



**THE INITIATIVE
FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**

Embrace Diversity, Stop Discrimination

2025 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REPORT

BASED ON
Real or Perceived Sexual Orientation,
Gender Identity/Expression and Sex
Characteristics in Nigeria





**THE INITIATIVE
FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**

Embrace Diversity, Stop Discrimination

2025

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REPORT

BASED ON REAL OR PERCEIVED
**SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY/EXPRESSION,
AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS (SOGIESC) IN NIGERIA.**

Copyright

The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs)

Contact: Info@initiative4equality.org

Website: www.theinitiativeforequalrights.org

This report was compiled by:



**THE INITIATIVE
FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**

in partnership with:



Pertinent Abbreviations

LGBTQIA+	–	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual
SOGIESC	–	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity/Expression and Sex Characteristics
SSMPA	–	Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, 2014
SSMPL	–	Lagos State Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Law, 2007
TIERs	–	The Initiative for Equal Rights
UNHRC	–	United Nations Human Rights Council
VAPP Act	–	Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015

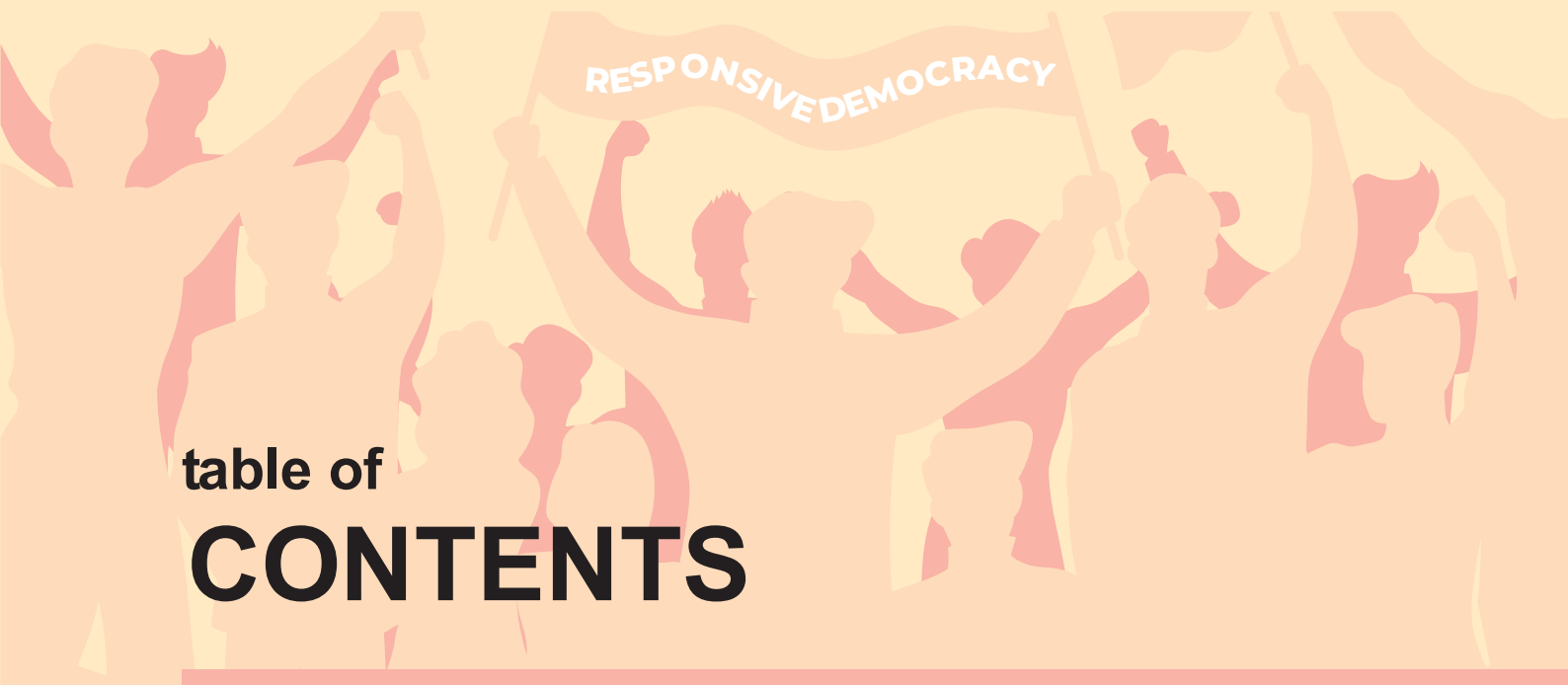


table of

CONTENTS

Glossary of Terms..... 1

Introduction.....5

Legal Framework.....6

Methodology..... 11

Trends in Violations Against LGBTQIA+ People In 2025.....14

Types of Violations..... 17

Forms of Violations.....18

Case Studies19

Trends in Violations Against Women and Girls in Nigeria.....25

Pepfarstop-work Order And Its Ripple Effect On Health And
Human Rights..... 28

National Case Summary..... 29

Recommendations.....36

About us and Partners.....38

Where LGBTQIA+ People Facing Violations Can Get Help 41

Acknowledgement.....42

Glossary of terms

For this report, these terms have the following meanings.

Asexual: Asexual, often called “ace” for short, refers to a person who experiences little or no sexual attraction to others. Asexuality is a sexual orientation on a spectrum, and some asexual people may experience romantic attraction or other kinds of emotional intimacy.

Homosexual: An older term that describes a person who feels emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction toward individuals of the same gender. This term broadly includes various gender identities drawn to similar-gender partners. The term has fallen out of favour in many communities and is often replaced by “gay” or “lesbian.”¹

Lesbian: A woman who is attracted to other women emotionally, romantically, sexually, or in terms of relational connection. This orientation focuses primarily on sexual and/or romantic relationships and attractions between women.²

Gay: A term commonly used as a synonym for homosexuality. A person (often a man, but can refer to any gender) who is primarily attracted to people of the same gender. The term can also be used more broadly for same-gender attraction. It includes both cisgender and transgender men who feel romantic or sexual attraction toward men.³

Bisexual: A person who is emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted to more than one gender, (not necessarily equally or simultaneously). This attraction can shift or change as the individual’s identity evolves.⁴

Pansexual: A person whose sexual and/or romantic attraction can include people of any gender, regardless of gender identity or expression. For example, a pansexual person could be open to someone who is male, female, transgender, intersex, or agender.⁵

Transgender: A person whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Traditionally an umbrella term, ‘trans’ is now more commonly used for inclusivity among diverse trans identities. This term is about gender identity, not sexual orientation.⁶

Intersex: People born with natural variations in their physical or biological sex characteristics—such as reproductive organs, chromosomes, or hormones—that do not fit the typical definitions of male or female. Intersex individuals can have any gender identity or sexual orientation.⁷

LGBTQI+: An acronym standing for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, plus other sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions. The “+” symbolises inclusion of identities beyond those listed.⁸

Kito: A Nigerian term often used to describe the act of “setting up” someone suspected to be LGBTQ+ for extortion, blackmail or abuse, typically via social media or dating apps. It is a form of homophobic violence designed to exploit and control queer people.

SOGIESC: An acronym for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics. It is often used in human rights and development contexts to reflect lived diversity and experiences.

SOGIE: An acronym for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression. Also used in human rights and development contexts to reflect lived diversity and experiences.

Sexual Orientation: A person’s enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to others (or lack thereof), which could involve people of the same, opposite, or multiple genders. It differs from sexual preference, which relates to specific sexual interests or choices. Examples include heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, asexuality.

1 <https://www.them.us/story/lgbtq-terms-added-to-dictionary>
2 <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>
3 <https://lgbtq.ucsf.edu/glossary-terms>

4 <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>
5 <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>
6 <https://www.dictionary.com/e/lgbtq-terms>

7 <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>
8 <https://www.dictionary.com/e/lgbtq-terms>

Gender Identity: A person's deeply felt, internal sense of their gender (male, female, both, neither, or something else), which may or may not align with the sex assigned at birth. It includes internal experiences and any chosen modifications to one's body to express their identity.⁹

Gender Expression: The external presentation of one's gender identity, through clothing, hairstyle, mannerisms, voice, or other forms of expression, which may or may not conform to societal expectations. This expression may or may not match one's gender identity.¹⁰

Sex Characteristics: Physical attributes related to a person's sex, including genitalia, reproductive anatomy, chromosomes, and secondary features like body hair or voice changes that emerge during puberty – that are part of one's sex assigned at birth; variation may lead to intersex traits.¹¹

Outing: The act of disclosing someone's sexual orientation or gender identity without their consent. This can place individuals at risk of stigma, violence or discrimination.¹²

Coming Out: The process by which a person voluntarily acknowledges and potentially discloses their sexual orientation and/or gender identity to others; a personal and ongoing process.¹³

Homophobia: Prejudice, fear, hatred or negative attitudes and behaviours directed toward people who are (or are perceived to be) gay, lesbian, bisexual or queer, rooted in negative stereotypes, often leading to discrimination, social exclusion, or violence.¹⁴

Transphobia: Prejudice, fear, hatred or negative attitudes and behaviours directed toward people who are (or are perceived to be) transgender or gender non-conforming. Transphobia can result in discrimination, social exclusion, or violence.¹⁵

State Actors: Individuals, agencies or bodies acting on behalf of a formal government (nation-state) which have legal, institutional, or policy power, such as legislators, police officers, or judges.

Non-State Actors: Individuals, organisations or groups operating independently of formal state institutions but still influential in society. They can include civilians, private organizations, NGOs, and religious institutions, among others.

State-Sanctioned Homophobia: This refers to policies, laws or official actions adopted by a state (government) that criminalise, discriminate against, or punish people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity; a form of institutionalised prejudice. It often involves state-sponsored actions that limit the rights and freedoms of LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Patriarchy: A social system in which men or masculine-identifying people hold most of the power across political, economic, familial and cultural institutions, often privileging masculine norms and devaluing femininity. Women and children, especially daughters, are often excluded from public life, and men control most aspects of political and economic life. and the belief in female inferiority.

Misogyny: The dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women or girls. It can be manifested in numerous ways, including sexual discrimination, violence against women, and the belief in female inferiority. This can include discrimination, demeaning attitudes, and violence against women.

Marginalised Women: Women who are disadvantaged or excluded from full participation in social, economic, political or cultural life because of intersecting factors such as race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, geography or ethnicity. Marginalised women are placed in positions of little or no power, influence, or importance. They include, +LBTQIA women, socio economically disadvantaged women, women with disability, female sex worker etc.

9 <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>

10 <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>

11 <https://lgbtq.ucsf.edu/glossary-terms>

12 <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>

13 <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>

14 <https://www.rcslit.org/learning/equity-diversity-and-belonging/lgbtqia-glossary>

15 <https://www.rcslit.org/learning/equity-diversity-and-belonging/lgbtqia-glossary>

Cis-man: A man who was assigned male at birth and whose gender identity is male. The term “cisgender” (often shortened to “cis”) describes a person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.

Cis-woman: A woman who was assigned female at birth and whose gender identity is female.

Non-binary: This is an umbrella term for gender identities that are not exclusively male or female. A non-binary person may identify with a mixture of genders, neither gender, or gender(s) outside the binary of “man” and “woman.”

Queer: This is a broad term used to describe people whose sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression differs from the dominant norm of heterosexual and/or cisgender. It also refers to political and theoretical approaches that challenge traditional categories of gender and sexuality.

Doxxing (or Doxing): This refers to the act of publicly sharing or publishing private or personally identifying information about an individual online, often without consent, with intent to harass, intimidate, or cause harm.

GBV (Gender-based violence): This is any act of violence that is directed at an individual because of their gender or that affects individuals of a particular gender disproportionately. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): This involves all procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

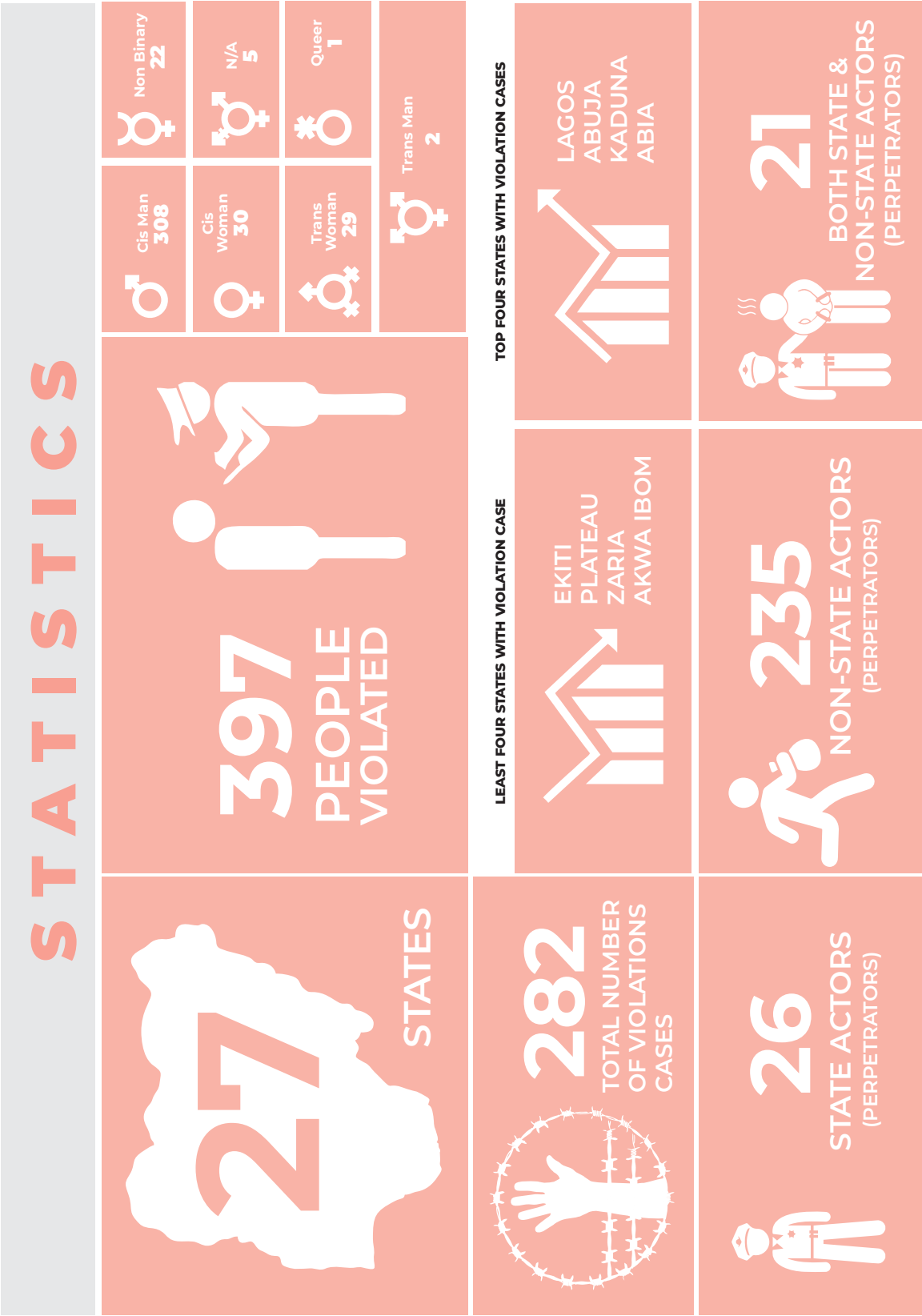
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART): This refers to a regimen of HIV-medications taken on a regular schedule to suppress the HIV virus, reducing a person’s viral load to an undetectable level, which nearly eliminates the risk of transmitting HIV through sexual contact and protect their immune system. These medicines can help people with HIV live long, healthy lives and reduce the risk of transmission.

