



NCMG International

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**CATEGORY: OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN PEACEBUILDING**

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**MS. FATIMA KYARI MOHAMMED**

FOUNDER/COORDINATOR, THE LIKEMINDS PROJECT

Ms. Kyari Mohammed is trained in Peace, Security, Development and Conflict Transformation (MA, University of Innsbruck, Austria), Sustainable Economic Development (MA, UN University of Peace, Costa Rica), and Business Communication (MBA, European University, Switzerland) and holds a BA in Environmental Design from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. Since her early student days, Fatima Kyari Mohammed has been nourished by reflections and ideas on the political history of Nigeria that have enabled her to shape her views on the importance of the individual in development and her involvement a few years later in Nigerian civil society. In addition to English she speaks fluent French, Hausa, and Kanuri and has a basic knowledge of Arabic and Spanish.

**CAREER**

Ms Mohammed has worked as a Special Advisor to the ECOWAS Commission with over 10 years' experience working with ECOWAS and its institutions in different capacities with a focus on Peace and Security, Regional Integration and Organizational Development; she was also nominated as Nigeria and ECOWAS Candidate for Commissioner, Peace & Security, African Union Commission in the 2017 AU elections. Prior to joining ECOWAS, she was the Executive Director at West Africa Conflict and Security Consulting (WACAS), a member of the International Conflict and Security (INCAS) Consulting Ltd (Malta), a family of regional consulting companies that work at the intersection of security, research, development, and investment in conflict-affected and fragile areas.

Fatima has previously worked as a Programme Manager, Regional Cooperation for West Africa at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS; and as Regional Project Manager for Security Policy Projects in West Africa with the Friedrich Ebert

Stiftung. Her thematic expertise includes: Peace & Security, Conflict Prevention & Transformation, Gender, Regional Integration, and Socio-Economic Development.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS**

Ms. Fatima K. Mohammed has contributed to the development of Peace, Security and Development in Nigeria and across the Sub-region through the various roles and her various activities over the past decade and half. On the Community level, through the founding of the LikeMinds Project in 2006 Ms. Mohammed with the support of her team and a number of volunteers have set up several key programmes to promote peace, human security, and development in Nigeria. These include:

- a. Volunteers for Peace – Is the flagship programme of this initiative, which promotes community development and citizen engagement by creating a framework for citizens to engage and contribute to the development of their communities. This mechanism for promoting volunteerism has mobilised hundreds of volunteers over the years and continues to do so.
- b. The Vulnerable Communities Programme – Is the framework through which the organisation advocates for the basic human rights of the most vulnerable and also mentored activists from within the communities served. A number of key projects are currently running under this programme including:
  - Support to Orphanages and Schools for Children with special needs such as the Jabi School for Blind Children, Abuja.
  - Support to Internally Displaced Persons from Northeast Nigeria – working with several IDP groups both in and outside the official camps in and around the FCT, Adamawa, and Borno providing food and non-food relief items to thousands of families through the ‘Food for Humanity’ project.
  - Women’s Empowerment, Rehabilitation, & Inclusion Scheme (WE RISE) - dedicated to empowering women both economically and socially through skills, training and income generation activities in order to address the immediate economic challenges faced by IDP families with a specific focus on socioeconomic reintegration of Widows.

- For the Children' - giving long-term support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) to provide Shelter, Education, Nutrition, Support for Health and wellbeing, and Encouragement.
- Youth Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme - building a medium to long-term sustainable solution to address the needs of youth in the country. The pilot project focuses on IDP Youth from Northeast Nigeria.



### **MRS. YANA GALANG**

CO-FOUNDER, WOMEN LEADER

“PARENTS OF THE ABDUCTED GIRLS FROM CHIBOK”

Mrs. Yana Galang was born on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1968. She attended Women Teachers College from 1980 to 1985 and had an additional one year certificate course in 2002 under the adult education platform. She is married to Mr. Galang Pogu and is blessed with eight children, one of whom is Rifkatu Galang, one of the 276 female students abducted on April 14, 2014 when the Boko Haram insurgents stormed their boarding school in the village of Chibok, in northeastern Nigeria during the week of their final exams. Yana Galang is the Women Leader of the “Parents of the Abducted Girls from Chibok Association”. An Association created in the aftermath of the abductions.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Yana and the other officials of the *Parents of the Abducted Girls from Chibok Association* regularly organize peace and security talks in their community, giving advice to the youth and organizing for well-meaning citizens to have access to and help indigenes.
- She is also actively involved in spearheading wider reaching peace building activities through women’s groups, youth groups and through public awareness meetings. She serves as a community facilitator in peace building and community mobilizer. At great risk, Yana creatively and courageously continues to pursue peace as an end to the insurgency raging their town, standing strong in the face of great loss and devastation, standing in the gap and weaving threads of God’s mercy into the fabric of everyday life of the other parents of the missing girls. 106 of these girls have returned but Yana’s daughter remains at large.
- In the midst of the uncertainty of the state of her daughter and the remaining missing girls, Yana continues to religiously and courageously lead her people in the path of faith. She has also continued in her duties by engaging in meaningful meetings and activities with the representatives of the Federal Government towards securing the timely release of the girls.
- She is on the road from Chibok to Abuja or to Lagos, continually in search of means to bring back our girls. She has put her tears in check, knowing that most of the parents of

