

# SOLACE

**ISSUP** | INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SUBSTANCE USE  
PROFESSIONALS

NIGERIA chapter



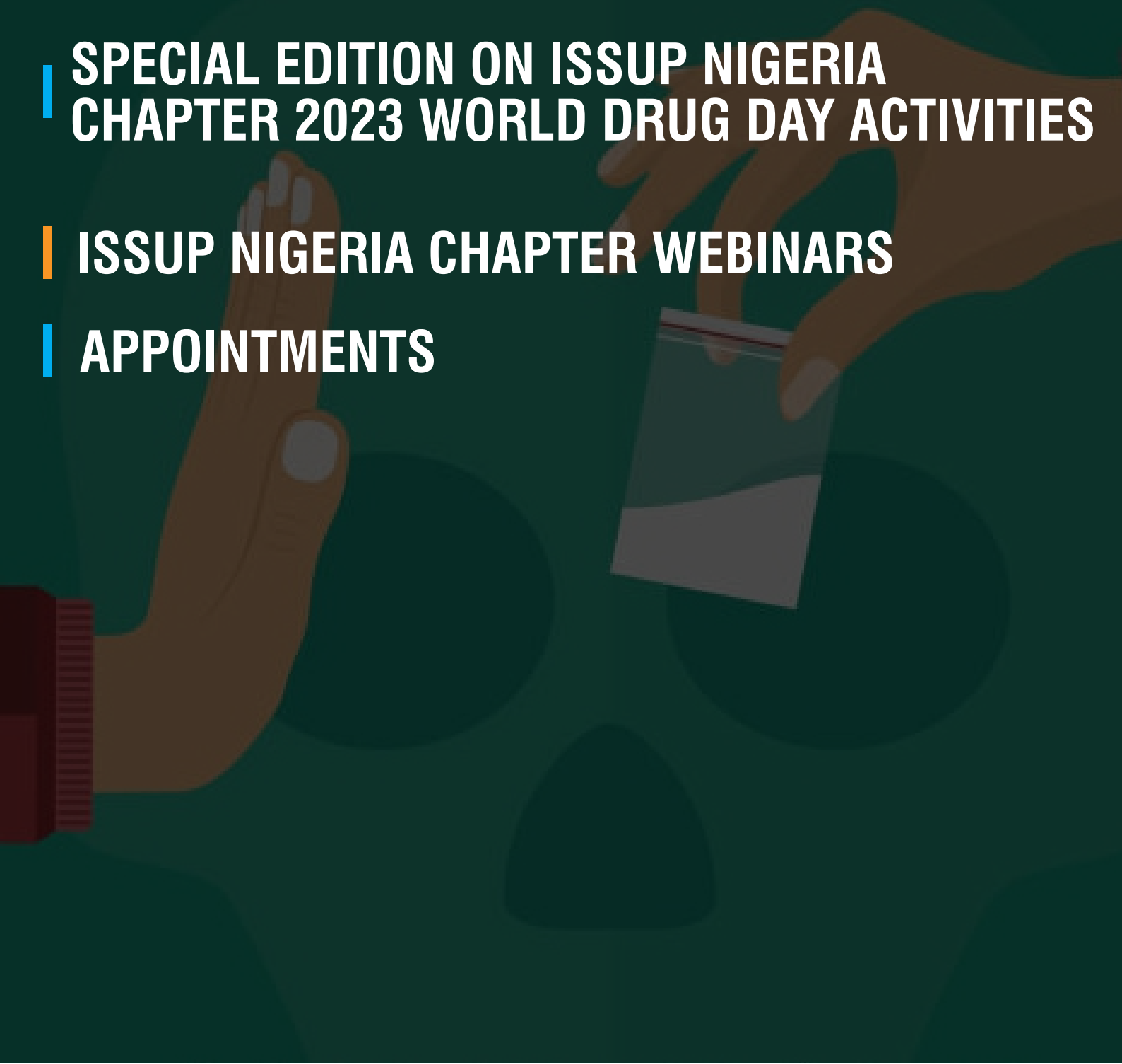
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE  
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS

