

# SOLACE



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

**SOLACE NEWSLETTER | JULY 2025 - WORLD DRUG DAY**

**SPECIAL EDITION | JUNE 2025**

**Vol. 17/2025**



INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SUBSTANCE USE  
PROFESSIONALS



**CELEBRATING  
A DECADE OF  
ACHIEVEMENT**

📍 EDITORIAL: PREVENTION IS NOT OPTIONAL. IT IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Musa A. Wakil         | 7. Prof. Auwalu S. Salihu         |
| 2. Prof. Isidore S. Obot       | 8. Prof. Suwa G. Goar             |
| 3. Dr. (Mrs.) Taiwo A. Adamson | 9. Dr. (Mrs.) Olajumoke M. Koyejo |
| 4. Dr. Martin O. Agwogie       | 10. Barr. Daniel O. Omotilewa     |
| 5. Prof. Ibrahim W. Abdu       | 11. Mr. Ikenna D. Molobe          |
| 6. Prof. Gboyega E. Abikoye    |                                   |

## MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. Martin O. Agwogie          | National President                     |
| 2. Prof. Ibrahim Wakawa Abdu      | Vice President                         |
| 3. Prof. Gboyega E. Abikoye       | General Secretary                      |
| 4. Mr. Ejikeme McBishops Ogueji   | Asst. General Secretary                |
| 5. Prof. Auwalu Sani Salihu       | Zonal Coordinator – North West         |
| 6. Prof. Suwa G. Goar             | Zonal Coordinator – North Central      |
| 7. Dr. (Mrs.) Olajumoke M. Koyejo | Zonal Coordinator – South West         |
| 8. Prof. Michael Ezenwa           | Zonal Coordinator – South East         |
| 9. Ms. Uchechi C. Onukogu         | Zonal Coordinator - South South        |
| 10. Dr. Bawo O. James             | Publicity Secretary/Mobilization       |
| 11. Mr. Ibe Christogonus          | Asst. Publicity Secretary/Mobilization |
| 12. Dr. (Mrs.) Margaret Akogun    | Financial Secretary                    |
| 13. Dr. Peter A. Adenibuyan       | Asst. Financial Secretary              |
| 14. Mr. Ikenna D. Molobe          | Treasurer                              |
| 15. Mrs. Miriam M. Adeyemi        | Auditor                                |
| 16. Prof. Ignatius N. Ijere       | Diaspora Liaison                       |
| 17. Barr. Daniel O. Omotilewa     | Legal Advisor                          |

# CONTENTS

**A DECADE OF GLOBAL IMPACT, A LEGACY OF LOCAL  
LEADERSHIP CELEBRATING ISSUP GLOBAL @  
10 WITH GRATITUDE FROM ISSUP NIGERIA**

---

**Page 1**

**EDITORIAL: PREVENTION IS NOT OPTIONAL.  
IT IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY**

---

**Page 6**

**WORLD DRUG DAY 2025**

---

**Page 10**

## **Editorial Team**

Ejikeme M. Ogueji - Chairman  
Theresa Moses - Secretary  
Emmanuel Akpan - Member  
Mitchell Ofoyeju - Member  
Emeodu E. Nwabueze Ph.D - Member

Since its founding in 2015, the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP Global) has grown into a worldwide professional community of over 45,000 members from more than 200 countries and territories. ISSUP provides training, resources, and support to strengthen substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts globally.



Within this global family, ISSUP Nigeria, formally launched in October 2019, stands out as a vibrant and fast-growing chapter that exemplifies how local leadership and commitment drive national progress.

While ISSUP Nigeria joined the global network a few years after its inception, it has swiftly emerged as one of its most dynamic chapters, not by catching up, but by carving a

unique path of innovation and impact within the Nigerian context.

