

World Day of Prayer International Committee – June 16-18, 2022

Africa Regional Representative Candidates

Self-Introduction and Biography

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Name: Rosalie Akoue Adze

WDP Committee: Gabon

Church Denomination: Catholic Church

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Mrs. Rosalie AKOUE, married name ADZE, is a Senior Customs Inspector by profession. She is married and the mother of a large family. She was born into a family where both her father and her mother were Christian, as well as all her siblings.

She has been a Catholic Christian since the age of 11 when she was baptized, received her first communion and was confirmed. She has remained committed for nearly 50 years after her sacraments, first involved in Christian youth movements (*les âmes vaillantes*, Scouts, altar youth, youth choir, Legion of Mary, etc).

She has continued until today actively evangelizing through facilitation and through praise (thus praying twice). She oversees a choir and has been cantor in her parish for nearly 20 years. She is member of the board of the national commission on ethics and peace in Gabon and a parish representative. She is also Parish vice-chairperson of the national ecumenical movement in Gabon which celebrates once a year for a week every January.

"I joined WDP in 2002 and I have remained involved ever since. I took part in the establishment of the WDP Gabon Committee. To widen the movement and extend it to the level of provincial committees, we organize many activities and meetings every year outside the date when WDP is celebrated by the whole world. Like all the other women around the world, we celebrate WDP every year on the first Friday of March, using the celebration around the theme written by a given country. I have been the liaison between the WDP Gabon Committee and the WDP Executive Office in New York for the past 18 years and I communicate at the regional, international and global levels, writing many reports.

Since 2003, I have taken part in all the World Day of Prayer International Meetings:

- The Swanwick WDP International Meeting in the United Kingdom in 2003.
- The Toronto WDP International Meeting in Canada in 2007.

- The New York WDP International Meeting in the USA in 2012.
- The Accra WDP Regional Meeting for the Africa Region in Ghana in 2014.
- The Foz do Iguaçu WDP International Meeting in Brazil in 2017. During this meeting in Brazil, I had the privilege and honor as a voting delegate of the Gabon committee to be a participant in the Nominations and Elections Working Group for the nomination of the WDP African Regional Representatives.

About the position for which I am seeking appointment, I have the skills and expertise required to perform the responsibilities and duties required:

- I am available.
- I know how to lead a group, to direct people at national, regional and international levels. I master difficult group dynamics, particularly in multi-cultural and multi-racial situations. I acquired this experience during my professional life when I was the Head of a department for 20 out of the 32 years of my career. I also acquired this experience when I took part in a peacekeeping mission in a country of the sub-region at war, then post-crisis, for 2 consecutive years.
- I have skills in chairing and leading meetings, writing all forms of reports, organizing, communicating and planning.
- I have a global vision and understanding of women's social issues (violence, discrimination, injustices, women's rights, etc.).
- I apply transparency and good governance in all my actions and tasks; I am used to working with a team spirit, with integrity and probity, respecting diversity. I can handle stress and do not give in to religious and political pressures.
- I have a good command of computers and IT, and communication tools: internet, WhatsApp, Telegram, Zoom, Power Point; my written and spoken French are excellent. However, my written and spoken English are basic.

Experience in community life

- Member of the Association of Catholic Women of Gabon (AFCG) and their treasurer — I was one of the founding members of this organization in 2005, taking part in the drafting and the implementation of the AFCG's Articles of Association and By-laws.
- Member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) — the Association of Catholic Women of Gabon (AFCG) is a full member of WUCWO since the Centenary Assembly in 2010.

- The Gabonese Organization of Civil Society for Good Governance (OGSCBG) — an NGO I founded and for which I am Executive Secretary. The NGO fights against all the scourges that undermine development such as corruption and various trafficking activities, as well as the destabilization of the sound management of public policies.
- The International Association RFAF/ODD — the African French Speaking Women's Network for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A framework for women's reflections and actions on sustainable development issues: social, environmental, economic by including peace and security. I represent RFAF/ODD in Gabon.
- African Forum of Women Leaders (FAFEL - Forum Africain des Femmes Leaders) — a regional and international network of which I am a member and the country moderator for Gabon; its vision is training women for female leadership, the fight against all forms of precariousness, violence against women (moral and physical), and the promotion of activities by women entrepreneurs.

