



OVERVIEW OF THE 2025 REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

BASED ON REAL OR PERCEIVED SOGIESC

CREATED BY:

Alexandra Maduagwu

Senior Program Officer, Human Rights & Advocacy

2025



CONTEXT

The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs), along with several partner human rights organisations, have documented ongoing human rights violations against LGBTQIA+ individuals in Nigeria over the past decade, revealing sustained systemic homophobia and cultural biases. The 2025 Annual Human Rights Violations Report highlights the persistent harassment, discrimination, and violence faced by this community, emphasizing the urgent need for legal reforms and societal change.

Legal Context

The legal climate in Nigeria, as it concerns the rights of all Nigerians, is guided by the Nigerian Constitution which does not discriminate and guarantees fundamental rights such as the right to freedom from discrimination, privacy, dignity, and freedom of expression. Regardless, there are existing laws that are either interpreted to target people of diverse SOGIESC or that directly target them, such as sections of the Penal and Criminal Codes, Sharia Laws & The Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act (SSMPA).

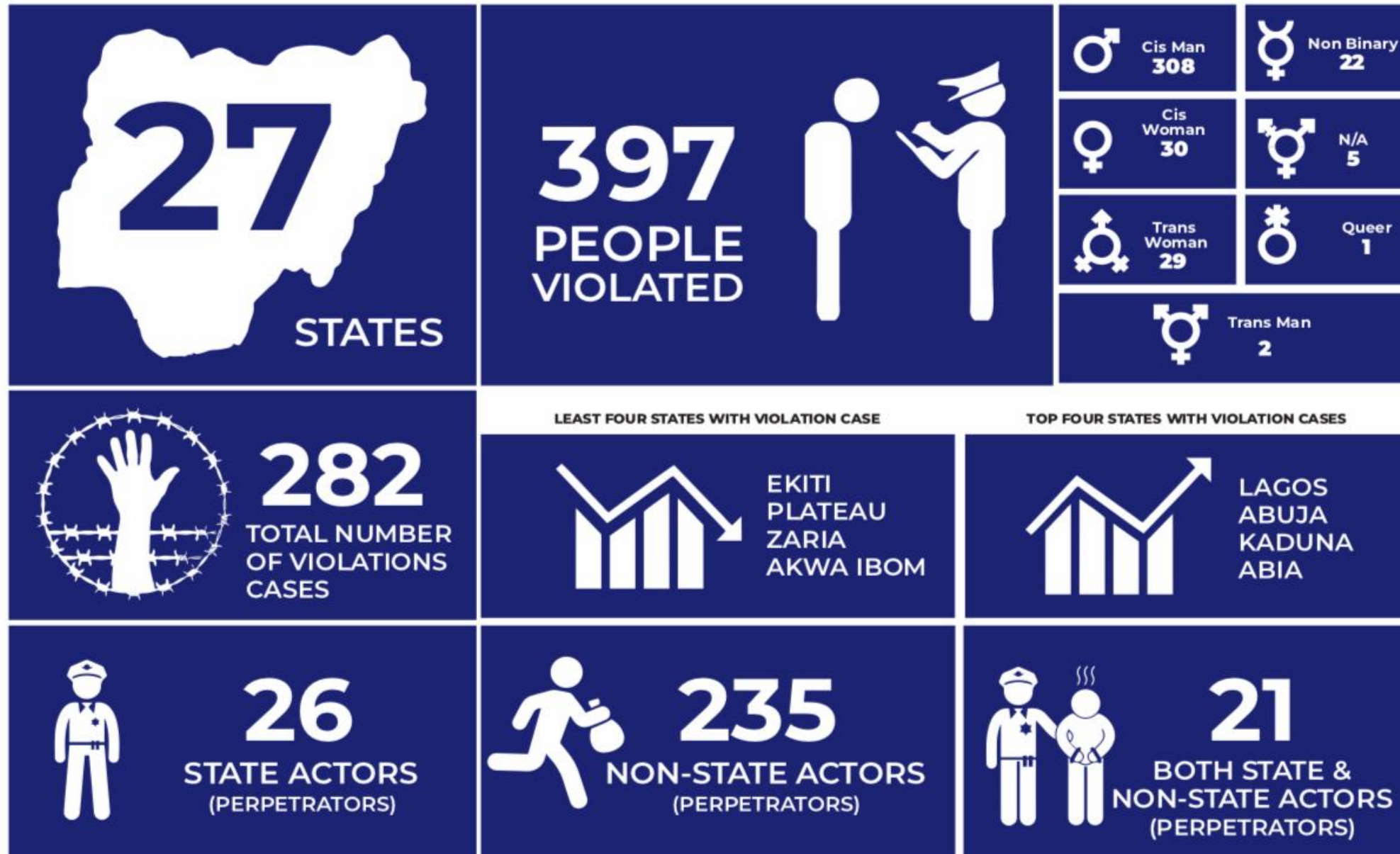
CONTEXT¹

The SSMPA criminalizes same-sex marriages and public displays of affection. Most significantly, it has reinforced societal stigma by discouraging public visibility of individuals of diverse SOGIESC and organizations that cater to them, signaling to the public that discriminatory acts against people they have (often religious) biases towards are justified.



