

# Uzima WOMEN



Relief Group International

Update for Uzima Women Relief Group International

## MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

### DIRECTOR'S COMPELLATION

As we start the road to recovery from one of the most challenging times in recent history, we are happy to share with you our first newsletter.

Uzima like many organizations has tried to support the vulnerable communities to cope with the devastating effects of the pandemic.

Black communities we serve suffered the brunt of the pandemic with many developing mental health problems or becoming worse from existing conditions.

Some of the obvious effect of the pandemic included Gender-based violence which escalated with women most affected, and violence involving Black youth posing a challenge to the well being of Black people.

Uzima is proud to know that all our supporters are working collectively to reduce if not end the social ills that continue to mar communities in Toronto and beyond. Many organizations serving Black communities continue the uphill struggle of attracting funding with very little success. We are forced to settle with meagre resources to survive. Despite it all we smile and embrace all.

The dedicated Board of Directors, staff, and dear volunteers and all of you wonderful supporters have kept Uzima going strong. Read on

Jacobet Wambayi, PhD  
Executive Director



### AGENDA

About Uzima

The Board

The Covid-19 Pandemic

Women In Toronto

Seniors

Youth

Staff

Support

Upcoming Events

# ABOUT UZIMA



Uzima Women Relief Group International (Uzima) was founded by Executive Director Dr. Jacobet Edith Wambayi in 2010 in Toronto, Canada.

Uzima is aimed at supporting efforts to relieve poverty by empowering impoverished communities domestically and globally so that they can contribute to the global fight for women's health, education, and human rights.

Uzima also aims to advance education and relieve poverty of Black (racialized) community members in the Toronto area by providing employment-related workshops and training on resume writing, job interview preparation, job skills training, mentoring programs, and job placement assistance.



## UZIMA'S BOARD

Uzima's board has had a history of diverse members over the years and our current support continues to add tremendous value to our organization.



**Elizabeth Erhirhie – Chair**  
Elizabeth has over 10 years of experience working in the Black community helping women and youth in crisis. She has helped our organization since its inception and begun serving on the board in 2017. She currently works in hospitality.



**Dr. Rukiah Swaleh- Board Secretary**  
Dr. Rukiah became an MD in 2016. She has always worked in community programs with marginalized populations, focusing on healthcare. She joined Uzima's board in 2018.



**Jane Kiama – Vice Chair**  
Jane has been doing community work for many years. She has volunteered for Nyumba Community Association as their Secretary since 2017 until now. She became a Registered Practical Nurse in 2009 and has worked for the Westpark Health Care Center and Sienna Living. She joined our board in 2021.





**Jesse Kiome- Interim Treasurer**  
Studied Mechanical Engineering at Kenya Polytechnic. He is a church Elder at Kenya Global Church-Toronto. Also holds a Diploma in Theology. He likes serving others and contributing to society and has been on our board since 2020.



**Perpetua Evans – Treasurer**  
Background in biochemistry and banking. Founder of a non-profit organization, “Heal the Wounded Foundation”. She has also worked with an organization called GTZ (Germany based in Tanzania) as a Field Coordinator Assistant. Perpetua has served on Uzima’s board since 2021.



**John Ndichu – Member**  
John Ndichu has been a pastor in Kenya, Sudan, and Canada. He holds a diploma in Theology, Counseling and Human Resources. He is currently a community worker and joined Uzima’s board in 2021.



**Amina Musa LLB(UK)- Member**  
Amina is a licensed paralegal at Ilhan Legal Services and a project manager with multicultural Association of Perth, Huron. She joined Uzima’s board in 2021.

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### THE COVID –19 PANDEMIC



In March of 2020, Uzima held its last annual fundraising dinner event shortly before lock downs took place. Uzima was at the forefront of running community programs that helped many people cope with the effects of changes brought on by the pandemic. Uzima ran three projects right away.

- Red Cross Senior’s Project
- Red Cross Men’s Project
- Canadian Women Foundation’s Gender Based Violence

Uzima continues to have projects that empower communities in Toronto and the GTA to cope with long term effects of the pandemic current programs collaborating with other organizations.



Tropicana Community Services has been supporting Uzima's efforts in a variety of projects over many years. Currently, they are funding the project, Strengthening Uzima's Operational Management Effectiveness to Cope with Increased Needs Of Black Communities In Toronto Due To COVID-19.

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### Vaccine Engagement Team program- VET

The VET is a consortium of 11 community organizations, grassroots groups, resident-led groups, and faith-based organizations/groups. Uzima has been spreading vaccination awareness during the pandemic to encourage community members to uptake covid-19 vaccines.

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### OTF Resilience Fund

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is supporting to build the capacity of Uzima to learn virtual technology in order to support various community due to COVID-19.

Uzima will use OTF funds to hire professional consultants to provide training to the board and staff to successfully carry out required tasks for the projects.

Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario



## Red Cross Rapid Testing Program

Since 2021, Uzima has supported rapid covid-19 testing in support of raising awareness. It is important to know your status rapidly. After testing the program with staff, Uzima now provides kits to the community. Email us to find out how you can participate.







## SENIORS

As a result of Uzima's Red Cross Canada's projects from 2020, a support group of seniors was created. They have continued to participate in other programs in the organization.

Enhancing Senior's Wellness and Safety on Senior Abuse and Navigating Prevention Mechanisms

This project will target Black seniors aged 55 years and over in Toronto who are experiencing elder abuse as well as the adverse effects of COVID-19. Uzima is concerned about elder abuse because it affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. The objectives of this project will include providing information on elder abuse including financial abuse, training seniors in new technology to virtually navigate financial systems, and engaging seniors in the community through mentoring others on financial safety to reduce the incidence of abuse among Black seniors.





# WOMEN IN TORONTO

Uzima was founded with the mission to provide care and support for families affected by the effects of war and disease in Canada and internationally. Our annual reports and upcoming newsletters will have detailed updates so stay tuned.



## Gender Based Violence (GBV) Shockproofing

This project will enable Uzima to review and adapt service approaches and programs to serve Black women and girls in Toronto. GBV increased during the pandemic and there is urgent need for Uzima to continue and expand the recently ended project on building the capacity of Uzima to support Black women during the pandemic.

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## YOUTH

### Youth Violence & Human Trafficking Prevention Project (YVHTPP)

Uzima's YVHTP Project aims to create a digital network for vulnerable youth in Toronto in order for them to have a media platform. Through workshops and Focus Group Discussions, the project raises youth awareness on prosocial activities, trafficking, violence against human rights, mental health, and engagement in social wellness.



### Suvat Blue

Suvat Blue formed out of the words, survivor and anti-trafficking. Our awareness campaigns to address and educate the public on human trafficking locally and globally stemmed out of the program. As a result, multiple media platforms will build a digital library to give a public voice to vulnerable youth in Toronto and the GTA. Please stay tuned and follow our campaigns online.



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@SUVATBLUE







### Canada Summer Jobs Program (CSJ)

Uzima has worked closely for several years to employ youth through the CSJ every summer. The youth are tasked with leadership roles that encourage them to take initiative in running ongoing projects. They learn and apply administrative skills such as digital communication, grant application, workshop facilitation, community engagement, event planning, and much more. Please be on the lookout for their work throughout our organization.



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### Black Youth Action Plan's Sector-Innovation Networks

The initiative is designed to help equip Black-led organizations with the tools they need to recover from the pandemic-related economic downturn and prosper long-term, supporting the well-being of Black children, youth, and families and helping create the conditions for young workers and entrepreneurs to thrive.





## UZIMA'S STAFF

Uzima has grown a lot of its projects that center most vulnerable persons (MVP) to be empowered at their communities. The organization ensures that the staff relate to the community members they serve and therefore hires a diverse group of employees. Some started as volunteers.

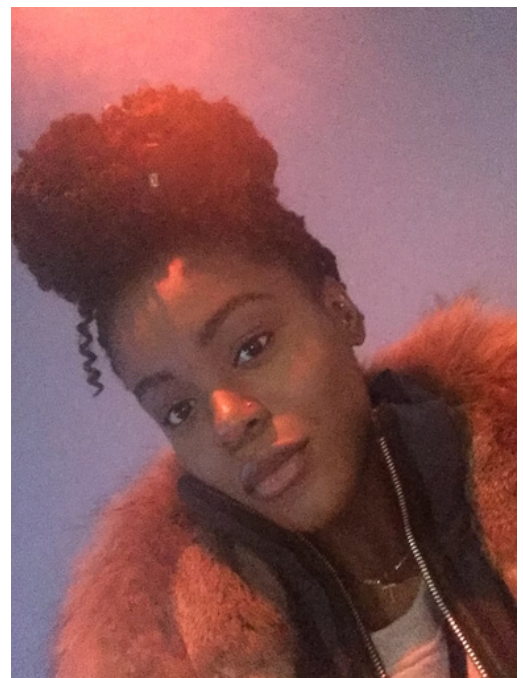


Jithya Dinesh- Administrative Assistant

Jithya has been working with Uzima since April 2021 as an Admin Assistant and with more than 8 years of experience in the non-profit sector internationally. She oversees Admin related tasks including organizing and arranging meetings, taking minutes, assisting the whole team with all administrative duties.

Whitney Blessing- Social Worker

Holds an Honours Bachelor of Art in Criminology and Equity Studies with and African Studies Minor from University of Toronto and Social Service Worker Diploma at George Brown College. She has interest in topics of intersectionality, race relations, gender, justice, conflict resolution, and resistance.





## Angela Wu- Youth Administrator

Angela has been working with Uzima since May 31, 2021 and is currently a university student. She helps to oversee youth-related projects and contributes to assisting the staff with other responsibilities as well.



