



THE CITY OF LIGHT AND LIBERATION FOUNDATION
VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE · AKURE, NIGERIA ·
SINCE 2009

Trade **skills**, not people.

We give vulnerable young Nigerians, most of them women, a free year of full-time vocational training, with meals, a bed and a start-up grant. A young person with an income at home is far harder to traffic.

"A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14



WHO WE ARE

Born in a Vienna church, built in Akure

As pastors in Vienna, our founders met Nigerian women brought to Europe with promises of work and held in debt. Helping them one at a time was not enough, so in 2009 they went back to where the journeys began.

For a decade they ran awareness campaigns, youth workshops and small grants from their own savings and pensions. Since 2022, a purpose-built centre in Akure, Ondo State, has trained young people in trades that pay from the first month.

KEY FACTS

Founded	2009, Vienna, by Alexander and Margaret Makinwa
Registered	NGO in Austria and in Nigeria
Centre	1 City of Light Avenue, Akure North, Ondo State. Opened July 2022
Facilities	Training halls, IT lab, salon, hostel, sports field, solar roof
Ethos	Christian, serving people of every faith
Students	Fully sponsored. Families pay nothing

Why it matters: the latest figures

THE CHALLENGE

61%

of trafficking victims detected worldwide are women and girls

UNODC, Global Report 2024

+25%

rise in detected victims, 2019–2022. Child victims rose 31%

UNODC, Global Report 2024

\$236bn

in illegal profits from forced labour each year, about ¾ from sexual exploitation

ILO, Profits and Poverty 2024

2,058

trafficking victims identified in Nigeria in one year, up from 1,194

US TIP Report 2025 (Apr 24–Mar 25)

133m

Nigerians, 63% of the population, are multidimensionally poor

NBS, Nigeria MPI 2022

67.5%

of Nigerian children are poor. In the South-West, 65%

NBS, Nigeria MPI 2022

93%

of jobs in Nigeria are informal. Women face higher unemployment than men

NBS, Labour Force Survey Q2 2024

~100

eligible young people are on our own waiting list at any time

City of Light, 2024

Nigerian women and girls are exploited in Italy, Spain, the UK and across Europe, including Austria. Online job scams are now a main route in (NAPTIP, 2026).



What we teach

Course · 12 months, full time	Places	€ / student
Fashion design & tailoring	25	840
Beauty: hair, make-up, gele & barbing	25	600
Production: bags & shoes	25	840
Solar PV, CCTV & security fencing	6	600
IT skills & online safety	[No.]	[€]

Every course adds ethics, teamwork and communication, with an initial and a final assessment. Classes run Monday to Friday, August to July.



EVERY STUDENT RECEIVES

Free tuition and materials
Three meals every training day
A hostel bed where needed
A certificate on graduation
A start-up grant of about €500 and business mentoring

Commission us: services that fund training

FOR COMPANIES

Orders give students paid, supervised practice, and the income goes back into training.

Uniforms & corporate wear

Schools, staff, churches, choirs

Event & occasion outfits

Aso-ebi, weddings, graduations

Bags, shoes & gifts

School bags, totes, conference packs

Hair, make-up & gele

Weddings, shoots, conferences

Solar, CCTV & fencing

Installation and servicing

Laundry & garment care

Hotels, schools, offices

Staff training

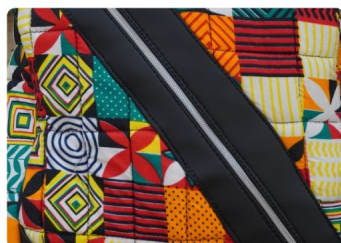
IT, customer care, trades

Venue & hostel hire

Halls, rooms, sports field

Hire our graduates

Skilled and assessed



Our journey

2009 TO TODAY

2009	Founded in Vienna; registered in Austria and Nigeria	Jul 2022	Centre opens with a week of sport and outreach
2009–19	Campaigns, youth workshops and small grants, funded by the founders	Dec 2022	Christmas community outreach in Akure
Jul 2021	Cornerstone laid in Akure North	Jul 2023	Graduation with certificates and awards
Mar 2022	Fundraising dinner in London	2026	Founders hand over L-PEM to focus fully on the foundation



Our impact so far

Foundation figures, 2024–25

5,300

people reached in Nigeria

250

students trained; half graduated by 2024

75%

of students are women, as targeted

2,000

elderly women given small grants

€343k

raised; 30% went into the building

22

in the 2025 class: 14 women

1 in 3

students lives in our hostel

5

partners in the UK, Austria, Nigeria

**DESTINY OBAKPORORO • BARBING GRADUATE**

“They didn’t only train me. They gave me hope and showed me the way to a better life. Now I am self-employed. I even have employees!”

