

GIVING A HAND TO THE NEEDY

It is often the weak and vulnerable in the society that needs help: and that's what Idia Renaissance represents"- Senator Mary Henry

In our contemporary world of disease, poverty, injustice, crimes of all shades, natural disasters and conflicts; Children, youths and women are the most vulnerable. Senator Mary Henry stated this when she visited the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance during on the invitation of her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbiniedion.

Children, especially, have always been made to bear the brunt of problems inherited from adults. During conflicts usually precipitated by communal, tribal, religious or ethnic violence, children and women suffer worst casualties. Women and young girls are sometimes used as shields. They are usually, raped, brutalized and subjected to all forms of inhuman treatments; worst still, young people are recruited into the military and exposed to the use of dangerous fire arms and sadly to death.

The impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic has also had its highest impact on women and children. The women are made to care for sick family members; children are made to care for their sick parents and siblings and in most cases orphaned without care and support.

The Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund, initiated by Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbiniedion, has since inception been addressing the issues of child labour and the neglected rights of the child. Apart from the indigent Edo children benefiting from the 12 years scholarship programme, several orphan children have also benefited from the programme.

The Trust Fund has also facilitated the care and support services to children with different degrees of deformity. The Fund offsets the hospital bills since their parents could not pay the bills, made several donations to orphanages etc. The overall mission of Idia Renaissance which is to challenge society to be more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the underprivileged is reflected in all the programmes of the organization.