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2022 HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ASSESSMENT IN NIGERIA



**NATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION**

2022
**HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION ASSESSMENT
IN NIGERIA**



EDITED BY
TONY OJUKWU, OFR, SAN, FICMC (Editor-in-Chief)
OKAY BENEDICT AGU, ESQ.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A

ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACJA	Administration of Criminal Justice Act
AG	Attorney General
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome
ATPs	Awaiting Trial Persons
ATM	Awaiting Trial Inmate
AUCPCC	African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption

B

BVN	Bank Verification Number
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C

CADE	Convention Against Discrimination in Education
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CCB/ CCT	Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CEDWAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CFRN	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
CoFCriCTriMCo	Corruption and Financial Crimes Cases Trial Monitoring Committee
CPA	Criminal Procedure Act
CPC	Criminal Procedure Code
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSP	Chief Superintendent of Police

D

DPO	Divisional Police Officer
DPP	Department of Public Prosecution

E

ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
ESC	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

F

FBO	Faith-Based Organizations
-----	---------------------------

FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FEC	Federal Executive Council
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FREP	Fundamental Rights Enforcement Procedure Rules
H	
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRC	Human Rights Council
I	
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICT	Information Communication Technology
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
IOC	International Oil Companies
J	
JTF	Joint Task Force
L	
LEOs	Law Enforcement Officers
LMDC	Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse
M	
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
N	
NA	Nigerian Army
NACS	Nigerian National Anti-Corruption Strategy
NAFDAC	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NECO	National Examination Council
NCS	Nigerian Correctional Service
NDLEA	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIS	Nigerian Immigration Service
NJC	National Judicial Council
NOUN	National Open University of Nigeria

NPF	Nigerian Police Force
NSCDC	Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
O	
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPD	Office of the Public Defender
P	
PT	Pre-natal Pregnancy Test
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
S	
SAN	Senior Advocate of Nigeria
SARS	Special Anti-Robbery Squad
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SMRTP	Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoner
SSD	Safe Schools Declaration
STORP	Standard Orders and Rules of Procedure
SMS	Short Message Service
SP	Superintendent of Police
T	
TIPLEAA	Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act
U	
UBE	Universal Basic Education
UN	United Nations
UDHR	Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
V	
VAPPA	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
W	
WAEC	West African Examinations Council
WHO	World Health Organisation

FOREWORD

Human rights are universal and inalienable rights. They are the basic rights and freedoms that every human being is entitled to, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or any other status. These rights include the right to life, liberty, and security of person, freedom of thought, conscience, and expression, and the right to participate in government and to fair and impartial treatment under the law. Unfortunately, human rights violations occur in every corner of the world, and Nigeria is no exception. Despite the country's progress in protecting and promoting human rights, there remain several challenges that need to be addressed. This Human Rights Situation Assessment in Nigeria is a significant contribution towards understanding the current human rights situation in the country.

The National Human Rights Commission is a critical institution in Nigeria's human rights protection architecture. Established in 1995 by the National Human Rights Commission Act, it is an independent body with a mandate to promote, protect and enforce human rights in Nigeria. The Commission's role is crucial, given the challenges posed by Nigeria's complex security situation and the need to ensure accountability for human rights abuses.

This publication is a result of a comprehensive human rights assessment conducted by the Commission in Nigeria and is produced pursuant to Section 5(c) of the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995 (as amended). It provides valuable insights into the current human rights situation, highlights areas of concern, and identifies best practices for addressing these challenges, with a focus on the Complaints admitted for investigation and intervention in line with the Standard Orders and Rules of Procedure (STORP) of the Commission. The report covers a wide range of human rights issues captured under various thematic issues which include civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, women's rights, and the rights of vulnerable groups.

The findings and recommendations contained in this report are essential for policymakers, civil society organizations, and the general public in Nigeria. They will help to identify gaps in existing laws and policies and guide the development of more effective strategies for promoting and protecting human rights in the country. The report also underscores the importance of the Commission's continued collaboration with all stakeholders to address human rights challenges in Nigeria.