Raised by his grandmother, Destiny knew after primary school that his family could not afford more education. City of Light, he says, is “a lifeline, a chance to build something of our own.”

**Ronke • fashion**

Married young after losing her parents. Now runs her own fashion business.

**Comfort • fashion**

A single mother, now established in fashion and providing for her daughter.

**Favour • fashion**

Orphaned at eleven, she left school to work in the market until she joined us.

Strategic plan 2025–2029: double our reach

€325,000

- 1 Double student intake and hostel places
- 2 Double permanent staff; train our trainers
- 3 Fund a start-up grant for every graduate
- 4 Bring solar training fully in-house
- 5 Gain national TVET recognition
- 6 Launch a global volunteer experts programme
- 7 Grow income from services, products and books

Funding targets: €300,000 from 100 corporate partners, €20,000 from private donors, €10,000 from board members.

Operating costs	€120,000 · 37%
Facility expansion, incl. hostel	€110,000 · 34%
New courses and equipment	€50,000 · 15%
Travel for volunteer experts	€25,000 · 7%
Staff expansion and training	€20,000 · 7%



Sponsor a student. Light a future.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

€50 / month

Spreads one student's training year over twelve months

€500

A graduate's start-up grant to open a business

€600–840

A full year of training, meals and materials for one student

€3,000

Corporate partner in "100 for 3000": 100 companies to double our intake

PARTNERSHIP PACKAGES FOR COMPANIES IN NIGERIA

Platinum

NGN 5,000,000+

Lead recognition,
campaign branding,
impact feature

Gold

NGN 2,500,000–
4,999,999

Priority visibility and
engagement
opportunities

Silver

NGN 1,000,000–
2,499,999

Campaign
acknowledgements,
digital recognition

In-kind / Product

Agreed contribution

Activity recognition,
formal acknowledgement

Give in kind

PCs and laptops for the IT lab
Solar PV training kits and tools
Industrial sewing machines, fabric
Salon chairs, dryers, clippers
Leather, soles and shoemaking tools
Hostel beds and mattresses
Start-up kits for graduates

Please contact us first so we can match items to current needs and arrange shipping.

Give time & expertise

Teach a short course in Akure or online
Mentor a graduate's new business
Pro bono: legal, accounting, IT, design
Host a dinner, collection or fundraiser
Commission uniforms, bags or services
Hire our graduates
Pray for and share our work

What you receive

Sponsors: quarterly progress reports on your student
Companies: recognition on our website, social media and at events
Companies: first access to graduates in your field
Everyone: a thank-you and updates on how your gift is used

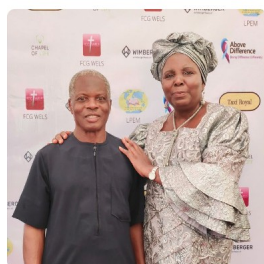
Bank transfer

AUSTRIA	Raiffeisen Bank · City of Light
IBAN	AT93 3200 0000 1108 5800
NIGERIA	Ecobank · City of Light
ACCOUNT	1792011592

Reference: "Sponsor", "Start-up", "100 for 3000" or "Donation", plus your name and email so we can thank you and send updates. For monthly gifts, please set up a standing order.

Talk to us

EMAIL	info@cityoflightnigeria.org
AUSTRIA	+43 676 375 2943 (Founder)
NIGERIA	+234 807 411 8999
VISIT	1 City of Light Avenue, Akure North, Ondo State, Nigeria
ONLINE	www.cityoflightnigeria.org Instagram @COLNigeria



Our team

Mr Alexander Makinwa
Co-founder and Project Director, Vienna

Olayinka Makinwa
Administration and PR

Dr Vincent Ikuomola
Senior Accountant

Evang. Margaret Makinwa
Co-founder, Vienna

Mr Wande Akindojutimi
Centre Manager, Akure

Our trainers
Fashion, beauty, production, solar and IT

With thanks to our partners: Chapel of Life (UK) · The Above Difference Foundation (UK) · FCG Wels (AT) · Wimberger (AT) · L-PEM (AT & NG)