

Story of an activist in Nigeria – Toyin

By Freddie Singleton, communication assistant at Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke



I am Adejokun Oluwatoyin Mercy. I am 23 years old and I am from Ondo State in South Western part of Nigeria. I am a political science student at Adekunle Ajasin University and I am also a youth activist. I am an activist because I have been so passionate about human rights since the time I was growing up. The current issue Nigeria is facing based on gender inequality is female mutilation – female genital mutilation – which is F.G.M., a campaign is going on in Nigeria right now and other countries in Africa. We have the discrimination against women, and also the girl child marriage, most especially in the northern part of Nigeria. These problems are not just limited to Nigeria; they are applicable to other parts of the countries as well. We have the restricted movement of women in Saudi Arabia; before they can go out of country, they have to get permission from their husbands. In Iraq, Tunisia, and other countries, women are not

allowed to file for divorce, no matter what they are going through in their marriage, only the men are allowed to. So this gender inequality is a global issue.

What I am doing in my community in order to combat this gender inequality is... right now I am working with Activista in order to create awareness and raise the consciousness of the girl, in order to speak out on whatever has been done to them. Whatever inequality has been done to them, I am, we are trying to fight for their rights. And also in my school, I am part of this small group. We have come together in order to raise the consciousness of the female students; in order to speak out if they have been assaulted by the lecturers, by the male lecturers or the male individuals around the community.

People who are also fighting for gender equality in my country are the likes of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, we have the likes of Oby Ezekwesili, we have the likes of Erelu Bisi Fayemi. We have so many people fighting for gender equality in my country. So what I hope to see, the Nigeria I hope to see in the next few years is a country or a society where everyone is judged not by their gender but by their skills and their capacity, and a country or a society where we all have equal access to everything. Thank you.