



Telephone: 052 - 256334  
Fax: 052 - 256334

**OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER**  
**MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
5, HUMPHERY OMO OSAGIE AVENUE,  
G.R.A., BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA.

To whom it may concern:

I am Sabikat Kassim-Momodu commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development Edo State , part of the mandate of my ministry is to formulate policies and program geared towards improving the life of women, children, disabled and the less privilege.

One of the programs we are promoting in my State is screening for cancer of the cervix with acetic acid and subsequent treatment with cryogun.

We would therefore like to add our voices to the growing chorus of organizations intent on mobilizing significant action against cervical cancer. For that reason, we have shared this communication with Cervical Cancer Action for inclusion in a global dossier documenting international interest in the issue.

In Nigeria, cervical cancer is one of the most common female cancers and many of our women suffer terribly from this disease. Their death can tear the fabric of the family and put additional pressure on scarce, local resources. In some places it is common for these women to be caretakers of children left orphaned by HIV and other diseases.

Now we have an unprecedented opportunity to make a difference. New evidence suggests that simple visual inspection methods and new HPV DNA tests could make pre-cancer screening a reality even in the most remote settings. Better screening will result in lives saved in the next few years. We have been able to train some health attendants in the rural areas on how to screen for cancer of the cervix and the treatment there after with cryogun. We are yet to procure this equipment for all the local government areas.

Furthermore, we are informed that HPV vaccines given to young girls now will prevent future infections and save lives for decades to come. Programs designed to protect adolescent girls through vaccination have the potential also to offer other needed health interventions to that underserved population.

Our country is ready to work in partnership with the global community to make these new tools available appropriately and effectively to the girls and women who need them most. Please contact us for any further information.

Sincerely,

Sabikat Kassim-Momodu

Honourable Commissioner