Vol. 12/2023

**SPECIAL EDITION ON ISSUP NIGERIA  
CHAPTER 2023 WORLD DRUG DAY ACTIVITIES**

**ISSUP NIGERIA CHAPTER WEBINARS**

**APPOINTMENTS**



# CONTENTS

**Special Edition on ISSUP Nigeria Chapter 2023 World  
Drug Day Activities**

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**Page 3**

**ISSUP Nigeria Chapter Bi-Monthly Webinars**

---

**Page 20**

**Appointments**

---

**Page 21**

**Upcoming Events**

---

**Page 22**

## **Editorial Team**

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The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a global event held on June 26th every year for the past 34 years. It aims to raise awareness about the problems caused by illicit drug trafficking and use, evaluate past achievements in addressing the scourge and unite communities for future cause of action.

During this day, both local and international communities come together to strengthen their commitments against drug trafficking and to shine a light on the negative consequences of drug/substance use and abuse. Individuals dealing with drug use face a double challenge: the harmful impact of drugs themselves and the stigma and discrimination they encounter.



Even though millions of people worldwide struggle with drug use disorders, less than one-fifth of them seek rehabilitation or treatment. This underscores the significance of the event in educating people about the adverse effects of drug abuse.

In 2023, the theme for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention.” This theme emphasizes the need to eliminate discrimination against people who use drugs, provide them with unbiased assistance for their overall well-being.

The theme calls on all stakeholders involved in reducing drug demand—including medical professionals, psychologists, counselors, educators, community and religious leaders, media personnel, practitioners in the criminal justice system, and healthcare workers—to treat individuals with substance use disorders with understanding. They should provide evidence-based, voluntary services without stigmatization, offer alternatives to punishment, prioritize

prevention, and approach the issue with compassion.

During two symposiums in Ogun state and Bayelsa state, Dr. Martin Agwogie, the President of ISSUP Nigeria, presented papers on "Stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs/substances in Nigeria: causes, implications and way forward". The presentation harped on the need to strengthen prevention interventions.



Dr. Agwogie concluded that everyone has a role to play in eliminating stigma against people who use drugs. “By joining hands to support individuals with substance use disorders, we can minimize the consequences of substance use and improve our society ... above all, there's a need to invest in substance use

prevention through collaboration, capacity building, and involving families and communities in prevention efforts with the support of government, organizations, and other stakeholders.”

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually by ISSUP Nigeria. Its goal is to promote collaboration and action against drug abuse for a drug-free and better society. ISSUP members nationwide come together on this day to create awareness about the serious issue of illicit drug use. Individuals, groups, and institutions unite to highlight the significant risks these substances pose to society. This piece showcases images and brief descriptions of some of the events organized by ISSUP Nigeria Chapter state branches to commemorate the 2023 World Drug Day.

**FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT), ABUJA**

The ISSUP FCT Coordinator, Dr. Damian Nzeh led ISSUP members in FCT to participate in anti-drug walk organized in collaboration with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the MTN Foundation and other stakeholders in FCT. Similarly, the FCT Coordinator led representatives of ISSUP to the grand finale of the weeklong activities coordinated by the NDLEA at the State House Conference Centre in Abuja.

In another event Dr. Adamu Biu and Dr. Saadatu Adamu represented ISSUP at the press briefing organized by the Federal Ministry of Health held at the Ministry Conference Centre in commemoration of the 2023 World Drug Day.



*During the anti-drug walk in Abuja*



*At the Federal Ministry of Health press briefing*



*ISSUP, NDLEA and NSCDC officers at the state House Conference Center Abuja*

## **CROSS RIVERS STATE**

ISSUP Cross River state branch conducted an awareness campaign aligning with the 2023 theme of prioritizing people, ending stigma, and enhancing prevention efforts. Led by the State Coordinator, Asu Benedict Obasse, the initiative began at the University of Calabar, engaging 400-level students from Radiography and Public Health Departments, in collaboration with Starhive Nigeria. Additionally, a partnership was established with the University of Calabar's Department of Public Health.

