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Press Release

Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Observes Janjatiya Gaurav Divas-2026

Lecture on "Women of Cameroon" explores tribal culture, colonial legacies and women's resistance

New Delhi, November 18, 2026

The Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies (SNCWS), Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), observed Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2026 on 16 November 2026 with a special lecture in the Seminar Room of the Centre.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is observed every year on 15 November, the birth anniversary of the tribal leader and freedom fighter Birsa Munda, revered as *Dharti Aaba* Bhagwan Birsa Munda. This year marks his 151st birth anniversary. The lecture was organized under the guidance of the Director, Prof. Vijaylakshmi Brara, and coordinated by Dr Adfer Rashid Shah from SNCWS.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Vijaylakshmi Brara, Director, SNCWS, said: "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas reminds us that the history of freedom was written in forests and hills as much as in cities. By listening to the women of Cameroon on this day, we were reminded that tribal women's knowledge, resistance and everyday struggles belong to a shared global conversation. The Centre will continue to create spaces where local knowledge, feminist thought and decolonial perspectives speak to one another."

To mark the occasion, the Centre organised a lecture titled "Women of Cameroon", delivered by Ms Akwie Nuka Awamofor, a Cameroonian scholar and lawyer who is currently pursuing her Master's in Gender Studies at Jamia Millia Islamia.

The lecture explored the tribal culture, traditions and lived experiences of women in Cameroon, and the history that shapes their rights and everyday lives, including the intersecting legacies of Anglophone and Francophone colonial rule. It also discussed the Anlu uprising, in which Kom women transformed a sacred female institution into a mass

protest and anti-colonial movement, and the more recent rise of women's demands for an equitable share in political space and an end to violence in all its forms.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion among faculty members and students. Participants raised questions on the role of tribal communities, the epistemic challenge that women's voices pose to national narratives of struggle, the links between tribal movements in different countries, and the ways in which localised tribal voices can enrich global feminist debates.

Thanking the speaker, Dr Adfer Rashid Shah spoke about the significance of the day and linked the event to the celebration of tribal identity, the glorious history, culture, and heritage of tribal communities besides being a celebration of India's tribal pride.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Rakshinda Raies- a student of first semester M.A Gender studies.

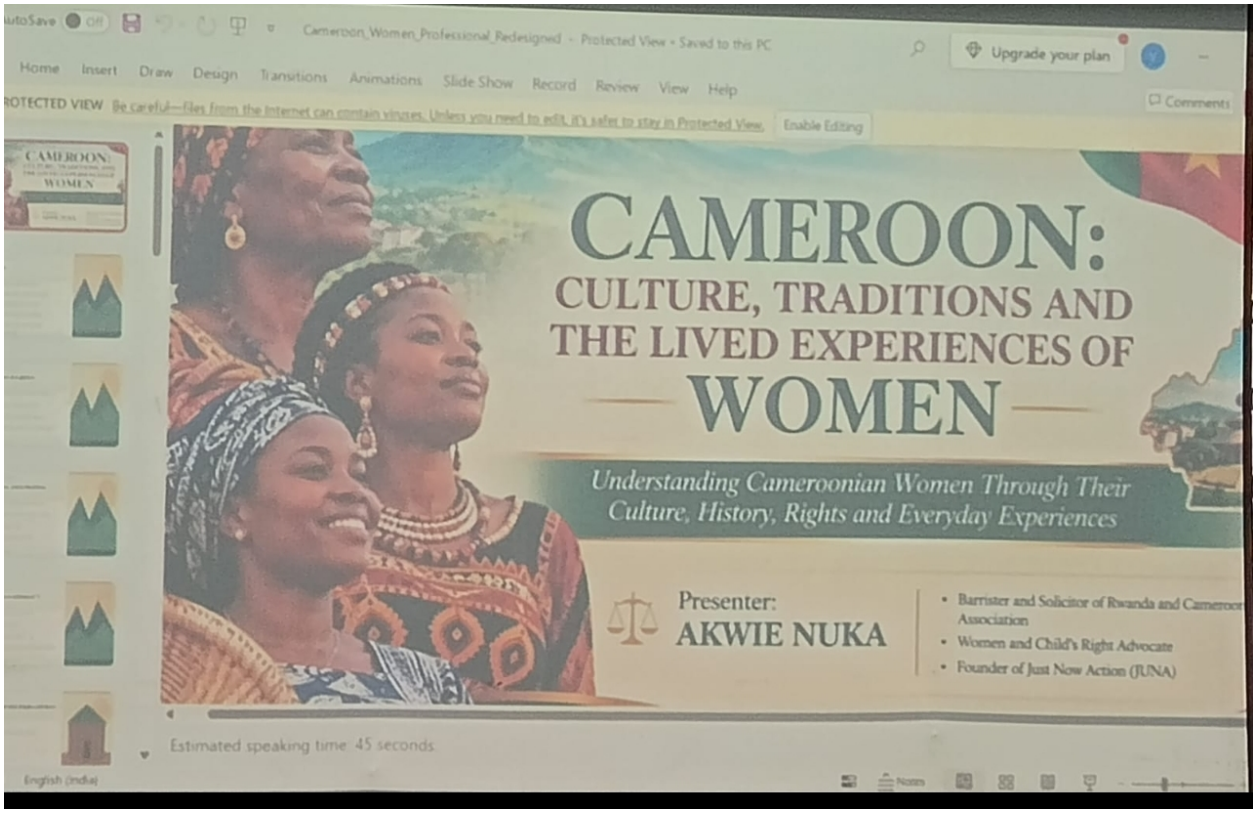
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CAMEROON:
CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND
THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF
WOMEN
Understanding Cameroonian Women Through Their
Culture, History, Rights and Everyday Experiences
Presenter:
AKWIE NUKA
Barrister and Solicitor of Rwanda and
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Women and Child's Right Advocate
Founder of Just Now Action (JUNA)


Thank you


A history that still shapes women's lives




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Estimated speaking time: 45 seconds
English (India)
Notes

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