OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA
(January – June 2010)

Edited by
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December 2010
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# ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS

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<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAN</td>
<td>Christian Association of Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>CID</td>
<td>Criminal Investigation Department</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>Emergency Contraception</td>
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<td>FIDA</td>
<td>International Federation of Female Lawyers</td>
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<td>FIR</td>
<td>First Information Report</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>IHRLG</td>
<td>International Human Rights Law Group</td>
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<td>LACVAW</td>
<td>Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women</td>
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<td>MWASD</td>
<td>Ministry Women Affairs and Social Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAPTP</td>
<td>National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other related Matters</td>
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<td>NDHS</td>
<td>Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey</td>
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<td>NHRC</td>
<td>National Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>PEP</td>
<td>Post Exposure prophylaxis</td>
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<td>PLWHIV</td>
<td>People Living With HIV</td>
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<td>RHV</td>
<td>Raising Her Voice Project</td>
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<td>STD</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>VAPPB</td>
<td>Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAW</td>
<td>Violence Against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRAPA</td>
<td>Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative</td>
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Acknowledgement

The process of initiating and producing the final output contained herein has been a journey infused with vision, strength, consistency and undaunted commitment of numerous individuals that initiated and saw the work to fruition. The vision of developing an overview and analysis that would serve as an advocacy tool was borne by the Secretariat of the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW) ably coordinated under the leadership of Saudatu Mahdi, Secretary General, WRAPA. However, a vision needs to be actualised by persons, institutions and action.

Therefore, special gratitude is credited to the member organizations of LACVAW for actualising the vision. In particular, we acknowledge the six lead research member organizations of LACVAW whose hard work and dedication bore strongly in the field work which inspite of limitations in time and resources generated the data analysed in this work. We also acknowledge and appreciate the technical and financial contributions and commitment of supporting organizations of LACVAW, Development Partners including the United Nations Fund for Women UNIFEM, part of UN Women, and the Security Justice and Growth programme of DFID UK. WRAPA/LACVAW/RHV are particularly grateful for the strategic support of the Norwegian Government for providing the lead grant support to the campaign and the research through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We also appreciate the timely grant support from the United Nations Funds for Children (UNICEF) which made it possible to publish and disseminate the findings.

We appreciate the partnership and support of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Federal and State Legislative Assembly leadership, Committees and staff, Federal Ministry of Justice, National Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid Council, the Nigeria Law Reform Commission, the Law enforcement agencies particularly the Police and groups/individuals consulted during the field work, the planning and report validation meetings where affirmations, and constructive suggestions were made for improving the content and quality of the report.

We also appreciate the dogged determination of the WRAPA/LACVAW/RHV Secretariat staff especially Edosa Oviawe and Hadeezah Haruna-Usie for steering the Coalition and patiently taking the team through amidst other competing tasks.

For the analysis team, it has been tasking yet gratifying to finally see the end product with the final output owing a lot to the energy of the team consisting of Carolyn Oyedele, Ignatius Agu led by Omowumi Asubiaro-Dada. Finally, we appreciate the survivors of GBV for breaking the culture of silence and whose stories, reports and conversations enriched the overview.
Gender Based Violence (GBV), as a subject matter of human rights and liberties has taken centre stage in global discourse with a significant determination for action to end it. This is informed by the increased awareness of its scale, effect and overall impact on human capital and overall development of countries. The dimensions of violence against persons are manifest in diverse formats determined by their context and target victims. However, most studies reveal that women rank highest among the victims of violations in private and public spaces with a growing scale of impunity due to the absence or weaknesses in legal frameworks and mechanisms aimed at reducing prevalence and holding perpetrators accountable. Consequently, varied rights based; especially women’s rights groups have relentlessly designed and implemented activities to generate momentum around the demand for action by governments, parliaments and social structures to end GBV and indeed violence against persons at all levels.

Nigeria’s return to democratic governance in 1999 provided the context for renewed vigour around the demand for legal frameworks and mechanisms. This translated into several draft legislations in form of executive and private member Bills being articulated and presented to the National and in some cases State Houses of Assembly. In May 2002 the Coalition with support from the International Human Rights Law Group, now LAWGROUP, articulated and submitted to the National Assembly, a Bill titled The Violence Against Women (Prohibition) Bill, 2003 but the Bill was not passed during that legislative session. In 2003 the process was commenced afresh and in commemoration of the 2004 International Women’s Day, a Legislative Consultation on the Bill on Violence Against Women was held at the National Assembly on March 8, 2004; however, and inspite of concerted engagements and negotiations the Bill again failed to be passed and a new Legislature came in 2007.

In 2008, concerned about the consistent failure to realize a legal framework to addressing the increasing prevalence of violence in Nigeria, and with support from DFID Security, Justice and Growth Programme, LACVAW undertook the task of harmonizing 9 Bills that bear relevance to the issues of violence against women into one bill that could be promoted for passage by all. The short title of the harmonized bill is Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Bill. As at the end of May 2010 the harmonized Bill has been laid before both Chambers of the National Assembly where it is awaiting adoption by the Senate following a recommendation of a public hearing and second reading in the House of Representatives.

Moving forward meant intensified advocacy and tools to galvanize action and eventual passage of the Bill before the expiration of the current legislative tenure in 2011. This in part informed the generation of a simple baseline assessment using data, specific and general responses, to draw an overview that gives a reality check on the spate of GBV,
its forms, the contexts of its occurrence and the response of law enforcement agencies and social institutions including the family. The analysis and conclusions drawn from the quantitative and qualitative data presented in this overview/compendium suggest a multiplier reality of GBV and underscores the urgency for the passage of a legislation that prohibits, protects and awards redress for victims and survivors of GBV in private and public spaces.

The overview presents data of reported GBV cases generated from 18 states and the media within a time frame of January – June 2010. The data generated from the states is representative of the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria. Specifically states covered were Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Sokoto, Adamawa, Borno, Abia, Imo, Edo, Delta, Cross River, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Lagos, Ekiti, Osun and Ogun States. Four hundred and seventy nine cases (479) make the sample size with sexual violations accounting for 21.08% physical violations recorded 44.25%; domestic violence accounted for 18.37%; harmful traditional practices accounted for 11.48%; economic violations recorded 2.92% and other violations accounted for 1.87% of the total sample of violations collected. Quantitative and qualitative analysis was employed to achieve numerical and perceptive assessments. The analysis and conclusions drawn affirmed the realities of the scourge of GBV which is largely hidden given the culture of silence which are compounded by the tacit endorsement of some forms of GBV.

The findings revealed the following realities which point to the need for a multi sectoral response beginning with a legal framework in the form of a legislation that prohibits, protects and awards redress to victims of all forms of violence particularly those forms targeted at the weak and vulnerable – women and girls.

- Gender Based Violence has become an everyday occurrence in Nigeria and is fast eating into the fabric of the society threatening to destroy the family unit and heighten the insecurity in homes and public spaces.
- Violations within domestic spaces are rife and even though physical violations had the highest number of occurrences, they occurred within private spaces, indicating that domestic violence ranks the highest in the forms of violations in the country.
- There is evidence of relative increased awareness and reportage on GBV within the period of study, a development associated with the citizen response in increased reportage and emerging zero tolerance to GBV.
- Most victims of GBV documented in the overview were females while perpetrators were mostly males.
- Nigeria’s citizens of reproductive age are at greater risk of dying before attaining adulthood on account physical violence and sexual assault of rape and defilement involving female minors.
vi. Most incidences of GBV take place within the family cycle, among those in relationships, around social places like school, churches, work place and at times inside vehicles.

vii. All the categories of GBV cases reported occurred in rural and urban locations with no significant characterization along lines of location, age and status.

viii. Quantum and quality of responses to GBV by relevant government agencies is relatively low, inadequate and in some cases inappropriate. This invariably affected documentation and justice availed to victims.

ix. There is evidence of gaps and deficiencies in linkages, skills and capacity for response to GBV among the operatives of relevant institutions.

Based on these, the study proffered recommendations which though not a panacea that ends GBV; it however presents a holistic approach for responding to the increasing prevalence of GBV in Nigeria. Some of the recommendations made by the research include the following:

a) GBV in all its forms and contexts should be seen and treated as a criminal and not 'private' issue by all especially the institutions of first reference, the police and hospitals.

b) Government [Executive] should express higher political will by supporting the immediate passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill (VAPP Bill) by the National Assembly.

c) Federal and State Governments should consider it a priority to support the demand for legal frame works seeking to address discrimination and violence against persons to ensure peace and security for the weak and vulnerable citizens.

d) Law enforcement agencies should be reoriented and trained on best practices for responding to GBV especially in investigation, documentation, management and prosecution.

Four hundred and seventy nine cases (479) make the sample size with sexual violations accounting for 21.08% physical violations recorded 44.25%; domestic violence accounted for 18.37%; harmful traditional practices accounted for 11.48%; economic violations recorded 2.92% and other violations accounted for 1.87% of the total sample of violations collected.
e) The Judiciary through the National Judicial Institute (NJI) should organise trainings to in part enhance the capacity of judicial officers to respond to GBV especially within the context of court proceedings.

f) Reforms of Criminal and Penal laws to remove discriminatory provisions which in effect give tacit endorsement for violations or perpetrate further violence through on legal and procedural requirements.

g) Government through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs should either establish or facilitate civil society groups to establish structures and such other support mechanisms for victims and survivors of GBV.

h) Responses to GBV should be accepted as a social responsibility for all and communities must mobilize and work together to rid their environments of the menace and offer support to victims thereby ending the culture of silence or stigmatization for speaking up.

i) Communities with support from relevant government agencies should involve men and boys in initiatives to reduce the rate of GBV occurrence with religious, traditional and community leaders taking the lead.

j) Government should encourage Ministries, Departments and Agencies to develop a Code of Conduct against sexual abuse and exploitation and mainstreaming its principles in the Civil Service regulations.

k) Civil society should sustain its engagement and momentum around the enactment and implementation of legal frameworks and mechanisms that prohibit, award redress to victims of violence in all circumstances.

f) Sustained research and documentation that monitors and presents periodic situation reports, shares successful approaches and supports advocacy for reviews and improvements in responding to GBV.
Section One

1. Introduction

In 1993, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women offered the first official definition of the term “Gender-based Violence” as

“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

Gender-based violence has become an umbrella term for any harm that is perpetrated against a person’s will, and that results from power inequities that are based on gender roles. Around the world, gender-based violence is always has a greater negative impact on women and girls than on men or boys. For this reason the term "Gender-based Violence" is often used interchangeably with the term "Violence against Women" (VAW).


A golden thread that runs through the African Women’s Protocol is a call on African governments to ‘...combat through legislative measures...enact and effectively implement appropriate legislative measures...’ ALL forms of discrimination against women. To this end, legislators, executive and civil society in Nigeria have over the course of years, taken steps and presented a number of Bills that bear relevance to (VAW) to the National Assembly.

In 2008, the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW) harmonized all bills dealing with VAW into a bill titled ‘Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Bill’. The Bill was first introduced to the National Assembly in 2008 through the Senate Committee on judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters and to the House of Representatives during the 16 Days of Activism on VAW in 2009.

1http://www.hhri.org/thematic/gender_based-violence.html#Gender%20Based%20Violence%20in%20the%20context%20of%20war%20and%20conflict
The Bill seeks to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence, prohibit discrimination and provide maximum protection and remedies for victims as well as punishment for offenders. The rationale for the Bill is to address the inadequacies in current laws regulating the Nigerian Criminal Justice Systems and to respond to emerging forms of violence and in particular, VAW trends in public and private spaces. Consequently, the provisions of the Bill are in recognition of the depth of violence which has eaten into the fabric of society threatening peace in the family and the society in general.

2. The Overview/Compendium

a) Justification and Objectives
This initiative driven by the inputs and support of the partnerships of WRAPA/LACVAW; is aimed at supporting lobbying and sensitization to aid the speedy passage of the Harmonised Bill by the end of the current legislative tenure in April 2011. This in part informed the generation of a simple baseline assessment using data, specific and general responses, the consistent engagements and advocacy for legislation on gender based violence (GBV) in Nigeria. The analysis and conclusions drawn from the quantitative and qualitative data presented in the overview/compendium showing the realities of the scourge of GBV underscores the urgency for the passage of a legislation that prohibits, protects and awards redress for victims and survivors of GBV in private and public spaces.

