

Identity Statement: ASPIR is a non profit Christian organisation that advocates and supports prisoners and indigents (less privileged and the oppressed in the society).

Core Values

1. Commitment to Service- *making yourself available to those in need.*
2. Love and Care- *showing compassion to those we meet.*
3. Integrity- *being honest in day to day running.*
4. Team work- *working together to achieve a common purpose.*
5. Justice- *treating people right.*

Vision Statement: Envisions a dynamic non profit Christian based organisation known for its advocacy and support of prisoners and indigents.

Mission Statement: To speak for and defend the rights of less privileged prisoners and indigents to obtain justice and freedom.

Priority: The following are the priority areas:

1. Facilities
2. Man power
3. Finances
4. Partnership
5. Planning

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Brief History:

ASPIR began as a burden which the CEO, Cecilia Joshua Tuwan had concerning the pathetic condition of prisoners in Nigeria Prisons, where some will be kept without trial for as long as 2, 3, 4, up to even 10 years and above. This usually happened due to the poverty stricken nature of the prisoner who cannot afford to hire a lawyer to get him on bail nor to defend him on trial. Indigents in the society are being oppressed by those that feel they have the instruments of coercion or most privileged or more exposed in the society, their oppressors will even take possession of the properties of indigents and boast to them that they can do nothing, since the indigents have no influence or economic strength to hire a lawyer. Indigents are mostly uneducated and their children grow up to be the same since their parents cannot send them to school due to poverty, therefore the cycle of oppression continues. The vision came to her by the inspiration in the Bible verse, which states thus, “open your mouth, judge righteously defend the right of the poor and needy”... proverb 31: 8-9.

This instruction in proverb 31: 8-9 opened her heart to the need in our prisons, police stations, Young Peoples Home (where the under aged suspects are kept) It is a fact that the number of prisoners under awaiting trial in prison, Young Peoples Home and people in police detention are more in number than the persons under trial and those convicted and are serving their terms.

Those that are convicted for offences that have options of fine spent long jail terms which would have been avoided if they could afford to pay their fines.

The longer an inmate spent in prison, Young Peoples Home and police stations, the more criminal tendency the person develop as a result of what the person see, hear or experience.

This burden came while she was in law school; she decided that with the help of God she will support, represent and defend the rights of prisoners and indigents in future when she has reasonable resources.

When the Director completed law school she did private practice for 3 years and worked as a prosecutor with the Ministry of Justice Plateau State Nigeria from 2006, then ASPIR begin operation where the Director was using part of her monthly salary to aid a volunteering lawyer to represent prisoners and indigents in court and otherwise. In the process, Individuals and some churches became involved by supporting her with donations, these lead to the legal registration of ASPIR in 2008 with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) with the registration number 25252.

In 2009 she withdrew her services with the State Ministry of Justice as a prosecutor to be fully involved in ASPIR.

ASPIR staffs are mostly volunteers because of the inability to pay salaries; by the grace of God as the funds improve we shall have permanent employees.

ASPIR SERVICES:

A. Indigents' rights:

1. Indigents Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs) in prison spend unnecessary long period wasting their youthful potentials away without school and any skill acquired to help them become useful in the society when finally they leave prison, this is because they cannot afford to hire a lawyer to represent them secure their Bail or commence a full trial.
2. Inadequate facilities and balance diet for the under-aged in the young people's home (where the underage accused and suspects are kept) affect these under aged psychologically and otherwise and they end up becoming adults in that condition due to the fact that their parents or guardians cannot afford to hire a lawyer. They need legal

representation and nutritious food.

3. The people in police detention spend several months in the cell, since they are indigent mostly and cannot afford to hire a lawyer, they are often times at the mercy of the police who maltreated and tortured them.

4. The people that are convicted and have option of fine spend long jail term because they are indigents who cannot afford to pay the fine, even when it is a very small amount.

5. The oppressed indigents in our society whose rights are infringed upon and their properties are forcefully claimed by their oppressors or are maltreated in any form need legal representation.

- B. Advocacy:** The society where we live need to know their fundamental and civic rights and their corresponding liabilities, also we create awareness on the work of Advocacy for the Support of Prisoners and Indigents Rights (ASPIR) to enable people find help in areas we are involve. Ignorance is one of the reasons why the rights of indigents are being infringed.
- C. Education:** It is the right of every child to go to school, but the indigent children and youths in our society are mostly not enrolled in school or are drop out due to poverty or persecution, their rights to education and progress is thwarted; therefore they need to be given education.
- D. Skills acquisition:** The indigent youths and adults in our society need skill acquisition that will enable them end a living and be responsible and avoid being vulnerable in our society
- E. Discipleship/Counselling:** The people that are out of prison, police detention, or under aged home detention or those in need of education or skills or food or clothing or shelter or any form of help ASPIR rendered, there is something that is most important of all, that is there relationship with Jesus Christ, how to leave and affect others positively.
- F. Peace building & Conflict resolution:** We prefer people settled their difference amicably without recourse to court except where it is impossible. These encourage peaceful co-existence and avoid loss or win nature of court which sometimes creates enmity.
- G. Distribution of Relief Materials:** We distribute relief materials to Indigents in dear need and especially those Christians affected by the incessant crisis in our country.

ACTIVITIES:

Our activities include advocating/representation in court, going to police stations, young peoples home and other relevant places on behalf of indigents/less privilege detainees, resolving conflicts out of court, advocating, organizing fundamental and civic rights awareness in urban and rural areas, counselling, presenting Jesus Christ salvation message to clients, disciple making of those saved, teaching, skill training acquisition, rehabilitating, confidence building, facilitating workshops and seminars, conferencing, empowering those that have acquired skills, distribution

of food and clothing and any other reliefs that we can afford to indigents we are ministering to who have such needs.

WAYS TO DONATE:

A. Those in Nigeria can:

Send their contribution to;

Account No: 2013553065

Account Name: Advocacy for the Support of Prisoners and Indigents Rights (ASPIR)

Bank Name: First Bank of Nigeria PLC.

SORT (Branch) CODE: 011202004

B. Those outside Nigeria can;

Send their contribution to:

Correspondent Bank Name: HSBC, London,

SWIFT CODE: MIDLGB22XXX

Beneficiary Institution: First Bank of Nigeria PLC Lagos

Account No: 39146516

Customer Name: Advocacy for the Support of the Prisoners and Indigents Rights.

Branch: Jos Main

Sort (Branch) Code: 011202004

Account No: 2013553065

C. You can come to our office with your contributions, if you can.

Be a wise Steward: Find out how you can be a wise steward of what our Lord has entrusted to you.

CONTACT US

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If you have any questions about the ministry of ASPIR, please don't hesitate to contact us.