As part of the commemoration, a courtesy call was made to the Cross River State Chairman of the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), Comrade Nr. Josephine Ikpeme Bassey. Her enthusiastic support was pledged to collaborate with ISSUP in addressing the escalating issue of substance use in society.

The state branch also extended campaigns to secondary schools including EmeraldField School, Trinity College, Government Secondary School Lagos Street, and Government Secondary School Henshaw Town in Calabar. The initiative culminated with a collaborative webinar titled "Insights into Addiction and the Brain Reward System," conducted in partnership with Read On Nigeria and Rebirth Wellness Center.

## Overcoming Boundaries to Combat Drug Abuse and Stigma



*At the University of Calabar*



*Government Secondary School Henshaw Town*



*EmeraldField School*



*Government Secondary School Lagos Street*



*Trinity College*



*Courtesy call to CRS NANNM*

## DELTA STATE

To mark the 2023 World Drug Day, ISSUP Delta state branch led by the State Coordinator, Rev. Fr. Christopher A. Ogaga, organized various events to raise awareness about the importance of substance use prevention. Some of the activities include informative session at Saint Michael's Catholic Church, where both parents and children were educated about the risk associated with drug abuse. ISSUP Delta state branch also visited NDLEA offices as part of the commemoration efforts.

The objective of the branch is not just to reduce drug abuse but also to rehabilitate and reintegrate



## Overcoming Boundaries to Combat Drug Abuse and Stigma

persons who use drugs and for them to become more useful to themselves and support drug use prevention initiatives.



## EKITI STATE

To mark this year's World Drug Day, ISSUP Ekiti state branch organized activities within the school setting with focus on raising awareness about the stigma and challenges faced by individuals with substance use disorders. The impact of substance abuse on families was also highlighted. A call was made to relevant stakeholders to unite their efforts in order to reduce the negative effects of drugs within the state. The events were led by the State Coordinator, Mrs. Lydia Adza Ajayi

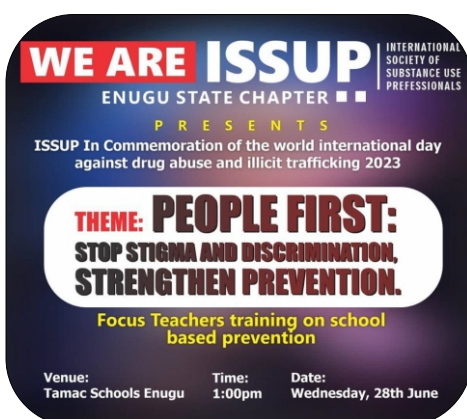


## ENUGU STATE

ISSUP Enugu state branch marked the 2023 World Drug Day with impactful activities under the theme “People First, Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention”. Led by the State Coordinator, Dr. Ujunwa Callista Nduanya and collaborating closely with NDLEA Enugu State Command, ISSUP Enugu organized a comprehensive one-week state-wide program. The culmination was a significant Drug Awareness event, attended by government representatives, law enforcement, school personnel, youths, and Drug-Free Club members. Notably, Dr. Jacob Ohagwu, an ISSUP member, delivered the keynote address.

Another event involved a Teachers' Training series held at Tamac School Enugu. This program covered both theoretical and practical aspects of school-based drug use prevention strategies. The session was attended by 25 teachers from public and private primary and secondary schools. The event was hosted by ISSUP Enugu State chapter and Mrs. Oluchi Onwuwa, Tamac School Director. Facilitators included Ujunwa Nduanya, David Folaranmi, Evelyn Chioma, and Oluchi Onwuwa.

Moving forward, the attendees will work towards integrating drug abuse awareness into the school curriculum. Plans are underway to conduct follow-up workshops and refresher sessions for the teachers.