### **A Journey of Steady Growth**

Over the years, ISSUP Nigeria has organized six national conferences and annual general meetings, professional development trainings, launched active state branches in 29 states out of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, partnered with universities to introduce addiction studies, and hosted 27 ISSUP Nigeria webinar sessions and dozens of state branches' webinars on evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery reaching over 20 million people across Nigeria and globally.





These milestones demonstrate the power of shared purpose and strong leadership. From a modest beginning with just a few passionate professionals, ISSUP Nigeria has grown into a thriving community of over 3000 members across the country. These members include prevention practitioners, treatment providers, researchers, students, recovery advocates, and policy influencers, all united by a shared vision for a drug-free Nigeria.





## A Leader We Celebrate

Dr. Martin O. Agwogie is more than a president. He is a mentor, a builder, and a bridge. While his academic credentials (Fulbright Scholar, NIDA Fellow, and Harvard alumnus) are impressive, it is his passion for empowering others that truly defines his legacy. Through countless trainings, conferences, curriculum development, public advocacy, and policy engagement, he has helped shape a generation of substance use professionals in Nigeria.



Today, we pause to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Agwogie for his faithful leadership. We are proud to walk this journey with him and to embody ISSUP Global's values here in Nigeria.

## From Nigeria With Gratitude

To ISSUP Global, we say: Happy 10th Anniversary. Thank you for creating a platform that unites us across borders. Thank you for investing in the professionalisation of our field. And thank you for inspiring national chapters like ours to thrive.





To every member of ISSUP Nigeria, this is also your celebration. We are part of something bigger, a global community of hope, knowledge, and change.



Are you a professional passionate about drug prevention, treatment, or recovery? Join ISSUP Nigeria and become part of a movement that is changing lives.

Here is to the next 10 years, stronger together.

- 15+ ISSUP STATE BRANCHES MOBILISED
- 12 GOVERNMENT & TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS ENGAGED
- 12,000+ STUDENTS REACHED IN SCHOOLS
- 9 MEDIA OUTLETS FEATURED OUR CAMPAIGNS
- THOUSANDS ENGAGED ONLINE & IN COMMUNITIES



## EDITORIAL: PREVENTION IS NOT OPTIONAL. IT IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY

Every year, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking provides individuals, organisations, and governments worldwide with an opportunity to reflect, recommit, and strengthen strategies to address the global drug problem. This year's theme, "The Evidence is Clear: Invest in Prevention," could not have been timelier. ISSUP Nigeria went beyond commemoration. We mobilised, engaged stakeholders, and delivered measurable impact across the country.



With over 20 active state branches, we witnessed what becomes possible when professionals, educators, health workers, security agencies, traditional rulers, religious leaders, parents, and young people unite around a shared vision. From school sensitisation to community outreach, media engagements to government advocacy, one consistent message was delivered: prevention is not an afterthought; it must come first.

The results are significant. Thousands of students were reached, state and federal institutions were engaged, partnerships were strengthened, and a renewed national conversation on drug prevention took place. But more importantly, we are helping to shift public thinking. We are building a culture of early action. We are no longer waiting for



addiction to take root before responding. We are acting now with purpose, with evidence, and with unity.





Prevention is not just another programme. It is a smart and essential investment. The UNODC World Drug Report 2025 affirms that global instability is compounding drug-related harm and insecurity, calling for urgent prioritisation of prevention. According to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), every dollar invested in prevention can save up to ten dollars in future health, social, and security costs. The message is clear. What we do now determines what we are spared from tomorrow.



Here in Nigeria, our prevention strategy must reflect our realities. These include diverse communities, constrained resources, and strong social foundations. ISSUP Nigeria's strength lies in localising global best practices and applying evidence in practical, context-appropriate ways. From Enugu to Oyo, Lagos to Kwara, our members are demonstrating that prevention can be effective, scalable, and community-led.





This special edition of The Solace highlights the passion, creativity and collaboration that shaped our World Drug Day 2025 activities. But more than a celebration, it is a call to action. We cannot afford to stand still; the time to act is now.