Specifically, the report is an overview and analysis of a collection of reported GBV cases generated from 6 states and the media within a time frame of January – June 2010. The 6 focus states cover the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria, while the objectives of the analysis include:
   i) To critique and analyze data generated from reports to human rights groups, institutions of law enforcement and social services.
   ii) To extract and depict inferences in statistical and graphic form to aid advocacy and sensitization on the reality of the prevalence of GBV and the need to act.
   iii) To provide information on perceptions, experiences and the reality of GBV in Nigeria’s public and private spaces.

b) Contextual Framework and Guiding Principles:
All over the world, there is an acknowledged paucity of data on GBV and as well as an affirmation of the behaviour patterns of abused women and girls particularly in areas of incidence reporting and the pursuance of redress. This report is predicated upon the guiding principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding given to the authors. It therefore compiles and analyses reports and data from randomly selected states and so does not represent a comprehensive or empirical survey of GBV but a cursory insight
into GBV prevalence, trends, forms and some profiles of survivors and perpetrators in Nigeria.

Accordingly, the guiding principles for the compilation of the compendium were to produce a document that among others serves as:

i) An evidence based sensitization and advocacy tool developed from data collected on GBV cases reported within a limited timeframe (January – June 2010).

ii) A reference during engagements and campaigns directed at specific and general target groups such as law makers, the police, institutions of faith and culture, perpetrators and survivors.

iii) A qualitative analysis that reinforces the quantitative data to affirm the perceptions, attitude and deep entrenchment of various forms of GBV that enjoy justification and breed impunity.

c) Methodology of Data Collection

To begin the process of data collection, WRAPA/LACVAW held a strategic meeting to agree on basic issues of objectives, scope, fields/indices and criterion for selection of locations, data sample size or format. Subsequently, member organisations of WRAPA/LACVAW (one from each geo-political zone) were selected, assigned tasks and supported with funds for logistics to undertake the data collection. It was agreed that data would be collected from NGOs, police stations, media reports and relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies such as the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs, National Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid Council, Hospitals, Social Welfare Offices, Faith Based Organisations and Cultural platforms that render arbitration services by design or default. The timeframe for data collection was pegged to six months, January – June 2010, and the rationale was to leverage on the momentum generated by nationwide campaign activities of the 16 Days of Activism held from November – December 2009.

d) Data Features and Gaps:

The format developed for generating the data for analysis provided for itemized entries which made the data scanty. This means the reflection of the antecedents or circumstances leading to violations or incidences considered was narrowed hence the reliance on qualitative inferences. There was also no field for indicating the relationship between the violated and the perpetrator in order to determine the location of occurrence whether in private or public spaces. Based on this there were forms of violence documented e.g. attempted suicide; which could not be interpreted as GBV since the location, antecedents and relationship between the victim and perpetrator was not reflected. These gaps limited the clear classification and interpretation of some of the offences documented. Consequently, the analysis was influenced by several assumptions created using associated information such as the victim and perpetrator sharing same surname.
A qualitative analysis on sexual offences was affected by the absence of information on the age of victims and perpetrators in the data. This stems back to the original report of the violation; where except the age disparity between victim and perpetrator is glaring, the documenting person/institution only recorded minor or adults. Similarly, the analysis of gravity of violations and the evaluation of the type or adequacy of response was limited. For instance, where domestic violence is reported, the exact violation may not have been correctly indicated considering that different violations that constitute domestic violence are not perceived as violations.

A determination of the chain of response from the point of first reference/report could also not be clearly placed either due to the nature of the violation or the limitations imposed by society on reporting violations or seeking redress for them. Some of the violations in reference include psychological abuse, verbal assault, provocation, torment, mockery, ill-treatment or maltreatment, abandonment, neglect, starvation, separation from children and other forms of denials. Documentation in respect of these violations presents a challenge as the chain of transmission distorts or undermines the gravity of the offence thereby also affecting response and redress. The quality of response of institutions and agencies providing support or facilitating redress for survivors is most affected. Mechanisms such as the First Information Report (FIR) used in Police stations and other reporting forms in other focal institutions that receive such reports of gender-based violations were not accessed by this study. Finally, the site for data collection was limited to institutions with very few testimonies or documentation by survivors of GBV. Therefore, the analysis is unable to determine from the data collected, the survivors’ actual perception of GBV. The conclusions drawn are based on the realities of survivor/social perceptions of GBV; which are products of the factors of education, social disposition and cultural constructs.

e) Data and Inferences
Compilation of data on GBV presents a myriad of challenges ranging from capacity to resources and social tendencies of tacit endorsement and suppression based on the justifications of culture and privacy. The data were collected based on an assumption that there had been considerable impact as a result of the series of activities for the 16 days of Activism on VAW held from November – December 2009. The activities were organised as a medium for demanding accountability from the government.
Part of the objectives of the activities were to raise awareness of the public on the prevalence of GBV nation-wide; build the capacity of media to report and raise the bar for demanding accountability. It is expected that this compendium will also serve as a tool for justifying the demands.\(^3\)

The quantitative analysis of the data gathered reveals a potential for higher numbers of occurrences when the multiplier value of the figures recorded is compared to current population figures in Nigeria. This means that with more gender awareness, higher social values in a culture of reporting and support for victims, a bigger sample size would have been obtained even for a lesser time frame for the data in consideration. The sample size of data collected reflects only 6% or less of the actual data that could have been generated in the best of circumstances and research ideals. For instance in Calabar where less than 50 cases were collated, and if the data is adjudged to be reflective of one out of 18 local governments, a projection will suggest about 900 cases reported in a state with a population of 2.89 million within the 6 month period under study.

Another key issue highlighted by the qualitative analysis is that of definitions of actions that were reported to constitute GBV which confirmed that the perceptions and technical capacity of persons making and documenting GBV are important factors that could distort the form or nomenclature of the violation being reported. Hospital analysis and records, police documentation and prosecution, attitude of family members and institutions all show that the response a victim of violence gets is determined by the technical capacities, personal, religious or cultural perceptions of the persons, Agencies or institutions processing her complaint of Human Rights breach. The resultant effect could be delays in processing and possible suppression of facts fundamental to the case. A classical case of double jeopardy; but sadly the fate of many of the courageous women who speak out and seek reprieve or redress are sealed by a system and society unwilling and ill equipped to respond to their needs.

To address these gaps, the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill provides definitions for ALL acts that constitute GBV and which conform with international standards as well as violations which traditionally in the Nigerian context are not considered as GBV or even violations at all. Prescribed actions are also provisioned for various institutions, agencies and audiences guided by the perceptions and inferences drawn from studies and experiences. The data in the overview therefore justifies the call for concerted, coordinated efforts and mobilisation to demand and pursue the passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill before the end of Nigeria’s 6\(^{th}\) Legislative Assembly.

\(^3\) A petition demanding for action on Grace Ushang, a female National Corp member (mandatory one year service on graduation from University) alleged raped and murdered was submitted to the National Assembly. The submission of the petition was complimented with the submission of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill.
Section Two

2.1 Data Presentation by Zone
The data is presented based on the selected states representing Nigeria’s six geopolitical zones, with most of it sourced primarily from one state with complimented data from other states in the zones and electronic media reports. The presentations provide a picture of the types of GBV occurrences in each state/zone. In order to enhance the coordination of the analysis, violations have been grouped especially along the lines of its effects on victims and similarity of offences ingredients of the act. These categories are:

1) **Sexual Violations**: This includes rape, defilement, incest, sexual assault, sexual harassment, marital rape, starvation of sex and stalking.

2) **Physical Violations**: Bodily hurt which includes injury, battery, beating, indecent assault, threat to life, grievous hurt, attempted murder, murder, trafficking, kidnapping and abduction. The dictionary meaning of both words reveals a synonymic relationship/link, hence the group. Also, the data reveals that one precedes the other and both are usually reported for one victim.

3) **Domestic Violence**: Psychological abuse consisting of verbal assault, provocation, tormenting, mocking, lack of appreciation, ill-treatment or maltreatment, abandonment, neglect, starvation, separation from children, denial of access to children, denial of custody, denial of pregnancy (contesting paternity), denial of education, rejection based on illness especially by husband due to HIV status, forceful ejection from matrimonial/shared residence.

4) **Harmful Traditional Practices**: Disinheritance, blocking access to property, widowhood rites, forceful ejection of widow from matrimonial/shared residence.

5) **Economic Violations**: Economic deprivation, failure to provide necessities or maintenance, failure to discharge obligation of maintenance.

6) **Other Violations**: Discrimination against PLWHA and STDs, stigmatization, work place violations, denial of wages etc.

Based on this grouping the data is presented by zones reflecting the findings based on data of recorded case of each form of violation. The data and its characteristics as well as contextual issues are discussed to demonstrate unique and common features associated with patterns in prevalence, victim behaviour or responses by individuals or institutions.
2.2  Abuja (North Central Zone)

Abuja is the Federal Capital (FCT) of Nigeria and is not classified as a State, however for administrative exigencies it is aligned to the North Central zone. The zone comprises of Benue, Kwara, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, and Plateau states. The FCT has 6 Area Councils. The main city is cosmopolitan and surrounded by several satellite settlements that are inhabited by large and diverse populations of medium and low income earning citizens who shuttle to work and back on a daily basis. The settings are rife with tendencies for tensions within the family spaces and on the streets arising from deficiencies in resources and infrastructure. There is also a mixture of cultural perceptions and attitudes. The study indicates the occurrence of majority of the forms of GBV with features characteristic of the profile of high density environments. Physical and domestic violence top the list of violations recorded.

Graph 1: Gender Based Violence reported in the Federal Capital Territory - representative of the forms and occurrence in the zone.

Sexual Violations

Rape and defilement accounted for a total of eight (8) reported cases. The four rape cases reported involved adult female victims and four (4) cases of defilement involved female minors of ages 4, 7 and 14 year olds as the victims. All the perpetrators of the violations were males. Four cases occurred in Abuja metropolis, 1 case in Mararaba and 3 cases unreported. Three cases were sourced from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) who reported the cases to the Police. Two cases were sourced from WRAPA however the responses to the reports were not recorded, while two cases were sourced from International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA).
FIDA intervened in the cases effecting a settlement of one out of court and the other on the terms that the perpetrator pays damages of N230,000.00 and N10,000 monthly for the upkeep of the child resulting from the rape. Three cases were reported pending, 1 case was reported on-going and the current status of 4 cases were not indicated.

Physical Violations
Twelve cases of physical assault were reported cases. All the (survivors) victims were females and all the perpetrators were males. Five cases occurred in Abuja metropolis, four, cases occurred in the satellite towns of Kubwa, Dutse Alhaji and Bwari. Three cases did not indicate the location where the violation occurred. Five cases were sourced from FIDA, 4 cases were sourced from NHRC, 2 cases were sourced from WACOL and 1 case was sourced from the Media (Daily Trust). In its intervention, FIDA mediated in 4 cases and represented the violated person in the Multi-Door Court House in one case, NHRC mediated in 4 cases, Women Aid Collective (WACOL) mediated in 2 cases and the media reported a case charged to court. On the whole, 4 cases were reported settled, 2 cases pending, 1 case on-going while in 5 cases there was no indication of the status.

Threat to life accounted for a total of 4 reported cases in Abuja. All the victims were adult females and all the perpetrators were adult males. Three of the cases occurred in Abuja metropolis while 1 case occurred in the satellite area of Gwagwalada. Two cases were sourced from FIDA and the record showed that FIDA intervened in both cases. A case was sourced from NHRC which mediated in the case and 1 case was sourced from WACOL though the actions taken were stalemated. One case was reported on-going, one case was reported pending while in 2 cases there was no indication of the status.

Domestic Violations
The violation of denial recorded a total of 12 cases out of the total number of GBVs that occurred in Abuja. There were different types of denials that included 4 cases of denial of access to child/children, 2 cases each of denial of child custody, denial of property and denial of inheritance, 1 case of denial of maintenance and 1 case of denial/rejection of paternity. The locations of case showed 2 cases occurred in Abuja Municipal, 1 case each in Orozo and Mararaba satellite areas; while the locations of the other 8 cases were not recorded. All the cases were sourced from NHRC with mediation in ten and investigation in two cases. Seven cases were reported settled while 5 cases were still pending.
Domestic Violence recorded a total of 6 reported cases and all the victims of the domestic violence here were females and all the perpetrators were males. Two cases occurred in Abuja Metropolis while the location of the other 4 cases was not recorded. Four of the cases were sourced from NHRC who mediated in all the cases, one case was sourced from WACOL who attempted mediation in the case and another case was sourced from FIDA who took the case to court. Four cases were reported settled, 1 case was reported pending and 1 case did not report the current status of the case. The data did not indicate what act was reported to have constituted domestic violence. The violations were recorded as domestic violence.

Abandonment also recorded a total of 6 reported cases in Abuja. All the victims are females and all the perpetrators are males. All the cases did not report the location of the violation. Also, all the cases were sourced from NHRC who mediated in 5 cases and conducted investigation in 1 case. Five cases were reported settled and 1 case was reported pending.

