

Women in Political Leadership in Nigeria: Issues, Prospect and Challenges

- Oluyemi O. Fayomi,
- Lady A. Ajayi,
- Rosemary O. Popoola &
- Oluwatobi Njoaguani

Abstract

Leadership has become one of the most significant concepts in global discourse because of the important role leadership play in peace, social justice, equity, freedom, and sustainable development. Leadership expert John Maxwell in view of the important role of leadership asserts that “everything rises and falls on leadership.” During the past three decades, the call to include women in leadership at all levels has resulted in a major paradigm shift from the politics of exclusion to the politics of inclusion, hence, in 2011, the UN General Assembly Resolution on women’s political participation notes that, “Women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women.” This paper examines the necessity of inclusion of women in leadership and the complexity of interdependent social relations between men and women and how this impact on sustainable development, peace, and justice is the catalyst for international instruments and convention. Notably, Conventions on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) 1981; the Beijing Platform for Action, 1995, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights 2006, the recently expended Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the ongoing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).