



# SHINING LIGHT WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR HEALTH, RIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT (SLWIHRD)

*WE FLOURISH LIKE THE PALM TREE*

Shining Light Women Initiative for Health, Right and Development nestled in a vibrant but impoverished community, was once a beacon of hope when Initiative for Gender Equality and Sexual Reproductive Health (IGE) reached out and made our executive director their focal person and our organisation their focal point in Rivers State Nigeria. We ran a bustling after-school program and skills acquisition for LGBTQ Women provided by Initiative for Gender Equality and Sexual Reproductive Health (IGE) and even facilitated micro-loans for local loans for community members. Our Executive Director Silverline Wiro, poured her heart and soul into the organization Shining Light Women Initiative for Health, Right and Development. But was devastated when Initiative for Gender Equality and Sexual Reproductive Health (IGE) reached out that they were withdrawing their support for our Executive Director Silverline and organisation because the USAID funded project and the Donald Trump "stop work"

For years, we thrived on small, local donations and the occasional grant. However, as the community's needs grew, so did our expenses. Silverline ( Executive Director) spent countless hours writing proposals, attending networking events, and pleading for funding. But the grants were drying up. Larger organizations, with their polished presentations and established networks, seemed to always get priority.

Slowly, "Shining Light Women Initiative for Health, Right and Development" began to wither. The after-school program shortened its hours, the healthcare workshops became infrequent, and the micro-loans stopped altogether. Silverline (Executive Director), exhausted and disheartened.

The Sex Workers and LGBTQ community is deeply feeling the loss. Sex Workers Children wandered the streets, healthcare needs are unmet, and small businesses struggled to survive. The vibrant hub of activity was replaced by a quiet emptiness. Silverline (Executive Director), though heartbroken, never but never lost my belief in the community's potential. I know that "Shining Light Women Initiative for Health, Right and Development" has planted a seed of hope, perhaps in a different form. Our story is a cautionary tale, a stark reminder of the fragile ecosystem of NGOs, and the constant struggle to sustain vital community work.

Thank you.

Silverline Wiro

Executive Director

Shining Light Women Initiative for Health Right and Development.

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