



**CAMYOSFOP**

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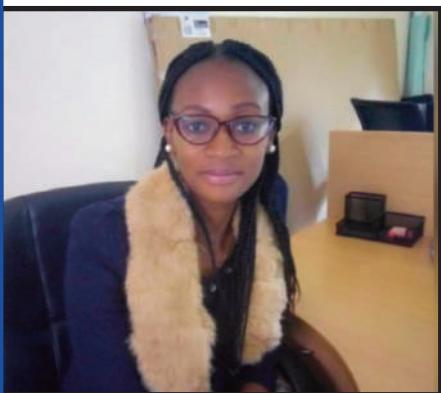
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## Editorial

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### International Women's Day 2018:

## Time to Reflect on Progress Made in Addressing Challenges Women Face in Cameroon and Press for Progress



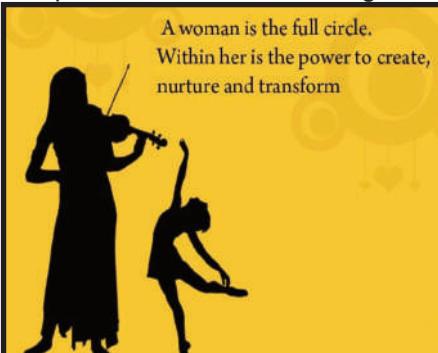
The International Women's Day (IWD) commemorated across the globe annually aims to celebrate the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women. The day also marks the call to action for accelerating gender parity. This year, the IWD was celebrated under the theme; **"Press for Progress"**. The theme came at a time when the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Reports revealed that it will take 217 years to close the gender parity gap thus highlighting the relevance of the need to Press for Progress

To press for progress in Cameroon, there is need to first reflect on progress made thus far in addressing some challenges women face. There is no doubt that Cameroon has made remarkable progress in the fight against discrimination against women and girls and other issues affecting women by ratifying international instruments and reviewing national laws to address this challenge. A case

in point is the recently revised Penal Code that now punishes a number of harmful practices and social ills against women such as sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, breast ironing and denial of education to the girl child. The new law also demands for equal punishment for men and women found guilty of adultery.

Also to step up women's participation in peace processes, a National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security was launched in 2017. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family together with other development partners continue to work towards the elimination of various forms of discrimination against women which have brought remarkable improvements in the achievement of gender equality.

In spite of all these efforts, gender



equality in Cameroon is not yet realized. Women still face several challenges: child marriage is still widespread in the Northern part of the

country, domestic violence and marital rape is still accepted, boy's education given more priority, women are not adequately represented in decision-making processes, women are not allowed to inherit property, the application of customary laws alongside statutory laws still create numerous contradictions and inconsistencies which end up creating obstacles in achieving gender parity.

Thus we can not remain complacent in the midst of the above challenges the time for action is now we need to press for progress in eradicating the discrimination against women in every sphere.

This fight requires the collective efforts of all: communities everywhere governments, companies, charities, educational institutions, networks, associations, the media and more whether through a global conference, community gathering, classroom lesson or dinner table conversation, everyone can play a purposeful part in pressing for gender parity.

In the words of Gloria Steinem **"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."**

**Suwun Rita Beri**  
**Research and Policy Development officer**

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## CAMYOSFOP's Contributions



## La Contribution De CAMYOSFOP Dans La Lutte Contre Les VBG

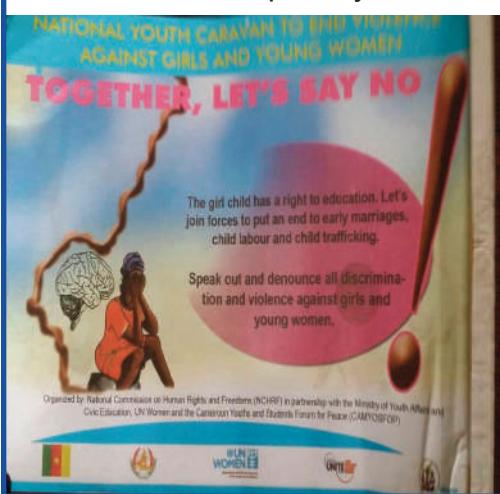
Engagé depuis plus d'une décennie dans la lutte contre les VBG (violence basée sur le genre), CAMYOSFOP s'est distingué sur le terrain à travers une pléthore d'activités qui vont de la sensibilisation, au renforcement des capacités des acteurs, des appuis aux groupes des femmes et des plaidoyers envers les gouvernements pour l'amélioration des textes.

