



**Stamp Out Gender
Based Violence**

ISSUE BRIEF:

**ADVOCACY TOOLKITS
TOWARDS SUCCESSFULLY
ACHIEVING STAMP OUT
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
IN KWARA PROJECT**

With support from:



CONTENTS



State of The Gender-Based Violence In Nigeria	1
The Current Policy Landscape	2
The Pandemic and Gender-Based Violence In Nigeria	4
Gender-Based Violence In Kwara State	5
Why We Must Address Gender-Based Violence In Nigeria	6
Rising Child Foundation Stamp Out GBV In Kwara Intervention	8



State of The Gender-Based Violence In Nigeria

In the past few months, the Nigerian media has been awash with stories of Intimate Partner violence, a form of domestic violence. Many of the victims of this form of violence are women. In the pandemic year, there were also cases of violence with females as the sole targets. From the case of Barakat and Uwa, who were both below the age of 21 and were brutally murdered to Hinny Imoruen, a young graduate who was raped and killed while seeking employment, to Osinachi, the popular Nigerian gospel singer, Nigerian women continue to live as victims of nature.

Yet, we always seem to overlook just how much of an endemic violence against women has become in Nigeria.



The Current Policy Landscape

Gender-based violence is violence against a person because of that person's gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately¹. According to the World Bank², Nigeria's current female population amounts to about 49.4% of its entire population. A significant percentage of this population has however experienced violence in some form solely because of gender.

Gender-based violence can manifest in several forms, some so subtle that the victim might not realise that they are experiencing some form of violence. These are categorized as psychological violence and it can manifest in different ways such as isolation or confinement, withholding information, disinformation, and threatening behaviour³.

Gender-based violence can be broadly categorized thus: Physical Violence, Verbal violence, Psychological violence, Sexual violence, Socio-economic violence and Harassment and sexual harassment⁴.

The aforementioned categories of gender-based violence can be exemplified thus: domestic violence or intimate partner violence, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting(FGM/C), Trafficking, Sexual violence, Sexual harassment, Child, early or forced marriage, harmful traditional practices, School Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV), stalking, forced abortions, honor killings⁵.

Legal interventions to combat gender-based violence in Nigeria include:

- The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015
- The Child Rights Act (2003)
- The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act (2015)



These provisions were enacted regardless of the provisions of the Criminal Code and Penal Code that already criminalises acts of sexual violence and the Human rights provisions in the 1999 constitution. The specificity of these laws makes it easier to combat GBV.

The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015 is an act to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence against persons and to provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishments of offenders; and for related matters. The Act also contains specific provisions on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Trafficking affects women disproportionately⁶, hence the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act (2015) if implemented will help reduce the prevalence of trafficking as a form of GBV in Nigeria.

The Child Rights Act sets the age of marriage in Nigeria at 18 years⁷.

As part of policy efforts to combat GBV in Nigeria, the Nigerian government launched the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) report in 2015. The government has also created the Gender Data Bank under the National Centre for Women Development to pool and harmonize existing data sources into a one-stop referral point.

However, in spite of these laws and policies, GBV remains prevalent and often goes unpunished. According to a report published by This Day Newspaper on the 25th of April 2022, the Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Paulen Tallen has revealed that out of 5100 cases of gender-based violence, only 16 have been convicted⁸.

6. See definition of GBV

7. The Child Rights Act (2003) is the domesticated version of the UN Convention on the rights of child. Nine states out of the thirty-six states are yet to adopt the provisions of the Act. The states are Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa, Kebbi, Yobe, Kano, Zamfara. Kwara state domesticated it in 2019.

8. This Day Newspaper 25th April, 2022

The Pandemic and Gender-Based Violence In Nigeria

The Covid-19 pandemic deepened the gender-based violence crisis across the world such that the United Nations dubbed it the Shadow Pandemic⁹.

In Nigeria the situation was particularly dire with 48% of Nigerian women reporting to have experienced some form of violence since the covid 19 pandemic.

A UN Women report measuring the shadow pandemic against women during Covid-19 reveals increases in the level of violence experienced by Nigerian women with verbal abuse being the most prevalent.

The economic effect of the pandemic forced many women into transactional sex¹⁰. Prostitution in and of itself is regarded as a form of GBV and prostitutes and other sex workers are particularly vulnerable to physical and sexual violence¹¹.

