

University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) – Report of social work day activities (March 19, 2019)

In recent years, the University of Nigeria has made commitments to join social workers all over the world to celebrate the social work day. This has always been fruitful as a result of the collaboration between the student and staff bodies. In the past, radio programmes and rallies have featured strongly, in helping to create awareness about the profession within an environment not fully abreast of what it is. Generally, the department has benefitted from this, especially in the increase of its student population and a fast-growing recognition of the course as a very important one within the university environment.



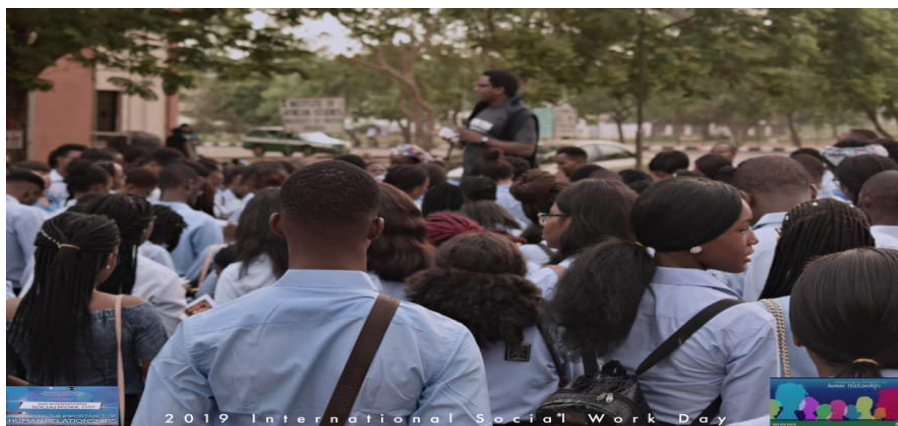
Pic 1: Aerial view of students of the Department of Social Work on 2019 Social Work day

This year's social work day came as a retreat, given the theme – "Importance of Human Relationship". The students and staff converged at the centre of the Faculty of Social Sciences to reflect on this theme, as they sought to see how they could make their practice better. The Head of Department, Prof. Uzoma Okoye commenced the meeting by a brief introduction of the topic. She highlighted the need to move away from the technical terms used in class when addressing human relationships, to the very lay terms that would mean "the society finding warmth and justice in the arms of social work".



Pic 2: Prof. Uzoma Okoye addressing the congregation of students and staff members

Her opening came as a platform for the speaker – Mr. Prince Agwu (a lecturer in the Department), who emphasized the need for social workers to pay attention to the very little things that make human relationship meaningful. Ranging from genuine concern, apologies, warm reception, sensitivity, and hope. The speaker stressed that the need for these elements of human relationship is that the quality of change social workers bring about for the population they serve is directly proportional to the quality of contact/relationship they establish with the system. He advised that social workers should be mindful of the ways they relate and receive people everywhere, including on the internet. Text messages, chats, e-mails, online posts, etc., should reflect the ambassadorship of being a social worker in a global world fast driven by technology. At the end, other lecturers made few contributions to all that have been said. The students finally had to proceed with a rally round the university campus to create awareness.



Pic 3: Mr. Prince Agwu addressing the students on the theme in non-technical language



Pic 4: Cross-section of students with some staff of the Department and the Head of Department



Pic 5: The students in rallying mood