Rave: Raves are high-energy dance parties that originated in the 1980s, centered on DJ-driven genres like; Electronic dance music (EDM), house, techno, or similar. Raves often have a distinctive atmosphere: lots of lighting visuals (LEDs, projections, lighting effects), loud sound systems, and an immersive culture of community and self-expression. Typically held in venues like warehouses, open fields, raves have evolved from underground gatherings to mainstream events, influencing music, fashion, and youth culture globally.

Conversion Practices: This refers to a range of discredited practices; psychological, medical or religious, that attempt to change, “cure”, suppress or eliminate a person’s sexual orientation, romantic orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. These practices use various harmful methods often driven by family members or religious leaders aiming to enforce conformity to heteronormative and cis-gender norms.

It is widely associated with severe harm: psychological damage, depression, anxiety, self-hatred, suicide attempts, substance abuse, social isolation, and lifelong trauma, especially when applied to minors or coerced individuals.

Other terms often used interchangeably are; “conversion therapy”, “reparative therapy”, “sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE)”, “reorientation therapy”, “ex-gay therapy”, among others.



INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 marks two decades of The Initiative for Equal Rights' (TIERs) sustained resistance to violence, exclusion, and criminalisation of LGBTQIA+ people in Nigeria and across Africa. Guided by the constitutional principles enshrined in Chapter Four of the Nigerian Constitution, TIERs has remained at the forefront of national efforts to protect freedom of expression, association, and human dignity for all persons—regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. Through litigation, advocacy, narrative change, community organising, and a nationwide violation-response system, TIERs continues to pursue its mandate to defend LGBTQIA+ lives and expand access to justice in a deeply hostile environment.

This report represents the twelfth year of systematic documentation of human rights violations based on real or perceived SOGIESC in Nigeria. While previous years recorded alarming numbers—1,694 victims in 2023 and 850 victims in 2024—the 2025 documentation reflects a significant reduction in recorded cases, with 282 violations affecting 397 victims between September 2024 and August 2025. This decline does not reflect a reduction in violence, but rather an unprecedented disruption in national documentation caused by the 2025 U.S. Government “stop-work order,” which defunded critical human rights programmes in Nigeria, forcing several partner organisations to suspend activities, lay off staff, and halt documentation and intervention services. Yet, even with limited national coverage, the reported violations reveal continued escalation of violence and the normalization of brutality against LGBTQIA+ persons.

Throughout the year, cases of murder, mob attacks, kito, forced evictions, arbitrary arrests, extortion, digital harassment, corrective rape, and torture were reported across multiple states. State actors, emboldened by the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act of 2014 (SSMPA), continued to raid gatherings, detain individuals without charge, and extort victims under the guise of morality enforcement. In Kano, Hisbah authorities arrested, detained, and sentenced presumed LGBTQIA+ individuals without access to due process; similar arrests occurred in other states,

revealing systematic abuse. Non-state actors remained the most persistent perpetrators, with kito schemes occurring almost daily. Family members and religious leaders also continued to subject LGBTQIA+ persons to violent conversion practices—ranging from forced confinement and starvation to sexual violence—while employers, landlords, and schools repeatedly enforced discriminatory evictions and dismissals.

Together, these violations offer a disturbing portrait of life for LGBTQIA+ Nigerians: one defined by exclusion from healthcare, housing, education, employment, legal protection, and even family support. This report therefore not only documents abuse—it bears witness to the systemic erasure of LGBTQIA+ Nigerians and calls for urgent action by state institutions, civil society, and regional human rights mechanisms to halt ongoing violence and restore the dignity and rights of a population rendered invisible under the law.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In Nigeria and across Africa, persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) continue to face a legal environment marked by strong criminalization, social hostility, and weak protection. This creates a dual reality: on one hand, the existence of constitutional and treaty-based protections for human rights; on the other hand, legislation, policy and practice that systematically exclude, criminalize or expose SOGIESC diverse persons to violence, discrimination and stigma.

In Nigeria, the enactment of the Same-sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act 2014 ("SSMPA") reinforced a punitive climate for LGBTQIA+ persons, compounding existing colonial-era prosecutions of so-called "unnatural offences". While some Countries (e.g. South Africa, Botswana, Angola) have embraced decriminalization and constitutional recognition, others (including Nigeria) maintain punitive regimes rooted in moral and religious conservatism.

Regionally, the African human-rights system has slowly moved toward the inclusion of SOGIESC rights through interpretive decisions and soft instruments, yet major gaps remain between norms and practice. Internationally, Nigeria is party to core human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which impose obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights without discrimination. Yet the lived reality of the LGBTQI+ community in Nigeria remains one of fear, invisibility, and legal vulnerability.

This section therefore analyses the national legal framework (Nigeria), then the regional African human rights architecture, and finally the international framework, identifying progress, regression and legal inconsistencies.

NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK: CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) stands as the nation's supreme law, under Section 1, establishing the foundational framework for governance and human rights protection. At its core, Chapter IV enshrines the fundamental rights that belong to every person in Nigeria, creating a list of protections that speak to the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals.

These constitutional guarantees begin with the most essential right of all- the right to life, protected under **Section 33**. Building on this foundation, **Section 34** affirms that every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of their person, a provision that recognizes the intrinsic value of each human being. The Constitution goes further to safeguard the intimate spheres of personal existence: **Section 37** protects the right to private and family life, creating an autonomy where individuals can live free from unwarranted intrusion.

Section 38 guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion, allowing Nigerians to hold and practice their beliefs without coercion. This freedom extends outward into the public sphere through **Section 39**, which protects freedom of expression and the press, and **Section 40**, which ensures the right to peaceful assembly and association. Together, these provisions create space for Nigerians to think freely, speak openly, worship according to their convictions, and come together in common cause.

Crucially, **Section 42** establishes the right to freedom from discrimination on specified grounds, recognizing that equality before the law requires active protection against prejudice and exclusion. This anti-discrimination provision is reinforced by the broader constitutional vision set out in Chapter II, where **Section 17** directs the State to build a social order founded on the ideals of freedom, equality, and

justice. The same provision mandates that every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law.

The Constitution's commitment to pluralism is most clearly expressed in **Section 10**, which states that neither the Federal Government nor any State Government shall adopt any religion as a State Religion. This non-establishment clause has been understood by courts and scholars as prohibiting the government from formally embracing any faith, thereby affirming Nigeria's character as a multi-religious state where citizens of all beliefs, or none, can participate fully in national life.

When viewed through the lens of sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), this constitutional framework offers considerable promise. The rights to human dignity, privacy, equality and non-discrimination are, on their face, universal protections that apply to all persons regardless of who they are or whom they love. These provisions contain powerful language that could, in principle, shield persons of diverse SOGIESC from discrimination, persecution and state-sanctioned stigma.

Yet there is an unmistakable gap between constitutional promise and lived experience. The Constitution does not expressly enumerate sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics among the protected categories in its non-discrimination provisions. This silence creates ambiguity and leaves critical questions to be resolved by the courts: Will Nigerian judges interpret existing protected grounds such as "sex" or the catch-all phrase "other status" (as used in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights (Ratifications and Enforcement) Act, as encompassing sexual orientation and gender identity? Will they recognize that the constitutional guarantees of dignity, privacy and equality extend fully to LGBTQI+ individuals?

The answer to these questions will largely determine whether Nigeria's constitutional protections remain merely aspirational for LGBTQI+ individuals or become enforceable shields against discrimination.

Complicating matters further is **Section 45**, which allows the government to restrict constitutional rights where such restrictions are "reasonably justifiable in a democratic society" in the interests of defense, public safety, public order, public morality or public health. This limitation clause gives the state significant room to argue that restrictions on LGBTQ+ persons are permissible, even under a rights-protective Constitution.

The result is a constitutional landscape full of potential but marked by uncertainty. A framework that speaks eloquently of human dignity and equality yet leaves unresolved the question of whether those promises truly belong to everyone.

Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act 2014 (SSMPA).

In 2014 (commencement January 7), the then Nigerian President assented to the SSMPA. The law prohibits a "marriage contract or civil union entered into between persons of same sex" and declares such an arrangement void, whether contracted in Nigeria or abroad. It prohibits solemnization of same-sex marriages in churches, mosques or any place of worship, and prohibits recognition of any certificate issued in a foreign country. The Section 4 prohibits registration of organizations that support same-sex unions, public displays of same-sex relationships, and participation or facilitation of such unions.

Penalties include imprisonment up to 14 years for persons entering into same-sex unions, and up to 10 years for registration/participation in groups or public display.

This law fundamentally restricts freedom of association, freedom of expression, the right to privacy, and the right to family life.

The deeply ingrained societal prejudices, expansive interpretations of the provisions of this law, and the homophobic rhetoric orchestrated by the media, creates an environment of fear and persecution. The SSMPA has legitimized existing prejudices and provided a legal framework for further discrimination and violence.

It creates a climate of impunity for perpetrators and significantly limits the victims' access to justice. TIERS in collaboration with the Center for Health, Education and Vulnerable Support (CHEVS), in a bid to shade more light on the impact of the SSMPA, published a report titled, "Rights under arrest: Impacts of the SSMPA on LGBTQI+ Individuals and Organizations (A Decade's Reflection).

Although freedom of association and expression have been affirmed with the nullifying of certain sections of the Ac, the issue of concern is the violence and discrimination that its enactment has occasioned on the lives of LGBTQI individuals in Nigeria.

Criminal Code / Penal Code and Sharia laws

Beyond the SSMPA, Nigeria retains colonial era "unnatural offence" provisions (e.g., "carnal knowledge against the order of nature") in the Criminal Code (for southern states) and the Penal Code (for northern states). These continue to criminalize male same sex conduct and carry sentences of up to 14 years.

In states that implement Sharia criminal law, particularly in the North, consensual same-sex activity may attract extremely severe penalties, including death by stoning under certain interpretations.

Protective Statutory Instruments

There are nevertheless laws in Nigeria that provide a foundation for rights-based protection, though they are unevenly implemented:

- The **Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP), 2015**, which aims to protect people from violence and harmful traditional practices. While not explicitly framed for people of diverse SOGIESC, it offers a legal tool for protection where domestic violence or assault occurs. The National Assembly is pursuing a bill to repeal and re-enact the VAPP Act. Such a move would constitute a regression not only for women and girls but for all vulnerable persons, including LGBTQI+ persons who rely on its broader violence-and-discrimination protection architecture.

- The **HIV/AIDS (Anti-Discrimination) Act, 2014**, which prohibits discrimination against persons living with HIV, and has been used as a foundation for advocating for key populations (including Gay, Bisexual, Men who have Sex with other Men and transgender women) to access health services.

These statutes show that legal pathways for progressive protection exist, albeit their implementation, both the domestication at state level and capacity for enforcement, remains inconsistent.

At the same time, the **Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc.) Act of 2015**, and its subsequent **2024 amendment**, have emerged as a digital-rights battleground. In 2020, section 24 of the Act (on cyberstalking) in was declared by the ECOWAS Court of Justice to be "arbitrary, vague and repressive" and in violation of Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Although Parliament amended the law in 2024, arguments abound that the amendments failed to cure the vague and over-broad nature of some offences, meaning activists, journalists and LGBTQI+ persons remain at risk of digital criminalization for expression or association online.

REGIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights** (the Charter), domesticated in Nigeria through the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, guarantees freedom from discrimination as well as equal protection and equality of individuals and peoples before the law. Article 2 of the Charter provides that "Every individual shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in the present Charter without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, colour, **sex**, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or **other status**." Despite the central importance of this principle of non-discrimination, the human rights situation of LGBTQI+ persons in Nigeria remains deeply troubling.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the body charged with monitoring state compliance with the Charter, has in several communications denounced acts of discrimination. The Commission has made it clear that the phrase "other status" in Article 2 must be broadly interpreted to cover grounds beyond those explicitly mentioned.

The Charter also guarantees key rights such as the right to dignity, liberty, and security of the person, as well as freedom of association, all of which belong to every human being without exception.

