



**BREAST CANCER IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD:
MEETING THE UNFORESEEN CHALLENGE TO
WOMEN, HEALTH AND EQUITY**

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY
BOSTON, MA

www.hsph.harvard.edu/breastandhealth

**PRESENTATION AT HARVARD GLOBAL
EQUITY INITIATIVE IN BOSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS
5TH NOVEMBER, 2009
HARNESSING A GLOBAL
MOVEMENT - FORUM OF
AFRICAN FIRST LADIES
AGAINST BREAST &
CERVICAL CANCER :
THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE**

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

I am very delighted to share our unique experiences from Africa with you.



AFRICA

- Huge burden of breast cancer in Africa – which is growing as a result of changing lifestyle, diet, tobacco
- Cancer receives very little or no attention in Africa, especially from the Ministries of Health – focus is on infectious diseases, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB
- Link breast cancer - cervical cancer - women's health- women's empowerment -human rights, justice and equity (MDG'S)



CHALLENGES WE FACE IN AFRICA

- Poverty
- Limited Resources
- Lack of Education
- Misconceptions about cervical cancer
- Cultural & religious beliefs
- Low socio-economic background
- Inadequate medical infrastructure
- Lack of knowledge about vaccination & screening
- Missed screening opportunities
- Other factors like transportation



ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- Relevant stakeholder's on board traditional/religious, cultural institutions, scientists, survivors, advocates
- Think outside the box - to reach the unreachable
- Ownership -Influential individuals as Champions and Goodwill Ambassadors :
 - * **Advocacy**
 - * **Lobby**
 - * **Policy**
 - * **Visibility – Break the Silence**



2008 - FORUM OF AFRICAN FIRST LADIES AGAINST BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER

First Lady meets cancer activist

By Vision Reporter

THE First Lady, Janet Museveni, over the weekend met Nigerian

Princess Nikky Onyeri, a champion in the fight against breast and cervical cancer.

At the meeting held at

State House, Nakasero in Kampala, Mrs. Museveni and her guest discussed the international conference due in Kampala to address cancer related illnesses.

State House said in a statement that Mrs. Museveni and Onyeri also discussed how to mobilise and sensitize Africans on the introduction of breast and cervical cancer vaccine.

The vaccine is in use in 56 countries throughout the world except in Africa.



Nikky Onyeri



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OBJECTIVES OF FORUM OF AFRICAN FIRST LADIES AGAINST BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER

- To advocate for increased awareness on breast and cervical cancer in Africa
- To mobilize resources for development of policy, strategies and actions to fight breast & cervical cancer at country, regional and international level
- To break the silence on cancer, reduce the stigmatization of people suffering and living with breast & cervical cancer in Africa.
- To mobilize and work with partner's at country, regional and international level to confront and fight the disease together
- To ensure monitoring and evaluation of activities of Forum of African First Ladies Against Breast & Cervical Cancer



2009 - FORUM OF AFRICAN FIRST LADIES AGAINST BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER

- Launched in Cape Town on 20th July, 2009 during the 3rd Stop Cervical Cancer in Africa Conference (SCCA) – three First Ladies, 5 Rep of First Ladies, 11 Health Ministers, Speakers & Parliamentarians
- Elected First Lady of Uganda - **Hon. (Mrs) Janet Museveni**
as Chairperson
- Elected First Lady of South – **Madam Tobeka Madiba – Zuma** as Vice Chairperson
- 12 African First Ladies already on board
- Meet twice at Annual Africa Breast Cancer Conference (AABCC) & Stop Cervical Cancer in Africa Conference(SCCA)
- Co ordination Princess Nikky Breast Cancer



Forum of
AFRICAN FIRST LADIES
against

**BREAST
&
CERVICAL
CANCER**



AFRICAN MOTHERS UNITING AGAINST CANCER

CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FORUM

- Breast & Cervical Cancer in Africa has received increased visibility and goodwill from stakeholders : Ministries of Health, Advocates, Survivors & others in country, region and around the world –CNN coverage
- Africa contributed the highest signatories to the Global Call to Stop Cervical Cancer with First Lady of Uganda & Chairperson of the Forum signing the call
- Lobbying of African Presidents & Governments, Parliaments ,Traditional, Religious Institutions for Cultural & Policy Change – African Health Agenda
- Holistic Approach -Link breast & cervical cancer



THE FUTURE FOR FORUM OF AFRICAN FIRST LADIES AGAINST BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER

- Mid Term Meeting : Annual Africa Breast Cancer Conference (AABCC) in Kampala, Uganda from 15th – 16th March,2010
- Election & Handover Meeting: Stop Cervical Cancer in Africa Conference (SCCA) in Accra , Ghana from 25th – 27th July,2010
- Unveiling of African Parliamentarians & Health Ministers Against Cancer on 26th July, 2010
- Lobbying the AU & UN – President's, Heads of State or Governments and other First Ladies to include Cancer on the World & African Health Agenda
- Mobilization of the International community's existing and new resources for cancer in Africa
- Build on partnerships, collaborations with individuals and organizations in Africa and around the world



**AFRICAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS
&
HEALTH MINISTERS
against
CANCER**



SPECIAL THANKS :

- **African Presidents – President Yoweri Museveni :Uganda, President Jacob Zuma:South Africa, HRM: King of Swaziland**
- **African First Ladies - Hon (Mrs) Janet Museveni : Chairperson & Madam Tobeka Madiba – Zuma : Vice Chairperson**
- . **African Speaker's & Parliamentarians**
- . **African Health Ministers**
- . **African stakeholders – religious, traditional, women leader's, health professionals, advocates, survivors**
- . **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, PATH, AORTIC & others**

. I thank you for listening.

