



ISSUP NIGERIA

Beyond Tokenistic Roles: Harnessing The Power of Young People in Drug Use Prevention

Empowering the next generation of professionals.



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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Engaging Youth in Prevention
- 03 ISSUP Nigeria Chapter's effort to incubate young people
- 04 Global programs for youth and opportunities.
- 05 Beyond tokenistic roles
- 06 Q & A Session



Info Note

- This presentation does not contain scientific or research findings. All information are solely the opinion of the presenter based on practical experience working with, and for young people in the field of drug use prevention for nearly five years.

About Me



I'm Aliyu Mukhtar Usman, Youth Leader and Global Prevention Influencer.

I currently serve as a Youth Leader of the African Union Youth Forum on Drug Use Prevention, also representing the AU Youth Forum on the Global Commission, Center for Credentialing and Accreditation (ICUDDR).

Since 2021, I serve as the Special Assistant on student and Youth to ISSUP Nigeria, and recently got elected as the National Assistant Publicity Secretary. I am a certified trainer on UPC-Environmental Specialty Track and co-facilitator of the UPC Core.



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Part I

INTRODUCTION





The problems of drug use is critical especially among young people, this needs not to be stressed, the statistics are also very alarming. In Nigeria for example, young people are the majority of our population, so also in Africa. It is therefore very critical, to involve young people since they are not only majority of our population but vulnerable to drug use. Also they are the future.



In reference to use of drugs, young people practically feel comfortable doing what their friends are doing regardless of the consequences. They also take the advice of their friends more than that of their parents or teachers. They also feel comfortable discussing their concerns among their colleagues. Their peers therefore, have a great deal of influence in what they do.



Engaging Youth in Prevention

This is a process of bringing in youth constituency to the work of prevention. As we define prevention, primarily to prevent (meaning to stop) or delay the initiation of drug use. Engaging youth in prevention is involving young people to stop use of drugs or delay its initiation.



Trainer Manual

Course 81

Engaging Youth in Prevention



Engaging Youth In Prevention

It also means training young people to be prevention practitioners and influencers. Giving them the opportunity to contribute in policy, program design and implementation.

Empowering them with tools both human and financial to carry-out evidence based prevention interventions, in schools and communities including evolving social media.



GLOBAL FORUM FOR YOUTH LEADER ON DRUG USE PREVENTION, ABU DHABI 2022



ISSUP Nigeria's efforts to engage youth

In 2021, I was appointed by the president of ISSUP in Nigeria to represent the student branch. My job description was clear, to promote student-youth participation in ISSUP's activities, create students member branch and represent their voices in meetings and programs.

Since then, we have done just that by growing the student network of ISSUP across the country.

Many student members also had the opportunity to be trained on the Universal Prevention Curriculum Core Course. Courtesy of ISSUP with support of Global Initiative on Substance Abuse (GISA), the training were made free for students.

We have successfully organized step-down training for the engaging youth in prevention course for about 250 students since 2022.

Training of prevention influencers, Ahmadu Bello University 2024



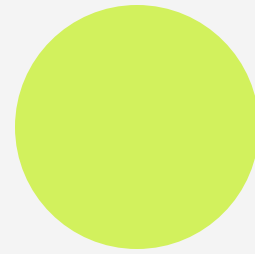
ISSUP National Conference 2023



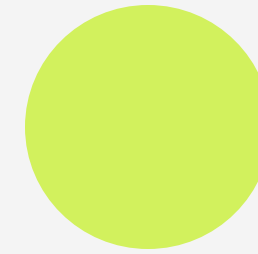
Global Programs for Youth & Opportunities



There various opportunities across the drug demand reduction, treatment and rehabilitation workforce for young people to leverage on. You just need to position yourself for them.

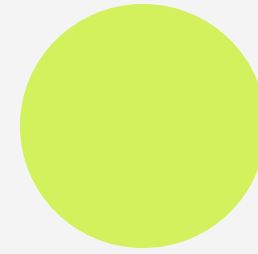


As young people, we must also be ready and put ourselves out there as viable resource for opportunities. Show your commitment to advocating for drug use prevention, learn and practicalize your knowledge.

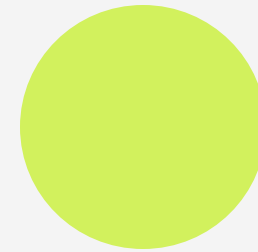


Then, don't wait for these opportunities to come to you. Look for them, apply for these opportunities, volunteer with the organizations doing the work. This will position you as a right candidate for future opportunities.

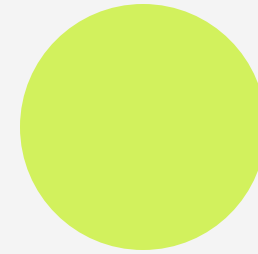
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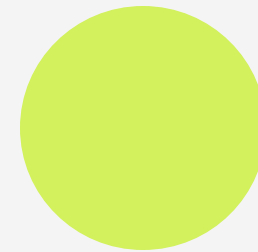
Global Forum for Youth Leaders on Drug Use Prevention.



