



# **WOMEN IN CYBERSPACE: ARE WOMEN SAFE IN CYBERSPACE?**

**26<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. Asheri Kilo, P.hd**

# INTRODUCTION(1)

➤ **This panel seeks to discuss obstacles to women using cyberspace effectively and what can be done to construct cyberspace experiences that are more appealing, hospitable and attractive to women.**

## **INTRODUCTION(2)**

➤ **At the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference for Women in Beijing, in 1995, ICTs were recognized as critical for achieving women's empowerment and gender equality.**

➤ **ICTs provide opportunities for women's full and equal participation in all spheres of society.**

## **INTRODUCTION(3)**

➤ **However, not many women have been trained to use or are comfortable with ICTs.**

➤ **They are minority users of cyberspace, much of which is still controlled and dominated by men.**

# INTRODUCTION(4)

## ➤ **ICTs including**

- the internet,**

- mobile telephones,**

- games,**

- online video programs,**

- movies, etc in some instances reflect and enhance violence against women.**

# INTRODUCTION(5)

- **Sexual harassment and aggression,**
- **Pornography**
- **Stalking**
- **Hostility towards women**
- **Debasement of women and**
- **trafficking**

## **INTRODUCTION(6)**

- **In any case, what percentage of Cameroonian women actually use cyberspace?**
- **Would women feel safer in a “women-only” cyberspace forum?**
- **Is moderating an option?**

# INTRODUCTION(7)

- **There is a need to make the experience safe for women.**



# INTRODUCTION(8)

## VALUES WOMEN PREDOMINANTLY WANT

➤ **Politeness,**

➤ **courtesy,**

➤ **interactions which promote social relationships,**

➤ **concern for discretion.**

# INTRODUCTION(9)

➤ **Culturally, women are made answerable to others for what they do with their bodies.**

➤ **The images women choose and the websites they visit and even build, exemplify roles and ideas they feel safe presenting to strangers**

# INTRODUCTION(10)

➤ **These issues and more will be discussed in greater detail by the following ladies,**

# INTRODUCTION(11)

**□ Dr. Mrs Margaret Niger Thomas,**

**Director of women's empowerment and the family MINPROF**

**□ Miss Susie Hargreaves,**

**Chief executive of IWF since 2011, Board member, UK Child internet safety**

**□ Miss Augusta Epuli Anjoh and**

**Works at the Reference Multi-purpose Centre for the promotion of Youths  
in Yaounde, MBA from the University of New Orleans.**

**□ Dr. Eni Muna Mbuagbaw.**

**Medical Doctor at the Cite Verte District Hospital, Yaounde**

# INTRODUCTION(12)

- **We hope that women's concerns will be addressed to make cyberspace a critical global resource for**

# INTRODUCTION(13)

- Information (women's health),**
- contacts,**
- data banks for opportunities and**
- the magnificent social network that it**  
**is meant to be.**

# INTRODUCTION(14)



➤ **Women need tips on how to protect themselves and feel secure in this fast growing global network of the cyberspace.**

## **INTRODUCTION(15)**

**➤ A similar round table discussion was held in Montreal-Canada from 30<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006, on “women in cyberspace”.**



# INTRODUCTION(15)



**Interesting debate to say the  
least !!!!**