

Goodwill Message By

Rt. Hon. Henry Nwawuba

**At An Open Mic Event in Commemorations of Activism Towards
Eliminating Gender-based Violence (GBV).**

**Theme: “Unreserved for Reserved Seats: The Role of Women in
Policymaking Towards Ending GBV”**

Distinguished organizers, advocates, and invited guests thank you for the honor of joining you at this gathering. I commend the Gender Strategy Advancement International team for sustaining a platform that uses creativity, storytelling, and cultural expression to shape national conversations on gender equality and justice.

Today's engagement comes at a defining moment for our country, as the National Assembly prepares to consider the Reserved Seats for Women Bill. This conversation is not just timely, it is essential. We cannot make meaningful progress in ending gender-based violence without strengthening women's voices in the rooms where policies are designed, debated, and delivered.

As someone who proudly identifies as a He-for-She, I believe that expanding women's representation is both a moral duty and a smart governance decision. Nations thrive when they draw from the full potential of their citizens, not half of it. Nigeria will be stronger, safer, and more inclusive when more women contribute directly to shaping our laws and public institutions.

At the National Assembly Library, we have continued to demonstrate practical support for this vision. Our collaboration with committees working on the women's agenda has helped to elevate the conversation. More importantly, we have a set up of “Madam Speaker” demonstration desk, a symbolic but powerful installation designed to inspire young girls, students, and stakeholders who visit the library. It

reminds every visitor that women do not belong on the margins of leadership; they belong at the center of it.

I congratulate GSAI and all partners for sustaining this important work. I assure you that the National Assembly Library remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance gender equity, strengthen civic participation, and energize the next generation.

Together, let us ensure that reserved seats do not become symbols of concession, but instruments of justice, that will see to the full participation of women to shape policies for a greater Nation.

Thank you God bless you.