School closures as a result of the pandemic also increased the risk of early marriage for many girls especially in the North Western and North Eastern parts of Nigeria.

The United Nations Population Fund estimates that there will be 13 million additional child marriages in the next 10 years that would have been prevented. Nigeria already has the third highest number of child brides¹², it bears a risk of many of these additional marriages.

Ending child marriage helps girls become likely to complete their education. A 2017 World Bank /ICRW study estimated that ending child marriage could generate \$7.6 billion more in earnings and productivity.

Gender-Based Violence In Kwara State, Nigeria

The increase in Gender based violence in Kwara state has attracted a number of government and civil society interventions.

According to the National Demographic Health Survey 2018, Kwara ranks 10th out of the 36 states with a 3.6% prevalence rate of GBV. While in comparison to other states, it appears that Kwara state has a low figure of gender based violence, it should be borne in mind that it is not the case that GBV is really low in Kwara, it is just exceptionally high in some of the other states.

According to a Tribune Newspaper article published on March 14, 2021, Kwara state records over 200 cases of domestic violence within a period of three months.

Although Kwara State has domesticated the Child Rights Act, according to Hajia Taibat Ahmed¹³ at a forum organized by the Women and Youth Development Initiative (WOYODEV) Ilorin, Kwara state contributes significantly to the 6 million girls who get married by 15.

The NSCDC Commandant Makinde Iskil Ayinla reported that 'hardly a day will pass that we will not have reports of gender-based violence'.

The numbers are obviously not looking good but they are also not a declaration of doom for Nigerian women. Rather, they reveal just how much needs to be done at all levels by individuals, civil societies, religious bodies, institutions of learning, law enforcement agencies and finally, the government.

13. State Commissioner for women affairs and social development, Kwara

Why We Must Address Gender-Based Violence In Nigeria

Violence against women and girls is a prevalent human right issue across the world that transcends socio-economic status¹⁴.

Gender-based violence is prevalent in Nigeria and the incidence has continued to increase astronomically in Nigeria. Various factors are responsible for this increased prevalence. Cultural, social and religious practices are the major contributors to gender-based violence¹⁵.

3 in 10 Nigerian women have experienced physical violence by age 15¹⁶. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the United Nations Population Fund with support from the Norwegian government reports that 28% of Nigerian women aged 25 to 29 have experienced physical violence since 15.

Physical violence is not the only form of violence that Nigerian women have to battle. The UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women prevalence data on different forms of violence against women reveal that the prevalence rate of child marriage in Nigeria is 43.5%, Intimate partner violence is at 17.4% prevalence, Female Genital Mutilation is at 18.4%.

Sexual abuse, one of the major forms of gender-based violence is exacerbated by a culture of entitlement to women's bodies. The National demographic and Health survey(2018) reveal that 30% of women and girls between 15 and 49 have been subjected to sexual abuse.

Sex for grades, technically known as School Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV) is another aspect of gender-based violence albeit one that is peculiar to educated women and girls in institutions of learning¹⁷.

SRGBV is put at a prevalence of 58.8% by Iliyasu (2011) although a latter study by Mejuini and Obilade (2012) puts the figure at 25%. This discrepancy in prevalence rate can be pinned to the fact that many SRGBV cases go unreported due to fear of victimization and intimidation.

15. 43.7% of respondents in a study of gender-based violence in Nigeria by Okolo and Okolo believe that cultural values and practices are the major causes of domestic violence in Benue, Markurdi, a state in the southern part of Nigeria. This trend can be observed across the country especially.

16. Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey

17. Institutions of learning should also be thought to include informal learning institutions and religious schools. No study has been done to examine the prevalence of GBV within this context in Nigeria but informal reports suggest a growing culture of sexual violence in these places especially in Arabic schools (Ilekewu).

These figures reveal an endemic culture of violence against women in Nigeria. It is no surprise then that Nigeria is ranked 118 on the global gender gap index which benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health criteria¹⁸.

Despite its prevalence and pervasive effects, gender-based violence continues to be grossly unreported or underreported. Only one out of ten women who experience gender-based violence would go to the security agencies for help¹⁹.