International Treaties

Despite the SSMPA, Nigeria is bound by several international human rights instruments that uphold the right to equality and non-discrimination, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

STATISTICS

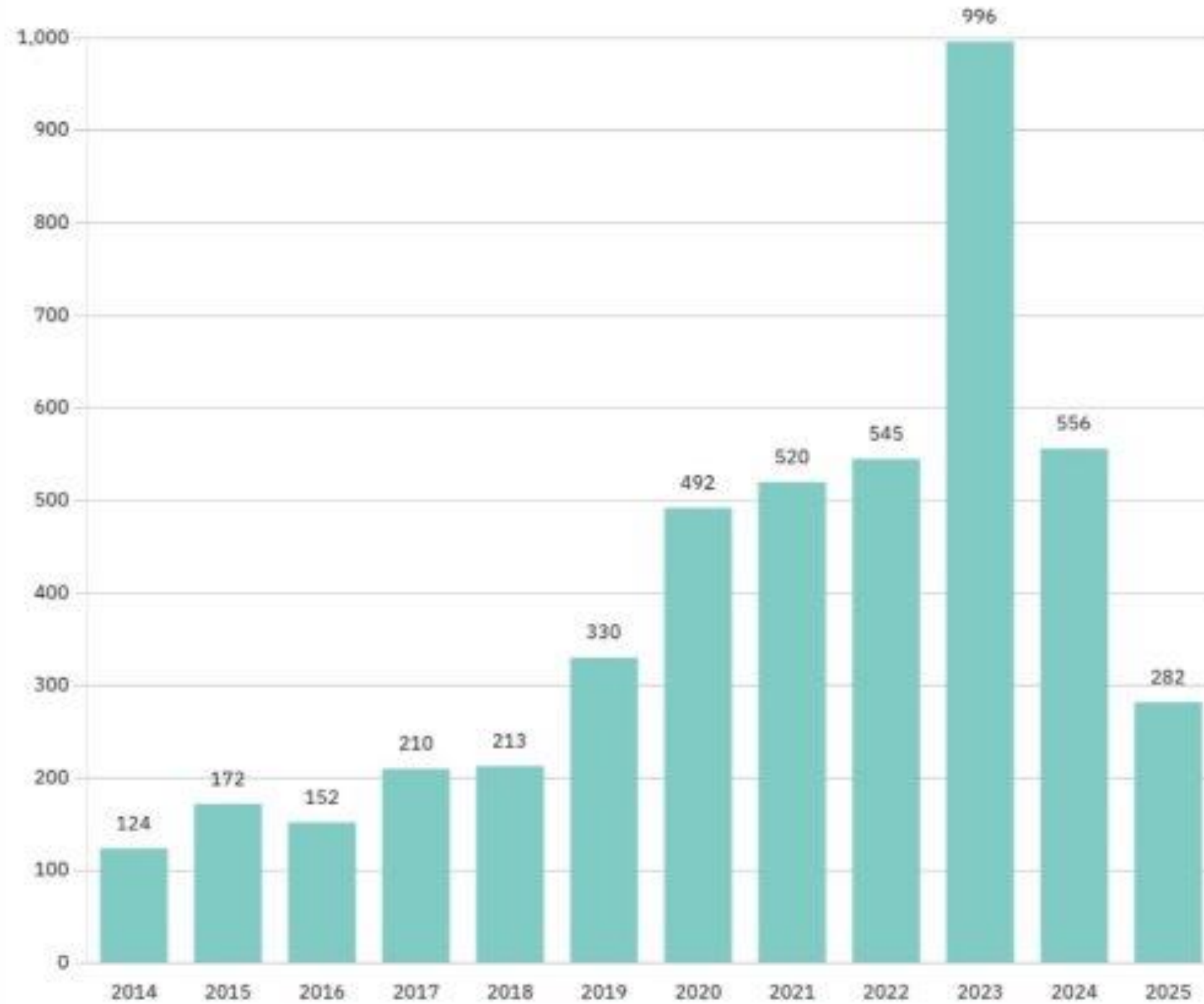


Types of VIOLATIONS

 86 Assault	 73 Assault & Battery	 102 Blackmail	 1 Attempted Murder
 45 Discrimination	 0 Emotional Abuse	 90 Extortion	 1 Forced Confinement
 2 Forced Marriage	 15 Forceful Eviction	 75 Harassment	 31 Invasion of Privacy
 33 Kidnapping	 1 Financial Abuse	 18 Mob Violence	 6 Outing
 8 Sexual Assault	 4 Sexual Harassment	 26 Theft	 28 Threat to Life
 33 Unlawful Detention	 2 Unlawful Dismissal	 2 Murder	 5 Mass Arrest

SOGIESC-Based Violations Over the Years

6.1



Methodology

Partner Organisations

TIERs works with a network of 24 Human Rights organizations working closely with survivors, victims, and eyewitnesses of human rights abuses. This year, the number of organisations who contributed to this report was reduced to 18. Owing mainly to the Stop-Work Order..

Data Analysis

Cases were analyzed by location, perpetrator identity, gender identity of victims, type of violation, age, and the sexual orientation of the perpetrators.

TRENDS IN VIOLATIONS

State-Sanctioned Violations

- Arbitrary Mass Arrests: Raids on gatherings birthdays or clinics under false accusations. Extortion for release.
- Police Misconduct: Profiling, harassment, and torture during detention. Exploitation under the guise of enforcing the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA)

TRENDS IN VIOLATIONS

Non-State Actor Perpetrators

- **Kito:** Online luring of victims leading to kidnapping, physical and sexual assault, blackmail, and outing.
- **Community & Neighbourhood Violence:** Hate speech, mob attacks, physical/sexual assault.
- **Sexual Violence:** People who are or perceived to be LGBTQIA+ often face sexual violence that goes unaddressed due to systemic prejudices. Lesbian, bisexual, and queer women often face “corrective rape” and intimate partner violence.
- **Technology-Facilitated Harassment & Misinformation:** Including Online doxing and misinformation campaigns against rights groups
- **Family & Societal Discrimination:** Forced evictions, conversion practices, dependent abandonment and loss of social safety nets.
- **Housing Discrimination:** Landlords evict LGBTQIA+ tenants after being outed.
- **Systemic Barriers:** Denial of healthcare, education, housing, and employment.
- Secondary violations within the LGBTQIA+ community itself.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Nigerian Government

- Repeal the SSMPA and similar discriminatory laws; protect constitutional rights for all, regardless of SOGIE.
- Implement mechanisms to prevent violence & discrimination in line with **ACHPR Resolutions 275 & 552**.
- Strengthen the VAPP Act to include comprehensive anti-discrimination protections.
- Recognize and address hate speech and online discrimination targeting LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Ensure the National Action Plan (2024–2028) is inclusive and aligned with SDG commitments.
- Enforce medical ethics on confidentiality and ensure inclusive healthcare access.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- Institutionalize continuous SOGIESC-focused human rights training.
- Strengthen collaboration with LGBTQIA+ organisations.
- Issue public statements against incitement to violence or discrimination.

To the Nigerian Police Force

- End arbitrary stops, searches, raids, and arrests targeting LGBTQIA+ persons; train officers on the Police Act (Part VII).
- Co-develop training materials with civil society to address bias and misinterpretation of laws.
- Promote human rights education within the police system.
- Prosecute perpetrators of violence against LGBTQIA+ persons.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

- Integrate LGBTQIA+ rights into broader human rights, health, and gender programs.
- Engage national, regional, and international human rights mechanisms, including the SDGs.
- Serve as visible allies and adopt intersectional approaches in programming.
- Collaborate with LGBTQIA+-focused organisations to ensure no one is left behind.

To Medical Institutions

- Train providers to deliver confidential, stigma-free services for LGBTQIA+ persons and key populations.
- Ensure equitable access to HIV/AIDS services.
- Create mechanisms to address discrimination in healthcare settings.
- Provide LGBTQIA+-affirming counselling services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To Employers & Labour Institutions

- Enforce anti-discrimination workplace protections (SOGIE & HIV).
- Foster diversity and inclusion programs.

To Families & Friends

- Seek LGBTQIA+-affirming education and counselling; encourage others to do the same.
- Support loved ones without engaging in harmful conversion practices.

To Faith-Based Institutions

- Promote love-based, inclusive practices and safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Host conversations that challenge stigma and foster understanding.
- Cease all forms of conversion practices.



**THANK YOU TO OUR
ESTEEMED PARTNERS**



**THE INITIATIVE
FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**

Thank You

<https://theinitiativeforequalrights.org>



**The 11th Annual Human Rights, Sexuality
and the Law Symposium**