photographs document Ehinor Otaigbe's research visits to the United States of America and Nigeria as part of the 2025 Churchill Fellowship.

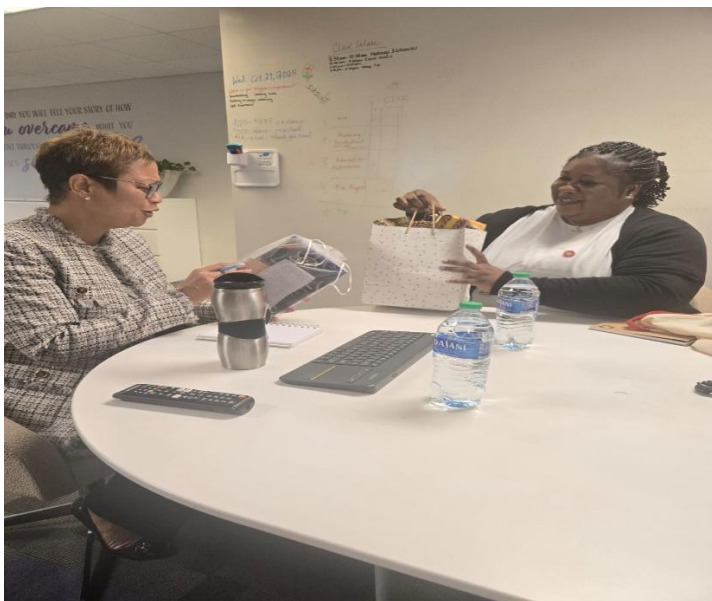
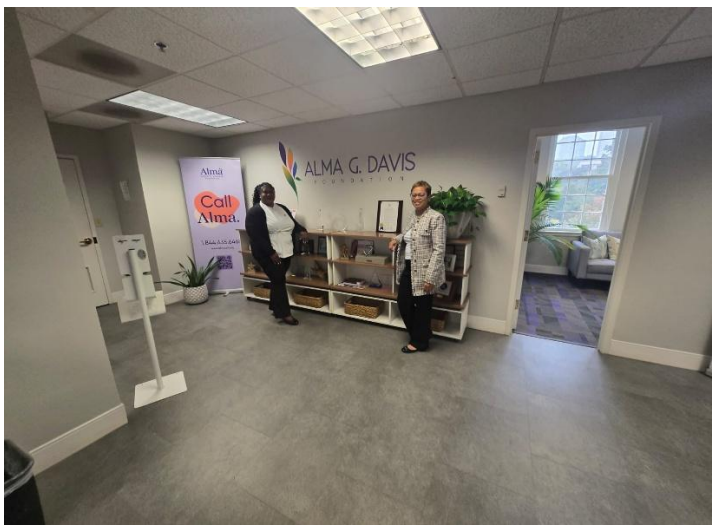
### United States of America



Picture 1: Fellow's Arrival at New York City (NYC)



Picture 2: Meeting with Create Her Future Organisation NYC



Pictures 3, 4 & 5: Meeting with Alma Domestic Violence Foundation Atlanta

## Nigeria



Picture 6: Meeting with Project Alert on Violence Against Women Lagos, Nigeria



Picture 7: Individual Interviews Abuja, Nigeria



Pictures 8,9 & 10: Meetings with legal practitioners in Abuja, Nigeria.



Pictures 11 & 12: Meeting with CEE – HOPE Nigeria.



Pictures 13 14 & 15: Individual Interviews Abuja, Nigeria



Picture 15 &16: Dinner with family



Picture 17: Fellow's note taking



Picture 18: Mirabel Center Lagos Nigeria.





Pictures 19, 20, 21 & 22: MoVES Foundation, Abuja Nigeria



Picture 23: Farwell to friends and family at Abuja Airport, Nigeria

## Fellow's Personal Reflections



**the  
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**Ehinor Otaigbe**  
2025 CHURCHILL FELLOW

”  
**A woman walking  
away from abuse is  
not breaking her  
home; she is  
protecting her life  
and her child's  
future.**  
”

**#SafetyOverStigma**

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CHURCHILL  
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**Ehinor Otaigbe**  
2025 CHURCHILL  
FELLOW



**No stigma is more  
dangerous than the one  
that convinces a woman  
to stay where her life is  
at risk.**



#SafetyOverStigma

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**No woman should  
be asked to  
endure Abuse in  
the name of  
motherhood**