## KADUNA STATE

ISSUP Kaduna state branch led by the State Coordinator, Prof. Ronke Grace Awopetu, led other members to organize workshops, rallies in collaboration with stakeholders and courtesy visit to NDLEA



*Courtesy call to the office of The Commander, Kaduna State NDLEA, Kaduna. ISSUP State Coordinator, Prof. Ronke Grace Awopetu (l) and NDLEA State Commander, Mr. Braji Ibrahim (r)*



*Kaduna State ISSUP Coordinator, The Kaduna State NDLEA Commander, The Director of Narcotics, KD State, The Secretary General & Kaduna State ISSUP Secretary and some Members of ISSUP, Kaduna on Road walk in Commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse*

## Overcoming Boundaries to Combat Drug Abuse and Stigma



*ISSUP Kaduna Coordinator (Prof Ronke Grace Awopetu) delivering a paper on Psycho-social Management of Drug Users and Abuse in a Teaching and Learning Environment to commemorate 2023 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking @ Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna*



*ISSUP Kaduna Members @ Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna, for 2023 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*



*Grp Capt. F. Yusuf (Deputy Registrar), Prof Ronke Grace Awopetu (Coordinator, ISSUP Kaduna Branch & Clinical Psychologist, Department of General Studies, AFIT), ACN Fadheel Jaffa Salisu (Area commander, NDLEA Zaria), Grp. Capt. A.A. Odok (Director of General Studies AFIT) and McBishops Ejikeme @ occasion of 2023 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking @ Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna*

## KWARA STATE

Between June 19th and June 26th, 2023, the ISSUP Kwara state branch led by Pharm. Grace O. Aliyu, collaborated with the Kwara State Drug Control Committee and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Kwara to observe the 2023 World Drug Day. The week-long program included various activities: an awareness campaign in selected secondary schools on the 19th, a press conference at the NDLEA office, continuous awareness campaigns in secondary schools, media engagement through radio, TV, and print, sensitization of farmers on the risks of drug-related activities, extension of the campaign to tertiary institutions and religious gatherings, a walk against drug abuse, and Muslim and Christian thanksgiving services. The culmination was on June 26th with an award presented to the top-performing school in an essay competition.

Within the period, ISSUP Kwara state branch paid a welcome visit to the newly assigned NDLEA State Commander, Mohammed Bashir Ibrahim (who is also a member of ISSUP), with representatives including State Coordinator Pharm. Grace Aliyu, Secretary, Pastor Ade Bodunde, and other respected members.



*Secondary school students at the grand finale with their awards*



*During the courtesy call*



*Some of the participants at the grand finale*

**LAGOS STATE**

ISSUP Lagos state branch led by Titilope M. Ogunluyi, marked the 2023 World Drug Day with four significant events starting with a webinar in line with the theme with great turnout. The webinar was held on the 21st of June 2023. On the 24th, the branch actively participated in a walk and rally organized by NDLEA Lagos State Command, in collaboration with Dr. (Mrs.) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, the First Lady of Lagos State, COPAC Group, MTN Foundation, and other stakeholders. The event saw the presence of the First Lady, security agencies, youth corps members, and various government departments.

Continuing their commitment to evidence-based measures for substance use prevention and treatment, ISSUP Lagos State Branch paid a courtesy visit to the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital Yaba, Lagos. The team led by the State Coordinator and had in attendance the Southwest Zonal Coordinator of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter, Dr. Olajumoke Koyejo, was received by the Hospital Medical Director, Dr. Olugbenga Owoeye.

Further strengthening efforts, the branch also paid a courtesy call on the NDLEA Lagos State Command to explore collaboration in addressing substance use issues and was received by the NDLEA Zonal Commander DCGN (Dr.) Segun Oke and the NDLEA State Commander, ACGN Isa Adoro.

Concluding the state branch activities, a general meeting was at the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital in Yaba.



*From left: Dr. Isaac Olatunde (treasurer), Dr. Olajumoke Koyejo, (Southwest ISSUP Zonal Coordinator), ACGN Umar Isah Adoro, NDLEA Lagos state Commander and Mrs. Titilope Ogunluyi (ISSUP Lagos branch coordinator)*



From left: Dr. Isaac Olatunde (treasurer), Dr. Olajumoke Koyejo, (Southwest ISSUP Zonal Coordinator), ACGN Umar Isah Adoro, NDLEA Lagos state Commander and Mrs. Titilope Ogunluyi (ISSUP Lagos branch coordinator)



From right to left - Ms. Angela Bekederemo - ISSUP member; Violet Daniel, Deputy Zonal Commander, Drug Demand Reduction, Zone H; Lagos State Branch Coordinator; State Commander, Chinyerem O. Eziagbigbala DCN, Deputy Commander, Drug Demand Reduction Unit, NDLEA Lagos



ISSUP Lagos State Branch Coordinator, Mrs. Titi Ogunluyi with some Youth Corps Members at the Walk.







