



Gozie Udemezue

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Gozie is an Attorney, social entrepreneur, philanthropist, human rights advocate, writer and public speaker. She was born on 3rd May, 1971 in Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria. She has a bachelor's degree in law from Enugu State University of Science and Technology obtained in 1999 and also holds a Master of laws degree in Human Rights Law from University of London, obtained in December, 2015. Prior to the above in 2003, she obtained a Certificate in International human rights from the International Institute for Human Rights, Strasbourg, France.

In May 2008, she co-founded Healing Hearts Widows Support Foundation Inc. (HHWSF) with her late husband, Chief Emeka Udemezue where she leads a team of dedicated volunteers and staff to provide financial support, inspiration, mentoring, and hope to widows and their children. The foundation has been funded at different times by the Public Affairs Section of the United States Consulate; Mama Cash, Netherlands and Virginia Gildersleeve International Funds New York among other local, individual funding. With funds from the three organizations at different times, the organization simplified the Enugu and Anambra States widowhood laws and printed copies in Igbo language, Pidgin English and simple layman's English. These were distributed in the five eastern states in Nigeria.

She currently sits on the board of two international non-profits based in Chicago, Illinois and Kampala, Uganda. Her work has received national and global recognitions. She sits on the administrative board of Hope Restoration ministry based in New York as a volunteer administrator. In July 2016, her citation was read on the floor of the House of Representatives in Washington DC in recognition of the work she does with her team on widows' issues. In March 2018, she received the Danny Glover award in New York for her work at the grassroots level among widows and their children. She's been featured by BBC Igbo and BBC world service focus on Africa on interviews to discuss her book and work with widows.

She has written two published books titled 'Miracle on the Hudson', 2013 and 'Widowhood Redefined', 2019 and is currently working on her third book. She has her articles published in a book compiled by the faculty of law, Ajayi Crowther University, Ibadan and another by the Institute for Peace and strategic Studies, University of Ibadan.

Her career as a public speaker has taken her to platforms in different parts of the world including School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; different United Nations Commission sessions in Geneva and New York between 2005-2019. She has also spoken on local platforms and volunteered in different community outreaches to teach human rights to the indigents. She is a gold star alumina of the US Department of State International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) and a fellow of the Africa Leadership Institute of West Africa (ALIWA) under the Aspen global leadership program. Through her various initiatives, she currently leads a pan-African mission to change the narrative about widowhood and

help widows to rise and shine, and be all that God wants them to be. This mission is titled 'Widowed not Withered' and it's become her slang and hashtag used by widows across the globe.