## Christiana Patrick- Project Coordinator

Holds a Master of Social Work Degree (Ryerson University Toronto) Bachelor of Social Work Degree (Ryerson University Toronto) Bachelor of Education/Geography Degree (Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Nigeria). Christiana joined and worked with Uzima Organization 2017-2019 as a research assistant for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) research and was the literature reviewer for the work. She re-engaged in September 2021-March 2022 as FGM Project Coordinator. She has also worked with African seniors on FGM, Covid-19 and its effects, and coping mechanisms for African senior survivors.



## Katayon Qahir- Project Coordinator

Candidate for MA in International Affairs and Diplomacy (University of Seton Hall, NJ, USA) she also holds BA in Mass Communication (concentration on journalism) and a minor in psychology from Brenau University, GA, Georgia – USA and a diploma in Immigration Consultancy from CDI college, Toronto CA. .

With skills and experience in project management, she joined Uzima in 2022, as Youth Project Coordinator to oversee and coordinate different project's aspects from facilitating outreach activities to recruitment of youth and implementation of activities to meet the project outcomes and overall goal.



## SUPPORT

Our work involves extensive collaboration with partners, funders, donors, staff including volunteers, and more.

Current and previous funders:

The Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF)



Red Cross Canada



Ministry of Children, Community, & Social Services



Canadian Federal Government



## UPCOMING PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Promoting French language services in Black communities in Toronto- The goal of this project is to reach out to Black French speaking people in Toronto and the GTA. Uzima provides services to marginalized communities with a focus on Black communities in Toronto and beyond.



PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY



# MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY 8TH MAY  
6:00 - 8:00PM EST

**RAFFLE TICKETS \$25**

**4 PRIZE BASKETS:  
YOUNG MOTHERS,  
VANITY, AFRICAN  
ART, etc**



Pay Here!

**INFO@UZIMAWOMENINTERNATIONAL.ORG**

**SIGN UP ON EVENT BRITE  
JOIN FREE  
ZOOM EVENT  
815 5340 3178**



FUNDRAISING RAFFLE  
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS!

ENTERTAINMENT AND LOTS MORE!

**THE MORE YOU BUY THE MORE YOUR  
CHANCES OF WINNING  
CALL 647-748-8870**



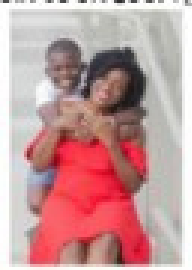
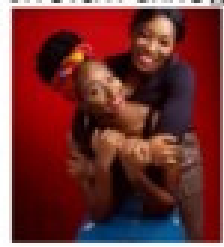
# MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

SUNDAY 8TH MAY  
6:00 - 8:00PM EST

CATEGORY	RAFFLE PRICES	PRIZE
Raffle 1	\$50	SPA PACKAGE, BATH & BODY WORKS GIFT CARD
Raffle 2	\$25	AFRICAN THEME: ARTIFACTS, JEWELRY & LAPTOP BAG
Raffle 3	\$15	FLOWER BOUQUETS, FRUIT BASKETS

SIGN UP ON EVENT BRITE HERE

JOIN US ON ZOOM HERE

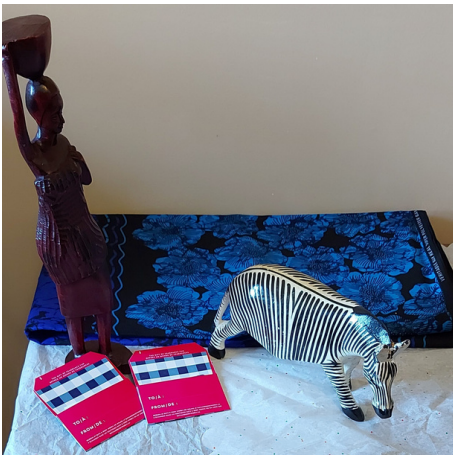


**TICKET SALES END ON SUNDAY, MAY 8 AT 6PM EST**

SEND TICKET PAYMENTS TO:  
INFO@UZIMAWOMENINTERNATIONAL.ORG

**PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY**

Please join us on May 8 at 6PM EST for our free virtual event to celebrate mother's day and raise some money for those in need. Proceeds go toward grassroots projects that empower women. There are different raffle baskets to choose from that include African art, new mother's package, self-care cosmetics, and more. To purchase raffle tickets, please pay to info@uzimawomeninternational.org. The more you purchase, the higher your chances to win the raffle draw.



Please register at event brite below.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/mothers-day-fundraiser-tickets-326778201397>

Join us at 6PM EST on May 8 below.  
ZOOM ID: 81553403178  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81553403178>



100 Consilium Place, Suite  
200 Scarborough, ON



647-748-8870



info@uzimawomeninternational.org