In response to growing violence and discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons, the ACHPR adopted, at its 55th Ordinary Session, a landmark Resolution on the Protection against Violence and other Human Rights Violations against Persons based on their Real or Imputed Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity. The Resolution is popularly known as the **Resolution 275**. This Resolution explicitly condemns all forms of violence targeting individuals because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. It urges States to take concrete steps to prevent and punish such acts, whether committed by State or non-State actors, and to enact and implement laws protecting all persons from violence, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In addition to the above, it is important to highlight the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women also known as the Maputo protocol. This protocol lays out the rights of women in regards to inheritance, marriage, property rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights. While Nigeria has ratified, it is yet to domesticate the Maputo protocol, and this has a far-reaching effect on the wellbeing of Lesbians, Bisexuals and Queer women in Nigeria.

Also worthy of note is the adoption of the **Resolution 552** at the 74th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on the promotion and Protection of the Rights of Intersex Persons in Africa. These resolutions, though persuasive in nature, can also be wielded by activists as a tool towards demanding that Nigeria as an international state live

up to its expectations under the Charter which they have ratified and domesticated.

THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON SOGIESC

The international legal framework protecting sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) establishes clear obligations for all states, including Nigeria, to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with diverse identities. Although Nigeria maintains domestic laws such as the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act (SSMPA), which contradict these global standards, the country remains bound by a comprehensive list of international human rights instruments. These obligations arise from treaty commitments, interpretive jurisprudence, human rights mechanisms, and periodic review processes that collectively articulate the global expectation of non-discrimination.

The UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Nigeria's duties under international law begin with the UN Charter, which requires member states to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) deepens this commitment by enshrining equality, dignity, liberty, and the right to be free from discrimination. While the UDHR does not explicitly list sexual orientation or gender identity, subsequent authoritative interpretations by UN bodies affirm that SOGIESC-based discrimination falls within its protective reach.

Binding Treaty Obligations

Nigeria is subject to several core human rights treaties whose non-discrimination provisions have been interpreted to include SOGIESC. However, the nature of the section 12 of the Nigerian constitution which mandates all that treaties ratified by Nigeria must be domesticated through an Act of the National Assembly, poses a challenge to the enforcement of these treaties.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Human Rights Committee has held that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity violates Articles 2, 17, and 26. The criminalization of same-sex intimacy, arbitrary arrest, and police abuse are inconsistent with the Covenant, making the SSMPA and related provisions in Nigeria's criminal codes incompatible with Nigeria's obligations.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The Committee on ESCR has clarified that "other status", as used in Article 2, covers sexual orientation and gender identity. Nigeria has been enjoined to ensure non-discriminatory access to health care, employment, education, housing, and social services for LGBTQIA+ persons.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1984

recognizes the rights of lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons as integral to the Convention. Nigeria must protect women in all their diversities from gender-based violence, discrimination, and harmful stereotypes.

The Convention Against Torture (CAT) of 2001

condemns violence against LGBTQI+ individuals, including police brutality, mob attacks, and forced medical examinations as torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Nigeria is obliged to prevent such abuses and prosecute perpetrators.

Human Rights Mechanisms and Soft Guidelines/Frameworks

These mechanisms and guidelines help clarify how binding treaty obligations apply to SOGIESC issues.

The Yogyakarta Principles (2006) and Yogyakarta Principles plus 10 (2017).

These documents articulate the application of international human rights law to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. They outline state responsibilities relating to recognition before the law, privacy, health, family life, and freedom from violence. While non-binding, they are widely recognized as authoritative interpretive guides.

United Nations Special Procedures and Resolutions.

The UN Human Rights Council, Special Rapporteurs, and Working Groups consistently affirm that criminalization and discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons violate international law. Their reports guide member states on effective protective measures and legislative reforms.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

offer a surprisingly effective toolkit for advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ individuals in Nigeria, precisely because they speak the universal language of development rather than identity politics. Their core promise to "leave no one behind" is a quiet watchdog against structural exclusion. When you hold SDG 3 on health, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions up to Nigeria's legal landscape, the gaps flare like warning lights. These goals create a development-based argument for dismantling discriminatory laws and practices, reminding governments that human dignity is not an optional accessory to national progress. They allow advocates to advance protection for the LGBTQI+ community through evidence, health outcomes, and equity indicators, making it politically harder to pretend queer people exist outside the logic of national wellbeing.

The **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**, on the other hand, functions like a diplomatic mirror that Nigeria cannot easily avoid. Every cycle forces the state to stand before its peers and account for its human rights record, including violations linked to SOGIESC. Over the years, states have repeatedly urged Nigeria to repeal the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, curb violence against LGBTQI+ persons, and protect freedom of association.

These recommendations, though non-binding, build a record of international expectation and state acknowledgment. These are useful raw materials for domestic advocacy, strategic litigation, and policy reform. The UPR turns global scrutiny into a soft but persistent pressure point, showing that queer rights are not fringe demands but recognized components of universal human rights standards, waiting to be translated into Nigeria's legal and institutional reality.

METHODOLOGY

The 2025 Human Rights Violations Report is based on verified cases of SOGIESC-based violence, discrimination, and rights abuses perpetrated against LGBTQIA+ persons between September 2024 and August 2025. The methodology outlined below describes the processes followed in gathering, validating, cleaning, analysing, and presenting the data used in this report. It also details the partner organizations that contributed to the documentation process during the year.

Documentation Network and Partner Selection

TIERs operates a coordinated documentation system that relies on a network of community-led organizations across Nigeria. Each partner is responsible for identifying cases, documenting incidents using standardized tools, verifying survivor experiences, and submitting monthly reports for review. These partners were selected based on their track record working with LGBTQIA+ populations, geographic coverage, documentation experience, and capacity to support survivors with interventions such as legal aid, medical care, safe housing, psychosocial support, and referrals.

At the start of the 2025 reporting cycle (September 2024), TIERs continued its work with the existing network of 24 experienced documentation partners who have consistently supported the annual reporting process. The following organizations successfully submitted complete, verifiable data and are represented in the 2025 report: Access to Good Health Initiative (AGHI), Access to Health and Rights Development Initiative (AHRDI), International Centre for Advocacy on Rights to Health (ICARH), Community Health Initiative for Youths in Nigeria (CHIYN), Initiative for Gender Equality Health and Rights (GEHAR-I), Hope Alive Health Awareness Initiative (HAHAI), Initiative for the Advancement of Improved Health and Development (I-AIHD), International Centre for Advocacy on Rights to Health (ICARH), Initiative for Gender Equality and Sexual Reproductive Health (IGE-SRH), Initiative for Improved Male Health (I-IMH), Initiative for Sexual Health and Rights Awareness Initiative (ISHRAI), Initiative for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Awareness (ISRHRA), Men's Health Support Initiative (MHSI), Minority Watch (MW),

Pure Hearts for Youth and Vulnerable Persons Initiative (PHYAP-INITIATIVE), Responsive Action for Sustainable Empowerment Initiative (RASE-I), Total Health Empowerment and Development Initiative (THEDI), The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs), Women's Health and Equal Rights (WHER), and Wavemakers Initiative for Health and Youth Empowerment (WIHYE). These organizations worked under rapidly shifting circumstances and documented cases despite disruptions.

Data Collection Process

Partner organizations identified human rights violations through direct reports from survivors, community monitors within key-risk locations, referrals from safe houses, healthcare providers, and paralegals, internal incident hotlines and crisis-support channels, and social media monitoring, particularly in kito/extortion-related cases.

Documentation Tools

All partners used a standardized TIERs documentation form. This tool ensured consistency across reports and allowed for uniform coding of type of violation, survivor demographic information (age, gender identity), location of incident, perpetrator category, and type of intervention provided.

Verification and Validation

Before inclusion in the master dataset, each case underwent multiple layers of verification. Initial partner-level verification included cross-checking survivor narratives, contacting survivors (with consent), and screening out duplicate reporting. TIERs Human Rights Violations Unit then examined reports for internal consistency, sought clarification on ambiguous cases, conducted risk assessments for cases involving minors or extreme violence, and, where safe, made follow-up verification calls. Final inclusion criteria required clear documentation and validated details, with cases missing critical information excluded unless safety concerns justified anonymity.

Data Analysis Procedures

Analysis was conducted primarily using Microsoft Excel, utilizing pivot tables, filters, and descriptive statistics. Pivot tables were used to derive state-by-state case distribution, perpetrator distribution, gender identity distribution of victims, and age range distribution. Cases were grouped under relevant age categories.

Data Interpretation

Findings were interpreted within the context of historical trends from the past 11 years, political and socio-cultural climate, enforcement of the SSMPA, and the deteriorating humanitarian landscape following the funding freeze.

Ethical Considerations

TIERs' work adheres to strict ethical principles that protect survivors and safeguard sensitive data. All identifying details were removed prior to analysis, survivors were contacted for verification only when safe and appropriate, datasets were stored in restricted, password-protected systems, and survivors' details—especially in high-risk regions—were anonymized.

Limitations

Partner attrition due to the stop-work order reduced the volume of documented cases, affecting the national coverage of the dataset. Under-reporting remains a major challenge as survivors avoid authorities due to fear of arrest, extortion, or outing. Partial data occurred in cases where survivors were unwilling or unable to provide full details for safety reasons, and geographical gaps emerged in regions where partner organizations became inactive mid-year.

The 2025 report reflects a rigorous process of community-led documentation, centralized verification, structured data cleaning, and systematic analysis. Despite severe disruptions in partner capacity caused by global political developments, the methodology ensures that all included cases are verified, accurate, and representative of the human rights violations faced by LGBTQIA+ persons in Nigeria during the reporting year.

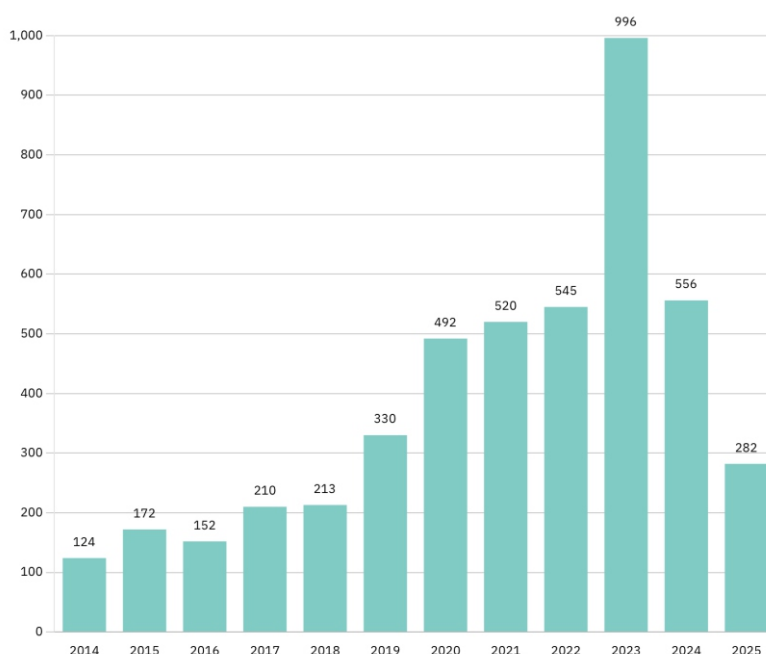
TRENDS IN VIOLATIONS AGAINST LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE IN 2025

For the past 12 years, The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs) has published an annual human rights violation report detailing the abuse and violations experienced by LGBTQIA+ persons in Nigeria. Every year, TIERs and her partner organizations receive, provide interventions for, and document cases of horrific abuse and violence against gender and sexual minorities, each year seemingly worse than the last. This section highlights the trends in violation documented against LGBTQIA+ individuals in Nigeria in 2025.

To understand the trends in violation against LGBTQIA+ persons this year, we must examine how violence and casual cruelty against this marginalized demographic became normalized. While the root of homophobic and transphobic violence in the country is credited to colonialism, the sustenance of these inhumane violations can be traced back to the **Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act of 2014 (SSMPA)** and the continuous dehumanization of LGBTQIA+ individuals by faith groups and cultural leaders.

The SSMPA, which prohibits marriage and “unnatural acts” between people of the same sex, has been adopted as the justification for abuse against LGBTQIA+ persons. With its blanket statements and ambiguous interpretations, the law has been distorted to effectively criminalize the very existence of queer Nigerians. This is further compounded by anti-gay teachings and fear mongering from religious leaders, educators, and cultural leaders alike. With sermons that question the humanity of LGBTQIA+ individuals while simultaneously denouncing their existence; faith groups actively encourage hostility and call for the ostracization of this already marginalized demographic. Backed by this discriminatory law and the homophobic religious and cultural norms, state and non-state actors are emboldened to perpetuate violence.

This year, incidents of murder, arbitrary arrests, corrective rape, kidnap, torture, assault and battery, forced eviction, blackmail, extortion, and other forms of hate-fuelled attacks were recorded almost daily from different parts of the country. Below is a graph that shows the trend in human rights violations from 2014 to date as recorded by TIERs and partner organisations.



This year, we observed an exponential dip in the number of recorded cases compared to previous years due to the United State Government's executive "stop-work" order issued earlier this year. This policy put an end to the disbursement of U.S foreign aid, causing significant disruption to humanitarian efforts, resulting in some of our partners becoming unable to continue the important work of documenting SOGIESC-based violations and providing intervention. The trends in human rights violations recorded in 2025 and reported in this section are based on reports of violations received from September 2024 to October 2025, and categorized according to their perpetrators: State Actors, Non-State Actors, and violations involving a combination of both State and Non-State Actors.

State actors typically distort and exploit the SSMPA to enact violence through illegal stops-and-searches, invasion of privacy, arbitrary arrests, threats of violence, and extortion. LGBTQIA+ people are profiled, their privacy is invaded, their personal lives are used as blackmail fodder. They are illegally detained, harassed, intimidated and threatened with the law, then forced to pay exploitative sums to secure their release. The fear of further victimization and unwanted scrutiny typically discourages victims from seeking justice against this gross abuse of power.