Maltreatment accounted for a total of 3 reported violations in Abuja. All the victims were females and all the perpetrators were males. Of the three reported violations, one indicated the victim as a minor while another indicated the victim and perpetrator as adults. The data show that two of these violations occurred in Abuja metropolis. However, the location of the third violation was not indicated. The sources of these maltreatment violations were FIDA, NHRC and WRAPA. These institutions responded with interrogation and mediation respectively.

The data from Abuja show two violations of Neglect. All the victims were females and all the perpetrators were males. One of the violations occurred in Damangaza but the data did not indicate the location of the other violation.

The data on neglect were sourced from NHRC and the response to the violations was mediation. Regarding the status of the cases, 1 was reported settled and the other pending.

**Harmful Traditional Practices**

The data from Abuja revealed three violations of harmful widowhood practices. All the victims were females (one case also reported children as victims), and the perpetrators were the family of the deceased husband in two of the violations and an adult male in the other. The sources of the violations on HWP were FIDA and NHRC. FIDA invited the perpetrator for interrogation while NHRC mediated in the other two violations.

There were also reported violations of child marriage, forced marriage, seizure of property and threat of eviction. All the violated were females and all the perpetrators were males. The data on these violations were sourced from NHRC. Two of the violations were mediated upon, another was investigated by NHRC and another was being petitioned to the Senate.
Three of the violations recorded a status of being settled, while the case before the Senate was still pending.

**Economic Violations**
The violations reported covered issues of failure to discharge the obligation of maintenance for wife and children, poor care and non-payment of salary by an employer. All the violated persons were females and all the perpetrators were males except the case of non-payment of salary where the sex of the perpetrator was not stated. All the violations in this category were sourced from NHRC and were reported and mediated on by NHRC. The status of the violations indicates 'settled' for two of the cases while one was recorded as pending.

**Harmful widowhood practices**
*victims were women & children*  
while *perpetrators were the family* of the deceased husbands

**Other Violations**
The data collected in Abuja had five (5) cases of intimidation, harassment, forceful ejection from matrimonial home, forceful custody, and murder. All the violated persons were females, while perpetrators were males, except for the cases of harassment and murder where the perpetrators were also females. In the cases of harassment, intimidation and forceful custody, the interventions were mediation by NHRC; for the case of murder, a bail of N100,000.00 was granted and in the case of forceful ejection from the matrimonial home, and FIDA invited the perpetrator for dialogue. Three cases were sourced from NHRC, 1 was sourced from FIDA and 1 was sourced from the media (Daily Trust Newspaper report). Three of the cases were said to be settled, while the current status of the other 2 cases were not stated.
Data recorded was sourced from two locations in the North East zone; Maiduguri and Yola in Adamawa and Borno States respectively. These are two of the six states that constitute the zone. The populations in the zone comprises of distinct ethnic groups of Fulani (Adamawa, Gombe Bauchi and parts of Taraba), Kanuri (Borno, Yobe and parts of Bauchi) who are predominantly Muslims with a significant number of Christians in Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. One common strand they have is a strong affiliation to cultural constructs and values. The economy in the zone is mainly agrarian with majority of men and women engaged in subsistence and in a few cases large scale crops and livestock farming. Borno was the capital of the old North East zone of Nigeria and has a long history of trading with the Far East while Adamawa has links with the Fulani heritage found in the Cameroons and many African countries.

Within the period of study, nine (9) violations of rape were reported. The data collected had gaps as it did not indicate the relationship between the violated and the perpetrator or the dates of occurrence. Five of the nine victims were adult females while 4 were minors. All the perpetrators were adult males. Seven of these violations occurred in Maiduguri while 2 occurred in Yola. Eight of the perpetrators were charged to court while one was taken to the hospital for treatment.

There were seven reported violations of battery with all the perpetrators were adult males and all the violated persons were adult females. The data recorded the perpetrators were ‘husbands’ of the violated. Again, the data had gaps on date of occurrence and the date the report was made. Five of these violations have been settled by FIDA while the other 2 were charged to court.
Three assault violations were also recorded under this category with one clearly defined as domestic violence. Two of the violations occurred in Yola while the other took place in Gombe. One of the perpetrators of the act is reported as the Aunt of the violated, another was reported as the ex-husband of the violated while the relationship in the third case was not indicated. In the same manner as the other categories, the data did not indicate the dates of occurrence and when the reports were made. The data show the violated as adult females while perpetrators were two adult males and one adult female. FIDA responded by supporting one of the victims to access medical attention while the other was reported to have been taken back to the mother. FIDA supported the filing of charges against one of the perpetrators.

**Domestic Violations**
Interestingly, there was a reported violation of a husband who infected his wife with HIV in Yola. The date of occurrence and report were not indicated. The man entered into an agreement to pay N6,000.00 per month for the upkeep of the infected ex-wife.

8 of the 9 perpetrators of sexual offences were charged to court
2.4  Kaduna State (North West Zone)

Kaduna State is the central state of the seven states of Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara state. The North West zone has a population that is predominantly Hausa-Fulani ethnic groups who are a mixture of Muslims and Christians with former being larger in numbers. The zone has a history of being the seat of the Northern region government (Kaduna), while Sokoto Sokoto is the seat of the Caliphate and home of the renowned reformist Shehu Usman Danfodio who fought the jihad wars to re-establish the Islamic tenets in the whole of the then Northern Nigeria. Kano State presents another old dynasty and is rated as the political and cultural citadel of the zone with strong features for reforms and independent thinking, a common feature it shares with Katsina and Jigawa States. Zamfara State is the Shari’a reform nucleus and shares cultural and religious antecedents with the other 6 states in zone; with close links and bearings on women’s rights issues.

Graph 3: GBV Violations reported in Kaduna State, one of the 7 states in the North West Zone and representative of prevalent forms and reporting patterns.

One of the perpetrators of the assault was the Aunt of the victim
Sexual Violations
A total of 30 violations of rape were reported in Kaduna State during the period of study (January to June 2010) and all the victims were females. Some of the victims were reported as minors and others were adults. All the perpetrators of the violations were adult males between the ages of 20-60 years. Fourteen violations were sourced from the CID, Police Headquarters, Kaduna Command, 4 cases each were sourced from FIDA, Hospitals and Relations of the violated and 2 cases were sourced from media reports in the national dailies. One violation each was sourced from an Imam and a survivor of the violence. Nineteen violations were charged to court, 3 violations were examined and treated by a certain doctor named Dr. Chike who works in Sabon Tasha General Hospital. The data showed that three families did not want the violation publicised while two violations were dealt with under the Shari’a Law. One of the violations was mediated by Community Leaders while another was reported at the Police State Command and another ended up in a divorce.

One of the offences under this category- sexual violation is sexual harassment. Only one data was collected in Kaduna for sexual harassment and it occurred in a satellite town in Kaduna State. The violated was a female aged 31 yrs and the perpetrator was a male aged 45 yrs. The data was sourced from FIDA and case is still pending in court.

Physical Violations
The total number of cases of physical violations collected in Kaduna was 34. Of these, 28 violations were reports of Battery and beating. All the victims of battery were adult females between the ages of 20-45 and all the perpetrators were adult males between the ages of 25-55 years. Of the 12 occurrences of beating, female to male ratio across the violated and the perpetrators was 11:1. Among the violated, all were female except for one male (aged 55 years) who reported beating and breaking of jaw (this is rather a rare situation from the record of reported violations.)
The data showed majority of the violated (9 of 12) as adult females between ages 25-55. Only one victim was recorded as a minor while two other data failed to indicate the age of the violated. This unsettles the general perception that victims of beating should be minors due to so many ‘justifications’ including the duty of correction. This then posits the question that seeks to examine the reporting culture of reporting involving the physical violations of minors. Of the 16 violations of battery, five violations were mediated at different levels by family relations, neighbours and religious leaders. Four victims were undergoing medical treatment facilitated by FIDA and 3 had been sent to the court. Regarding the status of the cases of these violations, two ended in divorce, one in separation and another was reported to the Police.

Of the 12 physical violations, 8 were mediated by family, neighbours, elders, community and religious leaders. Two were still pending at the social welfare and the other cases of violations each ended in separation and divorce respectively. Regarding the source of data, the data on violation of battery showed, 7 were sourced from FIDA, 3 from CERSDOV, 2 from the Imam of Tafawa Balewa Road and relatives of the violated person while another came from Women Essential Rights. Data on the violation of beating, 7 violations were sourced from HAWCO, 2 from Social Welfare and others from CERSDOV and CAN, Kaduna branch respectively.

Trafficking and kidnapping accounted for 3 of the physical violations collated. In this sub-category, all the victims were female minors and all the perpetrators were adult males. The cases of trafficking occurred in Abakpa, a satellite town in Kaduna, while the kidnap incidence occurred in Sokoto. Though the sources of the data were not provided, the case of kidnap was charged to court while the other 2 cases of trafficking were mediated through family intervention.

Threat to life and grievous hurt accounted for 2 occurrences in the physical violations category. The victim of threat to life was a female aged 33 years while the perpetrator was a male aged 45 years old. The victim of grievous hurt was a male minor aged 10 years and the perpetrator was an adult male aged 20 years old. All the violations in this regard occurred in Kaduna Township. Intervention the case of threat to life came by way of an advice from the CAN Secretary for a report to be made to the police, but the perpetrator of the violence of grievous hurt was arrested. The source of data in the case of threat to life came from CAN, Kaduna while that of grievous hurt was sourced from media reports in the print media.

Violations of neglect and conspiracy to cause abortion or kill the child after birth occurred in Kaduna Township, while the violation of murder occurred in Kano State. The violated were females and the perpetrators were males.
The perpetrator in the case of murder was a male minor aged 13 years. One data each was sourced from HAWCO, CID Police Headquarters and media reports.

**Domestic Violations**
Domestic violence and maltreatment recorded a total of 6 of the 12 total number reported in Kaduna. The violated included female minors between the ages of 12-16 and adult females between the ages of 28-45 and the perpetrators were all adult males between the ages of 30-60 years. Response and interventions in all the violations reported took the form of mediation by family, neighbours, elders and community leaders. Data was on 4 of the violations were sourced from HAWCO and 2 from relations of the violated.

The data on domestic violence showed four were those of denial and the violated were adult females between the ages of 24-30 and the perpetrators were all adult males between the ages of 38-46 years. In all the cases mediation came from religious leaders and neighbours. Three of the violations were sourced from CAN, Kaduna and one was sourced from HAWCO.

There was also a violation of forceful ejection reported in a satellite town of Kaduna. The violated was a female aged 35 years and the perpetrator was a male aged 48 years. The data was sourced from CAN, Kaduna and the case has been mediated upon by CAN.

**Economic Violations**
The data showed two (2) cases of economic deprivation. Another manifestation of this violation was the reported case of neglect and starving of both wife and children. The violated included adult females and the perpetrators were all adult males. All the violations of economic deprivation occurred in Kaduna City and while one case was mediated by neighbours, the other ended in divorce. One case each was sourced from CERSDOV and HAWCO.

**Other Violations**
Though the data from Kaduna reflected one violation under this category (forceful ejection) it did not reflect any reports of harmful widowhood practices even though the state hosts populations that have such indigenous practices but incidences of which may not be happening in the host location. The data also recorded no reports of child or forced marriage which is a common feature of 6 of the 7 states of the zone. This may also be on account of the exposure and profiling of many of the citizens from those states resident in Kaduna which reduces the tendency for such violations. Meanwhile, even where these incidents occur; they may be resolved in other ways that excludes the intervention of authorities or groups identified with campaigning against such practices.
2.5 **Imo State (South East Zone)**

Owerri was the data sampling site for the South east zone which comprises of Imo, Abia, Enugu, Anambra and Ebonyi. There are strong affinities of cultural and religious frames and majority of the male and female population is engaged in small and medium businesses and a substantial number with industry size enterprises. The rural population is agrarian and rely on a variety of cash produce for subsistence and distribution locally and internationally. The zone is rated as the commercial hub of Nigeria and its gateway to industrialisation. Major social issues include cultural inhibitions for women and their subjection to a myriad of harmful traditional practices. The security situation in many of the states in the zone manifests in violations ranging from rape, kidnapping and assault of women and girls at alarming prevalence rates in private and public spaces. Sample data collected in Imo State representing the South East Zone indicated that out of the 25 different types of GBV 98% of the victims were women.