Pour mené à bien la sensibilisation et pouvoir toucher le maximum de la population CAMYOSFOP à procéder par l'organisation des marches à l'instar de celles qui ont eu lieu à BABISSI dans le Nord-ouest et à LACDO dans le Nord contre les mutilations génitales en ; une autre campagne et pas des moindre celle qui a eu à BUEA avec les motos-taximan dans le cadre de la célébration

des 16 jours d'activisme contre les violences faites aux femmes en ; CAMYOSFOP au cotés de ses partenaires le MINPROF et ONU-FEMMES est engagé dans la campagne de solidarité envers les femmes dénommée HeforShe dont l'activité principale est le « UNIVERSITY TOUR qui consiste à faire le tour des universités pour passer le message de l'égalité de chance pour tous, des mêmes opportunités, de la non discrimination envers les filles et les femmes. On peut dire à cette étape de la campagne que les messages sont bien accueillis par les étudiants.

En ce qui concerne le renforcement des capacités beaucoup a déjà été fait par CAMYOSFOP entre autre le renforcement des capacités des associations des femmes vivant avec le VIH / SIDA dans les domaines du montage et gestion des projets ; le financement et l'accompagnement dans l'exécution des projets. La construction des ONE-STOP CENTER et la formation des personnels en charge de ces centres. Toujours dans l'optique de lutter efficacement contre les VBG, CAMYOSFOP à mise sur pied un réseau des hommes intitulé « Boys to Boys to end Violence against women » avec pour objectif de rallier les hommes du Cameroun à la cause des femmes, à ce jour nous avons des ambassadeurs Boys to Boys dans toutes les 10 régions du Cameroun. Grâce aux réseaux boys to boys CAMYOSFOP a pu inscrire plus 1000 hommes dans le site d'engagement HeforShe et les actions d'enroulement des hommes dans la plate forme HeforShe continu au dynamisme et la dévotion des ambassadeurs HeforShe.

Dans le cadre des plaidoyers CAMYOSFOP a tour et tour organisé des ateliers à l'issus des quels



les recommandations formulées on chaque fois constituer un document de plaidoyers à même d'attirer l'attention du gouvernement sur certains manquements. Comme cela a été le cas de l'atelier sur les gaps du code de la famille qui a aboutit à la révision du code civile et même pénal en vu de protéger d'avantage et punir tout abus envers les femmes, CAMYOSFOP peu donc s'en féliciter à cet effet. CAMYOSFOP au coté de ses partenaires contribue à la lutte contre les abus de tout genres commis sur les enfants en général et particulièrement sur la petite fille.



## CAMYOSFOP

Serge Nguimba  
P.R.O CAMYOSFOP

# Reflection

## Being a Woman is Not Weakness

What made us the women we are today are the different stages of life to see our own mothers we have passed through, from a girl with a mind to a lady with class as our biggest role and now a woman with confidence.



To evolve we need to ask adjust and appreciate ourselves this almost all the others. times what type of woman am

I? Be that woman who is Be there till the end. **Stand allergic to negative energy. firm, stay strong and Be that woman who is overcome. Stand firm, stay happy with herself, that strong and overcome. Stand woman who will fall firm, stay strong and overcome.** many times, that Changing who we truly are to woman who will be please people is not the solution disappointed, that given that we will never please woman who will step everybody. We have to pick up the on other's toes, that broken pieces that derailed us from our woman who will purpose. When we look back, don't let make mistakes to our negative past destroy the woman we the point that will are, we have to be grateful. want to give up

but stand tall There is a need for us to explore and and faces all temptations with divine strength. discover more about who we are. Remember the woman you are and change the game.

Arise my dear woman and overcome all. We were not born to be perfect but we can repair that which is broken because we are strong. Listen, my fellow woman, the image we will portray to the world is just a reflection of our mothers, women that gave us life and is also a reflection of where we come from. We have

Countless times we are noted as the weaker sex, so we have to strive for excellence and take responsibility when the need arises because we are unique. **Being a woman is not weakness.**

Lukong Brenda Berriliy  
Communications Officer CAMYOSFOP

### Quote of the Day

**AS WOMEN, WE MUST STAND UP FOR OURSELVES.  
AS WOMEN, WE MUST STAND UP FOR EACH OTHER.  
AS WOMEN, WE MUST STAND UP FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL.**

-MICHELLE OBAMA  
QUOTETHATALK.TUMBLR.COM

## Women's Day Launch



UN Convention to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) forms the base in the fight against women discrimination in Cameroon and the world at large. The 33rd International Women's Day: Fighting discrimination is a clear signal for the government, the civil society and other developmental partners to promote women's right.

This year's celebrations in Cameroon focused on the theme "intensify the fight against discriminations on women; strengthen partnership to speed up sustainable development." The theme calls to mind the important place women occupy in the economic development process. Worthy to note, it evokes the importance of partnership in the domain of sustainable development.

Discrimination, partnership and sustainable development are issues we are called upon to reflect on in the days

## Stakeholders Mobilized All to Fight Discrimination Against Women

ahead.

