



# ROLL-BACK OF RIGHTS AND ANTI-RIGHTS DISTORTIONS IN AFRICA

---

## CREATED BY:

Chimdimma Ike, Director of Programmes TIERs

2025



# What is Anti-rights?

Anti-rights” refers to individuals, networks, and organisations that actively work to undermine or roll back human rights protections; particularly those related to gender equality, bodily autonomy, and the rights of LGBTQIA+ people. Although they often present themselves as defenders of culture, morality, or family values, their agendas are rooted in exclusion, control, and the restriction of fundamental freedoms.

---

# Who Are They?

Anti-rights actors in Nigeria and across Africa are part of a broader, well-resourced transnational movement. They include local conservative religious groups, political elites, traditionalist lobbies, and foreign ultra-conservative organisations such as FW, IC, OI etc. These groups collaborate across borders, sharing strategies, funding, rhetoric, and political influence.

---

# What Do They Do?

They weaponize cultural narratives, particularly around “protecting children,” “defending African sovereignty,” and “preserving the natural family” to justify restrictive laws and policies that target LGBTQIA+ people, women, and young people. These narratives deliberately erase Africa’s diverse precolonial histories and impose rigid colonial-era norms as “African culture.”







# What Can We Do As Human Rights Organisations and Defenders?

6.1

Effective resistance requires not only defensive protection of threatened communities but also proactive reclamation of authentic African values grounded in rigorous historical scholarship. Ubuntu philosophy emphasizing interconnectedness and shared humanity, documented evidence of pre-colonial gender and sexual diversity, traditional African family structures transcending nuclear models, and indigenous spiritual practices embracing plurality provide powerful counter-narratives exposing anti-rights organizing as neo-colonial project rather than cultural preservation.

# What TIERs is Doing.

2.4

We are pushing back against anti-rights agenda through the PARA Initiative. This Initiative takes two major forms.

**Monitoring of Anti Rights Narratives**

**Our African Family, Culture and Values  
Conferences**

# FINDINGS

2.4

Findings of comprehensive research mapping anti-rights actors and agendas operating across Nigeria, revealing a sophisticated, strategically coordinated movement threatening the safety, dignity, and fundamental rights of millions of Nigerians. Far from representing spontaneous grassroots expression of authentic African values, anti-rights organizing in Nigeria constitutes a deliberate political project driven by international evangelical support, foreign strategic guidance, and transnational coordination—all while cynically claiming to resist Western influence and defend African cultural authenticity.

In practice, anti-rights actors promote or defend laws that criminalize LGBTQIA+ identities, restrict sexual and reproductive health rights, censor education, and narrow civic space. They manufacture fear, stigmatize communities, and weaken democratic institutions by pushing policies that deny people dignity, equality, and full participation in society.

# Thank You