

CONGRATULATIONS

Sister Francisca Ngozi Uti, HHCJ

the founder and executive director of the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) in Abuja, Nigeria, has been named the laureate of the **2024 Opus Prize** — a \$1.2 million award recognizing **transformative humanitarian work**.



The Opus Prize is given annually to recognize unsung heroes of any faith tradition, anywhere in the world, solving today's most persistent social problems. This \$1 million faith-based humanitarian award and two \$100,000 awards are collectively one of the world's largest faith-based, humanitarian awards for social innovation.

In her address during the Nov. 14 award ceremony at **Santa Clara University**, a Jesuit university in Silicon Valley, the Nigerian member of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ) said that words could not express her joy.

"I never dreamed that the work my team and I have been doing in these remote communities would gain recognition not only within our state but beyond our nation's borders crossing the Atlantic and reaching as far as the United States of America.

"You have placed a significant responsibility on us; to whom much is given, much is expected CWSI will not betray your trust. I accept this award on behalf of all the women, girls, and men who have partnered with us to bring about positive change in their lives and communities."



VISIT the Centre for Women's Studies & Intervention — <https://cwsing.org/what-we-do/>

to read more about their work in —

- human rights/gender equality training,
- addressing the under-representation of women in elected and appointed positions,
- making women economically self-reliant,
- addressing the growing trend in migration issues affecting women and girls such as trafficking, child labour, exploitation, and abuses, and more.