Gender-based violence has pervasive effects that cuts across economic, social, reproductive health lines. According to the United Nations Population Fund, the incidence of Gender-based violence is growing astronomically with the activities of insurgents in the Northern part of Nigeria.

Women are always suggested to physical, sexual and psychological violence in conflict situations. Some of the Sexual and reproductive health effects of GBV are forced/unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and even death²⁰.

Violence against women costs about 3.7% of the GDP, more than double of what most governments spend on education²¹.

Ending Gender-based violence in Nigeria requires our collective efforts. As an individual, do not perpetuate or condone any form of gender-based violence. If you are in a position to effect any form of change that would impact the level of gender-based violence in Nigeria, ensure to use your power.

Rising Child Foundation Stamp Out GBV In Kwara Intervention

Rising Child Foundation (RCF) is a youth-led non-profit and non-governmental organization based in Kwara Nigeria with a mission to provide multi-sectoral interventions towards the education and empowerment of children, most especially girls.

In pursuant of this goal, we are on a mission to making sure that every Nigerian child has a safe place to call home. Gender-based violence is a social issue that disproportionately affects children from under-privileged background. As our target demography consists mainly of these kids, we are working towards creating an awareness against gender-based violence and embarking on multi-faceted interventions to help mitigate the effects of GBV on children especially as it affects their education.

OUR INTERVENTIONS

From the earliest days when women were spoils of war to the present age when women are losing their livelihoods and lives to GBV, several interventions have been put in place to curb the menace of GBV. From conventions to laws to policies, violence against women remains ingrained into our social fabric. We can conclude easily that there is a culture that encourages violence against women in Nigeria. However, we need to realise that the responsibility lies on us all to effect a change that will not only grossly reduce incidences of GBV in Nigeria but would also put in place a culture of protection and safety of women.

With support from the Global Youth Mobilization, Rising Child Foundation (RCF) will be implementing the Gender-Based Violence Action project, tagged #StampOutGBVInKwara. The intervention aims to educate young girls about their roles in curbing gender-based violence and training them on how they can become advocates for other girls.

The project comprises of three segments: a Gender-Based violence (GBV) workshop, proposed to be an interactive training with select adolescent girls in Kwara state, on the effects and implications of GBV on society and understanding the role girls can play to curb the spread of GBV in the state.

Second, is training on the use of technologies to counter GBV with focus on social media and developing community apps that can be used to track and report attacks and incidents.

Finally, participants would create the Kwara Gender Action Group (GAG) after the training. The GAG will work in local communities to report cases of violent abuse and advocate for redress on and off social media