the girls look up to her for strength, counsel, support and guidance to carry on. She visits the affected families, ensuring that everyone is faring well and escalating negative issues to concerned citizens and foundations towards getting solution and assistance. You will find her responding to issues that have to do with deaths, child births, illnesses and other issues that have affected these ailing mothers and fathers, being their strongest advocate in these situations. She continually seeks and facilitates whatever help or support is to be to these citizens. 106 of these girls have returned but Yana's daughter remains at large.

- Yana's psychosocial support helps transform her people into active survivors rather than passive victims of the boko haram attacks. Yana gives counseling to the girls that returned, especially those that returned with children, aimed at stamping out perceptible stigmatization so that they can live with hope and dignity. She encourages them to move on with life and in many cases, convincing them to enroll back into school. She personally takes the siblings of the missing girls who have been awarded scholarships to school and tasked herself with the responsibility of school visits for each one of them. She also travels the distance to bring them back home during holidays, ensuring that the children have love, care and protection. She has helped those families gather their strength and assist them in continuing to forge ahead despite the heartbreak and burden of the last 3 years.

Mrs. Yana Galang is at every identification exercise and has remained consistent in her belief that one day, she and all the other parents of the abducted Chibok girls would be united with their missing daughters.

**MS. AYO OBE (NÉE OGUNSOLA)**

PARTNER, OGUNSOLA SHONIBARE

Mrs. Ayo Obe is a legal practitioner and partner in the Lagos-based law firm, Ogunsola Shonibare. She was President of the Civil Liberties Organization, Nigeria's oldest indigenous human rights organization, from 1995 to 2003, a period spanning the despotic rule of General Sani Abacha and Nigeria's return to civilian rule in May 1999. From 1999 to 2001, she chaired the Transition Monitoring Group, an election-monitoring/democracy-building coalition of independent Nigerian NGOs. She represented Nigerian Human Rights NGOs on the country's Police Service Commission from November 2001 to 2006. She has also delivered several lectures and papers on a variety of human rights and democracy-related subjects.

Ms. Obe was Chair of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy from 2004 to April 2008 and ex officio was on the African Democracy Forum's steering committee. She participated as a member of the International Advisory Group of the Managing Global Insecurity project of the Brookings Institution, and New York and Stanford Universities. Ms. Obe has also been a panellist at the Oslo Forum, the Beijing Forum and the Women's Forum.

Ms. Obe chairs the Board of Trustees of the Gorée Institute (Senegal) and is Co-Vice Chair of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group. In Nigeria, she is a member of the boards of the CLEEN Foundation (formerly the Centre for Law Enforcement Education), the Z.O. Dibiaezue Memorial Libraries and the community-based Ajegunle Community Project in Lagos.

A former newspaper columnist, Ms. Obe now presents *On Point*, a current affairs program on the Nigerian Television Authority's International service. Most recently, she chaired Nigerian Civil Society's Panel on Police Reform.

**HAFSAT MAINA MOHAMMED****FOUNDER, CHOICE FOR PEACE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

Hafsat Maina Mohammed is the Executive Director of Choice for Peace Gender and Development, an NGO in Yobe State, Damaturu, Nigeria. She is a Nigerian peace activist who survived a Boko Haram attack on a bus and works to combat violent extremism in the country by engaging young people at the grassroots level. She brings Christian and Muslim communities together to find ways to stop young people joining radical groups. Hafsat says when she was growing up this was a peaceful part of the world and it makes her sad that there is so much hate and violence there now, so she's made it her mission to stop it, despite threats made against her.

Through her NGO, Hafsat aims to diminish the conditions that allow violent extremism to exist and flourish. She amplifies voices of religious leaders, youths and government agencies to counter negative ideologies and promote positive religious messaging also through Interfaith Dialogue to increase participation of youths in community activities, promote civic education, tolerance, leadership, documentaries, media engagement, work with multiple levels of government and impact on psycho-social/trauma support or counseling. To serve as a platform for enlightenment and empowerment of the society in promoting peace and culture of self-reliance through effective participation for sustainable development