If I am to comment on the preparation for the celebration of the centennial of women leading prayer ecumenically, I would simply say that these women have been very persistent and resilient in fulfilling their missions.

In 2027, WDP will have brought about one century of commitment of women engaged in ecumenical life around the world.

My own engagement began in 2002 when I first became aware of WDP. I had to first grasp this concept of reflection, of prayerful meditation and of women's programs for action strengthened through prayer. The worldwide Christian community has become aware of the need for an ecumenical week once a year in January when all Christians of all denominations are invited to remember Jesus' prayer to his disciples "that they may all be one so that everyone may believe" (cf. John 17 verse 21). During this week of prayer, all Christians gather to pray for Christian unity. Churches around the world hold prayer services.

My vision for the next century of WDP leadership is to focus first and foremost on Christian unity, peace and solidarity in action, by cultivating above all the spirit of volunteering, of dedication and of sharing. To implement this vision, we must create robust platforms for communication, arrange for national and international gatherings, organize practical actions, reforms and assessments that lead to the unity of Christians, to the strengthening of the operational capacities of WDP national committees as well as to the extension of the WDP movement at global level."



Name: Rev. Eunice Onyeukwu Kalu

WDP Committee: Nigeria

Church Denomination: The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria

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I was born in Abia State, Nigeria on the 27th of May 1967 to the family of Elder Idika and Gladys Kalu of Ndi Ibe Ohafia. I am married to Elder Onyeukwu Idika Kalu and we have two children. I studied and earned my degrees at the following institutions: diploma in Theology at Hugh Goldie Lay/Theological Institution Arochukwu, B.Sc. in Political Science at Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu, post graduate diploma in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, National Open University of Nigeria, and a diploma in Ecumenical Studies at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland. I also attended many leadership and capacity building courses such as Gethsemane Prayer School and International Executive Leadership Course 1 from The

University of Leadership and Sound Doctrine, USA.

I have served in our church ministry for 32 years. I learned about WDP from my mother and grandmother as a child, when they would go to our central church to celebrate the service. As I was growing up as a young girl in the ministry, I started attending WDP services under our women's wing of the Christian Council of Nigeria. In 2004, when we celebrated Panama under the theme "In Faith, Women Shape the Future", I became very interested in this organization. I am the 1st assistant secretary of my country's WDP committee, and I attended the 2017 WDPIC International Meeting in Brazil.

In the women's ministry of my denomination, I have been in leadership positions such as the coordinator for both the Women's Guild and the Christian Girls in Training (CGIT). As a pastor and my roles in women leadership, one of the skills I gathered is the understanding that everyone is unique.

As a WDPIC Regional Representative for Africa, I believe I can contribute with my experiences in coordinating and motivating my fellow women to see the importance of togetherness and team spirit. I believe leadership is a learning process and, as I lead, I learn from the people that I am leading to expand my horizon. My vision for the next 100 years of WDP is that our generation should uphold the legacy our forebears laid. That prayerful action should be maintained. That we may continue to share in the plight of our sister countries that are in war and conflict. That we may continue to pray for justice and peace and to serve as home-based missionaries.



Name: Rinel Hugo

WDP Committee: South Africa

Church Denomination: Dutch Reformed Church

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I am a Christian and a friendly person who likes interacting with people and gets along well with most. I am married to a pastor, and we have 4 grown-up children. We are a close-knit family who enjoys coming together often. I think of myself as a reliable and trustworthy person who enjoys taking responsibility. I am, however, flexible and can adapt in different situations or places. I accepted the Lord as my Saviour when I was 10 years old and attended a WDP service with my mother. I enjoy using my gifts in the church and society and it is a privilege to serve as a member of the National Committee.

I was trained as a teacher and later a Project Manager. This helped me a great deal in the different positions I served in, during my ministry in the community and church. I love working with people and groups and I enjoy learning from them. I value diversity and the fact that different cultures enrich any activity or interaction amongst people. I represent the General Assembly of the Dutch Reformed Church and various women's groups on a National and International level and can maintain myself amongst strangers and large groups. Since I was involved in women's ministries I have been invited to events as a motivational speaker often.