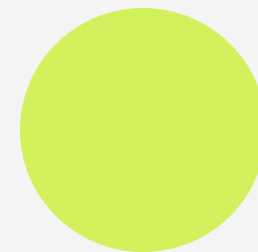
ISSUP global and National chapters



African Union Training of Youth Influencers



UNODC Youth Forum



Colombo Plan training courses online,
self-led ISSUP resources and
Knowledge Sessions

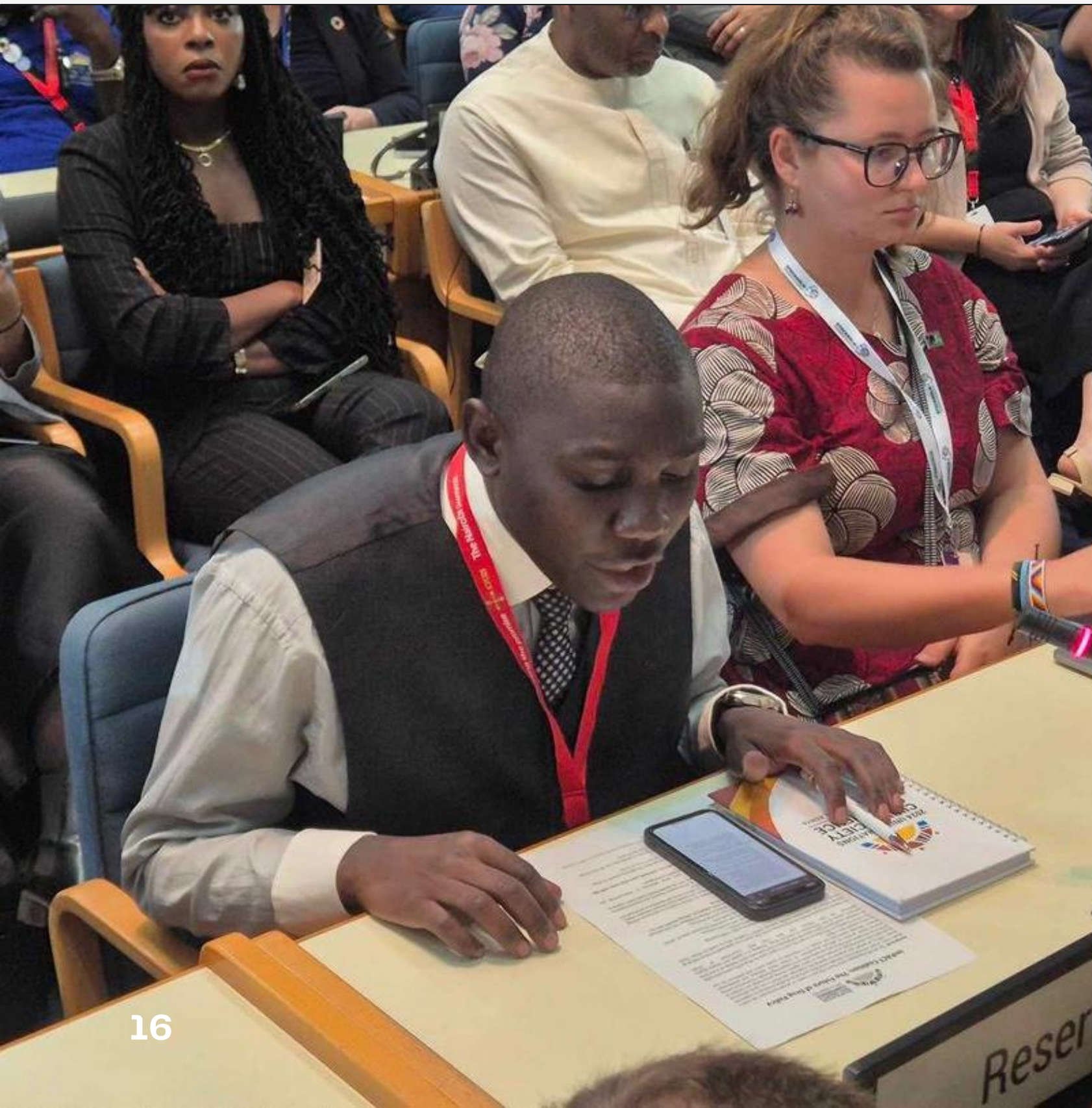


Beyond Tokenistic Roles

This is a clarion call, and in a way agitating on behalf of young people who are actively involved in drug use prevention. It has become like a normal practice, that young people are invited to the table during conferences and meetings to share their own perspectives in ceremonial way, but the power to actually drive the change are withheld. Young people are trained time and again, but after the training comes no further work to either practicalize what they learnt or making progress as career prevention professionals.



Beyond Tokenistic Roles



1.It means we must begin to see young people as partners in the professional work, recruit them into the system and develop their capacities. By so doing, their potentials will be fully utilized.

2.Give them access to resources to carry out evidence-based interventions. They will learn through the process of carrying out these projects and their passion for the prevention work will increase.

3.Closely mentor and monitor their professional development in the field of prevention.



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Case Scenario in ISSUP Nigeria

Empowering Next Generation of
Professionals





Ms Dichen Choden

“The phrases youth are leaders of tomorrow, and youth are leaders of today hold no meaning and significance in the absence of the opportunity to lead. If youth are not included in process, youth will not be leaders today or tomorrow”.



ASK

As parents, teachers, lawmakers, service providers and citizens it is our responsibility to provide young people with the opportunity to work in partnership with us. Give them a voice where they lack the voice, listen to them where they have the voice and involve them in solving the problems they face. Because their future starts today, their today starts now and their now starts with this moment.



Thank you!

Email me at aliyumukhtarusman@gmail.com
if you want to get in touch.



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Q & A Session

Empowering Next Generation of Professionals