The official Launch of the 33rd edition of the Women's Day Celebration by the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, Therese Abena Ondo at the courtyard of the Yaounde City Hall mobilized more than 100 women from diverse fields.

A peace march was organized with women holding peace plants and messages promoting peace that led them to the ceremonial ground. This march was very significant as it emphasized on the fact that women are custodians of peace considering the current situation the country is going through.

CAMYOSFOP was privileged to take part in the event due to her close collaboration working with government institutions and other stakeholders working on promoting gender equality and peace in Cameroon. In her opening statements, Minister Abena called on women to join forces and fight all forms of discrimination against women and girls. She lauded the efforts made by stakeholders to improve the economic and socio-political status of women encouraging the men to stand as key actors for the promotion of women's activities through initiatives such as the 'heforshe' campaign.

Prizes were awarded to nine best designers of the 2018 women's day fabric amongst who were two women.  
Activities ahead of the day focused

on roundtable discussions on different forms of discrimination towards women, activities taken by the government to eliminate all forms of discriminations against women, exhibition fair on their know-how as well as reinforcement measures to end violence towards the female folk.

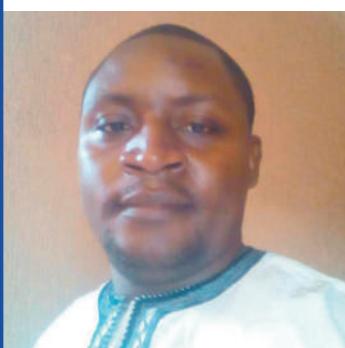
The 33rd edition of Women's Day Celebrations ended with a parade which took place at the 20th May Boulevard in the presence of the first lady Mrs. Chantal Biya. The parade that mobilized thousands of women of all works of life was a forum for sensitization and awareness raising on the economic and socio-political challenges that the Cameroonian woman would have to rise up to in the days ahead.

**Tamako Amaa Francisca  
Data Analyst CAMYOSFOP**



*Vox Pop*

## *Impression of the International Women's Day*



The person who conceived the idea of celebrating women thought well because the predicament of women in some parts of the world is deplorable. By creating awareness on their plight annually, it has improved on their fate in many countries. We now see women asserting themselves in society, attaining power and standing up for their rights. Some have recently ventured into positions that hitherto were not possible. The downside of the celebration is that some of our womenfolk abuse the day by getting into excesses.

**Asaanche Ndifor Colin, Educationist**

La journée internationale de la femme qui s'est célébrée sous le thème : "intensifier la lutte contre les discriminations à l' égard des femmes, renforcer le partenariat pour accélérer le développement durable" fut marquée non seulement par des festivités mais également par des divers séminaires, ateliers et tables rondes organisés à l'endroit des femmes. De plus en plus l'on se rend compte que les femmes prennent conscience de l' importance de cette journée eût égard l' effectivité de leurs droits. A cet effet sont progressivement bannis des comportements déviants au profit des activités constructives. Nous avons donc avec beaucoup de joie pu apprécier leur savoir faire notamment dans les domaines industriel, artisanal et administratif. Toutefois, d' après les résultats des enquêtes et sondages, les femmes sont encore marginalisées dans certains secteurs d' activités. Par conséquent le résultat escompté par le législateur n'est pas encore atteint mais les choses vont bon train.



**Etoundi Sylvie, Jurist**

The International Women's Day honours the women who have paved the path towards 'womanhood' to a level where it is now, likewise, it calls for unity and love among women for an ever progressive world given that I consider the woman as the Minister of finance of every humble home. The women's day celebration is also an opportunity for impacting on every young growing girl/woman thereby reminding her of her worth, her importance likewise also her obligations and duties as a woman of valour both in career, marriage and in society. Aside from that, women turn to overemphasize on their rights while disrespecting men and other women.



**Nsame Fabrice, BAPCCUL**

International Women's Day which was at first ignored by many countries is today considered a public holiday kept aside specially for women to celebrate womanhood and defend women's right. In the past year, the woman's place was considered to be in the kitchen. But today, I think with this day set aside, there is more emphasis on educating women and promoting their rights to peace issues. Every day for a woman could be regarded as a labour day because of a woman's activities, except for that day set for women to come out of their closet and express their minds, interact, share ideas and enhance their status in society.



**Sharon Anihta, Business Lady**

**Compiled by Amaa Francisca Tamako, Fonbanla Gaelle Dufe and Lukong Brenda Berriliy**

# Gallery

CAMYOSFOP has as upcoming activities the VTF project on Fast Tracking the Universalization and Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in Cameroon in partnership with Control Arms and funded by the Swiss Foreign Ministry. This project had as activities, the Publication of a Legal Manual on the domestication of the ATT in Cameroon, Workshop with key government ministries involve with the ATT ratification and domestication process, Capacity building of journalists on the ATT process, Advocacy workshop with Members of Parliament on the ratification and domestication of the ATT and a Capacity building workshop with key Ministries on the use of the ATT domestication manual.