As a teacher you interact and accommodate people and use social skills to do that which I believe is very critical in the WDPIC. I have a good theological background and I can discern what is important in the drafting of programs. I have been on the program committee for more than 15 years and can summarize and put together practical, workable programs which will carry the message (of the writing country) and ensure the fluency of the service. My studies as a Project Manager helped me to be able to put together project plans to ensure we reach the outcome we want, within a certain period, within a budget and of a good quality. I was the Project manager for our General Assembly where we accommodated 400 delegates for 7 days, bi-annually. I had to assist with the drafting of the program and coordinated the logistics regarding travelling, buses, meals, accommodation, supplies and the setting up of an admin office with printers, copy machines etc. I am a strategic thinker and enjoy applying that to any group where I am involved in. I love to do analysis of situations and to implement visionary steps to change direction or improve the influence or efficiency of the committee.

The WDP is a lively movement that brings together women of all cultures and ages in our countries to pray for the healing of our nation. Each year we as women take hands and gather in unity before God. As an ecumenical organization, it gives one of the most wonderful opportunities to promote prayer amongst ourselves, to affirm our faith in Christ, to pray for each other's burdens and work as co-workers in God's vineyard.

The challenge for the WDP movement is to stay relevant and be a "beacon of hope" for new generations, and within a new context for the next 100 years. The future of WDP will however be saved if we take ownership and stewardship. We will have to analyze our current situation, in each country, by doing surveys and see in which way we can adapt, without losing our identity, to accommodate younger people who will carry the WDP for the next 100 years. The WDPIC will have to guide countries in affirming our common vision, applying good governance and staying relevant. The focus should further be to involve more membership churches, strengthen and build our regions in all communities, spread awareness and share our good stores, build relationships amongst members, always pray and be involved in prayerful actions and projects. The writing committee will have to find creative ways to

involve the youth during services and to compile the program diverse enough to accommodate different ages, cultures and spiritualities.

I love the work of the WDP. It is a blessing to be able to assist women in reaching their full potential and use their gifts in the community. To be part of this chain of prayer throughout the world is a wonderful experience and privilege. The WDP should acknowledge each person's unique gifts and celebrate our unity through prayer. Although we are many members we are "One body in Christ."



Name: Queen Bridget Chisha

WDP Committee: Zambia

Church Denomination: The United Church of Zambia

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My name is Queen Bridget Chisha-Chilobwa. I was married to Mr. George Chilobwa, who passed away in 2006. I have five children and eight grandchildren.

I completed my secondary education in 1976. I am a secretary by profession and from 1977 to 1979, I trained as a secretary at Premier College and graduated with a diploma in Secretarial. To further my education, I studied Business Administration and graduated with a degree. I used to work for Standard Chartered Bank and Davirob Zambia Limited, but I am now a retiree currently running my own construction business.

I also served 4 years as the Presbytery Secretary for Women Christian Fellowship and, at the Synod office, I served as the advisory board secretary to the Synod Bishop and the General Secretary for 4 years. In my congregation, I served as a church elder for eight years. I am also an accredited lay preacher, currently the Girls Brigade Captain and a matron for the praise team. I am also the current Chairperson of the WDP Zambia chapter, taking office in 2015.

I have been involved in women's ministry for over 40 years now, in my church and in interdenominational organizations, such as the Wailing Women prayer network in Zambia, Hannah Praying Ministries, Advocacy for Christ in Zambia and the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation. My main experience has been understanding that women are a powerful tool in prayer and by attending prayer meetings, I have grown spiritually.

I am very interested in office, public and business management, organizing prayer meetings and other public gatherings, as well as the logistics behind functions and fundraising. I have worked with non-governmental organizations for women, and I have gained experience in advocacy and managing funded projects by donors. The WDP Zambia chapter has managed three funded projects by the European Union, Norwegian Embassy and we have a running project called Awareness on Access to Land Women Empowerment under the Swedish Embassy.