*L-R: Mrs. Titilope Ogunluyi; ISSUP Coordinator Lagos Chapter, Dr. Olajumoke Koyejo; ISSUP Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Segun Oke; NDLEA Zonal Commander, Zone 'H' (Lagos & Ogun), Alhaji Umar Isah Adoro; NDLEA Lagos State Commander at ISSUP courtesy visit to NDLEA Lagos State Command*

**PLATEAU STATE**

The 2023 World Drug Free Day was well celebrated in Plateau state. It was a collaboration between Serenity and Wellbeing Healthcare Centre, NDLEA Plateau State Command, Quintessential Healthcare Centre, Counselling Society of Nigeria, Plateau state chapter, Department of Psychiatry, Jos University Teaching Hospital and NSDC, Plateau state.

The activities carried out were road walk, talk show with entertainment. It was well covered by the media and was the first mega event since the inception of ISSUP, Plateau state branch. The event successfully united all Substance Use Professionals within Plateau state. The ISSUP team was led by the State Coordinator, Dr. Charles Nwoga.





## OYO STATE

As part of activities to commemorate the 2023 World Drug Day, the Oyo state branch led by the state coordinator, Seye Omiyefa organized a webinar with the topic “People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention”. The topic was presented by Dr. Ndidi Ofole and was moderated by Oluwaronti Ogundipe. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. Feedback from participants showed the webinar was impactful. The webinar was organized in collaboration with NDLEA Oyo State Command. The branch also paid a courtesy call on the Zonal Commander NDLEA, DCGN Joyce Titus-Awogbuyi in Ibadan.

**ISSUP** INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE PROFESSIONALS  
NIGERIA CHAPTER  
OYO STATE BRANCH

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE PROFESSIONALS  
OYO STATE BRANCH

In Commemoration of  
**2023 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING**

**Mon 26TH June 2023**

Venue: **ZOOM**  
Meeting ID: 880 2505 0467  
Passcode: 065679

**3:00 to 4:00pm (WAT)**

**topic:**  
**"PEOPLE FIRST: STOP STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION, STRENGTHEN PREVENTION"**

**Moderator:**  
**SEYE OMIYEFA**  
Oyo ISSUP Coordinator/Host

**Co-Moderator:**  
**OGUNDIPE OLUWARANTI**  
DDR NDLEA ZONE 1 Ibadan Representative

**Speaker:**  
**Dr. Ndidi Ofole, FCASSON**  
Department of Counselling and Human Development Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria



## BENUE STATE

In Benue state, the State coordinator of ISSUP Benue state branch, Dr. Anyalewa Alan-Ajonye coordinated other members to join the anti-drug walk organized by the NDLEA and other stakeholders in the state. The state coordinator was also the keynote speaker at the grand finale of the weeklong activities organized by stakeholders in the state. These activities attracted new members to ISSUP with a commitment to collaboration towards addressing the drug scourge.



*The state coordinator, Dr. Alan-Ajonye and a member of ISSUP Roseline Ada Nandi*





*Dr. Alan-Ajonye speaking*



## ABIA STATE

The Abia State branch of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter visited Abia State Correctional Facility in Aba in commemoration of the 2023 World Drug Day, entitled People first: stop stigma and discrimination strengthen prevention. The visit was led by the State Coordinator, Dr. Azu Oko with the Secretary, Dr. Chiamaka Rose Nwaoru in collaboration with the NDLEA Abia State Command. The campaign was a huge one, as the session had the privilege of addressing inmates well over 300 (male and female) who benefited from the well detailed drug education, and also asked meaningful questions which were addressed effectively. The Officers of the Correctional Facility were happy and implored the team to make the visit a regular one as they saw positive impacts it had on the inmates.