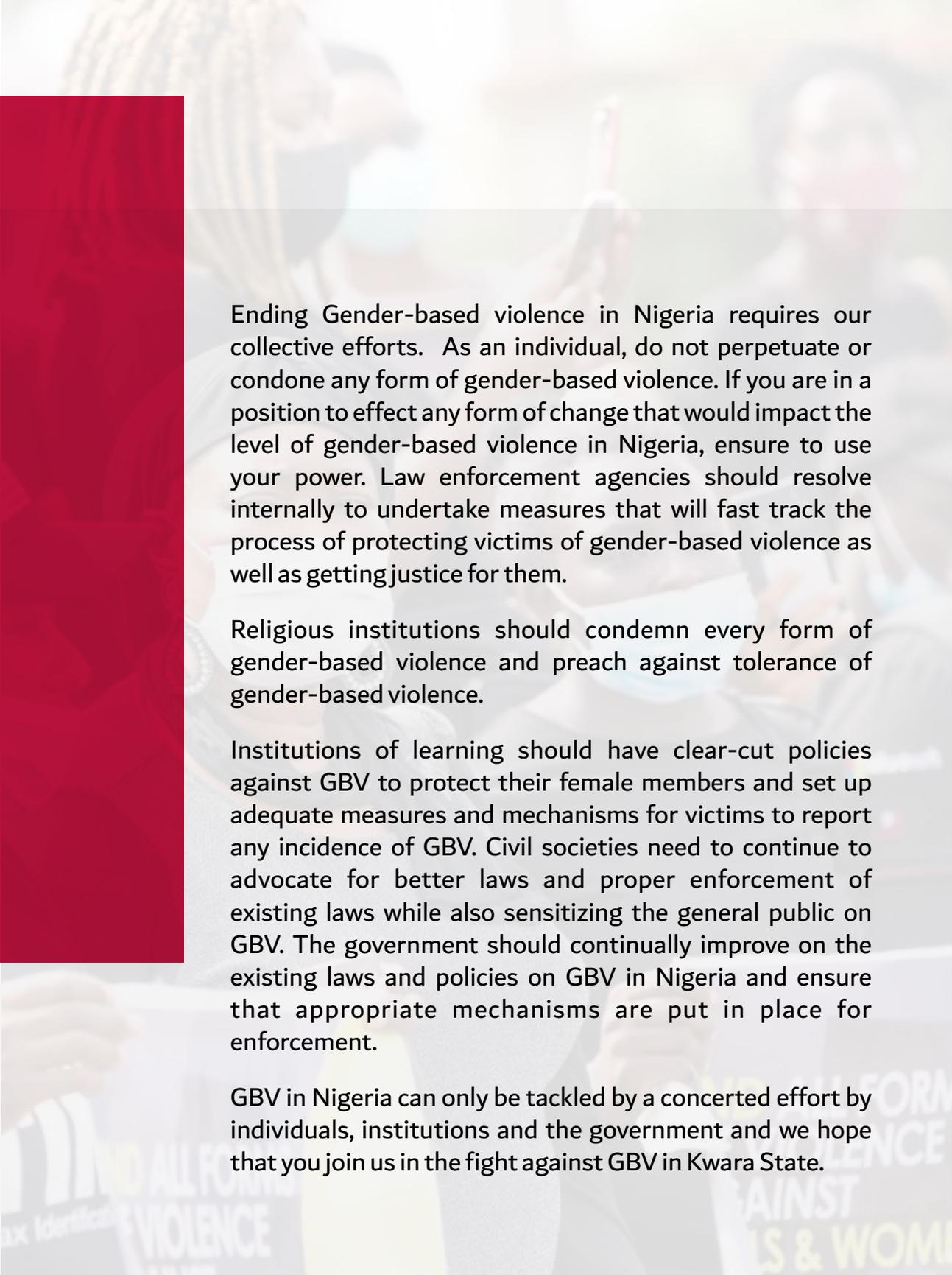
The Rising Child Foundation hopes to create changemakers and advocates against GBV out of young Nigerian girls.

OUR ASK

The numbers are self-declaratory, they reveal just how much needs to be done at all levels by individuals, civil societies, religious bodies, institutions of learning, law enforcement agencies and finally, the government.

As a group we request that:

- Gender-based violence be given the utmost attention at both state and national levels
- Gender-based violence and its effects should be taught to adolescents and teenagers in schools to ensure that they do not become either victims or perpetrators of gender-based violence
- Gender-based violence laws should be revisited to ensure increased awareness, adoption, and implementation of these laws
- Gender-based violence should be given the expediency it deserves within our criminal justice system
- Gender-based violence should be actively preached against by community and religious leaders as they are the ones who can effect the cultural shift that is needed to eradicate GBV in Nigeria.
- Law enforcement agents should be trained in the handling of GBV cases.



Ending Gender-based violence in Nigeria requires our collective efforts. As an individual, do not perpetuate or condone any form of gender-based violence. If you are in a position to effect any form of change that would impact the level of gender-based violence in Nigeria, ensure to use your power. Law enforcement agencies should resolve internally to undertake measures that will fast track the process of protecting victims of gender-based violence as well as getting justice for them.

Religious institutions should condemn every form of gender-based violence and preach against tolerance of gender-based violence.

Institutions of learning should have clear-cut policies against GBV to protect their female members and set up adequate measures and mechanisms for victims to report any incidence of GBV. Civil societies need to continue to advocate for better laws and proper enforcement of existing laws while also sensitizing the general public on GBV. The government should continually improve on the existing laws and policies on GBV in Nigeria and ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put in place for enforcement.

GBV in Nigeria can only be tackled by a concerted effort by individuals, institutions and the government and we hope that you join us in the fight against GBV in Kwara State.

Published by:



**Stamp Out Gender
Based Violence**

Sponsored by:



 @risingchild17  @risingchild_foundation  Rising Child Foundation

 therisingchildfoundation.org.ng  risingchildfoundation@gmail.com

 07048356945

Design:

infiniteHub | 08133177038