**Graph 4:** *Gender Based Violence reported in Imo State one of the South East Zone representative of forms and responses to violations in Abia, Enugu, Anambra and Ebonyi*

**Sexual Violations**

In Imo State, South East Nigeria, 10 violations of rape were reported within the period under review. Nine (9) of the victims were female and 1 male. Age ranges of the victims were not provided except for the age of a 21 year old female victim. The age of the male raped by a fellow male was also not indicated. Perpetrators of the 10 violations were all males though their ages were not provided. Six (6) of these 10 cases occurred in Owerri and its environs, while one each occurred in Ohaji Egbema, Ehime Mbano and Oguta respectively. The data showed that two of the violations had been charged to court while 4 were under investigation. Nothing was said about the status of the remaining 4 incidents. Monitoring reports indicate that after a while (dates not provided), one of the cases was still in court while 4 were still being investigated. There is no indication as to the status of the two cases charged to court.
There was a report of teen age pregnancy involving a 14 year old female violated by a 45 year old male in Owerri which had been investigated, victim counselled and case settled. There were also two cases of sexual abuse and sexual deprivation involving 2 female victims and two male perpetrators in Mbano and Mpam, Ahiazu Mbaise respectively. The ages of both the violators and perpetrators were not recorded. These cases were reported to have been investigated and settled. Two violations of child defilement involving two female victims were recorded against two male perpetrators which took place in Mpam, Ahiazu Mbaise and Owerri respectively. These cases were still under investigation.

Physical Violations
Seventeen violations of infliction of injury were reported with all the victims as females between ages of 21-66. The perpetrators were 16 males and 1 female within the age range of 25-69. The role of the female was not explained neither did the data provide information on the circumstances surrounding her involvement. Thirteen of these violations occurred in Owerri axis, 2 in Ohaji Egbema, 1 in Ngor Okpala and 1 in Ezinihitte. The responses by the institutions where the data were collected from ranged from investigation, counselling, arbitration, arrest, interrogation to litigation. Monitoring reports revealed that as at the time of data collection, 2 of the cases are still under investigation, 1 was settled and 1 is still in court.

Data collected also indicated that of the 14 reported violations of physical assault all the victims were women. Ages of the victims were between 19 to 66 years while the perpetrators were all male with age ranges between 25 and 77 years. Eleven of the violations occurred in Owerri while one violation occurred in Ngor Okpala, another in Ezinihitte and two others in Ohaji Egbema.

The institutions that provided the data including the state Ministry Women Affairs and Social Development responded to these violations with investigation, counselling and arbitration. One of the cases was referred from a monitoring agency to the Police Criminal Investigation Department, 2 were under Investigation by regular Police, while two of the perpetrators were arrested and investigated by a local security group with the off-campus hostel area of Imo State University Owerri where the crime occurred and one of the cases was charged to court. Currently, these cases of violations are at different levels of conclusion with 2 of them already settled, 1 still in court, 1 under investigation with one still pending.

Nine violations of battery occurred during the period under review. All victims are females with age range of 22-48 while the perpetrators are all male between the ages of 38-48 years. One of the violations took place in Mbaityoli, 3 in Ezinihitte, 1 in Mbano, 3 in Owerri and 1 in Okigwe. One of the cases is being addressed, 1 under investigation and counselling by Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.
Monitoring exercise carried out by Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development after the cases were reported indicates that one of them has been settled while one is pending.

Three Murder cases were reported to have occurred in Owerri, Mbano and Aboh Mbaise respectively involving 3 females as the victims and 3 males as the perpetrator. Their ages were not indicated. One of the perpetrators was mobbed to death, 1 of the cases is under investigation and the suspect in one of the cases is at large. Currently only one of the violations is reported to be under investigation. Information on the current status of the remaining two were not supplied.

Within this period also, three cases of human trafficking were reported as violations against two females by male perpetrators in Obowu and Atta Ikeduru respectively. There was a reported case of child Abuse involving a female as the victim and a male adult as the perpetrator in Ahiazu Mbaise. The case is still under investigation.

The data recorded three violations of child stealing, involving 2 females and one male as victims and 2 males and 1 female as perpetrators. These violations occurred in Oru Mgbidi West, Irette Owerri West and Owerri North and the cases were still under investigation. Data showed 2 violations of Kidnap involving 2 female adults as victims and 1 male and an unidentified person as perpetrators. The ages of both were not indicated. These violations occurred in Ehime Mbano and Orsu Ubierilem respectively. The violations were investigated by the police and one of the survivors was released only to die two days later.

One of the cases was referred from a monitoring agency to the Police Criminal Investigation Department, 2 were under Investigation by regular Police, while two of the perpetrators were arrested and investigated by a local security group with the off-campus hostel area of Imo State University Owerri where the crime occurred.

Other reported GBVs within this period include a case of fear of physical injury involving a female victim and a male perpetrator. Their ages were not indicated and the case is still being investigated by the police. There was a case of abduction and illegal detention in Owerri. Both the victim and perpetrator are adult male.
Two cases of extortion were also reported to have occurred in Owerri involving one male victim and a 21 year old female and male perpetrator. No information was given on the status of the case.

A case of illegal abortion was also reported in Oru West involving a female victim and a male perpetrator. Their ages were not mentioned but the case was still under investigation as at the point of data collection.

**Domestic Violations**

There were 7 reported violations of forceful eviction from home. Victims are all female adults between the ages of 23-66. Six of the perpetrators of this crime are males between the ages of 18-82 while one is an 18 year old female. Locations where this happened also varied; three of the violations occurred in Owerri metropolis and one violation each in Mbaitolli, Ezinihitte, Ogwara, Echime, Ikeduru, Ohaji and Nkwere localities. One of the cases was quickly referred to family and resolved while the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development investigated and counselled the victims and the perpetrators of three of the cases. Monitoring report by State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) indicated that 2 of the cases have been resolved while one was pending. There was no information given on the status of the other cases.

A victim of grievous hurt was a male minor aged 10 years and the perpetrator was an adult male aged 20 years old

Violations of child abandonment and one of separation from family were reported within this period. The case of child abandonment involved a male victim and female perpetrator in Iho Dim Na Eze. This case was concluded whereas the case of separation from family involving a 45 year old female victim and a 50 year old male perpetrator was still pending. The MWASD investigated, counselled and has successfully arbitrated in the case.

**Harmful Traditional Practices**

Violations under this category recorded a high number of 43 in all. Sixteen, 16 of the violations of harmful widowhood practices were reported.

All the victims are females between the ages of 35-70, two of the perpetrators are female while the rest are males within the age range of 30-72.
During this period under review, 19 incidences of property rights violation (disinheritance/appropriation of estate) were reported in Imo State and its environs. All victims are females between the ages of 35-70. There are three female perpetrators and sixteen male perpetrators between the ages of 30-72. Locations where these violations occurred spread across the different localities both rural and urban such as Ihitte/Uboma, Ikeduru, Obowu, Ezinihite, Ehime Mbano, Ideato, Owerri, Ohaji Egbema, Njaba, Mbafo, Nekede, Orlu, Ngor Okpala, Nkwere. Nine of these violations were responded to in the manner of investigation, arbitration and counselling by MWASD. No action was taken in the other cases. Data gathered shows that 6 of the cases are pending, 4 have been settled and 1 under police investigation.

During this period under review, 19 incidences of property rights violation (disinheritance/appropriation of estate) were reported in Imo State and its environs. All victims are females between the ages of 35-70. There are three female perpetrators and sixteen male perpetrators between the ages of 30-72. Locations where these violations occurred spread across the different localities both rural and urban such as Ihitte/Uboma, Ikeduru, Obowu, Ezinihite, Ehime Mbano, Ideato, Owerri, Ohaji Egbema, Njaba, Mbafo, Nekede, Orlu, Ngor Okpala and Nkwere. Eleven of the violations were being investigated by MWASD; however, no information was provided on the action taken on the others. As at time of data collection, 7 of the cases are pending in court, 2 settled while 1 is under investigation by the police.

19 incidences of property rights violations (disinheritance/appropriation of estate) were reported in Imo State and its environs. All victims are females between the ages of 35-70. Perpetrators - 3 female and 16 male between the ages of 30-72.

**Economic Violations**

Within the period under review, 5 violations resulting in psychological and economic abuse were reported. Report shows that all the victims are females between the ages of 20-36 years and the perpetrators are all males. Age ranges of perpetrators were not indicated except for the 52 year old man who was accused of psychological and economic abuse of a 31 year old woman in Ohii Owerri. Four of these incidences occurred in Owerri and 1 in Mbano. As at the time of this report MWASD had taken up 2 of the cases under the counselling and arbitration program of the Ministry. As at time of data collection one of the cases had been settled while one is pending. No information was provided on the status of the 3 remaining cases.
2.6 Cross River (South South Zone)

The South South zone comprises of the states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Edo, Cross River, River and Delta forming what is referred to as the Niger Delta region which also is the source of Nigeria’s oil and the mainstay of its single line economy. The population has been negatively impacted on by exploration activities leading to restiveness amongst its youths and between communities. The impact of the state of violence and militancy affects all citizens but more critically women and children who suffer various forms of indignation and assault on their human dignity. The total number of GBV occurrence recorded indicate very high numbers for sexual (19) and physical (50) forms of violence affirming the dangers women are exposed to daily.

Graph 5: Gender Based Violence reported in Cross River State representative of the forms and responses in South South Zone

Sexual Violations

Rape accounted for 17 out of the 19 sexual violations reported in Calabar, Akwa Ibom and Asaba (2 of the cases are defilement cases). Except for the defilement cases where the violated are minors, all the victims of rape are adult females. All the perpetrators of the violations were males. Four of the violations occurred in Obudu; 3 in Calabar and UGEP, 2 in Yakuur while the location of 2 others were not reported and 1 violation each occurred in Ketabebe, Akwa Ibom and Asaba.

Five violations were reported to the Police Divisions at Calabar, Obudu and UGEP (only in 2 cases were the perpetrators arrested and taken to court). A case was advised to be taken up by the Anti-VAW committee, a focal person from the MWASD in Calabar referred a victim for healthcare services; a surgical operation was financed by FIDA to treat a raped girl who suffered VVF at 2yrs; while they also facilitated the rearrest culprit, another offender was referred to the family head and the other to Orphans and Vulnerable Children’s Support Group.
Other cases were sourced from media reports in the dailies. A violation resulting in incest occurred in Obudu. The violated was a female and the perpetrator was a male. The case was taken up by the Anti-Vaw Committee.

**Physical Violations**

Data on physical violations showed a very high occurrence of assault with a total of 22 reported cases. A close examination of the data reflects 14 occurrences in Calabar, 2 in Yakuur, 2 in UGEP, 1 in Odukpani, 1 in Obudu and 2 unaccounted. It can be inferred, therefore, that this type of violence is common in the highly urban cities like Calabar while only few occurrences may be found in other semi-urban towns like Yakuur, UGEP, Obudu etc.

Fifteen of the violations were reported to a Police Station (one of which was called back by family members). Two of the reported violations were handled by the Anti-VAW Committee where the perpetrator was arrested and detained in one instance and both perpetrator and the victim were invited for questioning and settlement in another.

Ten (10) of the cases were sourced from the Airport Divisional Police Station in Calabar; 4 cases from the General Hospital in UGEP; 4 from the Ministry of Women Affairs in Calabar; 2 from Positive Development Foundation in Calabar while one case each was sourced from the Women Development Unit in Obudu and Yakuur respectively.

Battery accounted for 9 violations in the data for these states. All the victims are female while the perpetrators are male. Four of the violations occurred in Obudu, 2 in Calabar and UGEP and 1 in Odukpani. Three cases were sourced from the Ministry of Women Affairs in Calabar; 2 cases were sourced from the Women Development Unit, Obudu Council, PHC Obudu and UGEP respectively.

Abduction and kidnap accounted for 6 cases occurring in various states within the zone. All the victims were female while the perpetrators were male. There were two extreme cases where ages of the victims were stated as 8 months (a minor) and a 72-year old woman. This portrays the highly vulnerable as the easy victims of abduction and kidnap. One (1) abduction case was sourced from the Airport Divisional Police Station in Calabar; while the other 5 kidnap cases were sourced from media reports in the national dailies.

Murder and attempted murder accounted for 6 cases in this zone. All the victims were females while the perpetrators were males. There was an attempted murder on a 5-month old baby (a minor) by a 25-year old male. The attempted murder occurred in Delta State. One murder case also occurred in Delta State, while the other murder cases occurred in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Benin City, Edo State.
The case of Malicious Damage and Harassment accounted for 1 case each. The victims were female and the perpetrators were male. The violation resulting in malicious damage occurred in Calabar but the location where harassment occurred was not recorded. The case of malicious damage was reported at the Police Division, while FIDA filed a suit to protect the victim of harassment.