#SafetyOverStigma



**Ehinor Otaigbe**

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**Ehinor Otaigbe**

2025 CHURCHILL FELLOW

“ Staying in an abusive home for the sake of children often exposes them to the very harm we are trying to protect them from. ”

#SafetyOverStigma

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CHURCHILL  
fellowship



**Endurance is not strength when it places lives in danger.**



#SafetyOverStigma



**Ehinor Otaigbe**

2025 Churchill Fellow



**Ehinor Otaigbe**  
2025 CHURCHILL  
FELLOW



**No stigma is more dangerous than the one that convinces a woman to stay where her life is at risk.**



#SafetyOverStigma



**Leaving an abusive home is never easy. It takes courage, support, and understanding. Choosing safety is not failure—it is protection.**

#SafetyOverStigma



**Ehinor Otaigbe**  
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“ When a woman stays for the sake of the children, the trauma of the abuse stays with the children too ”

**Ehinor Otaigbe**  
**2025 CHURCHILL**  
**FELLOW**

**#SafetyOverStigma**

## Appendices

### Appendix A

#### Fellowship Itinerary

Week	Location	Key Activities
Week 1 & 2	USA	<p>Site visit: Alma Domestic Violence Foundation; interviews with Alma G Davis Ella Ejutemieden from Create Her Future Foundation</p> <p>Community forum attendance; observation of survivor advocacy programme</p>
		<p>review of Family Justice Center model; interviews with Madeline Esezobor Osime (school-teacher) ,faith and community leaders</p>
Week 3&4	Nigeria	<p>Project Alert on Violence Against Women; (Nsini Udonta)</p> <p>CEE-HOPE (Betty Abah)</p> <p>Mirabel Centre (Joy Shokoya)</p> <p>meetings with Patricia Otaigbe JP; Barrister Paulyn O Abhulimen SAN</p>

		<p>Federal High Court Asaba (Barrister Jane Egbo DCR</p> <p>MoVES Foundation ;(Pat Oseh</p> <p>community forums; interviews with Mary Onome, Lulu Airudulu, Bethel Future, Showole Armah;</p>
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## Appendix B

### Case Studies (Anonymised)

#### **Case Study 1: The Family Justice Center Model (USA)**

A co-location model in which legal, medical, therapeutic, and advocacy services are provided under one roof. Survivors can access a duty solicitor, a trauma therapist, a housing officer, and a survivor advocate in a single visit, dramatically reducing the number of appointments required and the risk of disengagement. Outcomes data from partner sites shows significantly higher rates of successful prosecutions, higher rates of safe housing placements, and markedly lower rates of children entering the care system.

#### **Case Study 2: CEE-HOPE Child Rights Programme (Nigeria)**

A community-embedded child rights and safety programme delivering psychosocial support, legal literacy, and peer support to children aged 8–17 affected by violence in the home. Delivered through schools, youth

clubs, and faith community spaces, the programme reaches children who would never present to formal services.

### **Case Study 3: Survivor Advocate Integration (USA)**

A trained survivor advocate, a woman with lived experience of domestic abuse, embedded within a statutory children's services team. Teams using this model reported higher rates of family engagement, reduced repeat referrals, and significantly improved practitioner satisfaction.

## **Appendix C**

### **Glossary of Key Terms**

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences: stressful or traumatic events occurring in childhood that have been shown to have lasting effects on health and wellbeing.
BASNET	British BME Anti-Slavery Network.
BRAG	Black and Asian Research Advisory Group: Greater Manchester health research advisory body.
CEE-HOPE	Community Education and Empowerment: Hope for Orphaned and Poverty-stricken children and Elderly.
Complex PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder arising from prolonged, repeated trauma: as distinct from single-incident PTSD.
DA	Domestic Abuse.
FJC	Family Justice Center: an integrated co-location service model for domestic abuse survivors.
MoVES	Moral Values and Ethics Support Foundation.
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds: an immigration condition preventing access to most public benefits.

Trauma-Informed Care	An approach that recognises and responds to the impact of trauma in all aspects of service design and delivery.
Trauma-Responsive Practice	A deeper level of systemic commitment: redesigning the entire service structure around the needs of traumatised individuals.
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls.