

Volume 1, Issue 1

ONE PEOPLE! ONE WORLD!!  
UNITED IN PROGRESS!!!



**CAMPAIGN TO SAVE  
AFRICAN WOMEN FROM  
PREGNANCY-RELATED  
DEATHS— (“SAVE”)**

**“Evil prevails if good men [and women] do nothing” (Burke E)**

Dear Friend and Compatriot,

Thank you for your heroic move to volunteer in the campaign to “Save African Women from Pregnancy-Related Deaths”. As we join together to add our VOICES to this campaign, we have become ONE PEOPLE! ONE WORLD!! UNITED IN PROGRESS!!!

Our common hope is that one day soon, we will all join together to celebrate a MOTHER AFRICA where women will not be neglected.

Africa is a continent of great people; such as the great Mandela, OBAMA and his African roots, and other great people of African heritage from all works of life. Many more great people would have been born if not for the 600,000 avoidable maternal deaths per year!

Our sympathy goes to all the families in the continent that have lost loved ones. May the gentle souls of all WOMEN who have died from pregnancy complications Rest in Perfect Peace. Amen!

We all must stand-up and say NEVER AGAIN should women die from avoidable pregnancy-related deaths in Africa. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), “Africa is the only region where there has been no improvement in maternal deaths for more than a decade. Indeed, the average maternal mortality ratio has increased from 870/100 000 live births in 1990, to 1000/100 000 live births in 2001.”

Flowing from the maxim that “evil prevails if good men [and women] do nothing”, we will like to call on all good men and women in Africa to rally together and TAKE effective ACTION!

As a comparison matrix, lets take for instance, the publicity and action taken by the international community on the SWINE FLU case where only a couple of hundreds died; we have also seen the action taken in cases of natural disasters, such as the earthquake in Haiti that killed over 150,000 people — about US \$6 Billion was raised to assist Haiti's recovery, and recently, hundreds of millions of dollars were spent in various Earth Hour events — Now, the question is, on a global scale, WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD TO PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS?!!!!!-- estimated as over 600,000 deaths per year. . The short answer is "LITTLE"...are women and children not IMPORTANT???...How many more pregnancy-related deaths are needed for the governments to take a decisive action???

We applaud the efforts of men and women in the continent who are doing much to address the issues of maternal death. However, our vision is to see a M-A-S-S-I-V-E response of GOVERNMENTS, COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS and INDIVIDUALS jointly united and saying ENOUGH! is ENOUGH! to the avoidable DEATHS of WOMEN from pregnancy complications in AFRICA!

If we all can join together to take ACTION on this issue, then, we are on our way to achieving success.

To honour your efforts, after the rally, we will be delighted to feature your rally pictures and/or videos on the Sweet Mother International website Also, we would appreciate if you can permit us to create your profile, and post your articles or texts on the site.

Accept our best wishes and sincere appreciations; together we can make a difference.

LONG LIVE MOTHER AFRICA!

Yours for humanity,

Amanda Scott  
SMI/WYEA International Project Officer



John Nze-Bertram  
President



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## Procedure for hosting a SAVE campaign/program:

1. You complete the volunteer form; after which we will send you an Information and Sponsorship Invitation Pack. Visit this webpage to complete the volunteer form — <http://www.sweetmotherinternational.org/volunteer>
2. You start to mobilize volunteers and supporters of the SAVE program in your area, state or country.
3. You host meetings with the volunteers to discuss how to implement a "SAVE" rally and post rally programs. Visit this webpage to see reports of meetings held by other teams — <http://www.sweetmotherinternational.org/meetings>

At these meetings you can:

- a. elect committee members and assign role to each person.
- b. invite individual's goodwill contributions (financial or material) towards implementing the SAVE rally
- c. take action and explore ways of seeking donations from sponsors.
- d. fix a specific date for the "SAVE" rally and plan post-rally programs —(See details in the next page).
- e. and take decisions on strategies that can assist you to successfully implement the program

If you are in a country other than Nigeria, you will need to implement the SAVE rally in collaboration with a registered humanitarian organization in your country. (After the rallies, we can permit you to register SMI in your country.)

In all materials regarding the SAVE campaign, you must emphasize that SAVE is a project of Sweet Mother International (SMI). We will also be delighted to receive feedback from time to time on your progress --this is because, your performance determines whether you will be permitted to continue to implement the SAVE project in your area, state or country within the 2010/11 campaign season.

You can view the successes of SAVE in

Nigeria: <http://nigeria.sweetmotherinternational.org>

Liberia: <http://liberia.sweetmotherinternational.org>

Cote d'Ivoire: <http://ivoire.sweetmotherinternational.org>

Thank you for volunteering to implement the SAVE campaign.

# RALLY PROGRAMS AND GUIDELINES

## PROGRAMS :

**PRAYERS :** Prayers in Mosques, Churches and other religious centers

**PROCESSION:** Procession to Parliament Houses (Local government, State or Federal) in all African Countries to call on the respective governments to urgently intervene in reducing Pregnancy-Related Deaths.

## GUIDELINES :

1. Peaceful and Sobering Procession
2. No political slogans/signs/gestures
3. Must comply with government guidelines and requirements (all rally leaders should consult with their local authorities before the rally date)
4. Speech and proceedings will be composed by the rally leaders and must be respectful of local audience and culture
5. Link up with other rally coordinators in your region or country – cooperate with Regional or Country Rally Coordinators (to be appointed soon).
6. Dress code is White( or a uniform colour acceptable by your jurisdiction)

**The rally must be PERSUASIVE and EFFECTIVE so as to achieve a best outcome**

## PRINTS ON:

### BANNER

Banner will have the **tag** “ Campaign to SAVE AFRICAN WOMEN FROM PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS” “**(SAVE)**” or Campaign to SAVE [name your country] FROM PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS”

**Theme:** "ONE PEOPLE! ONE WORLD!! UNITED IN PROGRESS!!!"

**Features** on banner are the Sweet Mother International Logo and Your Organization's Logo/Name

### T-SHIRTS (optional)

Will feature the campaign tag “**SAVE**” and theme.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS MATERIALS (optional)

Contents as specified in Banner above and other appropriate texts and features.

> Open a register of supporters (collect names, contacts, comments and signatures) this

## TIPS :

could be useful for a petition to the UN, WHO or Governments/Parliaments

> Take pictures and/or video coverage of the rally - this will be used to create your web page on SMI website and media publicity of your rally

> **FUND RAISING:** You can conduct fund raising activities to support the rally.

> **SPONSORS:** You can invite sponsors to sponsor the rally – you can feature a sponsor's company logo on T-shirts, banners, PR materials etc

## CONCERTS AND GALA EVENTS

**POST-RALLY PROGRAMS** —Featuring: Popular Comedians, Musicians, Fashion and Beauty Pageants etc

**DATE and VENUE:** To be determined

**(The leaders of the RALLY will meet to discuss the strategies for implementing the CONCERT AND GALA EVENTS.)**

### **AIM:**

The aim of the event(s) is to FUNDRAISE to support the establishment of a **TRUST FUND** to assist rural and under-privileged pregnant women in Africa.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

see more details at: <http://www.sweetmotherinternational.org/objectives-of-smi>

The Trust Fund will be used to:

- fund cesarean operations
- equip maternity wards
- establish a mobile medical emergency unit that can quickly intervene in a complicated home child delivery situation and to transport patients to Hospitals
- provide after birth Medicare and nutrition

### **TIPS:**

The leaders of the RALLY will appoint a CARE TAKER COMMITTEE that will manage the Trust Funds in each designated area.

The committee will be made up of representatives of the government health agencies, medical union members, community and NGO representatives.

Implementation is on phases and will be effectively monitored and reviewed to ensure expectations are met.

PHASE ONE: the a pilot program stage. (may start in 2011/12.)

The implementation of a pilot program to test run the TRUST FUND Scheme, which can be set up in a region which will be determined by the RALLY LEADERS and CARE TAKER COMMITTEE.

**Your ideas are welcome. Email : [smi@sweetmotherinternational.org](mailto:smi@sweetmotherinternational.org)**

# ABOUT SWEET MOTHER INTERNATIONAL

INCORPORATED

Sweet Mother International (SMI) aims to celebrate motherhood and to assist expectant mothers living in disadvantaged communities to maintain good health during and after childbirth. Also, SMI's vision is to participate with the world communities to achieve the millennium development goal, particularly, the United Nations' call to reduce maternal mortality by 75 per cent in 2015.

*Sweet Mother International recognizes Mothers as the conscience and the "Pillars of Nations". Women are the fertile ground in which humanity is grown. Any nation seeking progress takes seriously the development of women virtues since mothers are the primary source of vision for a peaceful and prosperous society.*

JOHN NZE-BERTRAM , PRESIDENT, SWEET MOTHER INTERNATIONAL, MAY 5, 1990

*"It is the tasks connected with the home that are the fundamental tasks of humanity....If the mother does not make her contribution, there will either be no next generation, or a next generation that is worse than none at all."*

- Theodore Roosevelt, 26<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.

*"Study after study has shown that there is no effective development strategy in which women do not play a central role. When women are fully involved, the benefits can be seen immediately: families are healthier and better fed; their income, savings and reinvestment go up. And what is true of families is also true of communities and, in the long run, of whole countries."*

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, March 8, 2003.

# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

UPCOMING

Sweet Mother International will assist displaced or refugee mothers affected by war or disaster. SMI will provide volunteer services and provision of relief materials. The organization also, will embark on rehabilitation and care for widow, destitute, aged women and old-women-without-children. Mothers with HIV/AIDS will be assisted to regain confidence in their homes. SMI will provide these women with basic resource, knowledge and tools to enable them cope with their challenges.

Sweet Mother International will assist pregnant women by organizing maternal seminars and establishment of Trust Fund where women that have complication during pregnancy or childbirth can be assisted. Young females will be tutored on home building and positive attitude.

Sweet Mother International will honour mothers of prominent personalities who have contributed positively to societal development. Such Mothers will have hospitals, women development centers and other memorial monuments built in their names. Also, biographies of these women will be compiled and developed into resource materials as magazines, books, visual documentaries and e-resources. Museums will be established featuring the pictures, souvenirs and biographies of these "Golden Mothers".

Sweet Mother international will discourage prostitution, women battering, and harmful cultural practices by organizing seminars, television programs, reformative music & drama. The organization will also, encourages the youths to love their mothers and honour them. Competitions will be organized where Youths could win prizes for their Mothers. Sweet Mother International will encourage cultural, racial and religious tolerance by organizing sight-seeing expeditions, tourism, cultural exchange programs and social interaction vacations among member countries.

Sweet Mother International will examine and address critically the socio-economic and political situations affecting Mothers from performing their primary responsibilities as the epitome of love, care and hope in the home. The organization will emphasize the importance of healthy motherhood to positive societal developmental change.

Sweet Mother International will achieve these aims and objectives by embarking on mass training and capacity building of women through skill acquisition, provision of educational loans & scholarships grants , social reforms, entrepreneurial and business empowerments.

Sweet Mother International will formulate itself as pressure group to push the government to enact policies that will affect Mothers/ Women positively. Some of the activities tailored towards achieving these aims are by: Sponsorship of legislative bills, mass rally/ protest and media campaigns.

Sweet Mother International will collaborate with other organizations to deliver: free health care services; free legal interventions for oppressed women especially to Mothers of infant children whose fundamental human rights have been abused, or unlawfully detained, imprisoned or awaiting trial, also, Mothers whose economic means of livelihood has been encroached upon either by governments, organizations or individuals. The organization will institute legal action on behalf of children whose mothers died as a result of pre-meditated murder.

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF SMI**

The idea of Sweet Mother International is dedicated to Madam Salomey Nze, 1904 - 1986, IMO STATE, NIGERIA.

Madam Salomey Nze despite her predicament as a young widow with over six teenage children, single handedly founded a home where she accommodated and fed women who were widows like herself, aged women, old-women-without-children, destitute women and women with mental illness. She was also a counsellor to newly married couples and young women. She acted as a mediator in times of dispute between families, assisting to restore peace, love and affection in homes. She was so devoted in her fellowship with God and humanity that she was regarded as an "Angel " in her community. She died in 1986.

In the year 2000, this vision was regenerated by the idea of Sweet Mother International which was conceived by, John Nze-Bertram the grandson of Madam Salomey Nze.