**Economic Violations**

There were 3 reported violations resulting in Abandonment; 2 cases occurred in Obudu and 1 in Okoi Mkpani, Ketabebe. One of the violations was against a 4-month old victim and neither the sex nor the age of the perpetrator or even action taken was recorded. A case was referred to the Calabar female lawyers who followed through to ensure that the customs of the land were applied and another case was referred to the OVC Support Group. Two cases each were sourced from the Primary Health Centre, Obudu and one case each was sourced at the Health Post, Ketabebe.

The case of Failure to Provide Necessaries (which can also be termed Economic Deprivation) accounted for 1 case and this occurred in Calabar. The violated was a female and the perpetrator was a male. The case was reported at the Police Division.

**Others Violations**

The violation of PLHIV resulting in Stigmatization and Discrimination accounted for 1 case which occurred in UGEP. The victim was a female and the perpetrator was a male. The case was taken up by the Anti-Vaw Committee.

Abduction & kidnap accounted for 6 cases all victims were female. Two extreme cases of 8 months & 72 year old woman portraying a high vulnerability.
2.7 Lagos State (South West Zone)

Lagos State is one of six States that comprise of the South West zone which has many historical antecedents related to the evolution with the ultimate location of its capital in there up to 1992. The south west comprises of Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo. Lagos is referred to as the ‘New York’ of Nigeria and is the commercial nerve of the nation as well as its major export and import window. The population in the south west is predominantly made of the ethnic group of the Yoruba with a sprinkling of other ethnicities. As the commercial nerve centre, Lagos and some its neighbouring states attract all the other ethnicities in Nigeria whereby formal representation exist of other groups. The keen commercial and industrial vibrancy of the state and the zone also points to the mixture of cultures, religions which speak for the inherent diversities. The harsh exposure of survival, insecurity and infringements occasioned by the lifestyle in Lagos and its environs form the basis for most of the violations women and girls are exposed accounts for the high numbers of the forms of GBV reports recorded in this report. Lagos passed a domestic violence law in 2009 as one of the mechanisms for accountability.

Graph 6: Gender Based Violence reported in Lagos State representative of the prevalence and forms in the South West Zone

Sexual Violations

Sixteen (16) rape and defilement violations were reported to have occurred within Lagos and its environs including the defilement of a two year old female minor by a 63 year old male in Lagos State.

Three (3) cases of sexual assault/abuse were also reported. Two occurred in Surulere, involving a 17 year old female as victim and 26 year adult male as the perpetrator. No definite action was reported to have been taken against the offenders. In Oyo State the
case of a 52 year old adult male who violated a 14 year old female and was arrested while the victim was treated. There was also a reported case of incest, assault and rape which involved two female adults of 22 and 24 years as victims and a 46 year old male as the perpetrator. The perpetrator was charged to court convicted and imprisoned for 7 years.

A report of captive holding (abduction) and rape in Lagos State by an adult male Pastor of a popular church and an adult female of 47 years as victim but no action was reported to have been taken. Another report of infidelity involved an adult female against a 42 year old man in Ipaja Lagos; no action was reported to have been taken by any authority or agency.

Physical Violations
Four (4) murder cases were reported in Lagos State within the period under review. The 4 victims are all females with an age range of 22 to 75 years; while 1 out of 4 perpetrators is a female with age ranges between 13 and 65 years; while 1 is a police patrol team. As at the time this data was collected, 3 out of the 4 cases were receiving different types of attention or action taken towards resolving them except the case that involved a police patrol team where no information was given on the status of the case.

There were also 19 reported cases of battery and assault with all female victims in the age range of 17 to 60 years while the perpetrators are all adult male. All the cases occurred within Lagos and its environs. Actions taken against perpetrators included; 1 perpetrator convicted by the court and sentenced to 7 years jail with hard labour, 1 perpetrator arrested and referred to CID department for investigation, 1 case adjourned by a court while 1 is pending in court. Apart from counselling of two victims of battery no other action was taken against perpetrators of battery.

Other cases reported within the time under review include 3 cases of kidnap and abduction of adult females of ages 27 and 47 within Lagos and its environs by adult males whose ages were not stated and no action was reported to have been taken on the matter. Three (3) cases of threat to life were also reported within the time under review. All the victims are adult males within the age ranges of 22-36 while perpetrators are all adult males within the age ranges of 40 - 46. One of the perpetrators was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment while 1 of the cases was transferred to the CID for investigation. No action was reported to have taken place on the remaining case.

Other forms of GBV reported included child trafficking of a 14 year old female by an adult female. The violation is being investigated by NAPTIP. One case of physical and physiological abuse was reported in Yaba Lagos involving a male adult as perpetrator and a 40 year old female as victim. No action was reported to have been taken on this matter.
Domestic Violations
Of the 29 domestic violations recorded in Lagos and its environs, victims were all females with age range of between 23 to 55 years while the perpetrators are all males with age range of 28 to 48 years. 25 of these violations occurred in Lagos while the 4 occurred in Oyo and Ondo States. This included the well publicized case of domestic violence and assault perpetrated by a highly place traditional ruler, Deji of Akure against his wife. In this case, the perpetrator was deposed and taken to court.

All victims of these violations were females with age ranges between 5 and 35 years and perpetrators all males with age ranges between 22 and 82 years. While 10 of these violations occurred within Lagos metropolis, 6 occurred within Ado Ekiti, Osun, Ogun and Ibadan. Institutions and organisations where these cases were reported responded thus: 4 perpetrators were detained in police custody awaiting trial, 1 charged to court, 1 convicted and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment with hard labor, 1 sentenced to 4 years in jail, 2 granted bail to the tune of N100,000.00 and N50,000 respectively to appear in court, 2 are under investigation.

The data showed 7 reported violations resulting in Neglect and abandonment of children. Neglect here comprised of neglect and abandonment of wife and children of husband and children. All victims of these crimes were adult females with age ranges between 28 and 42. Perpetrators are adult males with age ranges between 28 and 44. All the cases occurred within Lagos and its environs. Of all the 7 reported cases of neglect and abandonment only 1 case was reported to have been taken to Social Welfare for resolution by the Agency concerned. No actions were reported to have been taken on the remaining 6 cases.

There were 3 reported cases of disinheritance {denial} involving adult females as victims with age ranges between 38 and 41. Perpetrators were also all adult males whose ages were not indicated. No action was reported to have been taken against perpetrators.

Economic Violations
The data showed a reported violation of deprivation of education/opportunity and labour without pay involving a couple as perpetrators and a 10 year old female as victim. the girl was extradited from the violent home by the officials of Ministry of Women Affairs.
Section Three

3. Analysis and Discussions

a) Comparative Analysis of Data

The occurrence of all GBV forms is highest in Lagos, Ogun, Osun (South West axis) followed by the Federal Capital Territory, Imo, Kaduna, Cross River respectively, GBV is relatively lower in Adamawa and Borno (North East) states. The graph above reveals that prevalence of violations differs per state. This disparity may be as a result of differences in the population, the cosmopolitan nature as well as the cultural norm/tendencies prevalent in the states. For instance, the states and cities in the south western part of Nigeria where data were collected are either totally cosmopolitan or averagely cosmopolitan. More so, the population in the South Western states are higher than the other states in the remaining geo-political zones. Another important factor for the differences in levels of occurrence and data gathered is the awareness level which differs in each state.

![Chart 1 - Comparative analysis of GBV occurrence by Zones](chart)

The factor of the level of awareness is closely linked to presence or absence of government and non-governmental institutions working on issues of GBV. For instance, level of occurrence and number of data is higher in Lagos, its environs and in the Federal Capital Territory. This can be adduced to high presence of both government and non-governmental institutions in these states. It also safe to posit that level of awareness is higher in these states due to the activities of the aforementioned institutions. This may also suggest that victims have greater access to information and services where available.
On the other hand, in Adamawa and Borno, the data is relatively low in comparison with other states. Going by the arguments adduced above, the presence of non-governmental institutions is quite low and this may have contributed to the low level of awareness. In addition to this, a all-encompassing culture of silence which is peculiar to indigenes of the two states seem to have a bearing on the quantum of information that was obtained for the analysis. It is worrisome that despite the limited number of data that was collected from these states, sexual violations rank the highest.

The data also shows that of all categories of violations enumerated above, physical violence has the highest rate of occurrence with 99% of the victims as females. In the FCT, physical violence accounts for 36% followed closely by domestic violence with 33%. In Adamawa and Borno states, physical violence and sexual violations accounts for 47% of the violations while domestic violence is 5%. Kaduna recorded 42% for physical violence and 38.7% for sexual violations. Domestic violence in Kaduna is at the rate of 15%. This trend stretches to South East with a rate of 53% for physical violence, 43% for harmful traditional practices and 14% for sexual violations. South South has the highest differences between offences with 47% for physical violence, 19% for sexual violations and 3% for domestic violence. There is a slight difference in the south west with the most prevalent violation recorded for domestic violence at 37% and followed closely by physical violence at 35% and sexual violations at 20%.

An observation that can be made from an in-depth study of the data collected suggests that though physical violations account for the highest, most of these occurred within private spaces and within private relationships. Therefore, these physical violations constitute domestic violence. The graph below gives credence to this assertion as it indicates that over 300 of the 497 violations occurred in private spaces/settings.

Chart 2 Comparative analysis of location of GBV occurrence

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4 The sample size from the North east was the smallest as noted earlier. The time available for collection of data was not sufficient considering that communal culture of silence is rife in both Adamawa and Borno states.
b) Comparative analysis of the forms of violations by State/Zone:

A critical inference drawn from the data from each state is that each state has its peculiar violation. These variations are examined below in line with the groupings established for the purpose of this report.

**Chart 2** Comparative Analysis of GBV occurrence in the six Geo-political Zones of Nigeria

**Sexual Violations**

Kaduna State (NW) recorded the highest number of sexual violations with a total number of 31 reported cases; Lagos State (SW) accounted for a total number of 20 reported cases; Cross River State (SS) followed closely with a total of 19 reported cases, Imo State (SE) recorded 14 sexual violations; Adamawa (NE) had a total of 9 reported cases; and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (NC) had a total of 8 reported sexual violations.

It can also be argued that since in the North Western states such as Kaduna, neighbours live and operate like large extended families where everybody is involved and concerned about one another’s affairs there is the possibility that a victim of say rape is likely to have her friends and neighbours being concerned about the violence as to seek justice for and on behalf of the victim. In such situations, even where the victim is ignorant of the steps to take to seek justice, a friend or neighbour may bring to the knowledge of the victim the options he/she has to seek justice. There is the possibility that any level of awareness of gender-based violence will contribute much to such states since their communal lifestyle is capable of spreading the knowledge further than the lifecycle of the awareness campaign itself. The data collated for this analysis is not comprehensive to back these assertions as they are mere inferences. Deeper insights may be provided by further research.
In addition, Kaduna State has experienced civil unrest in the past years. As a result, sexual violations are one of the glaring realities and consequences during civil unrest.

The data on sexual violations raises interesting points of discourse such as the age of victims in comparison with that of perpetrators. There are growing concerns in Nigeria that a substantial number of sexual violations are perpetrated by adults and that most victims are minors and vulnerable members of the society – females of unsound mind, women with Down syndrome and poor women in rural areas. The data analysed confirms some of these concerns and adds on to the list – women living in urban areas and Nigeria’s reproductive population. For instance in the South West 16 rape and defilement cases were recorded including a 2 year old defiled by a 63 year old male in Lagos. In the North Central rape and defilement accounted for 8 cases involving female minors of 4, 7 and 14 years with perpetrators reported to be adults.

Physical Violations

Imo State (SE) had the highest number of physical violations with a total number of 53 reported cases. Cross River State followed closely with 50 reported cases; Lagos State recorded 35 cases; Kaduna State with 34 reported cases; Abuja accounted for 31 reported cases and Adamawa towed behind with 9 reported cases. This may not come as a surprise considering that the south eastern part of the country is currently characterised by kidnapping and civil unrest by militants.