We urge all stakeholders, government institutions, schools, universities, faith-based organisations, civil society groups, parents, the media, and young people—to take prevention seriously and act decisively. The evidence is clear. The time to act is now.

**Together, let us build a generation that is informed, resilient, and drug-free.**

**Let us invest intentionally, urgently and together.**

**Prevention works. Prevention saves lives. Prevention secures our future**

ISSUP Nigeria Chapter proudly joined the international community in commemorating the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2025. In alignment with this year's global theme, "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention," the chapter mobilised its state branches and partner organisations to deliver a range of impactful, emotionally resonant activities aimed at preventing drug use and promoting public awareness.

### **DELTA STATE: A KINGDOM MOBILISES FOR CHANGE**



In a deeply moving campaign, ISSUP Delta State joined forces with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Delta Ports Command and His Royal Majesty Kingsley EmakpoOrereh, the Ovie of Agbarha-Warri Kingdom, for a four-day community-based sensitisation programme across seven communities: Otovwodo, Igbudu, Edjeba, Ogunu, Okurode, Oteghele, and Ukpokiti. The king himself led the charge-educating his people on the dangers of drug abuse and declaring support for rehabilitation and reintegration.

But perhaps the most stirring moment came when the people of Agbarha-Warri watched their king lead the charge against addiction. His voice carried not just royal authority, but the collective pain and hope of a people determined to break the cycle.









The Monarch provided the necessary support, while Comrade Nosa Godswill (PRO), Miss Augustina Oyubu, and Miss Edesiri led outreach efforts. In a historic honour, the monarch was decorated as a WADA Ambassador by NDLEA Commander Ann Nnenna Okoebor.



*ISSUP Nigeria celebrates Delta State's courageous example of community-rooted leadership.*



## **NIGER STATE: HIGH-LEVEL ADVOCACY WITH DEEP CULTURAL ROOTS**

In Minna, ISSUP Niger State, led by the Coordinator Amb. Lawrence Paul, partnered with the NDLEA to host a grand commemorative event attended by dignitaries including the Deputy Governor His Excellency Comrade Yakubu Garba, the Secretary to the State Government, Hon. Commissioners, and traditional rulers. The Emir of Agaie represented the Etsu Nupe, anchoring the effort in tradition and respect.



The First Lady was represented by the Special Adviser on Women Affirmation and Mobilisation. The Governor, his wife, and the Deputy Governor were all honoured for their contributions-making this one of the few state-led efforts that received official state-level commendation and visibility.



*This was more than a ceremony—it was a powerful endorsement of  
ISSUP Nigeria's mission at the highest level.*



## ENUGU STATE: A FULL-CIRCLE APPROACH TO INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP



Led by the acting state coordinator, Mr David Folaranmi, ISSUP Enugu launched a multi-layered campaign of advocacy visits, school-based education, and professional alignment. They met with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) State Commander, Dr Elijah Etim Willie; NDLEA Enugu State Commander, Mr Abel Sunu Wadahi and Commissioner for Health, Dr Obi Emmanuel Ikechukwu. Each pledged new collaboration on prevention.



At the Institute of Management and Technology(IMT) Enugu, the Rector, Prof. Dozie S. Ogbodo pledged institutional support for student-led awareness campaigns. At the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Enugu, the Medical Director, Dr Ngozi Unaogu agreed to a collaborative framework bridging prevention and clinical care. The campaign concluded with a strategic meeting with University of Nigeria Enugu Campus (UNEC) Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. J.U.J. Onwumere.

These efforts are not isolated, they mark a strategic shift toward embedding prevention in systems that shape policy, education, and health.



