GLOBAL SURVIVOR NETWORK

Josephine Aparo, Founding member of the Global Survivor Network

Josephine is a social worker with a passion to serve women, children and families who have survived violence. Josephine was orphaned as a young girl in Northern Uganda, and she lived through a two-decade civil war that tore apart her family and her country. Her own story of struggle and triumph fuels her desire to help other women stand strong.

Josephine is an Aftercare Manager with International Justice Mission (IJM). She is now on staff with IJM Ghana, where she supports child survivors of slavery on Lake Volta. In her previous role with IJM Gulu, she counseled women whose land had been stolen or lives had been altered by intimated partner violence.

Josephine's goal is to empower other survivors to speak out and break the silence. In her work she helps survivors advocate for their own needs. She has dedicated her life to championing lasting solutions and mobilizing leadership at all levels to ensure justice prevails in her community and around the world, so that girls and women are free from the threat and impact of violence. Josephine has shared her expertise and experience in the United Kingdom, United States and Germany.

Josephine is a founding member of the Leadership Council for the Global Survivor Network, an international group of survivor leaders who desire and pursue safe communities through justice systems that protect the most vulnerable. She says, "I have seen so many development interventions over the years. Many did not take into account the local needs and instead just focused on what a donor or someone who had not lived here or experienced life here wanted. I very strongly believe that for interventions to achieve sustainable change and meet the needs of survivors, they must be informed by survivor voices. I am keen to participate in the Leadership Council firstly so that the voice of a survivor can be heard, but also so that other survivors can take strength and courage from that example."