Women, Intergroup Conflict Management and Peacebuilding: Study of Selected Communities in Southeast of Nigeria

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In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in International Relations (Peace and Conflict Studies)

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Certification

This is to certify that Lilian Nnenne AKHANOLU with matriculation number LCU/PG/002405 carried out this research work titled "Women, Intergroup Conflict Management and Peacebuilding: Study of Selected Communities in Southeast of Nigeria" in the Department of Politics & International Relations, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo state, for the award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in International Relations and that this has not been previously submitted.

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Dr. Adebola Alade **Head of Department**	**Date**

Dedication

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty.

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Even though the above institutions and persons have assisted in this research work, I alone stand responsible for errors, if any, found in this work.

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Abstract

Conflict is part of life and inevitable especially in relating with one another in any given situation. The way conflict is managed and/or resolved, either positively or negatively is very essential to human relations. In the pre-colonial times, women were part of various peacebuilding initiatives though it differed in level of involvement and participation with various ethnic or communities. Women contributed to the management of conflict through many communal initiatives, formal and informal means. For instance, Mrs Funmilayo Ransome Kuti, an activist who motivated others in the fight against oppression, imperialism and gender inequality. However, during the colonial era, women's roles in conflict management and peacebuilding became underrated and not until the recent times are there improvements in those roles. Igbo women in the Southeast of Nigeria have been contributing to conflict management and peacebuilding, and contrary to the general belief that they are not allowed to have a voice in these aspects in their communities, this study examines their roles in conflict management and peacebuilding in their communities. The study adopted Snail-sense feminism theory which states that the movement of a snail is slow but steady and likewise the efforts and contribution of women to peacebuilding. Primary and secondary sources of data were used to gather information for the study. Interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with members of three communities from three state in the Southeast, Nigeria. The study found out that women get involved in certain conflicts such as stealing, fighting, infidelity between couples and cases such as murder are left for the law enforcement agents to handle. Likewise, when they fail to resolve a conflict, they refer it to the elders or ultimately the Obi Eze, the traditional rulers in the community. The study concluded that Igbo women are peacebuilders and they are also as proactive and reactive in peacebuilding as their male counterparts, all for the progress of their communities. The study therefore recommends that women should be given more opportunities and participation in these peacebuilding initiatives. And that they should be made agents of peace by giving them more support in the politics of the region which can be achieved by the region giving some percentage of slots to women for the Houses of Assembly. This will greatly trigger more participation of women in politics and consequently showcase them in peacebuilding at state levels instead of being village and clans' champions alone. Also, girl child education which will empower the women to do more in the future should be prioritized in the communities.

Keywords: Women, Conflict Management, Peacebuilding, Southeast.
Word Count: 420

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
ASUU	Academic Staff Union of Universities
AU	African Union
AUC	Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CMS	Church Missionary Society
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration
ELN	National Liberation Army
EPL	Popular Liberation Army
EU	European Union
FAR	Habyarimana's Rwandan Armed Forces
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GNU	Government of National Unity
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
IDI	In-Depth Interview
INDEPAZ	Institute for Development and Peace Studies
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra
JPS	Joint Problem Solving

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LGA	Local Government Area
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
LURD	Liberian United for Reconciliation and Democracy
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MODEL	Movement for Democracy in Liberia
MRND	National Revolutionary Movement for Development
NGNC	Nation Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NMA	Nigerian Medical Association
NPFL	National Patriotic Front of Liberia
NUJ	Nigerian Union of Journalists
RDRC	Rwandan Demobilization and Reintegration Commission
RPF	Rwandan Patriotic Front
RUF	Revolutionary United Front
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
TV	Television
ULIMO	United Liberation Movement of Liberia
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNIMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNSCR	United Nation Security Council Resolution

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