***ISSUP Nigeria salutes Enugu for strengthening the bridge between community advocacy and institutional reform.***



## LAGOS STATE: PUBLIC PRESENCE, MEDIA REACH, AND POLICY SUPPORT

ISSUP Lagos was everywhere—from the Sabo-Yaba community sensitisation walk to a major event hosted by the First Lady of Lagos State. It also participated in the MTN Anti-Substance Abuse Programme (ASAP) alongside Dr Mosun Belo-Olusoga (Chairperson, MTN Foundation), Mrs Odunayo Sanya (Executive Director, MTN Foundation), and Dr. Martin O. Agwogie (National President, ISSUP Nigeria).



At Seed of Knowledge School in Ago-Okota, students from Canadian High School (in signature red blazers) joined in. Guest speakers included Mr Charles Chiejina (convener), Mr Opeoluwa Taiwo, Dr Adetolu Olatunde, and Prince Fatugase. The event was covered by media houses.





**ISSUP** INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE PROFESSIONALS LAGOS STATE BRANCH

**Presenting WEBINAR**

**TOPIC: Breaking The Chain of Addiction: Effective PREVENTION Strategies**

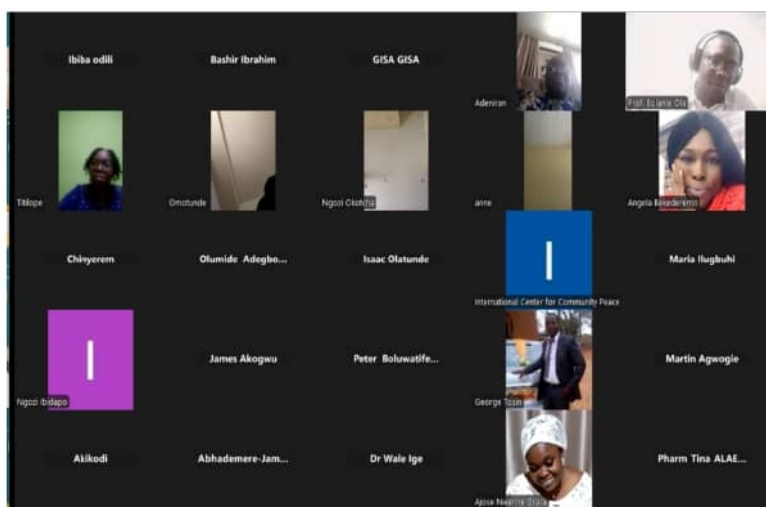
**Moderator: WALDEMARO ANGELA ELIZABETH**  
Secretary ISSUP LAGOS STATE BRANCH

**HOST: DCN. TITILOPE OGUNLUYI**  
Coordinator ISSUP LAGOS STATE BRANCH

**Guest Speaker: PROF BOLANLE OLA**

**12th July, 2025** **13:00WAT** **Zoom**

Meeting ID: 851 0281 5676 Passcode: 624646





## FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA: THE CAPITAL SPEAKS THROUGH THE AIRWAVES

At the nation's capital, ISSUP Nigeria members engaged thousands through a live radio broadcast on Wazobia FM, discussing the science and heart of prevention. With contributions from professionals and advocates, the broadcast explored early intervention, support systems, and real-life testimonies.

This media advocacy provided a voice for the voiceless, placing the message of prevention in homes, buses, and market stalls across Abuja.



*This powerful use of media reinforces ISSUP Nigeria's belief that awareness must travel as far and fast as addiction does.*

## ABIA STATE: GOVERNANCE MEETS GRASSROOTS

As part of World Drug Day 2025, Abia State witnessed a landmark development that brought prevention into the heart of local governance.

In Aba North Local Government Area, Hon. Timothy Iheke formally inaugurated the Aba North Drug Control Committee, the first of its kind in the state. This initiative marked a strategic move to integrate drug prevention into community leadership and decision-making processes.



The event was a key highlight of Abia's World Drug Day activities and featured the active involvement of the ISSUP Abia State branch, coordinated by Dr. Azu Oko. Alongside other critical stakeholders, including faith leaders, youth advocates,

educators, health professionals, and security agencies-the branch contributed to shaping the committee's structure and vision.