Another consistent form of violation by state actors is arbitrary arrests, where gatherings are raided on accusation of "gay parties" and attendees are arrested and prosecuted for exercising their right to peaceful assembly. One of such cases was a recent mass arrest in Kano by Hisbah, the religious police in the region, where 25 individuals were arrested, detained, and sentenced to one month in prison without an option of fine. A similar incident was reported in June, where 57 queer persons were the arrested and unlawfully detained with no formal charge. The arrested individuals faced extreme mistreatment and torture while in police custody and were eventually forced to pay exorbitant sums to secure their freedom. In the same vein, these mass arrests are usually followed by door-to-door raids where they arrest people based on the names mentioned by the detainees, without warrants or evidence.

As with most cases involving state actors, the victims are usually extorted and left at risk of being revictimized, should the police decide to conduct another raid-and-extort operation.

The most prevalent form of violation by non-state actors is kito. This typically involves a perpetrator luring a victim through online platforms under fake personas, kidnapping, assault, battery, humiliation, invasion of privacy, outing, extortion, blackmail, and in some cases, sexual assault. A survivor of this experience is often left traumatized, injured, cut off from family and friends' support, in debt or wrongfully dismissed from work due to being outed. Victims typically avoid reporting these incidents to the police to avoid further victimization and exploitation; thus, they get no justice and no reprieve, even from systems that have been put in place to protect all citizens.

Another trend of violation we observed perpetuated by non-state actors is harassment and discrimination, which often escalates into bigger violence like mob attacks, eviction from jobs or houses, expulsion from school, public humiliation, and refusal of essential services like medical aid. Gender non-conforming persons, like masculine women, feminine men, and transgender individuals are particularly susceptible to this. Perpetrators of this form of violation often feel justified in their mistreatment of LGBTQIA+ persons, believing their act of violence a benevolent action in the face of "evil".

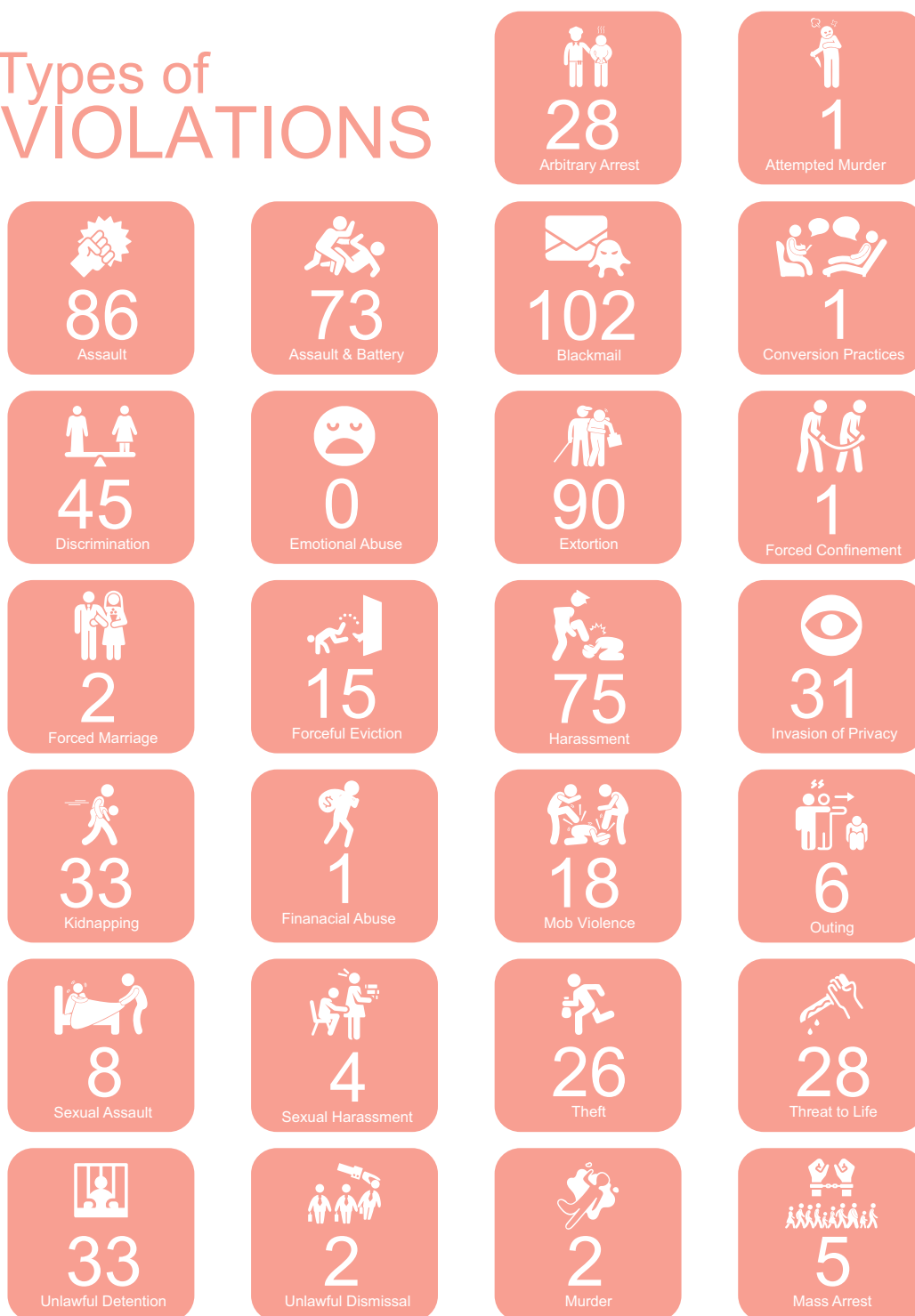
Additionally, family and friends often violate the rights and agency of LGBTQIA+ persons through violent conversion practices that almost always involves kidnapping, forced confinement, starvation, assault, torture, financial abuse, and sometimes "corrective rape", all under the guise of "helping them become normal". This practice usually results in severe long-term trauma and pain. Similarly, landlords and employers are known to perpetrate forced evictions and dismissal from jobs once LGBTQIA+ people are outed.

LGBTQIA+ Nigerians face discrimination and violation in all facets of society, preventing their access to necessities like justice, freedom, non-discriminatory healthcare, housing, education, employment, safe spaces, community, familial support, and basic human rights and dignity. The resulting isolation encourages further marginalization and abuse, resulting in a cycle of trauma with neither respite nor escape. These violations highlight the urgent need for collective action that includes holding the enabling systems accountable and intensifying advocacy efforts for the protection of the human rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ persons in Nigeria.

VIOLATIONS

For an analysis of the human rights violations based on real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity reported across country between September 2024 and August 2025, see below:

Types of VIOLATIONS



FORMS OF VIOLATIONS

Hearthbreakingly, yet unsurprisingly, the violation of the human rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ individuals in Nigeria has neither abated nor improved. Rather, new and creative ways of subjugating and erasing the humanity of this marginalized group were observed in the course of gathering the data for this report. The systemic, cultural, and religious roots of queerphobia in Nigeria have only grown stronger as cases of abuse (in all its forms), harassment, discrimination, blackmail, unlawful dismissal, extortion, kidnapping, theft, forceful eviction, and imprisonment without due process continue to rise, despite unrelenting advocacy and sensitization efforts. This section highlights the prevalent forms of violation reported this year.

The most prevalent form of violation against LGBTQIA+ persons this year is kito, in the usual kidnap-abuse-blackmail format. As observed from previous years, this is a persistent and recurrent violation mostly suffered by GBQ men. An overwhelming number of the documented cases this year detailed the distressing experience of innocent persons falling for fake online personas created by the perpetrators of this crime and the ensuing scenes of physical assault, sexual abuse and humiliation. Victims reported the gross invasion of privacy they experienced as kito gang members forcefully go through their devices, call their friends and family to out them as gay and demand for exorbitant sums in exchange for their release.

A pervasive form of violation reported this year is forced eviction and displacement, where landlords and house owners, upon finding out the gender or sexuality of their queer tenants, immediately send them packing. This typically involves some form of public humiliation and harassment, and a refund of the rent paid is never issued. In the same vein, minors and dependants are disowned and cut off from the family by their parents or guardians due to their sexuality and gender identity, leaving them with no home or support and vulnerable to further harm and exploitation.

Additionally, cases of assault, blackmail and exploitation of LGBTQIA+ persons have persisted over the years. State and non-state actors continue to exploit the culture of hostility towards queer people to perpetrate harm, using threats of outing and physical violence to coerce them into compliance to unjust demands and inhumane treatments.

Another disturbingly persistent form of violation is systemic discrimination and harassment. Pervasive society-backed discrimination and malicious distortion of the SSMPA allow state actors and duty bearers to get away with violations like extortion, unlawful arrest and detention, gross invasion of privacy, and even physical abuse. The complicity of the justice system in this form of abuse erases the hope for justice or reparation.

It is important to highlight that religion, culture, and the law collectively enable the sustained violence and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ persons in Nigeria. The unconstitutional laws and prejudiced beliefs upheld by these systems encourage the continued violations of the rights of gender and sexual minorities in this country. These violations underscore the pressing need for policy reforms, education and awareness, intensified advocacy, and an overhaul of systems that uphold the oppression of a significant portion of the population. The recognition and protection of the human rights of gender and sexual minorities in Nigeria is a collective responsibility that must be prioritised.

CASE STUDIES

Trigger warning: This section contains graphic descriptions of verified violations reported to TIERS and partner human rights organizations from September 2024 – August 2025. These descriptions are gory and disturbing. All names have been changed to protect the identities of the victims/survivors.

Arbitrary Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Extortion, Torture

The Law

1) Section 36(1) of the Nigerian constitution states:

"In the determination of his civil rights and obligations, including any question or determination by or against any government or authority, a person shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law and constituted in such manner as to secure its independence and impartiality."

2) Section 364 (2) of the Criminal Code states:

"Any person who — unlawfully imprisons any person within Nigeria in such a manner as to prevent him from applying to a court for his release or from discovering to any other person the place where he is imprisoned, or in such a manner as to prevent any person entitled to have access to him from discovering the place where he is imprisoned; is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for ten years."

3) Section 408 of the Criminal Code states:

"Any person who, with intent to extort or gain anything from any person accuses or threatens to accuse any person of committing any felony or misdemeanour, or of offering or making any solicitation or threat to any person as an inducement to commit or permit the commission of any felony or misdemeanour; or threatens that any person shall be accused by any other person of any felony or misdemeanour, or of any such act; or knowing the contents of the writing, causes any person to receive any writing containing any such accusation or threat as aforesaid; is guilty of a felony... the offender is liable to imprisonment for three years. It is immaterial whether the person accused or threatened to be accused has or has not committed the offense or act of which he is accused or threatened to be accused."

4) Section 37 (1a & 1b) of the Police Act states:

"A suspect shall- (a) be accorded humane treatment, having regard to his right to the dignity of his person; and (b) not be subjected to any form of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment"

5) Section 62 (1) of the Police Act states:

"Where a suspect has been taken into police custody without a warrant for an offence other than an offence punishable with death, an officer in charge of a police station shall inquire into the case and release the suspect arrested on bail subject to subsection (2), and where it will not be practicable to bring the suspect before a court having jurisdiction with respect to the offence alleged, within 24 hours after the arrest."

6) Section 34(1) of the Nigerian constitution states:

"Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly –

(a) no person shall be subject to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment;"

7) Section 2 of the Anti-Torture Act states:

"For the purpose of this Act, torture includes; -
vii) rape and sexual abuse, including the insertion of foreign bodies into the sex organs or rectum or electrical torture of the genitals, (viii) other forms of sexual abuse,

8) Section 3 (1) of the Anti-Torture Act states:

(I) No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war. Internal political instability or any other public emergency may be invoked as a justification for torture.

Cases In Violation

Case One

We received report of a violent mass arrest in Borno state in which a private birthday party was raided and 57 people presumed to be queer were arrested by the **Rapid Task Force, Borno**. 3 people sustained injuries in the process of trying to escape, one of which was fatal. In the process of avoiding state capture and the resulting social marginalization, he had fallen off the fence, broken several bones, sustained internal bleeding and ultimately lost his life in the hospital. The detained partygoers faced abuse and torture, with reports ranging from deplorable, unsanitary and dehumanizing detention conditions to relentless assault accompanied with hateful commentary stating that the abuse was deserved because of their sexualities. HAHAI & TIERs collaboratively engaged the National Human Rights Commission, which was pivotal in engaging the law enforcement agents, who had initially attempted to deny the presence of the detainees. At the time of intervention, several detainees had paid sums ranging from N50,000 - N150,000 to secure their release, while the rest without the means to pay for their freedom remained in detention. After a week of sustained engagement, the remaining detainees were finally charged to court on petty charges such as loitering, bail was secured and their release finalized. This traumatic process left the survivors without safety nets, as their arrest led to their being outed as homosexuals, causing their families and communities to disown them.

Case Two

A group of friends were arrested at a party, beaten and detained under inhumane conditions. After over a week, they were moved from their open-roof cell to an unidentified location until an organisation located them, intervened and demanded the case be charged to court. Throughout the process, the state violators consistently told the detainees that they were going to be killed without recourse because they are queer, traumatizing them and damaging their psyche.

Case Three

Following a civic dispute between tenants in which one party mobilized the police against the other, the survivors—two trans women—were arrested, assaulted, and forced to strip for videos and photos of them to be taken.

Case Four

Benin-based PHYAP-INITIATIVE received a report of 3 young men who were victimized by a mob in the market after someone had called them homosexuals where they went to buy phones. The harassment intensified despite efforts to defend themselves and led to lewd, exaggerated comments about homosexual intercourse. In the process, a crowd gathered and began assaulting and stripping them, during which their phones and other items were stolen. To prevent further mob action that could have led to their deaths, community leaders handed them over to the police for investigation. The police requested an exploitative sum as “bail”, which the survivors were forced to pay or face indefinite detention/disappearance. After the release of the 3 men, the police began a witch hunt using intel gotten from their previous detainees, leading to the arrest of an unknown number of people who are or are presumed to be homosexual, based solely on word-of-mouth and association. The door-to-door arrests were brought to our attention, after which PHYAP-INITIATIVE engaged the NHRC and key stakeholders in the police force.

Kidnapping, Blackmail & Extortion

The Law

1.) Section 365 of the criminal code specifies kidnapping as criminal offenses:

“Any person who unlawfully confines or detains another against his will or otherwise unlawfully deprives another of his personal liberty is guilty of a misdemeanour and liable to imprisonment of two years.”

2) Section 408 of the Criminal Code specifies blackmail and extortion as criminal offenses:

Any person who, with intent to extort or gain anything from any person accuses or threatens to accuse any person of committing any felony or misdemeanour, or of offering or making any solicitation or threat to any person as an inducement to commit or permit the commission of any felony or misdemeanour; or threatens that any person shall be accused by any other person of any felony or misdemeanour, or of any such act; or knowing the contents of the writing, causes any person to receive any writing containing any such accusation or threat as aforesaid; is guilty of a felony... the offender is liable to imprisonment for three years. It is immaterial whether the person accused or threatened to be accused has or has not committed the offense or act of which he is accused or threatened to be accused.

Cases In Violation

Case One

A survivor who had moved states and was experiencing homelessness was baited with friendship and the promise of accommodation by someone he had met online. When he arrived at the rendezvous location, he was beaten and robbed of everything he had.

Case Two

A queer man was lured under the guise of a business transaction and beaten, robbed and forced to do domestic labour while his parents were tasked with raising a ransom of N185,000.

Case Three

The survivor was kitoed by someone he had been talking to for a long time, who made him believe he was an unsuspecting, upstanding citizen. He was lured to a location, ambushed, robbed and held to ransom. He spent over 20 hours in their custody and nearly lost his eyesight due to injuries sustained from the beating. Fast forward to two months later, the same perpetrator was found texting the survivor's friend and inviting him to hang out.

Rape and Sexual Assault

The Law

1.) Section 352 of the Criminal Code states:

"Any person who assaults another with intent to have carnal knowledge of him or her against the order of nature is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for fourteen years."

2.) Section 357 of the Criminal Code states that:

"Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or, in the case of a married woman, by personating her husband, is guilty of an offence which is called rape."

3.) Section 258 of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015) states:

"A person commits the offense of rape if he or she intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person with any other part of his/her body or anything else, without consent, or if the consent is obtained by force."

Case in Violation

Case One

The survivor, a 23-year-old university student, was subjected to sexual assault orchestrated by his family aimed at changing his sexual orientation. This form of sexual assault is called "corrective rape", where family members or trusted friends of the victim organize for them to be raped to change their sexual orientation from homosexual/bisexual to heterosexual. This experience often leaves the survivor with severe trauma that could range from physical injury to anxiety and depression. The survivor was also forced to flee home.

Case Two

In this case, the survivor was raped by his brother-in-law, causing severe emotional distress and placing him at risk of further victimization, stigma and wrongful arrest if his case were reported to homophobic police officers. This left the survivor with compounding levels of trauma, due to his inability to seek justice and continued exposure to his abuser.

Case Three

The survivor, a trans woman was raped by her boyfriend's friend when he was absent. He recorded her violation and threatened to expose her as a homosexual if she told anyone. This severity of his threat was compounded with the fear of further victimization by the authorities based on her gender identity and perceived sexual orientation.

Discrimination**The Law****1) Section 42(1) of the Nigerian constitution specifies for discrimination and states:**

"A citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not, by reason only that he is such a person:— (a) be subjected either expressly by, or in the practical application of, any law in force in Nigeria or any executive or administrative action of the government, to disabilities or restrictions to which citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions are not made subject; or"

Cases In Violation**Case One**

A 29-year-old bisexual woman was being denied her rightful property inheritance by her 27-year-old brother who believed she shouldn't be entitled to it due to her gender and sexuality. She sought legal support to address the discrimination she was facing, as she had exhausted all other approaches and was running out of time at her current living arrangement.

Case Two

After visiting a local health centre for routine antiretroviral therapy (ART), his status was disclosed to a vigilante group who had been on the hunt for actual or presumed LGBTQIA+ people in the area. The information made its way into the larger community, along with rumours of his sexuality. This led to his receiving threats, harassment, discrimination and the eventual eviction from his apartment.

Case Three

A 26-year-old man faced continuous harassment and abuse from his neighbours and community due to his gender identity and expression. He is often called demeaning names, physically assaulted, intimidated, targeted and harassed. He previously avoided reporting the situation because he believed the perpetrators had control over all facets of that neighbourhood. However, the Joint Gender Taskforce (JGT) in the area became aware of the situation and intervened immediately.

Assault & Battery**The Law****1) Sections 252 and 253 of the Criminal Code specifies for assault and states:**

S 252 - "A person who strikes, touches, or moves, or otherwise applies force of any kind to, the person of another, either directly or indirectly, without his consent, or with his consent, if the consent is obtained by fraud, or who by any bodily act or gesture attempts or threatens to apply force of any kind to the person of another without his consent, in such circumstances that the person making the attempt or threat has actually or apparently a present ability to effect his purpose, is said to assault that other person, and the act is called an assault. "Applies force" includes the case of applying heat, light, electrical force, gas, odour, or any other substance of whatever, if applied to such a degree as to cause injury or personal discomfort. S 253 - "An assault is unlawful and constitutes an offence unless it is authorised or justified or excused by law. The application of force by one person to the person of another may be unlawful, although it is done with the consent of that other person."

Cases In Violation

Case One

A survivor working on a health-focused outreach was attacked when some men found HIV test kits, condoms and lubricant in his possession. His explanation to the group of men attacking him were disregarded, and he was accused of “promoting immorality”. When the authorities arrived, they placed him under arrest and extorted him.

Case Two

A group of young men who shared a house were violently attacked in the middle of the night by a gang under assumptions of their sexuality and sexual behaviour. Motivated by their homophobia, they beat them with sticks and belts, destroyed their belongings and forced them to transfer large sums of money through their bank apps. Following this harrowing experience of assault, battery, theft, loss and trauma, the survivors feared involving the police, anticipating further victimization.

Case Three

A trans woman who makes and sells beads for a living sold products on credit to a customer who was to pay her in 5 days; however, they failed to do so. Following her persistent inquiry, the customer threatened to tell everyone at the market that she was a “man”, causing her to fight back and call her bluff. The harassment intensified when some youths attacked her in the market at the customer’s instigation. If not for police intervention, she would have been the victim of a more dangerous mob attack.

Case Four

The survivor was headed to a naming ceremony when some street boys accosted him and started screaming “Ogbonisan” which is a local term for a homosexual. They rushed him, seized his phone and tore his clothes. He was rescued by the local vigilantes and later learned that that gang was known to target queer people.

Child/Dependent Abandonment

The Law

1.) Section 16 of the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act specifies Child/Dependent Abandonment as a criminal offense:

“A person who abandons a wife or husband, children or other dependent without any means of sustenance commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding #500,000.00 or both”

Cases in Violation

Case One

A trans woman was sent out of her home by her stepfather on suspicions of her sexuality. She needed urgent housing interventions as a result.

Case Two

A 17-year-old boy was disowned and sent away from his family house on suspicions of his sexuality. They stopped paying his school fees and have abandoned him to fend for himself.

Cyberstalking

The Law

1.) Section 15 of the Cybercrime Act specifies Cyberstalking as a criminal offense:

“(1) Any person who, by means of a public electronic communications network persistently sends a message or other matter that -
(a) is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character or causes any such message or matter to be so sent; or

(b) he knows to be false, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another or causes such a message to be sent; commits an offence under this Act and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than N2,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to both fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any person who, through information and communication technologies, by means of a public electronic communications network, transmits or causes the transmission of any communication

(a) with intent to bully, threaten or harass another person, where such communication places another person in fear of death, violence or personal bodily injury or to another person;

(b) containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of another, any demand or request for a ransom for the release of any kidnapped person, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association or corporation, any money or other thing of value; or

(c) containing any threat to injure the property or reputation of the addressee or of another or the reputation of a deceased person or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other person of a crime, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value; commits an offence under this Act and is liable on conviction-

Cases in Violation

Case One

A queer man's WhatsApp account was hacked and a few hours after, he received a call from a stranger threatening to share his private conversations to his contacts if he didn't pay money.

Case Two

A popular queer-friendly rave was targeted by a blog claiming that they were promoting immorality and throwing sex parties. 3 queer individuals were also targeted in the same post, with their personal photos and videos used to buttress the blogger's point due to their gender non-conformity. This incited widespread violence and harassment against the queer individuals and the event planners. It was also discovered that the blogger used a Telegram group to encourage their contacts to dox, threaten and harass people.

Attempted Murder

The Law

Section 320 of the Criminal Code Act in Nigeria specifies attempted murder as a criminal act. It states that:

"Any person who attempts unlawfully to kill another; or with intent unlawfully to kill another does any act, or omits to do any act which it is his duty to do, such act or omission being of such a nature as to be likely to endanger human life, is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for life."

Case One

In March 2025, the survivor's friend came to his house with a police officer, accusing him of homosexuality. They urged him to follow them and led him to an uncompleted building where they requested a total of N250,000 or risk exposure and arrest. The survivor had already given them N100,000 when an additional N150,000 was requested. The survivor refused, causing his captors to assault him in attempt to beat him into submission. When he started screaming for help, they resolved to kill him, as was stated by the accompanying party with the police officer. The police officer then attempted to break the survivor's head with a brick. Fortunately, a passerby intervened and took the police officer to a vigilante. The case was reported to the police, and the police officer was charged for attempting to murder the survivor, regardless of the conversation about his sexuality.

TRENDS IN VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NIGERIA

Nigeria is experiencing an alarming surge in femicide that has civil society organizations calling for the government to declare it a national emergency. January 2025 alone recorded 17 cases of women deliberately killed because of their gender, representing a shocking 240% increase from the previous year, with additional cases continuing to mount throughout the year. Between January and March 2025, approximately 50 women were murdered in Nigeria, painting a grim picture of the violence women face simply for existing in their own country.

The true scale of this crisis is likely far worse than reported. According to data from the DOHS Femicide Dashboard, there were 135 femicide incidents resulting in 149 deaths in 2024, but researchers believe the actual numbers could be three times higher due to severe underreporting, lack of comprehensive documentation, and the normalization of violence against women in many communities.

These statistics represent more than numbers, because they are daughters, mothers, sisters, and friends whose lives have been brutally cut short. The victims span all ages and circumstances. In January 2025, cases ranged from intimate partner violence affecting women of unknown ages to non-intimate partner violence affecting women and girls between the ages of 13-74. The perpetrators include husbands, boyfriends, family members, and strangers, revealing that Nigerian women face threats from those who “should” protect them and from society at large.

TRIGGER WARNING: The horror of Nigeria's femicide crisis becomes undeniably real when examining specific cases from 2025. Salome Elejo Adaidu was killed and beheaded by gospel singer Oluwatimileyin Ajayi, who claimed she was his girlfriend and killed her because she was allegedly cheating on him. This brutal murder shocked the nation and highlighted how intimate partner violence can escalate to the most extreme forms of violence, including death. Josephine Isaac, a 36-year-old housewife, was reportedly stabbed to death in the neck and chest by her husband during an argument in Ogun State

on March 6, 2025. Just days earlier, Wasila Abdulahi, 24, was reportedly flogged to death by her husband Nuru Isah over Ramadan food preparation in Bauchi State on March 1, 2025. Even more disturbing, 40-year-old Salma Abdullahi was allegedly beaten to death with a pestle by her own son, Safiyanu Dalhatu, demonstrating that violence against women can come from any male family member. Emrich Effanga was allegedly murdered by her boyfriend in January 2025, while Mutiat Sholola lost her life at the hands of her husband. These cases share a common thread: women being killed by men who claimed to love them, who shared their homes and their lives.

Nigeria's crisis is part of a larger global pandemic of violence against women. According to the United Nations, every 10 minutes a woman is killed globally, and in 2023, Africa bore the highest burden of intimate partner and family-related femicide in the world, with 21,700 women tragically losing their lives. A global femicide report from UN Women and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime shows that around the world, 51,000 women were killed in 2023 by intimate partners or other family members. However, what makes Nigeria's situation particularly concerning is the rapid escalation of cases and the seeming impunity with which perpetrators operate. Since the start of 2025, nearly 30 women have suffered gruesome murders, but these are only the cases that made it to the public eye, according to civil society organizations advocating for government action.

Femicide represents the most extreme manifestation of gender-based violence, but Nigerian women face violence in many forms daily. In Nigeria, one-third of women have experienced one form of violence, and one-fifth have experienced physical violence. The Ministry's Gender-Based Violence Data Situation Room Report reveals that one in every three Nigerian women has experienced some form of violence. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the extent of this hidden crisis. Data from the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs reported a staggering 149% increase in sexual and gender-based violence cases across 23 states during the first two weeks of lockdown in April 2020.

This surge demonstrated that when women were confined at home with their abusers, violence intensified dramatically.

