



**BENCHMAC & INCE.**

Happy International Women's Day.

**#choosetochallenge.**

**#Helphergrow.**



“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg.**





## International Women's Day

The International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated globally and annually on the 8th of March. The day is designated to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Every 8th of March, women all over the world gather to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about gender inequalities, lobby for accelerated gender parity and raise funds for female-focused charities.

The theme for this year's celebration is #ChooseToChallenge: "A challenged world is an alert world, and from challenge comes change"

This year we are being challenged to speak out and call out every form of gender bias and inequality, challenge gender stereotype and maintain gender equality mindset.

As part of our efforts to celebrate this year's International Women's Day (IWD) we are celebrating the achievements of Nigerian women, who have not only distinguished themselves but have shattered gender stereotypes in different eras, walks and spheres of life. We hope that the achievements of these women challenge and inspire you to speak out against gender inequality and bias in our society.





**Top on our list is the history-making, Amazon, Ngozi Okonjo-Iwela.**

**Ngozi Okonjo-Iwela is a renowned economist and two term Financé Minister of Nigeria. In February**

**2021**, she made history by becoming the first woman, first African and first Nigeria-American to become the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). She sits on the boards of Standard Chartered Bank, Twitter, Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunization and the African Risk Capacity (ARC). Ngozi, Okonjo-Iwela is not only known for her stellar achievements but also known for iconic head gear.



**2.**

**Chief Funmilayo**

**Ransome-Kuti**

**Funmilayo Anikulapo-**

**Kuti**, was the first Nigerian

Feminist. She was

an educator, political

campaigner, suffragist, and women rights activist. She

was the first woman to drive a car in Nigeria. She is the reason why Chioma drives a car and can sign up as a female driver with a taxi hailing company in Nigeria.



### **3. Kofoworola Abeni Pratt.**

Kofoworola was the first Black person and female nurse to work at the NHS, England. She was also the first female commissioner of Health for Lagos State.

### **4. General Aderonke Kale,**



General Aderonke Kale, is the first female Army General in Nigeria. A medical doctor by training yet she ventured into a profession which was traditionally reserved for men all over the world – the military profession. Not only did she challenge

stereotypes surrounding the military profession in Nigeria, but also distinguished herself by rising to the top of the profession.



## 5. Captain Chinyere Kalu

**Captain Chinyere Kalu changed the face of the aviation industry and career in Nigeria. She is the first Female Commercial Pilot and the First woman to fly an aircraft in Nigeria.**

She served as the rector and chief instructor of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology between October 2011 and February 2014.

*“Every Woman should never be struck but should Fly and soar” - Captain Chinyere Kalu.*



## 5. Margert Ekpo:

Margert Ekpo was the first female politician and first female legislator in Nigeria's first republic. She was regarded as a female pillar in the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC).

## 6. Virginia Etiaba.



**She was the first female governor of Anambra state and the First Female Governor in Nigeria. Though her tenure lasted for only three months, she is the reason many Nigeria women can aspire and have gone ahead to contest for different political positions.**



## 7. FLORA NWAKPA.

Flora Nwakpa is referred to as the mother of modern African Literature and progenitor of female African Authors. She is the first female African Writer to be

published in English language in Britain



## 8. Mary Onyali-Omagbemi

Mary Onyali-Omagbemi nicknamed name queen of medals, is Nigeria former sprinter. She is the first Nigerian to ever compete in five Olympics( 1988 – 2004). She had won the bronze medal in the 4 × 100 m relay at the 1992

Olympic Games and in the 200 m at the 1996 Olympic

Games. She also won the 1994 Commonwealth Games 100 metres title. Mary's resilience and achievements are motivating factors to so many Nigerian Women.



### 9. Sandra Aguebor

**Sandra Aguebor is the first female mechanic in Nigeria and the founder of the "Lady Mechanic Initiative". She broke stereotypes and gender**

**limitations in a male-dominated industry. Today Sandra has fixed the lives of over 700 Nigerian Women by empowering them to become mechanics.**

### 10.



### Ire Aderinokun

Ire is a self-taught UI/UX Designer and Front-End Developer.

She is the first Nigerian woman to become a Google development expert. Ire is the reason

many Nigerian women can dream and have gone ahead to work at Google and other technology related spaces.



**11. Dr Adeola Olubamiji**

**She is the first Nigerian woman and the first black person to obtain a PhD in Biomedical Engineering.**



**12. Chief Folake Solanke**

**Chief Folake Solanke** (born 29 March 1932), SAN, CON, is a Nigerian lawyer, administrator,

and social critic. She is the first female **Senior Advocate of Nigeria** and the first Nigerian female lawyer to wear the silk.

All these Nigerian women have impacted and changed their world. We hope that the stories of these women do not only challenge you to speak out against every form of gender inequality and bias around you but also to make sure that you are not part of the problem.

Happy International Women's Day!!

#ChooseToChallenge.