This was more than a commemorative event. It signalled a systemic shift, turning prevention from a campaign into a civic priority. By establishing this committee, Aba North has created a replicable model for grassroots engagement in drug control and community resilience.

***ISSUP Nigeria commends the leadership of Aba North, the contribution of ISSUP Abia State, and all partners who ensured that World Drug Day 2025 was not only observed but used as a platform for lasting change.***



## CROSS RIVER STATE: PARENTS AT THE CENTRE OF PREVENTION

Partnering with the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Calabar, ISSUP Cross River hosted a virtual seminar on “Parents as Partners”. The session featured mental health professionals who taught caregivers how to spot early warning signs, initiate difficult conversations, and access support.

**FEDERAL NEUROPSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, CALABAR**

**WORLD DRUG DAY 2025**

*Theme:*  
**PARENTS AS PARTNERS**  
EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO PREVENT YOUTH DRUG USE

**Thursday June 26th 2025**  
**7:00PM (WAT)**

**Zoom Link:**  
<https://bit.ly/4effta0>  
Meeting ID: 817 3815 8989  
Passcode: 0800058

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Understanding modern drug trends affecting teens ✓
- Spotting early warning signs at home and school ✓
- Practical, non-confrontational talk- tips for parents ✓
- Where to get help: FNPH services and trusted hotlines ✓

**Host**  
**DR. THEO ONYUKU**  
Acting Medical Director,  
FNPH Calabar

**Keynote Speaker**  
**DR. UBONG UDOFIA**  
Consultant Psychiatrist,  
FNPH Calabar

**Co-Host**  
**DR. EMMANUEL ESSIEN**  
Acting Head of Clinical Services,  
FNPH Calabar

**Who Should Attend?**  
PARENTS | CAREGIVERS | TEACHERS | YOUTH | MENTORS | COMMUNITY LEADERS  
Equip yourself with evidence-based strategies to keep our children safe and drug-free.  
ENQUIRIES: [support@fnphcalabar.gov.ng](mailto:support@fnphcalabar.gov.ng)

This quiet but powerful session empowered the real frontline workers: parents.

*ISSUP Nigeria recognises that when families are strong, communities stand resilient.*

## KWARA STATE: A WEEK-LONG MARCH TOWARD AWARENESS

ISSUP Kwara, in collaboration with NDLEA Kwara Command, the State Drug Control Committee, the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control, and local NGOs, coordinated a full week of activities.



Sensitisation drives reached schools, markets, and mosques, engaging diverse audiences. The week culminated in a pledge for continued community-based advocacy.



*The week may have ended, but ISSUP Kwara's work has only just begun—and ISSUP Nigeria celebrates this sustained commitment.*



## OYO STATE: YOUTH LEADING THE PREVENTION CHARGE



In Ibadan, the student arm of ISSUP Oyo organised school visits to Ikolaba High School and Bodija International School. Miss Tirenoluwa and her colleagues from the Department of Health Promotion and Education, University College Hospital (UCH), led sessions on health risks and refusal skills.



Partners included the Association of Lady Pharmacists, Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON), the Association of Social Workers of Nigeria, and the Society for Family Health, which offered free hepatitis C testing at Gate Bus Stop.



From health education to hands-on testing, this was prevention in action—and led by the next generation.

Oyo shows that when community is empowered, prevention becomes a culture, not just a campaign.