The inherent gaps in the data collected made it difficult to draw inferences on what factors aided the prevalence of physical violations in the midst of other violations. However, the data does suggest that a large percentage of these physical violations occurred in domestic settings and a typical violation that was prevalent in the data was spousal battery. In Abuja alone, there were 27 cases where the victims and the perpetrator shared surnames. In some instances, the names were recorded as ‘Mr’ and

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5 Independent Media reports on GBV focussing on July 2010:
Two arraigned for alleged rape (victim- woman with down syndrome) , By Ayodeji Moradeyo, July 30, 2010 12:49AM. Available at http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5600100-146/two_arraigned_for_alleged_rape_.csp
Nigerian Compass Newspaper, Friday, Jul 23rd, Church elder, 82, to pay N300, 000 after raping minor, Friday, 23 July 2010 01:49 Nigerian Compass
‘Mrs’. This supports the conclusion that even though battery is categorised as physical violations for the purpose of this study, most of the recorded physical violations in Abuja are domestic violations because they occurred between with domestic relationships. This conclusion further supports the information in Chart 3 above. In the same vein, the data from Adamawa and Borno showed that 10 out of the 18 cases recorded by FIDA were cases of battery between couples in a marriage or ex-spouses. The NDHS survey also supports this finding. Other states recorded battery and assault as the violations with the highest level of occurrence within the group of physical violations. Just as in the case of Abuja, Adamawa and Borno, states such as Imo had data that reflected that there is a relationship (in most cases marriage) between the victim and the perpetrator. However, data from other states did not reflect this thus making it difficult to reach the same conclusions.

The difficulty in reaching a conclusive analysis as presented by these data is predicated upon the reality that there is low documentation capacity in institutions. It is important to note that the data was collated by LACVAW members from institutions where the violations had been reported. Therefore, the information in the compendium is limited to that made available by the institution. The record showed that capacity of institutions is weak in terms of definition of violations/offences, ability to ask the victims the right questions without re-victimizing the victim and the required skill to keep proper documentation.

**Domestic Violations**

The violations categorised as ‘Domestic Violence’ for the purpose of this analysis comprise of recorded violations of psychological abuse such as verbal assault, provocation, tormenting, mocking, lack of appreciation, ill-treatment or maltreatment, abandonment, neglect, refusal to ensure maintenance, starvation, separation from children, denial of access to children, denial of custody, denial of pregnancy (contesting paternity), denial of education, rejection based on illness especially by husband due to HIV status, forceful ejection from matrimonial/shared residence.

In addition, there were data in the compendium that simply indicated some violations as domestic violence without giving specifics of what act constituted domestic violence. These data have also been taken as ‘domestic violence’ for the purpose of this analysis.

The Lagos State recorded a total number of 37 cases of domestic violence; Abuja recorded 29 reported cases; Kaduna State had a total number of 12 reported cases; Imo State recorded 2 violations; Adamawa State recorded 1 case while Cross River State recorded no data for domestic violence at all.

Lagos and Kaduna States are high population density states and so it can be inferred that they recorded very high cases of domestic violence because of their communal lifestyle. They live in closed-knit family units and so have tendencies that may precipitate disputes and rancour within such units.
However, in states where cases of domestic violence were very low or not recorded at all, it may be wrong to assume or conclude that domestic violations are not rife. The time limitation and accessibility of institutions within states becomes important factors in this case. On the other hand, it could be inferred that the low number of reported cases of domestic violence is due to the fact that people from these areas handle their domestic issues/violations within their family units. These kinds of situations would mean that even if there are domestic violations or violation within domestic spaces, these would be largely unreported to appropriate authorities.

The data highlighted an interesting observation; majority of the violations that are found in this category especially in Abuja is that of ‘refusal or lack of maintenance’ and abandonment. As the Federal Capital Territory, cost of living in Abuja is the highest amongst all the states where the data were collected. It has become a worrisome phenomenon that women are increasingly being abandoned by their spouses; and that both married and divorced women complain of lack of maintenance. This can be attributed to the economic situation in the country and the level of unemployment in the country which has resulted in change or reversal of roles and responsibility.

**Harmful Traditional Practices**

Imo State stands out of the pack with a total number of 43 reported cases of harmful traditional practices; Abuja recorded a total number of 9 reported cases; Lagos State recorded 3 reported cases while Adamawa, Kaduna and Cross River States did not record any case of harmful traditional practices.

Harmful Widowhood practices seem to be the rife in Eastern Nigeria. This could probably be due to the patrilineal system of inheritance practiced in that region. Most Igbo communities hold the belief that women are not eligible to inherit from her father’s estate or take possession of her late husband’s estate. This is not withstanding a situation where the woman was the breadwinner while the man was alive. The belief is that only a man can control family resources. Women are considered as part of the property which can be inherited either by the brother, uncle, the closest relation or even the son of the woman in question.

Theresa U. Akumadu captured this vividly in her book *Beast of Burden* a study of Women’s Legal Status and Reproductive Health Rights in Nigeria published by The Women’s Rights Project and Civil Liberties Organisation in 1998 {pages 61-63}. She says *’Widows in the Old Eastern Zone of Nigeria women are treated as non-entities or persons. She buttressed this by saying that research has shown that widows in this zone are treated in a manner that suggest that they are responsible for the death of their husbands. Widows are humiliated and subjected to all manner of inhuman treatment their health condition notwithstanding. In most cases widows are made to shave their*
hair, denied access to any manner of comfort or hygiene, confined in a secluded room, compelled or forced to wail at odd times even when they do not feel like, made to sit and sleep on bare floor in the belief that she is being cleansed. Any attempt to resist this treatment may result in seizure of the property. There is also this believe that if the woman refuses to comply, it will be assumed that she killed her husband and may likely die. Even when widows go through all these it is not a guarantee that they will have access to their husbands’ property because in some cases the women is inherited by the brother or cousin of the dead man because it believed that women do not have rights to their husband’s property. 6

Although the situation should be different now, the data collected in Imo State during the period under review reflects 16 cases of harmful widowhood practices reported. All the victims were females between the ages of 35-70., Perpetrators were both males and females within the age range of 30-72. This suggests that women are the same instruments used to perpetuate this practice against other women and this poses serious danger to our society. These incidences occurred both in rural and urban locations.

The people in the South, especially in the South East and South South, are known to hold stereotypical perception when it comes to gender stratification. Their culture and traditions are firmly grounded to treat women as second-class beings who are not worthy of any decent treatment. This could account for why physical violations are higher around the South. However, this is not to say women receive much better treatment up north, but to some extent women are not degraded to the point of being forced to marry a late husband’s brother. She does not usually inherit much of her father or husband’s property, because the male sons or brothers inherit before and above her, but she still stands a chance to inherit contrary to the situation in the south where the woman is not even mentioned at the point of sharing inheritance.

The study affirms traditional conclusions that married women bear the brunt of harmful traditional practices and those awareness activities need to be stepped up in the south eastern part of Nigeria.

**Economic Violations**

Imo State had the highest in this category with a total number of 5 reported cases of economic violations; Abuja followed closely with a total number of 4 reported cases; Kaduna and Cross River States tie with total numbers of 2 reported cases each; Lagos State records only 1 reported case while Adamawa State records no case of economic violations.

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Generally, economic violations rate were low across the sample states where data was gathered and this could be attributed to the factors that influenced the data collection and probably the literacy level of people involved in documenting gender-based violence. One may infer here that probably people are not aware that economic violations are actually violations they have rights to challenge. Sadly, women and children who are the common victims of this violation form the crux of the vulnerable and downtrodden in our societies fill the streets begging their way to survive.

Others Violations
These GBVs are categorized as others here because their number of occurrences as reported are very minimal and did not fall into any of the categories. These GBV incidences include discrimination against PLWHA and STDs, stigmatization, workplace violations, denial of wages and such related depravations. Abuja recorded a total number of 5 reported cases; Imo State recorded 2 cases; Kaduna and Cross River States tied with 1 case each; while Adamawa and Lagos States had no reported case at all.

Chart 4: Graphical Representation of GBV occurrence in Nigeria

During the period of study, January – June 2010, a total number of 479 reported gender-based violations were collected across the country. Sexual violations accounted for 21.40% of the total sample violations collected; Physical violations recorded 44.92%; Domestic violence accounted for 17.16%; Harmful Traditional Practices accounted for 11.65%; Economic violations recorded 2.97% and other violations accounted for 1.90% of the total sample of violations collected.
c) Comparative Analysis of Age Distribution

For the age of the violated, about 40% of the data collected were not disclosed and of the disclosed, only about half indicated actual age and these were majorly adults. These have been categorised under 18 years – above. Using a mathematical formula, an average age was calculated for those data where the actual ages were indicated. The calculation arrived at 25 years for an average age of a victim.

The result of the NDHS survey on women experiencing physical violence shows that 28% of the 21,468 women (sample size) experienced physical violence since the age of 15 and 15% of women experienced physical violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. A worrisome conclusion is drawn on the age group of victims.

The survey concludes that ‘the trend of age group indicates an increase in physical violence from the 15-19 age group through the 25-29 age group and a decrease

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A manifestation of economic violation is a reported case of neglect and starving of both wife and children

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7 NDHS survey, page 262
thereafter’. Therefore, women in their reproductive ages are at risk of most affected by GBV. There are several national and international documents highlighting the effects of GBV on the reproductive health rights of women. These include but are not limited to the following:


d) The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)


f) Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (1994)

g) UN Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)


i) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on Women's Rights

The risk is greater when the reproductive population such as females within the age range of 18 – 40 years constitute a large percentage of GBV victims. Some of the highlighted risks include:

- Unwanted pregnancies and restricted access to family planning information and contraceptives
- Unsafe abortion or injuries sustained during a legal abortion after an unwanted pregnancy
- Complications from frequent, high-risk pregnancies and lack of follow-up care
- Sexually transmitted infections, including HIV
- Persistent gynaecological problems
- Psychological problems
- Demographically, a reduction in population size due to social revolution to procreate

An interesting inference drawn from the analysis of age of violated in relation to age of perpetrators is that females of 18 years and above are more violated because from the age of 18, it is assumed that such females are in a relationship either formal (marriage) or otherwise; thus, their vulnerability to GBV. Another trend shown from the data is that
girls of 1 – 10 years are more vulnerable may be because they are too young and physically unable to resist such attack especially as they are usually still within the confines of a home at that age, they are more susceptible to GBV and by older persons.

These underscore the urgent need for the passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill which will protect women within and outside the institution of marriage as well as in public and private spaces.

d) Comparative analysis of responses to GBV by Institutions where data was collected

The following analysis will show that responses to GBV in Nigeria is inadequate and in some cases inappropriate thereby encouraging a culture of impunity. Laws guiding most offences relating to GBV in Nigeria do not provide any remedies for victims, it only provides for punishments and fines that are grossly insufficient. The data showed the various responses by institutions to reported violations.

![Chart 6](chart6.png)

**Chart 6  Institutional responses to GBV by Source of Data**

These responses could be categorised as legal/judicial, remedial, physical and social. In an ongoing research by BAOBAB for women’s Human’s Rights on responses to GBV in Nigeria and preliminary findings indicate that level of reporting GBV is low because of the low level of responses from relevant institutions.

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8 The use of the word most in this sentence is informed by the fact that other offences such as trafficking is provided for under the Act on NAPTIP.
One of the indices for the collection of data was ‘action taken’ and the ‘data source’ from where the record was obtained. For the purpose of this analysis, action taken will be referred to as ‘responses’. In total, a sample size of 479 violations were collected from the following sources and in the order presented below:

a) Nigeria Police Force (Police Stations) - 43
b) Government Institutions such as the National Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid Council and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs - 36
c) Faith Based Institutions and stakeholders such as Imams, Pastors, mosques, churches and the faith based platforms such as Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) - 16
d) Health institutions such as General Hospitals and others - 66
e) Non-governmental Organisations such as WRAPA, WACOL, FIDA, Project Alert and such other voluntary organizations - 224

6. Media Print Media - 30

The graph above showed that NGO’s collected about 50% of the data and the compendium revealed that NGO’s responded to all the cases reported. The responses were characterised by a large number of negotiations and referrals to appropriate authorities or institutions such as Police and the law courts especially for cases of sexual violations.

A quick look at the data also showed that 15% - 25% of the cases of rape/defilement/incest and other violations from each state that are strictly in the purview of police were NOT reported to the Nigerian Police. The data revealed a disturbing trend of NGO’s becoming the traditional point of first report for cases that are clearly for the Nigerian Police. This trend has also resulted in more mediations as responses to violations which ordinarily should be tried in a law court. While this trend of more mediation can be categorised as dangerous and may even encourage a culture of impunity, an in-depth understanding of the contextual background of the case and the prevailing circumstances or cultural norms may provide insights into the emerging trend and show the trend as a best practice.

One possible argument will be the nature of the Nigeria criminal justice system and the inherent inadequacies such as wrong information filled into the First Information Report (FIR), inability of the police to diligently prosecute, delay occasioned by cumbersome court procedures, inadequacy of punishment for the violation especially when the multiple effects of the violation are interrogated, rules of evidence, high cost of litigation and re-victimization of the victim during trial.

