



**Hauwa Ojeifo**

## **ENGLISH**

Popularly tagged as "The Voice of Mental Health", Hauwa publicly identifies as a person who lives with a mental health condition and psychosocial disability. She is the Executive Director at She Writes Woman (SWW); an award-winning movement that gives mental health a voice in Nigeria by empowering those with lived experience to tell their stories, cocreate their solutions and advocate for their rights.

In February 2020, Hauwa became the first person with a mental health condition to testify in that capacity before the Nigerian parliament on the rights of people with mental health conditions under the tenets of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Her testimony was influential in protecting the 40-60 million Nigerians living with mental health conditions, ensuring the Bill was more aligned with international human rights standards, and the inclusion of the voices of people with mental health conditions in line with the global disability mantra of "Nothing Without Us".

Hauwa has received numerous local and international honors and recognitions including the inaugural Diana Samarasan Disability Rights Advocacy Award for her work in creating space, mobilizing and amplifying the voices of people with psychosocial disabilities. Similarly, she received the inaugural Marca Bristo Fellowship for courageous leadership in disability rights and was honored with the Goalkeepers Global Goals Changemakers Award 2020 by the Gates Foundation, amongst others. She has spoken at the United Nations over 5 times and has been featured in international media like CNN, AlJazeera, BBC, Reuters and more.