With World Day of Prayer, I have been actively involved in various programmes as an ordinary member and as a leader. I attended the first ever Africa Regional Conference (Ghana) and the Sub-Regional Conference (Angola). I was also privileged to attend the WDPIC International Meeting in 2017 (Brazil) and will be participating in the 2022 WDPIC International Meeting.

The last Sub-Regional Conference was held in Zambia. As the host country and being the WDP Chairperson for Zambia, I was tasked to do the planning and handle the logistics in consultation with other regional Chairpersons. The conference was successful. We hosted eight countries in the region, our WDPIC Regional Representative attended, and the Minister of Religious Affairs was our guest of honour.

While being a part of this movement, I have experienced the warmth of togetherness, care and love through our annual themes and gatherings at the regional and international levels. Each time we meet we have a new experience through the lessons given at that time and it is always a time of refreshing spirituality, fulfilling the motto of "Informed prayer. Prayerful Action".

For the next 100 years of WDP, my vision is to see visionary leaders with a passion carry the mantle. Leaders who will be able to share ideas, understand and further the works of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our organization needs finances to continue operating, therefore we will need to plan and know the direction of the organization to meet deadlines on time and win more souls through outreach initiatives and evangelism programmes to fulfill our motto - "Informed prayer. Prayerful Action."



Name: Sylvia Marowa

WDP Committee: Zimbabwe

Church Denomination: Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

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My name is Sylvia Marowa. I am a widow after having been married for 40 years. I live in Harare, Zimbabwe. I became an Ordained Minister/Pastor in 2018. I have a diploma in Theology and, as I continue to follow one of the WDP guidelines of being committed to learning, I am currently studying towards an Associate Degree in Theology at Hope Bible College and hope to graduate in August of 2022 whilst concurrently studying at Christian College USA for a degree in Christian Leadership.

I am the Founder and Visionary of Ramangwana Ravo, Their Tomorrow, Elakusasa Lavo NGO, which strives to elevate the stress and challenges for both the mother and child with disabilities. I am the mother of a beautiful girl, aged 23, who has special needs. I have been a member of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe since my marriage in 1982 and prior to this I was a member of the Salvation Army Church.

I became a member of WDP at a very young age, through the Salvation Army Church where I was a member of the Girls Brigade. Every year, the WDP worship service and children's program were held and I especially loved the children's programs. In 2005, I was elected to be the secretary for Mabelreign, Avondale and Marlborough Mubatanidzwa (Ecumenical Church for Women for the three communities) and I become a volunteer for WDP Zimbabwe, helping in all the areas I could. Over time, I was elected as the liaison officer for the World Day of Prayer Zimbabwe National Committee; a position I still have. I chose to be a community minister so that I could increase the capacity and outreach for activities for women while teaching the Word of God. To date this reach has extended to women's organizations, valuable women groups, mothers, caregivers and children with special needs where I have helped foster empowerment, leadership and training in both physical and spiritual development.

I took a leading role in the writing committee when WDP Zimbabwe began preparing the worship service for 2020 and coordinated with WDPIC. I composed the theme song 'Rise take your mat and walk'. I have also helped in organizing the WDP South Africa Conferences as secretary. I have Chaired the WDP Zimbabwe steering committee in the 50th Jubilee celebrations in 2012 and will do so again for the 60th Jubilee celebrations to be held this year in October 2022.

I am reliable and can be counted on to achieve set objectives without supervision. I have sound leadership and management skills which include motivation, listening, team guidance, and interpersonal skills where I remain able to navigate and be respectful all through actions and attitude. I have effective verbal communication skills and present ideas and information consistently and persuasively. I keep others informed and inspire confidence in my teams.

My interest and involvement in WDP continue to be centered around my personal growth in the word of God. With all this it would be a great honor for me to serve as Regional Representative. It is my desire to work at the grassroots level for a better understanding of WDP in my region as my sisters before me have done.

I will be attending the WDPIC International Meeting in June 2022 and have joined a working group that will focus on the WDP Centennial Celebration (1927-2027). I will be sharing ideas, and taking action to monitor, regulate process, tasks or activities, as an event organizer. My vision for the next 100 years of WDP leadership is to see many countries, who are not yet a part of the World Day of Prayer movement, join and celebrate with us.