The branch also had school based sensitization, visited Religious Organizations, had Radio program awareness and sensitization on Rhema 93.3 fm. On 27th June, the team joined the grand finale organized by the NDLEA which includes match pass and rally with NDLEA officials, primary/secondary schools pupils and NYSC members serving in the state.



**RIVERS STATE**

The Rivers State branch of ISSUP Nigeria remains steadfast in its commitment to raising awareness about the consequences of substance abuse. Utilizing various platforms like social media, community leaders, and civil society, the branch is determined to connect with persons who use drugs and make significant impacts. The team is also actively taking deliberate actions to collaborate with other agencies in order to address the ongoing challenges of substance abuse among adolescents and youths more effectively.

As part of activities to commemorate the 2023 World Drug Day, ISSUP Rivers state branch coordinator, Dr. Esukene Bertha Pius, led a visit to the NDLEA Command in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The commander guided the team to a rehabilitation center, where ISSUP members engaged in meaningful interactions with the clients.

### WEBINAR ON STIGMA

In continuation of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter bi-monthly webinar, two webinars were held recently. One of the webinars was held in collaboration with ISSUP South Africa, ISSUP Kenya and ISSUP UK with primary focus on stigma and substance use.

#### Speaker 1



**Dr. Ndidi Ofole**

#### Speaker 2



**Peter A. Adenibuyan**

**Topic: Stigma, family and community**

#### *Highlights from the presentation*

- burden of substance use in Nigeria
- nature and characteristics of substance use stigma in the context of Nigerian families and communities
- stigma and substance use process model
- language and stigma
- what families and communities can do to destigmatize substance use.



**Dr. Tajudeen Abiola**

**Topic: Driving change through addiction prevention advocacy: strategies for lasting impact and effective messaging**

#### *Highlights from the presentation*

- the need for addiction prevention and why it is cost-effective.
- insight into the levels and models of addiction prevention and how these frameworks are relevant to effective prevention strategies.
- pitfalls in addiction prevention campaigns.
- knowledge on the dos and don'ts of prevention advocacy.
- age-appropriate messaging that resonate with the target audience and how to engage peers as messengers.

Congratulations to colleagues who have been appointed as State Coordinators of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter



**Mrs. Eucharia Ifeoma Ekwu**  
Ogun State Coordinator



**Sani Ibrahim Sani, fdc, DCGN (Retd)**  
Katsina State Coordinator



**Dr. Esukene Bertha Ikaan Pius**  
Rivers State Coordinator

**TRIBUTE TO MR. OLUGBENGA OLUSANU MABO**

ISSUP Nigeria Chapter lost a very humble, committed and passionate member in the person of Mr. Olugbenga Olusanu Mabo.

Mr. Mabo was one of the silent supporters of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter, readily available, eager to learn, impact and share from his wealth of experience. As part of his commitment and support to ISSUP, he served as the co chairman and later chairman of the Alcohol Policy Committee of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter. He was also the representative of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter on the development of Alternative to Incarceration for persons who use drugs in Nigeria, one of the recently launched initiatives by stakeholders.

In May last year (2022), Mr. Mabo was one of the ISSUP members from Nigeria who attended the ISSUP Global conference in Abu Dhabi. At the conference he wrote 2 certificate examinations (UPC and URC) and passed the 2, making him one of the first set of practitioners in Nigeria to write the certificate examination.



Mr. Mabo will be greatly missed!

Rest in peace!

ISSUP Nigeria Chapter

### **Conference! Conference!! Conference!!!**

ISSUP Nigeria Chapter Annual Conference/ General Meeting

*Date:* Tuesday 24th of October 2023

*Venue:* Reiz Continental Hotel Abuja

*Time:* 10AM WAT



#### ***ISSUP Nigeria Chapter***

Building a Multi disciplinary Network of Core and Allied Professionals  
New members are welcome

#### ***Membership process***

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\* then go to membership

\* click on Apply Now or Apply Today and follow the procedure.

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