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MAINSTREAMING GENDER ISSUES : THE KASU EXAMPLE

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In today's rapidly evolving world, few conversations command as much urgency and attention as gender discourse. Across governments, civil society, academia, and the corporate sphere, the call to address gender inequalities and promote inclusivity has grown louder and more resolute. Institutions are increasingly recognising their role not just as centres of learning, but as catalysts for social transformation.

It is within this context that Kaduna State University (KASU) is emerging as a noteworthy voice in advancing gender-responsive education and advocacy. Through its Centre for Gender Studies, the University is taking deliberate steps to embed gender considerations into its academic and institutional framework. In a significant move, KASU has partnered with the United Nations Population Fund to introduce a specialised gender studies curriculum into its expanding academic offerings.

At the heart of this initiative is a proposed course titled Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE). Designed to respond to the pressing realities of vulnerable populations, the course will

focus on critical areas such as case management, gender-based violence response, and the clinical management of GBV cases - both within Kaduna State and across Nigeria. Discussions are currently underway to establish a dedicated unit that will drive the implementation and sustainability of this programme.

As part of the preparatory process, a delegation from UNFPA visited KASU on 18th March 2026 to assess the University's readiness for the rollout of the course. The team commended the institution for its proactive stance and expressed admiration for the progress made in advancing gender awareness within its academic community. The visit underscored the growing confidence of international development partners in KASU's capacity to deliver impactful, SDG-aligned programmes.

Speaking during the engagement, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Strategy, Innovation and Service Delivery, Helen Afang Andow, conveyed the University's appreciation to UNFPA for selecting KASU as a partner.



As a recognised gender advocate within the institution, she reaffirmed management’s full commitment to ensuring the successful implementation of the programme.

Driving the initiative on the University’s side are two distinguished figures: Prof. Hauwa Evelyn Yusuf, Administrator of the Kafanchan Campus, and Dr. Deborah Bijimi, Director of the Centre for Gender Studies. Both have played pivotal roles in championing gender equity and advancing the cause

of human dignity within and beyond the University community.

This initiative marks yet another milestone in KASU’s journey towards becoming a leading institution committed to addressing contemporary societal challenges. By mainstreaming gender issues into its academic fabric, the University is not only enriching its curriculum but also shaping a generation equipped to foster equity, compassion, and sustainable development.



Photos: Niger Zion Abui

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