Over 30,000 cases of gender-based violence were reported across Nigeria between 2020 and 2023, though experts acknowledge these figures represent only a fraction of actual cases, as many incidents go unreported due to stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of faith in the justice system, and cultural norms that encourage silence. At the heart of Nigeria's femicide crisis is the entrenched perception of women as second-class citizens, a belief system that permeates social, economic, legal, and political structures. Deeply rooted patriarchal norms reinforce male dominance and female subordination, creating an environment where violence against women is normalized and perpetrators face minimal consequences. Economic inequality plays a significant role in trapping women in dangerous situations. Women earn about 20% less than men for the same work according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report (2023), and in sub-Saharan Africa, the International Labour Organization highlights that women are overrepresented in informal, low-wage jobs without social protections. This economic vulnerability makes it extremely difficult for women to leave abusive relationships, as they lack the financial resources to support themselves and their children independently.

Property and inheritance laws further entrench women's dependency on men. UN Women reports that customary laws in several African nations prevent women, especially widows, from inheriting land or property, leaving them economically destitute when their husbands die and vulnerable to exploitation and violence from male relatives. Cultural and religious beliefs that uphold male dominance compound these structural barriers. Domestic and intimate partner violence remains rampant, fuelled by cultural and religious beliefs that uphold male dominance and discourage women from exiting abusive relationships. Traditional practices like bride price can create a sense of ownership, with some men believing they have purchased the right to treat their wives as property rather than equal partners.

Nigeria has made some legislative progress in addressing gender-based violence, most notably with the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act of 2015. The VAPP law is designed to tackle all forms of violence against persons in private and public life and provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders. The Act broadened the definition of rape to include any form of penetration without consent, not just penile-vaginal penetration, and it recognizes spousal rape as a crime.

However, implementation remains the critical challenge. Despite the widespread adoption of the VAPP Act in 35 states and the Child Rights Act in 36 states, the gap between legislation and implementation remains wide, with many states lacking the funding, enforcement, and awareness required to operationalize these laws. Despite enacting laws such as the VAPP Act to protect women from violence, implementation remains weak due to institutional bias, religious beliefs and ineffective law enforcement. The judicial system presents additional barriers. Delays in the judicial system, despite the establishment of an official family court to expedite prosecution, contribute to the ineffectiveness of SGBV laws. Cases drag on for years, witnesses lose interest or become unavailable, and survivors face repeated trauma through lengthy court processes. These delays send a message to perpetrators that they can act with impunity. Perhaps most concerning is the absence of specific legislation criminalizing femicide as a distinct crime. Despite existing frameworks like the VAPP Act and various Administration of Criminal Justice Laws, the country lacks specific legislation defining and criminalizing femicide. This means that the gender-based motivation behind these killings is not acknowledged or addressed in the legal system, treating them as ordinary homicides rather than hate crimes targeting women.

Despite making up nearly half of Nigeria's population, women occupy less than 10% of elective positions at the national level, contributing to a lack of urgency in addressing gender-based violence and inadequate policy responses to femicide.

When women's voices are largely absent from legislative bodies and policy-making positions, issues affecting women receive insufficient attention and resources. This political marginalization has real consequences. Civil society organizations have called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to immediately declare the widespread violence against women and escalating femicide a national emergency, recognizing that without high-level political commitment, the crisis will continue to worsen. The organizations emphasize that women constitute about 49.5 percent of Nigeria's population, and no society can prosper when nearly half its citizens live in perpetual fear of extermination.

Addressing Nigeria's femicide crisis requires urgent, multifaceted action. First and foremost, the government must acknowledge the severity of the crisis and demonstrate political will to combat it. Civil society organizations are calling for femicide to be declared a national emergency, which would mobilize resources and coordinate efforts across all levels of government. Nigeria must enact legislation specifically designed to combat femicide, developed in close consultation with legal experts, human rights organizations, and grassroots women's groups to define gender-motivated violence clearly. This law should establish enhanced penalties for gender-based killings and create specialized investigative and prosecutorial units trained to handle these cases. Comprehensive data collection is essential for understanding the scope of the problem and crafting effective interventions. Accurate documentation is **essential** for prosecuting femicide cases effectively, yet Nigeria's efforts are hampered by a lack of comprehensive data, leading to overreliance on international sources. A national femicide tracking system should be established to document all cases systematically. Law enforcement and judicial personnel require specialized training to handle gender-based violence cases sensitively and effectively. The VAPP Act and other protective legislation must be rigorously enforced, with perpetrators facing real consequences for their actions. Survivors need accessible support services, including shelters, legal aid, counselling, and economic empowerment programs that enable them

to leave abusive situations. A nationwide sensitization campaign must reinforce the view that women deserve equal rights and respect, with all citizens encouraged to report gender-based violence (especially within families) and informed that covering up such crimes to protect a family member or preserve reputation is unacceptable. This cultural shift is essential for breaking the cycle of silence that enables violence to continue.

The femicide crisis in Nigeria demands immediate action. Every woman killed represents a preventable tragedy, a life stolen, and a family shattered. As International Women's Day 2025's theme urges us to "Accelerate Action," Nigeria cannot afford further delays. Women's lives hang in the balance, and the entire nation suffers when half its population lives in fear. The question is no longer whether Nigeria will act, but how quickly and comprehensively it can respond to save women's lives and build a society where every person can live with dignity, safety, and respect.

PEPFAR STOP-WORK ORDER AND ITS RIPPLE EFFECT ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

In early 2025, the Stop Work Order issued under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) triggered a sudden disruption in health service delivery across several implementing organizations in Nigeria. Every line of HIV prevention, treatment, and research was abruptly halted. People living with HIV (PLHIV) who depends on daily medication to survive suddenly had no access to refills. Newly diagnosed clients could not be enrolled for treatment. Preventive services such as PrEP distribution and HIV testing were frozen. Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), once available for sexual assault survivors and accidental exposures, was now restricted only to occupational cases and prevention of mother-to-child transmission, a severe rollback that left many vulnerable people without protection.

While the directive primarily targeted HIV-related programming, its ripple effect extended deeply into the mental health and psychosocial support systems that have been vital to survivors of human rights violations, particularly within the LGBTQI+ community.

For years, PEPFAR-supported programs have served as a lifeline providing not only HIV prevention and treatment but also holistic care that includes trauma-informed counselling, physical health consultation, psychosocial support, and mental health consultations which have been crucial for individuals recovering from various forms of human rights violations such as physical assaults, arbitrary arrests, family rejection, and community-based violence linked to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. The abrupt funding halt created a critical gap in continuity of care for many organisations across the country.

The halt not only delayed recovery but also risked exacerbating symptoms of post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety among PLHIV and survivors of human right violation.

This funding disruption also affected the physical health dimension of recovery. People who experienced physical assaults because of discrimination often require both medical treatment and concurrent mental health care. With funding withdrawn, organizations that integrated both forms of care were forced to scale back, some of which suspended operations for a while, leaving clients to navigate fragmented and inaccessible health systems on their own.

Many LGBTQ+ persons could not seek help in the mainstream general hospitals due to fear of stigma, discrimination, and fear of being profiled based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Trans clients, for instance, were scared to face overt hostility and/or being denied care altogether. Others simply chose to stay home, valuing safety over survival. Many called in panic, crying and pleading for alternative sources of medication. Some had to buy antiretrovirals from private pharmacies at unsustainable costs.

Beyond the immediate health implications, the Stop Work Order deepened feelings of insecurity and abandonment, reinforcing the systemic neglect often experienced by LGBTQIA persons in Nigeria's broader healthcare landscape.

As we continue to navigate the fallout of the Stop Work Order, our commitment remains steadfast. We continue to document, to advocate and to build bridges of care where formal systems have faltered. Through collaboration, evidence and the courage of our communities, we will continue to push for a health and human rights framework that leaves no one behind because every disruption deserves a response and every life deserves protection.

NATIONAL CASE SUMMARY

S/N	DATE OF INCIDENCE	CASE TYPOLOGY	PERPETRATORS	LOCATION	REPORTING ORGANIZATION
1	01/09/2024	Mob Attack, Harassment, Discrimination, Threat to Life	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
2	01/09/2024	Abandonment	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
3	01/09/2024	Harassment, Unlawful Arrest, Discrimination	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Edo	TIERs
4	01/09/2024	Unlawful Detention, Extortion, Harassment, Blackmail	State Violators	Lagos	TIERs
5	01/09/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Ebonyi	AGHI
6	04/09/2024	Unlawful Detention	State Violators	Ebonyi	AGHI
7	05/09/2024	Kidnapping, Assault, Theft, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
8	06/09/2024	Kidnapping, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Ebonyi	AGHI
9	09/09/2024	Kidnapping, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
10	09/09/2024	Assault, Battery, Verbal Abuse, Outing of HIV status	Non State Abuser	Niger	CHIYN
11	09/09/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Ebonyi	AGHI
12	15/09/2024	Invasion of Privacy, Assault, Battery, Humiliation, Mob Attack	Non State Abusers	Gombe	THEDI
13	16/09/2024	Threat, Blackmail, Extortion, Sexual Assault	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
14	19/09/2024	Kidnapping, Assault, Battery, Theft, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
15	20/09/2024	Unlawful Detention	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Imo	MHSI
16	21/09/2024	Discrimination, Hate Speech	Non State Abuser	Enugu	TIERs
17	21/09/2024	Blackmail, Extortion, Theft, Threat to Life	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
18	23/09/2024	Threat, Harassment, Cyberbullying	Non State Abuser	Online	TIERs
19	23/09/2024	Forced Eviction	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
20	24/09/2024	Verbal Abuse, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
21	24/09/2024	Blackmail, Cyberbullying	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
22	25/09/2024	Harassment, Intimidation, Assault, Battery, Threat to life	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
23	25/09/2024	Blackmail, Threat to life	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
24	25/09/2024	Defamation, Invasion of Privacy	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
25	27/09/2024	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Kidnapping	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
26	30/09/2024	Rape, Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Cross River	GEHAR-I
27	30/09/2024	Harassment, Forced Exile	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
28	01/10/2024	Assault, Battery, Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Invasion of Privacy	State Violators	Anambra	AGHI
29	02/10/2024	Outing, Invasion of Privacy, Forced Eviction	Non State Abusers	Kano	TIERs
30	02/10/2024	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Niger	ICARH
31	04/10/2024	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Anambra	AGHI
32	04/10/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
33	05/10/2024	Discrimination, Harassment, Familial rejection	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
34	05/10/2024	Harassment, Theft, Assault, Battery	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
35	06/10/2024	Harassment, Discrimination, Threat to Life	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW

36	06/10/2024	Blackmail, Harassment, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
37	06/10/2024	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Anambra	AGHI
38	07/10/2024	Threat to Life	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
39	08/10/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Anambra	AGHI
40	09/10/2024	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Kidnapping	Non State Abusers	Anambra	WHER
41	09/10/2024	Invasion of Privacy	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
42	10/10/2024	Mob Attack, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
43	11/10/2024	Kidnapping, Sexual Harassment	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
44	12/10/2024	Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, Battery, Unlawful Arrest, Extortion	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Kaduna	WIHYE
45	15/10/2024	Kidnapping, Assault, Battery, Theft	Non State Abuser	Nasarawa	ICARH
46	17/10/2024	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
47	19/10/2024	Blackmail, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
48	26/10/2024	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
49	27/10/2024	Blackmail, Extortion, Defamation. Slander	State Violator & Non State Abuser	Gombe	RASE-I
50	28/10/2024	Kidnapping	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
51	28/10/2024	Mob attack, Invasion of Privacy, Forced Eviction, Discrimination, Harassment	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
52	28/10/2024	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
53	29/10/2024	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery	Non State Abuser	Niger	CHIYN
54	29/10/2024	Assault, Battery, Forced Eviction	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
55	30/10/2024	Unlawful Detention, Torture, Invasion of Privacy, Extortion	State Violators	N/A	TIERs
56	02/11/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
57	04/11/2024	Forced Eviction	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
58	05/11/2024	Sexual Assault	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
59	06/11/2024	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
60	07/11/2024	Blackmail, Harassment, Stalking, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
61	08/11/2024	Sexual Assault	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
62	08/11/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Niger	ICARH
63	11/11/2024	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Imo	MHSI
64	11/11/2024	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Gombe	THEDI
65	12/11/2024	Harassment, Threat to Life, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Abuja	WHER
66	12/11/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
67	13/11/2024	Attempted Murder, Assault, Battery, Theft	Non State Abusers	Delta	TIERs
68	15/11/2024	Forced Exile	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
69	18/11/2024	Discrimination, Invasion of privacy	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
70	18/11/2024	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
71	20/11/2024	Harassment, Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Mob Attack	Non State Abusers	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
72	20/11/2024	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abuja	TIERs
73	20/11/2024	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Nasarawa	ICARH
74	20/11/2024	Blackmail, Extortion, Theft	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
75	26/11/2024	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention	State Violator	Nasarawa	ICARH
76	27/11/2024	Invasion of Privacy, Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Zaria	WIHYE
77	29/11/2024	Harassment, Intimidation, Outing, Invasion of Privacy	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Online	TIERs
78	30/11/2024	Threat to Life	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH

79	01/12/2024	Unlawful Arrest	State Violators	Lagos	TIERs
80	03/12/2024	Kidnapping, Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
81	05/12/2024	Sexual Assault	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
82	05/12/2024	Forceful Eviction	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
83	09/12/2024	Invasion of Privacy, Defamation	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
84	11/12/2024	Invasion of Privacy, Defamation	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
85	13/12/2024	Harassment, Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Mob Attack	Non State Abusers	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
86	15/12/2024	Harassment, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
87	17/12/2024	Rape	Non State Abusers	Osun	I-AIHD
88	20/12/2024	Unlawful Detention	Non State Abusers	Cross River	I-IMH
89	29/12/2024	Sexual Assault	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
90	31/12/2024	Threat to Life	Non State Abusers	Cross River	I-IMH
91	04/01/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Harassment, Threat to life	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
92	04/01/2025	Kidnapping	Non State Abusers	Anambra, Abuja	TIERs
93	04/01/2025	Discrimination, Forced eviction	Non State Abusers	Osun	TIERs
94	05/01/2025	Forceful Eviction	Non State Abusers	Cross River	I-IMH
95	06/01/2025	Sexual Assault, Forced Eviction, Assault	Non State Abusers	N/A	TIERs
96	07/01/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery	State Violator	Imo	AGHI
97	10/01/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Discrimination	Non State Abusers	Kaduna	WIHYE
98	10/01/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Extortion	State Violators	Akwa Ibom	IGE-SRH
99	10/01/2025	Forceful Eviction	Non State Abuser	Imo	AGHI
100	10/01/2025	Forced Eviction, Sexual Assault	Non State Abuser	Imo	TIERs
101	10/01/2025	Assault, Battery, Invasion of Privacy, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
102	10/01/2025	Mob Attack, Unlawful Detention, Torture, Assault	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Akwa Ibom	TIERs
103	11/01/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abusers	Anambra	TIERs
104	15/01/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Extortion	State Violator	Niger	CHIYN
105	15/01/2025	Defamation, Theft	Non State Abusers	Imo	MHSI
106	17/01/2025	Sexual Harassment, Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
107	19/01/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Ogun	MW
108	23/01/2025	Kidnapping, Assault, Battery, Theft	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
109	24/01/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Cyberbullying, Invasion of Privacy	Non State Abuser	Osun	I-AIHD
110	30/01/2025	Blackmail, Theft	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
111	31/01/2025	Blackmail, Forced Eviction, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Kaduna	WIHYE
112	03/02/2025	Harassment, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
113	06/02/2025	Sexual Harassment, Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Online	TIERs
114	08/02/2025	Theft, Blackmail, Harassment, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
115	10/02/2025	Assault, Battery, Attempted Murder	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
116	11/02/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Oyo	MW
117	12/02/2025	Blackmail, Invasion of Privacy, Harassment, Extortion	State Violators	Lagos	TIERs
118	14/02/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Extortion, Invasion of Privacy, Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment, Kidnapping	State Violators	Cross River	I-IMH
119	14/02/2025	Invasion of Privacy	Non State Abuser	Niger	ICARH
120	19/02/2025	Harassment	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
121	1/03/2025	Assault, Battery, Theft	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs

122	01/03/2025	Discrimination, Forced eviction	Non State Abuser	Rivers	TIERs
123	04/03/2025	Harassment, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
124	05/03/2025	Harassment, Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment, Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Abuja	WHER
125	06/03/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
126	06/03/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention,	State Violators	Cross River	I-IMH
127	09/03/2025	Blackmail, Assault, Battery, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
128	09/03/2025	Harassment, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Abuja	WHER
129	09/03/2025	Discrimination, Forced eviction	Non State Abuser	Enugu	TIERs
130	10/03/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
131	10/03/2025	Threat to Life	Non State Abusers	Abuja	WHER
132	11/03/2025	Harassment	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
133	11/03/2025	Assault, Battery, Mob Attack, Discrimination, Forced eviction	Non State Abusers	Benue	TIERs
134	12/03/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Lagos	ISRHRA
135	13/03/2025	Unlawful Detention, Kidnapping, Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Attempted Murder, Threat to Life	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Niger	CHIYN
136	13/03/2025	Threat to Life, Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Osun	
137	14/03/2025	Harassment, Theft	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
138	15/03/2025	Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Borno	HAHAI
139	16/03/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
140	17/03/2025	Harassment	Non State Abusers	Imo	MHSI
141	18/03/2025	Forceful Eviction	Non State Abuser	Enugu	AGHI
142	18/03/2025	Intimidation, Harassment, Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Assault, Battery	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
143	19/03/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
144	23/03/2025	Harassment, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Kaduna	WIHYE
145	23/03/2025	Forced Eviction, Kidnapping, Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abia	TIERs
146	26/03/2025	Assault, Battery, Harassment	Non State Abusers	Abuja	TIERs
147	27/03/2025	Financial Abuse	Non State Abuser	Abuja	WHER
148	27/03/2025	Assault, Battery, Mob Attack, Unlawful Arrest, Harassment, Invasion of Privacy, Extortion, Discrimination	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Edo	TIERs
149	29/03/2025	Harassment, Assault, Battery, Theft, Extortion, Threat to life	Non State Abusers	Kaduna	WIHYE
150	01/04/2025	Harassment, Threat to Life, Defamation	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
151	01/04/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
152	03/04/2025	Kidnapping	Non State Abuser	Abuja	WHER
153	03/04/2025	Harassment	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Rivers	TIERs
154	04/04/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
155	04/04/2025	Forced Marriage, Kidnapping	Non State Abuser	Ogun	ISRHRA
156	04/04/2025	Harassment, Defamation, Invasion of Privacy, Cyberbullying	Non State Abusers	Online	TIERs
157	05/04/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
158	07/04/2025	lackmail, Extortion	State Violators	Abia	AGHI
159	09/04/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
160	09/04/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
161	11/04/2025	Assault, Battery, Harassment, Blackmail, Extortion, Kidnapping	Non State Abusers	Rivers	TIERs
162	14/04/2025	Assault, Battery, Discrimination, Unlawful detention, Harassment	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Benue	TIERs
163	16/04/2025	Theft	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	WIHYE
164	25/04/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW

165	30/04/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Outing of HIV status	Non State Abuser	Lagos	MW
166	02/05/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Unlawful Arrest	State Violator	Abia	AGHI
167	04/05/2025	Harassment, Discrimination, Battery	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
168	04/05/2025	Assault, Battery, Extortion, Theft, Kidnapping, Threat to Life	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
169	05/05/2025	Intimidation	Non State Abuser	Bauchi	HAHAI
170	08/05/2025	Harassment, Invasion of Privacy, Unlawful Detention, Mass Arrest	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
171	09/05/2025	Defamation	Non State Abusers	Online	TIERs
172	10/05/2025	Assault, Battery, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
173	10/05/2025	Defamation, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
174	12/05/2025	Intimidation	Non State Abuser	Borno	HAHAI
175	12/05/2025	Harassment	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
176	14/05/2025	Harassment, Assault, Battery, Theft, Extortion, Threat to life	Non State Abusers	Edo	WIHYE
177	15/05/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Extortion	State Violator	Bauchi	HAHAI
178	15/05/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Mob Attack, Unlawful Detention	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Bauchi	TIERs
179	17/05/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Niger	CHIYN
180	17/05/2025	Outing of HIV status, Harassment, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Niger	CHIYN
181	18/05/2025	Harassment, Wrongful Dismissal	Non State Abusers	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
182	18/05/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
183	19/05/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Mass Arrest	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Imo	MHSI
184	20/05/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Extortion, Invasion of Privacy, Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment, Kidnapping	State Violators	Cross River	I-IMH
185	20/05/2025	Kidnapping, Assault, Battery, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Abuja	WHER
186	23/05/2025	Assault, Battery, Mob Attack, Forced Exile,	Non State Abusers	Kaduna	WIHYE
187	24/05/2025	Assault, Battery, Theft, Mob Attack, Threat to Life	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
188	25/05/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Lagos	ISRHRA
189	25/05/2025	Harassment, Threat to Life	Non State Abusers	Abuja	WHER
190	25/05/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Defamation	Non State Abuser	Online	TIERs
191	26/05/2025	Harassment, Discrimination, Forced eviction	Non State Abusers	Osun	I-AIHD
192	26/05/2025	Harassment, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Ekiti	AHRDI
193	26/05/2025	Harassment, Unlawful Detention, Interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Abia	MHSI
194	27/05/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Forceful Eviction	Non State Abuser	Niger	ICARH
195	28/05/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Harassment, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Rivers	TIERs
196	28/05/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Harassment, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Osun	TIERs
197	31/05/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Assault, Battery	Non State Abusers	Delta	TIERs
198	01/06/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abia	AGHI
199	02/06/2025	Unlawful Arrest	State Violators	Imo	AGHI
200	02/06/2025	Defamation	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
201	02/06/2025	Extortion, Sexual Assault	Non State Abuser	Niger	ICARH
202	04/06/2025	Defamation	Non State Abusers	Kaduna	WIHYE
203	07/06/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Imo	AGHI
204	11/06/2025	Assault, Battery, Verbal Abuse, Harassment	Non State Abusers	Ogun	TIERs
205	12/06/2025	Threat to Life, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Oyo	TIERs
206	14/06/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Discrimination, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
207	15/06/2025	Unlawful Detention, Kidnapping	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH

208	15/06/2025	Threat to Life, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
209	18/06/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
210	20/06/2025	Assault, Battery, Threat to life, Outing, Invasion of Privacy	Non State Abusers	Delta	TIERs
211	20/06/2025	Threat to Life, Assault, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
212	20/06/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
213	20/06/2025	Forceful Eviction, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
214	20/06/2025	Cyberbullying, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
215	20/06/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
216	20/06/2025	Harassment	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
217	22/06/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Mass Arrest	State Violators	Kaduna	WIHYE
218	22/06/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Discrimination, Torture, Mass Arrest, Unlawful Detention	State Violators	Borno	TIERs
219	24/06/2025	Harassment, Invasion of Privacy, Assault, Battery, Mob Attack	Non State Abusers	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
220	25/06/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
221	26/06/2025	Sexual Harassment	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
222	27/06/2025	Defamation, Unlawful Arrest	State Violator	Kaduna	ICARH
223	30/06/2025	Kidnapping	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
224	01/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Gombe	RASE-I
225	01/07/2025	Defamation	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
226	01/07/2025	Harassment, Forceful Eviction, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
227	03/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Unlawful Detention	State Violators	Gombe	RASE-I
228	03/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Gombe	
229	03/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	
230	05/07/2025	Forceful Eviction, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	CARH
231	06/07/2025	Mob Attack, Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
232	07/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Forceful Eviction	Non State Abuser	Niger	ICARH
233	07/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Blackmail, Extortion, Kidnapping	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
234	07/07/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
235	08/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
236	08/07/2025	Kidnapping, Assault, Battery, Theft, Blackmail, Extortion	State Violators	Lagos	TIERs
237	08/07/2025	Blackmail	State Violator	Kaduna	ICARH
238	09/07/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
239	09/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
240	09/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Threat to life	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
241	10/07/2025	Blackmail, Threat to Life	Non State Abuser	N/A	ICARH
242	11/07/2025	Defamation	Non State Abusers	Imo	MHSI
243	11/07/2025	Kidnapping, Assault, Battery, Theft, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
244	11/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Mob Attack, Assault, Battery, Theft	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
245	11/07/2025	Invasion of Privacy, Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
246	12/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Theft, Blackmail, Kidnapping	Non State Abusers	Anambra	TIERs
247	12/07/2025	Cyberbullying, Extortion, Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
248	13/07/2025	Harassment	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
249	13/07/2025	Theft, Harassment	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
250	13/07/2025	Assault, Blackmail, Kidnapping, Extortion, Battery	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH

251	13/07/2025	Threat to Life, Mob Attack, Battery, Assault	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
252	14/07/2025	Forceful eviction, Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
253	14/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
254	14/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Forceful Eviction	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
255	15/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Extortion, Forced Eviction	Non State Abusers	Niger	CHIYN
256	15/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Threat to Life	Non State Abuser	Online	ICARH
257	15/07/2025	Blackmail, Cyberbullying	Non State Abuser	Online	ICARH
258	16/07/2025	Assault, Sexual Trafficking	Non State Abusers	Ivory Coast	TIERs
259	17/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Kidnapping, Theft, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
260	18/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Harassment, Theft	Non State Abusers	Anambra	ISHRAI
261	18/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Kidnapping, Conversion Practices	Non State Abusers	Ogun	ISHRAI
262	18/07/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
263	18/07/2025	Discrimination	Non State Abuser	Kaduna	ICARH
264	19/07/2025	Threat to Life, Assault, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Abuja	ICARH
265	20/07/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
266	22/07/2025	Assault, Battery, Theft	Non State Abusers	Abuja	TIERs
267	22/07/2025	Blackmail	Non State Abuser	Plateau	ICARH
268	25/07/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Harassment	State Violators	Lagos	TIERs
269	28/07/2025	Kidnapping	Non State Abusers	Lagos	TIERs
270	01/08/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery	Non State Abuser	Gombe	RASE-I
271	03/08/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment, Kidnapping	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Anambra, Abuja	ISHRAI
272	05/08/2025	Kidnapping, Assault, Battery, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
273	07/08/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Kidnapping	Non State Abusers	Lagos	ISHRAI
274	10/08/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Assault, Battery, Extortion, Cruel, Inhuman and degrading treatment, Mass Arrest	State Violators	Edo	PHYAP-INITIATIVE
275	14/08/2025	Defamation, Unlawful Detention	State Violator & Non State Abuser	Cross River	GEHAR-I
276	14/08/2025	Harsh and Life threatening prison condition, Unlawful Detention	State Violators & Non State Abusers	Kano	TIERs
277	15/08/2025	Unlawful Arrest, Unlawful Detention, Extortion	State Violators	Niger	CHIYN
278	16/08/2025	Harassment, Blackmail, Extortion, Assault, Battery, Mob Attack	Non State Abuser	Cross River	GEHAR-I
279	25/08/2025	Kidnapping, Mob Attack, Assault, Battery, Blackmail, Extortion	Non State Abusers	Anambra	TIERs
280	26/08/2025	Blackmail, Harassment, Extortion	Non State Abuser	Lagos	TIERs
281	28/08/2025	Blackmail, Extortion, Discrimination	Non State Abusers	Gombe	THEDI
282	30/08/2025	Assault, Battery, Forced Exile, Wrongful Dismissal	Non State Abusers	Gombe	THEDI

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To the Nigerian Government

- Repeal all sections of the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA) and similar repressive laws across Nigeria, including those criminalizing same-sex relationships and gender diversity.
- Ensure the full protection of constitutionally provided rights, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- To put mechanisms in place to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against Nigerians based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, as recommended in Resolution 275 of the African Commission.
- To put mechanisms in place to promote and protect the rights of intersex persons in Nigeria as stipulated under Resolution 552 of the African Commission.
- To take actions towards strengthening the VAPP Act to be more comprehensive to include a comprehensive list of prohibited grounds of discrimination, to include race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity and other status. The legislation should also cover direct, indirect and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- Recognise and account for hate speech and actions inciting discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals, including specific legal protections for people of diverse SOGIE in online spaces.
- To strengthen the 2024 – 2028 National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria, to be more inclusive, so that no one will be left behind towards the actualization of the SDGs.
- Reinforce medical ethics around confidentiality and non-discrimination, ensuring access to inclusive healthcare for all.