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9 The NDHS survey however disputes this fact by concluding that less than 1% of the women sought help from a social service organisation.
A discourse or further research on responses to GBV is important to validate the probable loss of public trust in Nigerian Police especially for reporting GBV cases. This inference on loss of public trust results from responses given to victims during the process of reporting cases. There are unconfirmed reports that police erroneously conclude that husbands/male partners cannot be charged with having committed an offence if it’s against the wife/female partner. The only exception here is only if the violation results in the death of the female partner/wife. Meanwhile, the police are quick to place on trial the moral standing of the female victim as against the case of a male victim, where in the process of the reporting and actions usually end in victim ridicule. All the scenarios painted above are derived from stereotypical perceptions and the process of socializing of males to feel superior with the right to chastise women.

These perceptions are reinforced by the inadequacies in the provisions of the Criminal and Penal Code. In the Criminal Code, a person can only be tried for violations which occasion grievous hurt. Grievous hurt has been defined to mean injuries which put the victim in hospital for more than 42 days. Therefore, even if a victim spends 41 days (1 month and 10 days) in the hospital, it is not enough to charge the perpetrator for grievous hurt. In the same vein, the Penal Code allows the chastisement of a wife by her husband without offering wives a commensurate action in the case of an erring husband.

One of the refreshing developments to the inadequacies of the current laws regulating criminality and issues of violence in Nigeria is the enactment of laws on domestic violence and harmful traditional practices such as widowhood rites and female genital mutilation as well as the Child Rights Act by some states of the Federation. Some of these are:

- Child Rights Laws passed in 23 states of the Federation such as Lagos, Anambra, Imo, Ebonyi, Nassarawa, Plateau, Ogun, Ekiti, Abia, Rivers, Taraba etc
- A Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Circumcision (2000, Cross River State)
- A Law to Prohibit Domestic Violence Against Women and Maltreatment (2004, Cross Rivers State)

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10 In an isolated rape case, the perpetrator was asked to pay N300,000 as damage to the victim and subsequently, N10,000 monthly for the upkeep of the child that resulted from the rape.

11 Saudatu Mahdi’s unpublished article on discriminatory laws
d) A Law to provide Protection Against Domestic Violence and for Connected Purposes (2007, Lagos State)


f) Dehumanising and Harmful Circumcision Laws/ Abolition of Female Circumcision Laws (Edo, Ekiti, Cross Rivers, Rivers, Delta, Ogun, Osun etc)

g) The National Agency on Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Establishment Act

Tradition and customs still play a huge role in types of violations, its prevalence and more importantly the corresponding response. From the analysis it is trite to state that victims and the environment usually determine or dictate the response they obtain for GBV. From the data analysed, mediation has been the highest response. The traditional African culture that encourages mediation and settlement outside of formal spaces {courts} has permeated to the sphere of GBV. Mediation is sometimes explored even after the case has been handed over to the Nigerian Police.

However it may be argued that the clamour for mediation more than litigation is predicated upon the societal perception of GBV as well as the low responses by law enforcement agencies. In most families and cultures in Nigeria, GBV is considered as 'a cross to be borne by the woman'. Therefore a woman that explores litigation instead of mediation or a response from the in-laws or her family is considered an outcast. It is considered an aberration and disrespectful action and may attract some punishment or subtle reprimand.

This societal perception is affirmed by the NDHS survey which shows that 65% of victims sought help from their family and 31% from their in-law. Only about 2% sought help from the Nigerian Police. Although the survey does not give an indication of what form of help is given to the victim, the data analysed for this report shows that mediation ranks the highest as responses to GBV. Other responses are investigation, litigation against perpetrator, referral to Police, compensation to victim. One undisputed inference drawn from the data is that various platforms, organisations and institutions are working assiduously to ensure appropriate interventions on GBV cases towards reducing its occurrence in the society.

There is an urgent need for the passage of a home-grown law such as the VAPP Bill which transcends culture and tradition as well as addresses all forms of violations against women. In addition to this, there is a need for the 1999 Constitution to be reviewed to move 'women' and 'children' matters to the Second Schedule Part 2 that

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13 NDHS Survey 2008, page 284
enumerates matters under the concurrent listing order to enhance uniformity of laws on VAW.

e) Comparative analysis of Victims/Survivors & Perpetrators

This report underscores and affirms the perceptions and postulations that women are at the receiving end of gender based violence everywhere in the world. This is in the cases for domestic violence and during crisis situations such as war and civil unrest. The sample data of 479 reported gender-based violations was disaggregated by sex and it reveals that 394 females were violated against 8 males who were also violated, while 394 males were perpetrators against 11 females who were perpetrators. The violations that recorded female perpetrators were murder and denial of access to children.

![Chart 6: Data of Victims/Survivors and Perpetrators of GBV by sex](chart.png)

The NDHS survey 2008 on Domestic Violence affirmed the argument that most perpetrators of physical and sexual violence are men in the position of current or former husband/partner - thereby confirming domestic violence. The survey concludes that 45% of women who experienced physical violence since age 15 reported the perpetrator as current husband/partner. Among ever married women, the percentages are higher at 60%. In the case of sexual violence, both married and ever married women reported current husband/partner as perpetrator.
The equation changes slightly to strangers in the case of never married women. In all, men are the perpetrators.\textsuperscript{14}

Stemming the tide of GBV in societies is important as women who are most vulnerable to GBV constitute more than half of the population of the world. A law that will protect women will ensure the attainment of sustainable development through the contributions of healthy Nigerians especially Nigerian women.

\textsuperscript{14} NDHS Survey 2008, page 266
Section Four

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Justifications for Conclusions and Recommendations
i. Gender Based Violence has become an everyday occurrence in Nigeria and is fast eating into the fabric of the society threatening to destroy the family unit and heighten the insecurity in homes and public spaces.
ii. Violations within domestic spaces are rife and even though physical violations had the highest number of occurrences, they occurred within private spaces, indicating that domestic violence ranks the highest in the forms of violations in the country.
iii. There is evidence of relative increased awareness and reportage on GBV within the period of study, a development associated with the citizen response in increased reportage and emerging zero tolerance to GBV.
iv. Most victims of GBV documented in the overview were females while perpetrators were mostly males.
v. Nigeria's citizens of reproductive age are at greater risk of dying before attaining adulthood on account physical violence and sexual assault of rape and defilement involving female minors.
vi. Most incidences of GBV take place within the family cycle, among those in relationships, around social places like school, churches, work place and at times inside vehicles.
vii. All the categories of GBV cases reported occurred in rural and urban locations with no significant characterization along lines of location, age and status.
viii. Quantum and quality of responses to GBV by relevant government agencies is relatively low, inadequate and in some cases inappropriate. This invariably affected documentation and justice availed to victims.
ix. There is evidence of gaps and deficiencies in linkages, skills and capacity for response to GBV among the operatives of relevant institutions.

4.2 Conclusions

The thrust of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill which responds to the systemic forms and high prevalence of GBV is justified. The calls for action through the enactment of a legal framework to both address the menace and save the family unit and the society; is an imperative. These conclusions are affirmed by the findings in this compendium/overview which show the rate of occurrence of GBV in Nigeria at alarming rates with domestic violence recording the highest of all the forms. The sample size of the data generated shows a relative increase in level of awareness and reportage in the one year period of 2009 to 2010; which can be attributed to the hype of the campaign for the enactment of a GBV legislation by various stakeholders at all levels and in key institutions and policy spaces.

Furthermore, it is safe to conclude that even though there is increased awareness and reporting; this has not resulted in a commensurate reduction in prevalence rates. The data generated represents only about 6% (with a multiplier potential) that indicates the actual data in the best of circumstances is higher and also affirms the position of activists who have repeatedly submitted that more than 90% of GBV cases are unreported.
Similarly, a finding from the data generated affirms accepted perceptions of most GBV victims/survivors are females while most perpetrators of GBV are males. The data further shows that Nigeria’s reproductive population is at risk with the next vulnerable group being children who are at greater risk of dying physically and metaphorically before they attain adulthood. It is also safe to conclude that though the forms of violations differ depending on location and other reasons such as culture and antecedents, most violations recorded in this compendium/overview occur within private spaces of domestic settings, hence their categorization as domestic violence.

The findings also affirm the global dictum of GBV lacking borders, locations or social classification. Typical forms of violations occur both in urban and rural settings with no significant variation on prevalence, forms, age or content. Meanwhile, the scope and content of responses to GBV remains an evolving issue with current initiatives laudable but grossly inadequate or inappropriate in some cases. At another level, the weak professionalism of displayed by key institutions or their operatives starting with the quality of documentation affects the quantum of justice that could be obtained or awarded. This has encouraged a culture of impunity among perpetrators and despondency in victims/survivors.

The sample size analysed in comparison with the data compiled in 2008 by the National Population Commission as well as recent media reports show that there has been an increase in the quality of reporting of GBV cases. An arithmetic progression of reported GBV cases was done using the Amnesty International and CLEEN Foundation data size from studies conducted in 2005 as a baseline.

![Chart 8: Arithmetical Progression of GBV’S Reported in Nigeria](chart.png)
The result of the progression revealed in 2005, 1,835 cases were reported and that by 2012, 14,362 cases of GBV would have been reported if nothing is done to the scourge of issues and inferences highlighted in this report. This figure though colossal will still represent less than 10% of the actual figure. Statistically, the projected figure rises to about 150,000 cases of GBV in a year. The reality check of this figure is that a minimum of 1 person will be violated based on their gender, or other indices of vulnerability or exposure. Using the conclusion reached that women bear the brunt of GBV in Nigeria, then at least 2 out of every 5 women will experience GBV. This is against the backdrop of the population figures which put the population of women at half of Nigeria’s population.

The recommendations made below are not a complete panacea to the high prevalence rates or increasing prevalence of GBV in Nigeria but they are made towards reducing the menace. In making the recommendations, one pertinent issue calls attention to the need to proactively create and establish systems and mechanisms to respond to GBV with proportionate focus on the victims and the perpetrator. In many cases, especially sensational ones, the tendency has been to shift attention on the perpetrator rather than the victim, hence many of the recommendations below are directed to victims.

4.3 Recommendations
Government all over the world has the responsibility to protect its citizens from violence perpetrated by state and non-state actors. This responsibility is one of the foremost reasons why the international community developed the Bill of Rights. Therefore, the minimum a Government can do to fulfil this obligation is to establish legal frameworks and ensure the enforcement of the legislations through practical and accessible mechanisms and institutions.

Admittedly, the passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill is only a step to finding a sustainable framework for prohibition, protection and award of redress to victims/survivors of GBV in Nigeria. The rationale for the passage of the Bill is therefore predicated upon the need for:

- A law to address new and emerging forms of violence not covered by existing laws.
- A legal framework that reduces the risk of survivor re-victimization and re-occurrence of violence.
- A law that enhances the protection of women which is in compliance with international instruments and mechanisms such as the Rome Statutes, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on Women’s Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women amongst others.

In addition to the above, the following general recommendations for specific sectors and key stakeholders are proposed:

I) Government [Executive] should demonstrate political will by strongly demanding and facilitating the passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill by the National Assembly.