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

*Presents*

**International Women's Day Celebration**

**Topic:**

**Collective Impact:  
Harnessing the power  
of Women to Prevent  
Substance Abuse**

 **8TH MARCH,  
2025. 4 PM  
SATURDAY**

**VENUE:** 

**COMRADE SEYE OMIYEFA**  
OYO STATE BRANCH  
ISSUP COORDINATOR  
HOST

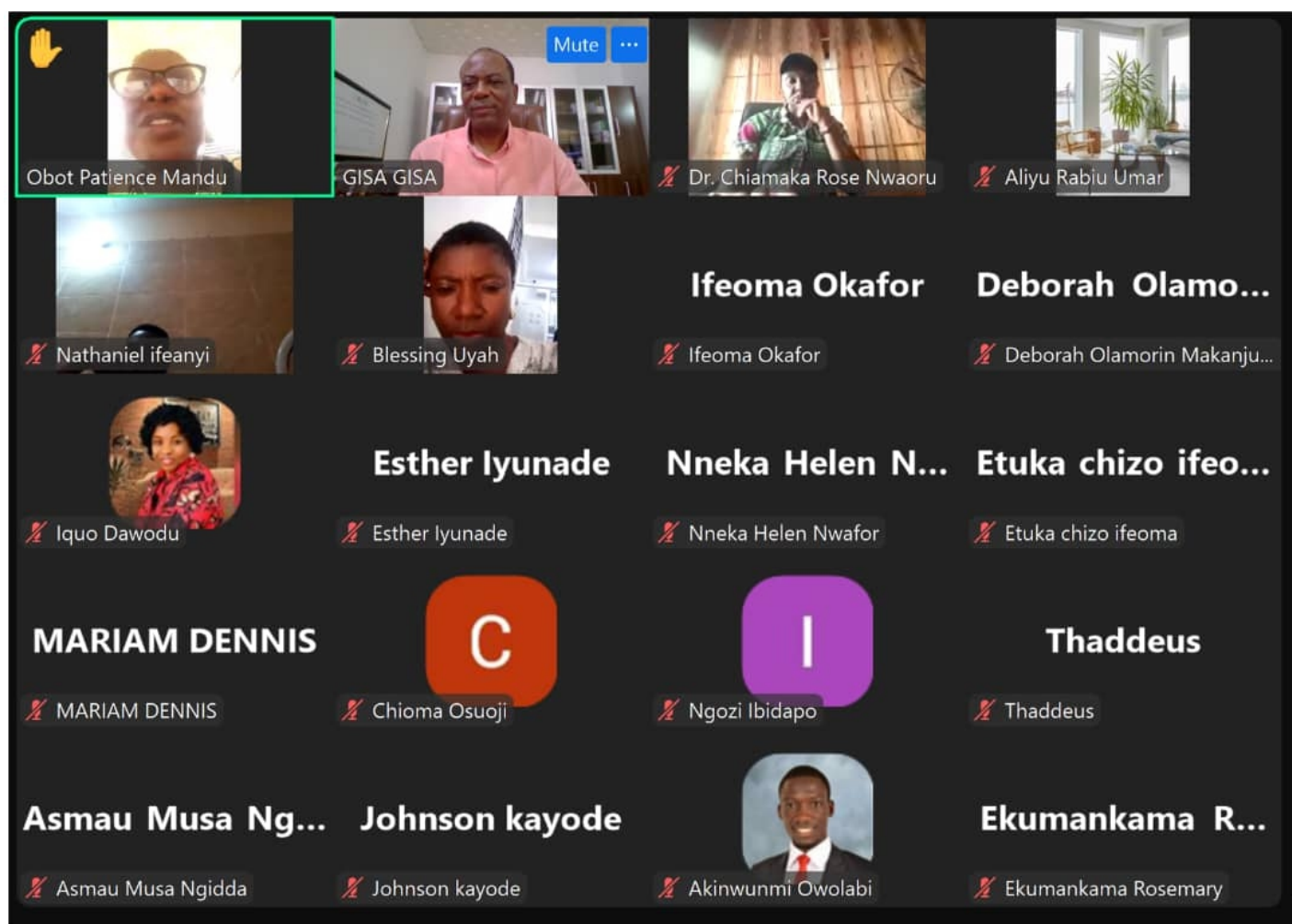
**OLUWARANTI SANNI**  
MPH  
CO-HOST

**FAITH CHUKWUJI (CSN)**  
DDR, NDLEA, LAGOS  
SPEAKER.

**SOLUADE ESTHER OLUWAYEMISI**  
COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGIST,  
ADDICTION PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT PROFESSIONAL AND  
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR.  
MODERATOR