2. To the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- Institutionalize SOGIESC-focused human rights trainings for commission members to continuously address bias and improve knowledge of the lived realities of and legal protections for people of different SOGIESC.
- Strengthen collaborations with LGBTQIA+ human rights organisations to continue to raise awareness about the lived realities of people of diverse SOGIESC for commission members and the public.
- Release public statements and position papers in cases of national incitement to violence or discrimination by religious, political and societal leaders.

3. To the Nigerian Police Force

- Cease arbitrary stops, searches of devices, raids, and arrests targeting LGBTQIA+ individuals by ensuring an adequate training of field officers on the Part VII of the Police Act, 2020.
- Partner with civic society organisations to develop training materials to be embedded in the police force academies to tackle misinterpretation of laws, bias and prejudice before cadets become officers.
- Prioritize knowledge building within the police system around human rights frameworks and the constitutional rights of all Nigerians including people of diverse SOGIESC.
- Publicly persecute state and non-state perpetrators of violence against people of diverse SOGIESC to demonstrate a dedication to protecting the lives and safety of all Nigerians.

4. To Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- Recognise and mainstream LGBTQIA+ rights as integral to the broader human rights agenda, incorporating them into health, gender, and human rights initiatives.

- To collectively engage all the National, Regional and International Human Rights Mechanisms, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as means of holding the Government accountable.
- Be vocal and visible allies to LGBTQIA+ individuals and organizations, supporting and amplifying their efforts in combating discrimination and promoting inclusivity.
- Collaborate with LGBTQIA+-focused organisations and adopt an intersectional approach to human rights programming to ensure no one is left behind.

5. To Medical Institutions

- Train healthcare providers to deliver confidential and unbiased services, particularly for LGBTQIA+ individuals and key populations, including MSM, gay men and transgender women, and enforce non-discrimination policies.
- Ensure equitable access for key populations disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Develop proactive and reactive mechanisms for addressing discrimination within healthcare systems that specifically include protections for people of diverse SOGIESC.
- Develop LGBTQIA+ affirming counselling options for individuals of diverse SOGIESC and their loved ones.

6. To Employers and Labour Institutions

- Implement and enforce anti-discrimination policies protecting employees from bias based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status.

- Foster diversity and inclusion programs to ensure equitable opportunities for persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

7. To Families and Friends

- Seek LGBTQIA+ affirming counselling and educational materials to learn how to better support loved ones of diverse SOGIESC.
- Encourage relatives and friends to seek LGBTQIA+ affirming counselling and educational materials to become better family members, friends, neighbours and community members to people of diverse SOGIESC.
- Refrain from engaging in actions aimed at changing the SOGIESC of a loved one. These conversion practices violate their agency, autonomy and personhood.

8. To Faith-Based Institutions

- Practice a love-based ideology, recognizing human diversity and fostering a safe space for people of diverse SOGIESC.
- Design conversations and gatherings that challenge harmful stereotypes and foster understanding and dialogue about sexual and gender diversity.
- Stop conducting conversion practices, regardless of the method employed, as it has far-reaching psychological and physical consequences.

ABOUT US AND PARTNERS

The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERS) is a Nigeria-based registered non-profit organisation working to create a society where human rights are guaranteed regardless of status, identity, orientation and affiliation. We exist to protect, uphold and promote the rights and humanity of all Nigerians through advocacy, empowerment, education, and the provision of safe platforms of convergence. We were founded in 2005 as a response to the discrimination and marginalisation of sexual minorities in HIV prevention programming, human rights protection, advocacy, and mainstream human rights work.

Access to Good Health Initiative (AGHI) is a community-based organisation working for sexual minorities on HIV/AIDS-related issues and human rights interventions within the southeastern states (Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo state, respectively) with her headquarters in Enugu state Nigeria. AGHI has been serving and supporting LGBTI community members in many diverse ways. Most of the time, with little or no donor funds, AGHI has reached out to many of her community members to sensitize them on basic knowledge and information regarding human rights violations.

Access to Health and Rights Development Initiative (AHRDI) was founded in January 2013 with the name Center for Life Development (CLD), due to the registration with Corporate Affairs Commission the name changed to Access To Health and Rights Development Initiative (AHRDI) in Lagos state and they operate as a not-for-profit human rights organization. It came into existence as a platform and response to the health challenges faced by marginalized groups and individuals. AHRDI envisions a society where sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of individuals are guaranteed, with young people playing a critical role. AHRDI's mission is to work with relevant stakeholders to protect and promote the sexual health and rights needs of individuals and groups especially sexual minorities through capacity strengthening, advocacy, community mobilization, information dissemination and service delivery.

Community Health Initiative for Youths in Nigeria ('CHIYN') is a non-governmental organization that is sensitive to the plight of specific groups within our society who are often unjustifiably classified as counterculture. We aim to be versatile to the implementation of the basic needs that are ordinarily not easily accessible to marginalized groups in our society. We engage the community in several human rights issues, such as internally displaced children, and women's rights issues. Founded in 2015, CHIYN is registered with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on the 16th of April 2016. CHIYN Nigeria seeks to advocate for, educate, and empower sexual minorities, with a focus on the marginalized population. CHIYN operates in three (3) States within the country including the Federal Capital Territory.

Hope Alive Health Awareness Initiative (HAHAI) is a human rights organisation working within the context of its socio-cultural environment. It was founded in October 2011 following the arrest of some men in Bauchi state. The arrest hit close to home and brought an urgent need to address the rejection and abuse suffered by the LGBT community in the conservative northern part of Nigeria. In addition to this, HAHAI sought to address the self-hatred and blame felt by LGBT individuals within northern Nigeria because of their sexuality. This prompted the founding of HAHAI to support the LGBT population in the North on issues such as self-acceptance, access to legal issues and health care services.

Improved Sexual Health and Rights Advocacy Initiative (ISHRAI) was founded in 2014 and formally registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2017. ISHRAI was formed by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Queer persons who were facing high levels of stigma, discrimination, human rights and health rights violation in their attempt to access basic and fundamental conventional services provided by the State. It was registered to promote the health and rights of marginalised groups in Nigeria, especially, LGBTQ persons, through advocacy, active participation, service delivery and innovative engagement processes.

Initiative for Improved Male Health (I-IMH) is a community-based organization dedicated to providing healthcare services to key populations in Nigeria specifically in Cross River state. They are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of men in the community.

Initiative for Gender Equality and Sexual Reproductive Health (IGE-SRH) is a sub-national, youth-led organization that has been established to improve the lives of marginalized communities in Nigeria. Our organization was founded in 2020 with a focus on promoting the rights and meaningful inclusion of people in marginalized communities who have been subjected to discrimination and exclusion.

Initiative for Gender Equality Health and Right (GEHAR-I) was founded in 2019 to provide HIV prevention, psycho social care and support to Transgender men and women and vulnerable population who are at high risk of HIV infection, empower them with adequate knowledge on sexual reproductive health and right and also issues associated with gender identity and preference in Nigeria. GEHAR-I's mission is to facilitate the progress of HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support while eliminating Gender based discrimination and violence against the trans community and their sexual partner through advocacy, empowerment, and capacity building in Nigeria.

Initiative for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Awareness (ISRHRA) was birthed by a group of young African feminist and sexual minority women who came together to form a formidable force against inequality in Nigeria. ISRHRA promotes, protects and advances the fundamental human rights of lesbians, bisexual and queer women in Nigeria. The Organization is positioned to lead advocacy in ending discrimination and stigmatization of lesbians, bisexual and queer women in Nigeria and inclusion in policy making as equal members of the society. ISRHRA was founded in 2015 and has tried to maintain links between grassroots sexual minority organizations at the national and international level.

Initiative for the Advancement of Improved Health & Development (I - AIHD) is a human rights & healthcare non-governmental organisation, providing healthcare services for vulnerable people in Nigeria through public education, direct service delivery and so on.

International Centre for Advocacy on Rights to Health (ICARH) is an independent initiative registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria to contribute to policy issues affecting the rights of sexual minorities and PLWHAs in Nigeria through research analysis, training, awareness campaign development and advocacy. ICARH was established in 1999 to fill a vacuum within the civil society's landscape. In healthcare, ICARH works to reduce the incidence, prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDs amongst key populations. Presently, ICARH implements HIV prevention and Palliative Care programs. These programs include the management of MSM Living with HIV (MSMLHIV) through medical research, community-based HIV prevention project and ARV clinic for members of Key Affected Populations in the FCT. ICARH also supports her target community with human rights and paralegal services to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of sexual minorities.

Men's Health Support Initiative (MHSI) is an Indigenous non-for-profit organization, birthed to enhance accessible healthcare and quality service delivery towards vulnerable populations

Minority Watch focus areas include providing legal support, engaging in strategic litigation, and advocating for gender justice. Minority Watch strives to create a more inclusive and accepting society where LGBTQI+ individuals can live without fear of discrimination or persecution. They offer legal representation to LGBTQI+ individuals facing various challenges, such as discrimination, violence, wrongful arrests, and human rights violations based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Responsive Action for Sustainable Empowerment Initiative (RASE-I) was founded to achieve Gender Equality and Sustainable Development through Community Engagement, Advocacy, Leadership development and Education Research.

Total Health Empowerment and Development Initiative (THEDI) was founded in 2010 to promote the health and legal rights of vulnerable persons in Nigeria. THEDI is an LGBTQIA+ led, focused & competent organization, actively contributing to addressing priority community needs like all forms of human rights violations, safety & security challenges, family rejection & homelessness, HIV & other sexual/reproductive health issues, etc.; through community-led approaches. THEDI also leads community advocacies, mobilization and strengthening/ engagement approaches aimed at community sustainability. THEDI has over the years recorded, addressed and documented human rights violations, provided HIV/STI/GBV prevention services to gay men/other men who have sex with men and transgender persons, and linked many to ART, PrEP & PEP services; to mention a few services in Benue & Gombe States.

Wave Makers Initiative for Health and Youth Empowerment (WIHYE) is a KP (Bisexual)-Led (LGBTQI+) organisation founded in 2010. It is a Non-Governmental (Community Based) Organization, Non-Political, Not-for-Profit and Non-Religious, Indigenous and Dynamic Organization that provides grass-root access to health, defence of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of persons with diverse SOGIESC, while delivering comprehensive human-centred HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support, and other Human Rights services to marginalized and vulnerable populations. It is duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission and Nigeria Youth Clubs/ Associations Edict. It is also registered with the Nigerian Network of NGOs, the Nigerian Key Populations Health and Rights Network, Civil Society for HIV and AIDS in Nigeria.

Women's Health and Equal Rights (WHER) Initiative is a not for profit, organisation, focused on promoting the rights and well-being of lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women in Nigeria by addressing the psychosocial effect of the dual discrimination faced by LBQ women and their under-representation in Nigeria. WHER aims at promoting a deeper conceptual knowledge of sexuality and sexual orientation, providing access to health and other support services to LBQ women through research, advocacy, education, empowerment and other direct services. Since inception in 2011, WHER has been addressing the issues faced by women which include gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights abuses.

Where LGBTQIA+ People Facing Violations Can Get Help

ORGANIZATIONS	HANDLES	HELPLINE	STATE
ISHRAI - Improved Sexual Health and Rights Advocacy Initiative	@ishrai_n (Instagram) @ishrainig (Twitter)	08156843504, 08039663031	LAGOS
AHRDI - Access to Health & Rights Development Initiative	@ahrdinitiative (Instagram)	09074611520, 08138520093 07033466851	LAGOS & BENIN
ICARH - International Centre for Advocacy on the Rights to Health	@icarh_ng (Instagram & Twitter)	08002255422774	ABUJA
AGHI - Access Good Health Initiative	@aghinigeria (Instagram & Twitter)	09027770808 08065187179	ENUGU
INCRESE	@increse_nig	08065488417	NIGER
TIERs - The Initiative for Equal Rights	@tiersnigeria (Instagram & Twitter)	09088939562 08134357704	NATIONAL
CDLC – Creme de la Creme House of Fame Foundation	@cdlcf (Instagram)	07035451975 07030452952	ABUJA
THEDI - Total Health Empowerment and Development Initiative	@Thedi__ng (Instagram)	07065858417	GOMBE
CHIYN – Community Health Initiative for Youth in Nigeria	@Chiyn_initiative (Instagram)	07061813401	ABUJA
RHRI – Response to Health and Right Initiative	@Rhri__ (Instagram)	08178688729	LAGOS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alexandra Maduagwu and Mojisola Fowosere received reports of violations based on actual or perceived SOGIESC documented in this report.

TIERs thanks the contributors; Alexandra Maduagwu, Chimdimma Ike, Mojisola Fowosere, Oluchi June Ifeanyi, Oyindamola Bolaji, Odezi Iyede, Sheriff Moshobalaje, Dilinna Okoye, Damilola Tella, Malakai Bassey, Kanyinsola Bashorun, Olive Nnorom and Joy Anosike for their work in researching and writing different sections of the report. We also thank our partner organisations that provided data for this report and grassroots activists who will work with us in disseminating the 2025 Human Rights Violations Report across Nigeria.

The 2025 Human Rights Violations Report was compiled by Alexandra Maduagwu.

Edited by Chimdimma Ike.



**THE INITIATIVE
FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**

Embrace Diversity, Stop Discrimination