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16 Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966; Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
ii) Law enforcement agents should be trained and reoriented on GBV documentation and management especially as they would be vested with the responsibility of enforcing the Bill.

iii) It is novel that the Bill provides for award compensation terms; however, this provision should be made more mandatory by reviewing the provision to reflect 'shall' and not 'may'.

iv) Drawing from the experiences in Zanzibar, for the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill law to succeed, the following conditions must be considered:
   a) Provisions of other Nigerian laws that are loaded with moral and discriminatory connotations such as the Matrimonial Causes Act (MCA) should be reviewed to provide for the realities in the Nigerian society.
   b) Need to operationalize the law to make access to justice and the quest for protection from further abuse or violation easier and more victim supportive. This is particularly so relating to the rules of corroboration in the prosecution of rape or the demand for evidence in the MCA for a woman seeking divorce on the grounds of violence.

v) Actions by Government:
   a) Ensure a review and reform of the laws regulating the Nigerian Criminal Justice System especially the Criminal and Penal Codes.
   b) Establish support mechanisms through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs for victims and survivors of GBV which will include succour, health care and rehabilitation shelters/centres which will provide services like care of wounds and injuries from GBV incidences; counselling and other psychosocial support; collection of forensic evidence, with consent of survivor; and referral services for legal and social support, emergency contraception (EC) to prevent pregnancy and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to minimize HIV transmission; treatment for STIs; especially from rape.
   c) Ensure that relevant law enforcement agencies especially the Police are educated and re-oriented by the Police Commission on issues boarding on GBV investigation, documentation and management.
   d) Through the National Judicial Institute should ensure that capacity of judicial officers is continuously built to be abreast of legal development and scholarship on GBV.
   e) Encourage MDAs to develop a codes of ethics against sexual abuse and exploitation as well as mainstream its principles in the civil service regulations and most importantly, ensure its enforcement at all levels and in all circumstances.
   f) Explore mainstreaming prevention of and response to GBV into the comprehensive agenda for improving reproductive health in Nigeria.
   g) Incorporate through the Ministry of Education and relevant bodies GBV education or studies in the school curriculum at the primary level.
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17 As part of activities marking the 16 Days of Activism 2009, WRAPA developed a factsheet on VAW. Information in the factsheet also contained details of appropriate services and responses as well locations. This should be replicated to suit various localities and disseminated widely.
g) Incorporate through the Ministry of Education and relevant bodies GBV education or studies in the school curriculum at the primary level.

vi) Roles for religious and traditional leaders:
   a) Translating the concept of justice, equity and fair play into action in the process of educating their constituencies
   b) Educating their followers on the rights of women as partners and capable leaders
   c) Drawing up programmes, which condemn violence in all spheres especially by encouraging other religious and cultural gatekeepers, and family members to support victims of violence

vii) Media Contributions towards campaign and legislation:
   a) Embark on programming that focuses on violence in all forms and at all levels
   b) Constant and consistent capacity building and knowledge update to enhance reporting and advocacy on the elimination of violence
   c) Establish codes and ethics that uphold the honour and dignity of women especially by the use of their image as marketing strategy.

viii) Roles for Civil Society Organizations and Development Partners:
   a) Identify and design intervention and support programmes for individuals or groups that may be at higher risk of GBV, such as single female-headed households and orphan headed households
   b) Serve as the vanguards of educating and sensitizing communities on the specific and general implications of GBV with the view to changing perceptions and mindsets.
   c) Design communication tools in conjunction with community members, aimed at reducing the impact of negative practices that have the effect of endorsement and social acceptance of GBV
   d) Design and disseminate information on location and availability of support and legal aid services
   e) Encourage and support women and girls [minors] to report or speak as well as assist them to seek for redress
   f) Design in collaboration with community institutions, simple confidential reporting systems to enhance reporting and reduce the burden on victims/survivors.
   g) Conduct research and surveys towards documenting successful approaches to enhance sharing of best practices
   h) Establish networks for linkages and referral of victims/survivors seeking redress from institutions and agencies or community stakeholders
   i) Establish a culture of documentation and follow up of incidences of GBV with the view to designing and executing strategies to address old and emerging forms of GBV
   j) Work with and establish youth clubs or forums as a tool to explore peer interaction and education on GBV
   k) Collaborate with government agencies to carry out initiatives aimed at reducing the rate of GBV in Nigeria
   l) Establish strong partnerships Co-opt and work with the media to carry out constant aggressive campaigns and sensitization for all stakeholders Involve men and boys in initiatives to reduce rate of GBV occurrence
   m) Involve men and boys in initiatives to reduce rate of GBV occurrence
### Appendix i

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List of Contributing Organisations and Individuals

1. WRAPA Saka Azimazi/Data collection for North Central
2. Development Dynamics Jude Ohanele/Data collection for South East
3. CIRDDOC Oby Nwankwo Data collation for South South
4. Project Alert Josephine E. Chukwuma/Data collection for South West
5. LEADS Rebecca Sako-John/Data collection for North West
6. FIDA Ezinwa Okoroafor/Data collection for North East
7. Omowumi Asubiaro Collation & Analysis of data for GBV Report
8. Carolyn Oyedele Collation & Analysis of data for GBV Report
9. Ignatius Agu Collation & Analysis of data for GBV Report
10. Jude Ohanele Proof Reading of GBV report
11. Sarafina Ojimaduka Proof Reading of GBV report
12. Charmaine Pereira Chairperson, LACVAW Chair GBV Report Validation Meeting
13. Saudatu Mahdi Secretary General WRAPA, LACVAW Secretariat and RHV Project Director – GBV Report Editor
## List of LACVAW Members

### ORGANIZATIONS

1. Adolescent Health and Information Project (AHIP)
2. BAOBAB for Women’s Human Rights
3. Center for Rural Information and Community Development (CRIDCE)
4. Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD)
5. Centre for Women and Advancement Empowerment (CWAE)
6. Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI)
7. Christian Care for Widows/Widowers and the Aged
8. Church of Christ In Nigeria (COCIN)
9. Civil Liberties Organization – (CLO)
10. Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC)
11. Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR)
12. Community Partners for Development (CPD)
13. Constitutional Rights Project (CRP)
14. Constitutional Watch (CONSWATCH)
15. Democratic Alternative – (DA)
16. FIDA Rivers State Zone
17. FIDA, Abuja Capital Chapter
18. FIDA, Edo
19. FIDA, Kaduna
20. Foundation for Women’s Health – FORWARD – Nigeria
21. Gender Action Team (GAT) Kaduna
22. Gender Advancement and Development Action (GADA), Lagos
23. Girl’s Power Initiative (GPI)
24. Human Rights Law Services – HURI-LAWS
25. Human Rights Monitor
26. Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (IHRHL)
27. International Association of Educationists for World Peace
28. League of Democratic Women, Nigeria (LEADS)
29. Legal Research Initiative – (LRI)
30. Legal Watch, Kaduna
31. Legal, Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP)
32. National Council for Women Societies (NCWS)
33. NAWOJ – Democracy and Governance Project, Kaduna
34. NAWOJ Enugu State Chapter
35. Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ)
36. Nigeria Youth AIDS Programme (NYAP)
37. Northern Cross River States Women Association – (NCRSWA)
38. Poverty Alleviation and Development Centre (PADEC) – Kaduna
39. Project Alert, Lagos
40. Raising Hope for the Woman and Child (RHWC)
41. Widows Development Organisation (WiDO) Enugu
42. Widows Development Organization (WiDO)
43. Women Advocates Action Center (WADAC)
44. Women Advocates Research and Documentation (WARD C)
45. Women and Minority Rights Monitors (WAMRM)
46. Women in Detention Rights Initiative (IDRI)
47. Women in Nigeria (WIN)
48. Women Information Network (WINET)
49. Women Opinion Leaders Forum (WOLF)
50. Women, Law and Development Centre (WLDVN)
51. Women’s Aid Collective (WACOL)
52. Women’s Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON)
53. Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA)
54. Women’s Rights and Development Centre (WORDEC)

### INDIVIDUALS

1. Dr. Charmaine Pereira
2. Chikwendu Anunobi
3. Sarah Jubril
4. Julie Sandra
5. Justice Nkem Izuako
6. Ogugua Ikpeze
WRAPA Raising Her Voice Project Profile

The 'Raising Her Voice Project' (RHV) is a portfolio of projects in 17 countries across the world and focuses on improving governance and transparency by recognizing and increasing the significant contribution poor women can make to public life and in promoting their own rights. The project employs four approaches to reach its objectives: networking, lobbying and advocacy with poor women activists; working with public/traditional institutions and decision making forums; empowering and building capacity of CSOs. In Africa, RHV project is being implemented in 8 countries including Nigeria with the same goal of strengthening national legislation, adequate budgeting and implementation of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women through community popularization and advocacy activities. Oxfam GB is supporting Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) to work with the African Union, the Nigerian Government and CSOs in Nigeria to ultimately enable the domestication of the Protocol in Nigeria by 2012.

List of Partners
1. Alliances for Africa (AFA)
2. Alubu for Peoples Human Rights Initiative (APRI)
3. BOABOB for Women’s Human Rights (BAOBAB)
4. Church of Christ Development Program (CCDP)
5. Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CCDP)
6. Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA)
7. Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
8. Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)
9. Gender and Development Action (GADA)
10. League of Democratic Women (LEADS)
11. National Council of Women Societies (NCWS)
12. National Catholic Women Organization (NCCWO)
13. Project Agape
14. Project Alert on Violence Against Women (Project Alert)
15. Women's Advocate Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC)
16. Women's Aid Collective (WACOL)
17. Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON)
18. Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA)
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE COLLATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA & LITERATURE OF REPORTED CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) IN NIGERIA
January – June 2010

1. Background
The Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW), a network of over 55 civil society groups, religious organizations, international human right groups and other stakeholders working on various aspects of women’s rights, was formed in response to the growing impunity of violence against women in Nigeria. The Coalition is coordinated by Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA). In 2008, with the support from DFID Security, Justice and Growth Programme, the Coalition undertook the task of harmonizing all bills that bear relevance to the issue of violence against women into one bill that could be promoted for passage by all. The short title of the harmonized bill is ‘Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Bill.’

As at the end of May 2010 the Bill has been laid before both Chambers of the National Assembly awaiting adoption by the Senate and second reading in the House. WRAPA/LACVAW is strategizing on effective ways of lobbying and sensitization to aid the speedy passage of the Harmonised Bill by the end of the current legislative tenure. This informed the generation of a simple baseline assessment informed by the specific and general response to engagements and advocacy for legislation on gender based violence (GBV); closely linked to the momentum of the 2009 16 Days Activism on VAW. The data covers reports captured in 11 fields from one state in each of the six geo-political zones of Nigeria as documented by institutions, NGOs and newspaper reports from January to June 2010. WRAPA/LACVAW aims at using the compendium as a tool of advocacy and sensitization on the realities underscoring the urgency for the passage of a legislation that prohibits, protects and awards redress for victims and survivors of GBV in private and public spaces.

2. Guiding Principles:
a) Evidence based approach to sensitization and advocacy directed at specific and general target groups.
b) Affirmation of justification for the urgent passage of a legislation to prohibit, protect and award redress for victims and survivors of violence in private and public spaces.
c) The efficacy of data and information to achieve results or action by policy actors and institutions.

3. Objectives:
a) To critique and analyze data generated in the WRAPA/LACVAW reports from 6 states and newspaper documentation of GBV cases.
b) To extract and depict inferences in statistical and graphic form to aid advocacy and sensitization on the reality of the prevalence of GBV and the need to act.
c) To provide information on perceptions, experiences and reality of GBV in Nigeria’s public and private spaces.

4. Terms of Reference
4.1 Specific Tasks
The consultant will:
Collate and conduct a review of the statistical and narrative reports on GBV cases from the 6 focus states.
Develop a narrative and statistical report of the data that highlights and discusses issues of perceptions, prevalence and response to GBV with appropriate recommendations.
Package a review of the process, tools, resources, institutional responses and their relative or direct impact on the outcome of the WRAPA/LACVAW baseline study for the compendium on GBV in Nigeria.
5. **Deliverables**
   A comprehensive publication standard compendium of sampled data of GBV in Nigeria.
   Bibliography of literature and resources.

6. **Duration:**
   Technical support fee will be paid for one week with a working space of 10 working days beginning from the date this agreement is signed.

7. **Remuneration**
   The Consultant will be paid a total sum of xxx only. This is inclusive of the cost of any support the Consultant may require to execute the assignment.
   The payment structure will be 60% as first tranche upon signing this MOU and the remaining 40% shall be paid upon the submission of the final endorsed compendium that must comply with the specifics in articles 2-4 of this agreement.

8. **Other Matters**
   a) WRAPA/LACVAW reserves the right to suspend or terminate this agreement if you are in breach of its terms and conditions especially with regards to timing and deliverables.
   b) WRAPA/LACVAW will notify you promptly of any situation or event as a result of which it ceases to be reasonable practicable to proceed with the assignment in time or manner expected, in which event WRAPA/LACVAW reserves the right to suspend or terminate this agreement.
   c) Failure to deliver within agreed date may lead to termination of assignment and a recall of fund already collected.
   d) The Consultant also reserves the right to opt out based on due justification of any situation that renders the reasonable and practical delivery on the terms of this agreement.
   e) The Consultant will not either directly after the termination of this assignment disclose to any third party any information arising from the engagement without prior written permission from WRAPA/LACVAW.
   f) The Consultant will strive to ensure that all information contained in the deliverables are verifiable and accurate.
   g) Upon postponement or termination of this assignment, the Consultant will be entitled to reimbursement of such reasonable costs as have been incurred until the date of postponement or termination and for any reasonable cost including fees associated with the termination of the work provided the consultant is not in breach. WRAPA/LACVAW reserves the right to recover from the Consultant sums which have been paid in advance and which are unspent at the date of termination.

9. **Jurisdiction**
   This agreement is to be governed by existing statutory Nigerian Law.
   We trust that the terms and conditions of this appointment meet your approval. If so, please indicate your agreement by signing below as appropriate.

Thank you,

Yours Faithfully

For and on behalf of LACVAW

Saudatu Mahdi

**Secretary General WRAPA/Coordinator LACVAW**

Acceptance and agreed on this-------------------day of------------------2010

Name of Consultant-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Signature-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------