## CAPACITY BUILDING

The 2025 World Drug Day Commemoration included virtual Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) Core training in collaboration with Global Initiative on Substance Abuse (GISA). The training is part of GISA annual capacity building support to ISSUP Nigeria Chapter members. The training was facilitated by Dr. Martin O. Agwogie, the Founder/Executive Director GISA and the National President of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter and supported by Mrs. Helen Nwafor and Mr. Aliyu Mukhtar Usman.



## **CONCLUSION: A NATIONAL MOVEMENT TAKES ROOT**

From Abia to Abuja, from Calabar to Kano, the message was clear and the actions were bold- prevention is not a theory, it's a movement taking root in communities across Nigeria.

World Drug Day 2025 was not just a date on the calendar. It was a declaration from ISSUP Nigeria and its partners:

- Prevention is possible
- Change is local
- And the future is worth fighting for.

ISSUP Nigeria extends deep gratitude to every volunteer, partner, policymaker, and parent who made this year's observance powerful. Together, we are writing a new story-one of resilience, action, and hope.

•



## State Coordinators

1.	Dr. Cynthia Nwanneka Chidinma Udeze	Anambra
2.	Prof. Charles Nnaemeka Nwoga	Plateau
3.	Prof. Ronke Grace Awopetu	Kaduna
4.	Dr. Damian Chinedu Nzeh	FCT
5.	Dr. Ann Ukachi Madukwe	Imo
6.	Asu Benedict Obasse	Cross River
7.	Emmanuel Akpan	Akwa-Ibom
8.	Dr. Ujunwa Callista Nduanya	Enugu
9.	Efiong Veronica	Edo
10.	Pharm. Grace Oluwatosin Aliyu	Kwara
11.	Seye Olayinka Omiyefa	Oyo
12.	Dr. Adamu Ibrahim Mshelia	Borno
13.	Pharm. Sanusi Mohammed Salisu	Jigawa
14.	Titilope Monsurat Ogunluyi	Lagos
15.	Lydia Adza Ajayi	Ekiti
16.	Dr. Anyalewa Alan-Ajonye	Benue
17.	Rev. Fr. Christopher Aghogho Ogaga	Delta
18.	Dr. Kalu Azu Oko	Abia
19.	Maryam Mohammad	Kano
20.	Eucharika Ifeoma Ekwu	Ogun
21.	DCGN Sani Ibrahim Sani, fdc (rtd)	Katsina
22.	Dr. Esukene Bertha Pius	Rivers
23.	Dr. Grace Tonye Scent	Bayelsa
24.	Sadiq Halima Oiza	Kogi
25.	Paul Lawrence	Niger