## ABOUT JOHN NZE-BERTRAM, SMI PRESIDENT



John Nze-Bertram, right, with his Excellency Mike Rann, Premier of South Australia

John Nze-Bertram, the President of Sweet Mother International is a Sponsoring Member of the Institute of Ethics and Leadership, Germany; a Member of the United Nations Society University of South Australia ; President of the African Chamber of Commerce Incorporated South Australia; Australian National Coordinator of "Club OHADA" - Organization for the Harmonization of Business Laws in Africa; International Team Leader of the " South Australian Trade and Tourism Project" -- coordinating and networking with over 600 organizations worldwide.

He is also the Managing Director of Strategic Trades Services- Import & Export Network -- an import and export brokerage company based in South Australia.

John Nze-Bertram is an alumni of South Australian Government Vocational Education and Training (TAFESA) - Interlink Program; School of International Studies University of South Australia; Commercial Law University of South Australia; continuing studies at the School of Law, University of South Australia.

In South Australia, John Nze-Bertram served as a volunteer for a local council where he assisted people living with disability to acquire technical and social skills, and to integrate into the community. In addition, he has participated actively in advancing the African community development initiatives in South Australia.

For example: supporting the government's social integration program that aims to promote multiculturalism and inclusiveness, John Nze-Bertram participated actively in mobilizing the African community leaders to the South Australian Parliament House on an invitation by the Honourable Speaker; followed by his nomination as a special guest among Nigerian community leaders to a luncheon, at the Parliament House, with the Attorney General of South Australia and Nigerian High Commissioner;

Also recently, among other African community members in South Australia, John Nze-Bertram was specially invited by His Excellency, Mike Rann, the Premier of South Australia, to an occasion honouring the contribution of Africans to the development of the State -( Pictures above); On other occasions, he has met, greeted with a hand shake and discussed with several prominent Australians including his Excellency, John Howard, the former Prime Minister of Australia, and his Excellency, Mr Hieu Van Le, the Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) and the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia.

Mr. Nze-Bertram is a dedicated and versatile administrator, with several years of experience among international not-for-profit organizations and private enterprises. He possess extensive skills, knowledge and experience in strategic project management - planning, networking, analyzing, implementing, integrating, monitoring and reviewing. Strong blend of managerial, professional and interpersonal skills. Proven success working under pressure within stringent time frames and meeting demanding targets. Capacity to make difficult decisions and achieve results. Ability to achieve goals with limited resources and to facilitate and optimize difficult and complex negotiation situations with across linguistically and culturally diverse groups.

He has pioneered the establishment of several organizations - political, religious and civil organizations. He is a humble person with lots of passion to serve humanity and delights in helping people overcome challenging problems and to realize their goals.

#### **Hobbies:**

As hobbies, John Nze-Bertram likes to play soccer, listen to music, and network via virtual communities platforms. He also likes to travel and experience new cultures.

#### **Expectation**

Through SMI-WYEA programs, John Nze-Bertram wishes to establish effective networking and exchange partnership with like minded leaders of community organizations --with a view to advancing progress in Africa and helping to stop the avoidable deaths of women from pregnancy complications.

## MEET AMANDA SCOTT



**Amanda Scott** is the International Project Officer of Sweet Mother International (SMI) and the World Youth Empowerment Association (WYEA) Incorporated. She is delighted to be a part of the campaign to “Save African Women from Pregnancy-Related Deaths”.

As a mother of three boys delivered by caesarean operations, Amanda has experienced a near death experience as a result of her pregnancy complications; albeit, the efficient obstetric care in her country, Australia, Amanda would have been dead if she were living in a rural African community.

Amanda’s heart goes to all women in Africa, particularly, to the expectant mothers who are unsure if they will have a safe delivery.

According to Amanda, “here in Australia, the government takes adequate care of women and children’s health. They even pay women up to \$5000 after birth. We have the Royal Flying Doctors who airlifts pregnant women experiencing complications from rural areas to an obstetrics hospital; the doctors among the team, can even administer appropriate induced labour procedures to assist a safe delivery.”

Amanda’s passion to assist maternal health in Africa is a motivating factor for her further studies in the field of Medical Science. She has had a successful career in Sales and Marketing and studies at the University of South Australia.

“I am dedicated to this cause to “Save African Women from Pregnancy-Related Deaths” says Amanda. With SMI’s ongoing programs in Africa, Amanda says “I am certain to visit someday soon to meet all the good people of Africa who are supporting this campaign.”

You can meet and chat with Amanda on [FaceBook](#)

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