CAMYOSFOP, SeP, WDYP, CSP-AVIP, WAA, FPAE and WILPF amongst others takes the lead in the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence from 7-14 May 2018

CAMYOSFOP will from the 16th the 17th of May have a capacity building workshop with the vigilante group in Maroua



CAMYOSFOP showcasing its work at the 2018 Commonwealth Day at the National Museum



CAMYOSFOP present a study within the 2030 Agenda in a capacity building workshop with stakeholders



CAMYOSFOP presenting at the Global Youth Training on Unemployment in Africa in the Philippines



CAMYOSFOP intern takes part in the Global Youth Training in the Philippines



Advocating and educating students through the creation of clubs by CAMYOSFOP

## Introduction à la Violence Basée sur le Genre (VBG)

Les Violences Basées sur le Genre(VBG) terme générique désignant tout acte nuisible, préjudiciable perpétré contre le gré de quelqu'un et qui est fondé sur des différences socialement prescrites entre hommes et femmes. Les actes de violences basées sur le genre enfreignent, violent un certain nombre de droit humain universels protégé par des conventions et instruments normatifs internationaux. Un grand nombre de forme de VBG, mais pas toutes sont des actes illégaux et criminels au regard des politiques et des législations nationales.

Aux quatre coins du monde, la violence basée sur le genre a un impact plus significatif sur les femmes et les filles que sur les hommes et les garçons. L'expression « violence basée/fondée sur le sexe/ sexiste » est souvent interchangeable avec celle de

« violence à l'égard des femmes ».

L'expression Violence basée sur le sexe/sexiste souligne la dimension

sexospécifique de ces types d'actes ou, en d'autre termes, la relation entre la condition de subordination des femmes dans la société et leur vulnérabilité accrue à la violence. Il importe de noter toutefois, que les garçons et les hommes peuvent également être survivant de violence basée sur le genre, notamment de violence sexuelle.

La nature et l'ampleur des ces types particulier de violence basée sur le genre varient( selon les cultures, les pays et les régions. Citons quelques unes ici :

- La violence sexuelle, notamment les abus/l'exploitation sexuelle et la prostitution forcée.
- La violence domestique/ familiale.
- La traite humaine.
- Le mariage forcé.
- Les pratiques traditionnelles néfastes, à l'instar de la mutilation génitale féminine, les crimes d'honneur, le lévirat et ainsi de suite.Les actes de VBG violent un certain nombre de principe des droits de l'homme inscrits dans les instruments internationaux des droits de l'homme. Entre autre le Droit à la vie et à la sécurité de la personne ; le Droit à ce qu'il de mieux en matière de

**UP TO 70%  
OF WOMEN  
EXPERIENCE  
VIOLENCE  
IN THEIR  
LIFETIME.**

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santé physique et mentale ; le Droit à ne pas être soumis à la torture ou un traitement ou punition cruel, inhumain ou dégradant ; le Droit à la liberté d'opinion et d'expression, à l'éducation, à la sécurité sociale et au développement personnel. En plus de la déclaration universel des droits de l'homme vient s'ajouter d'autre texte tel que la CEDEF (Convention pour l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes) dans laquelle tous le Etats partis prennent toutes les mesures appropriées pour modifier les

schémas et les modèles de comportements socioculturel de l'homme et de la femme en vue de parvenir à l'élimination des préjugés et des pratiques coutumières, ou de tout autre type, qui sont fondés sur l'idée de l'infériorité ou de la supériorité de l'un ou l'autre sexe ou d'un rôle stéréotypé des hommes et des femmes,( CEDEF, art. 5).

Certain chercheurs indépendant ont affirmé que le nombre de femmes « disparues » est plus élevé sur celles qui devraient être en vie à cause des pratiques discriminatoires comme les avortement sélectifs liés au sexe, l'infanticide des fillettes et la négligence entraînant la mort de fillettes.une étude menée en 2003, sur un échantillon de 9 000 ménages, a montré que 49% des femmes Kenyanes interrogées ont été confronté à la violence au cours de leur vie ; 1 sur 4 a fait l'expérience de la violence au cours des 12 mois précédents l'enquête ; 83% des femmes et fillettes ont été soumises à la violence physique dans leur enfance, 46% ont rapporté au moins un épisode d'abus sexuel dans leur enfance ; 25% des 12-24 ans ont déclaré que leurs premiers rapport sexuels se sont faits sous la contrainte ; plus de 60% de ces femmes et enfants n'ont jamais parlé de cette violence à qui que ce soit. C'est par ces statistiques déplorables que nous allons sortir de cette analyse des Violences Basée sur le Genre tout en rappelant que lutter contre les VBG participe au respect de la dignité de l'Etre humain.

**Serge Nguiamba  
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