## **GET INVOLVED**

**Join ISSUP Nigeria in building a culture of prevention for all:**

**Schools: Integrate prevention into your curriculum**

**Parents: Create drug-free homes**

**Youth: Become peer educators**

**CSOs: Request training and collaborate**

**Donors: Fund local innovation**

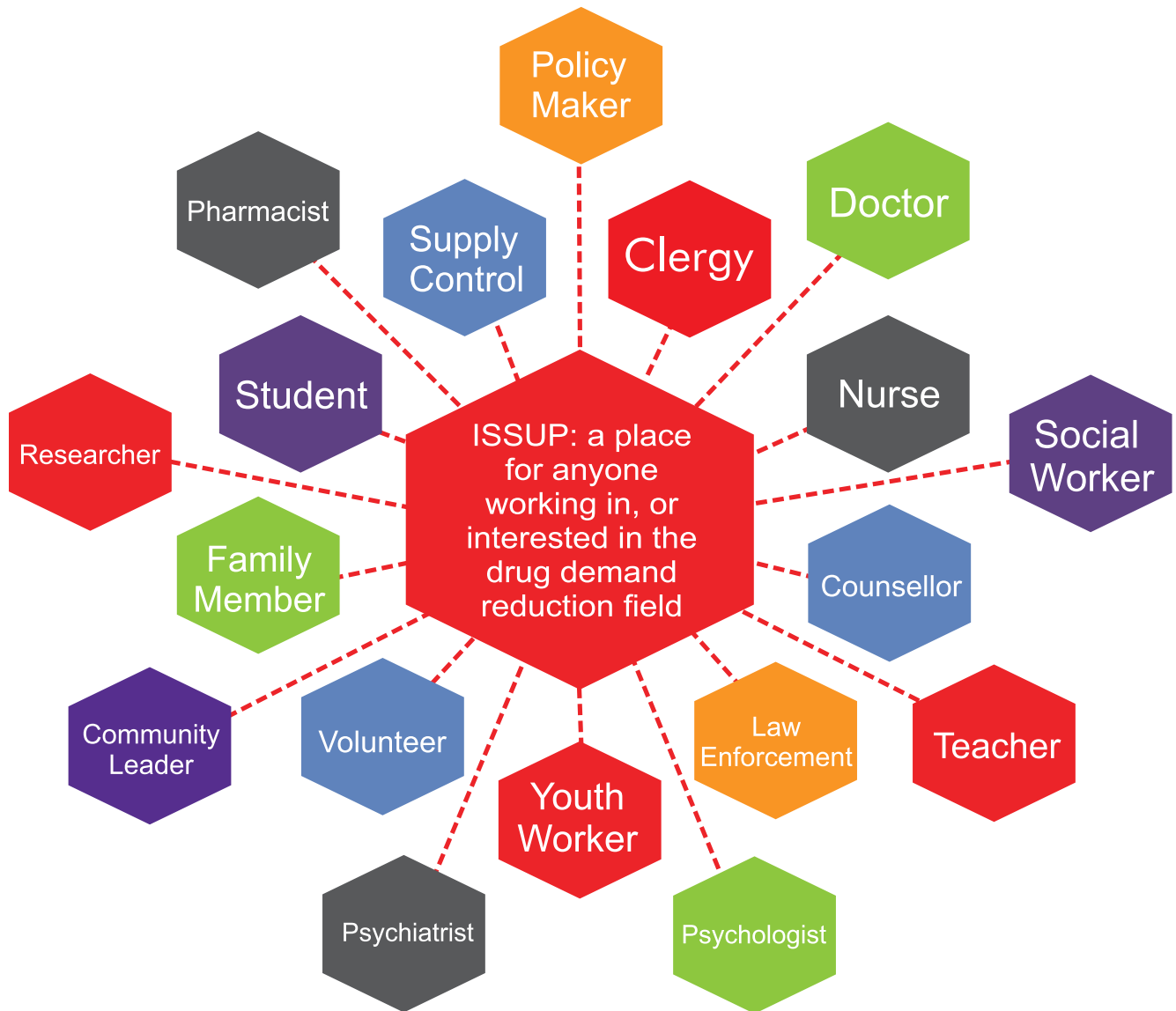
**[www.issup.net/nigeria](http://www.issup.net/nigeria) | ✉ [issupnigeria@gmail.com](mailto:issupnigeria@gmail.com)**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Special appreciation to NDLEA, state governments, educational institutions, traditional leaders, CSOs, youth volunteers, and every ISSUP branch member who championed prevention this June. Together, we made World Drug Day 2025 a platform for impact and hope.**







**ISSUP** acts as a catalyst and a focal point to connect groups within the global substance use prevention, treatment, recovery, research and policy makers