I commend the National Human Rights Commission for undertaking this assessment, which contributes to advancing human rights in Nigeria. I hope that this report will serve as a catalyst for positive change and

inspire action towards improving the human rights situation in the country.

Chief Tony Ojukwu, OFR, SAN
Executive Secretary,
National Human Rights Commission

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Finally, we also acknowledge the contribution of the Nigerian Human Rights Community for the continuous fight in ensuring the protection, promotion and enforcement of human rights and justice for all in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) (the Commission) was established by the National Human Right Commission Act of 1995, and by the NHRC (Amendment) Act 2010, its mandate was expanded to accommodate the platform the Commission offers as an extra-judicial mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights of everyone in Nigeria.

The specific statutory mandate of the Commission for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country as contained in section 5 of the NHRC Act (as amended) is as follows -

- a) Monitor and investigate all alleged cases of human rights violations in Nigeria and make appropriate recommendations to the federal government for the prosecution and such other actions as it may deem expedient in each circumstance;
- b) Undertake studies on all matters pertaining to human rights and assist the Federal, State and Local Governments, where it considers it appropriate to do so, in the formulation of appropriate policies on the guarantee of human rights;
- c) Publish and submit from time to time to the President the National Assembly, the Judiciary, State and Local Governments, reports on the state of human rights promotion and protection in Nigeria;
- d) Maintain a library, collect data and disseminate information and materials on human rights generally
- e) Receive and investigate complaints concerning violations of human rights and make appropriate determination as may be deemed necessary in each circumstance;
- f) Undertake research and education programmes and such other programmes for promoting and protecting human rights and co-ordinate any such programmes on behalf of the Federal, State or Local Government on its own initiatives or when so requested by the Federal, State or Local Government and reports concerning the enactment of Legislation on matters relating to human rights;
- g) Carry out all such other function as are necessary or expedient for the performance of these functions under the Act.

It is in line with the above mandate that the Commission has from time-to-time published reports and the Human Rights Situation Assessment in Nigeria Book on an annual basis. This is in further of compliance with the provisions of section 5(c) of the NHRC Act (as amended), which requires the Commission to publish and submit a publication on the state of human rights protection and promotion in Nigeria to the President, the legislature, the judiciary and the state and local governments in Nigeria.

The previous publications x-rays issues of fundamental rights recognized under Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), as well as other rights not justiciable under Chapter 2 or any other part of the Constitution. Although these other rights popularly recognized as economic, social and cultural rights are not covered under Chapter 4 as fundamental rights, by virtue of Nigeria being signatory to various international and regional instruments, they are guaranteed protection for everyone in Nigeria.

The 2022 edition of the State of Human Rights Situation Assessment, although not radically different from the previous years' publications in form, offers information on the current state of human rights violations in the country. This update is necessary in keeping with international human rights laws and global best practices in order to monitor human rights violation with a view to reducing them to the barest minimum and indeed eliminating them progressively.

It is in the light of the above that this book identifies areas for improvements and appropriate recommendations to the authorities in order to ensure that the rights of citizens and persons living in Nigeria are always guaranteed and protected.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Human Rights Commission established by the National Human Rights Commission Act, 1995 (as amended) (the Act) has, by section 6(d) of the Act, the obligation to produce a document on the state of human rights in Nigeria. This is in fulfilment of its broad mandate to promote, protect and enforce human rights in Nigeria.

In consequence of the above mandate, the 2022 Human Rights Situation Assessment in Nigeria publication is a collation of the human rights situation in Nigeria in the year under review. This periodical work offers a comprehensive treatment of issue-areas as they relate to complaints and media monitoring generated from the Commission's Headquarters and State offices. The 2022 issue, as is the previous editions, seeks to highlight the gaps in the promotion, protection, enforcement and accountability for human rights in Nigeria. Further, it makes recommendations to address identified pattern or trend which counteracts the protection, promotion, enforcement and accountability for human rights in Nigeria.

The book is divided into three Parts and twenty-one Chapters as follows:

PART 1: Civil and Political Rights

- i. Right to Life
- ii. Right to Dignity of the human person
- iii. Right to Personal Liberty
- iv. Right to Freedom of Expression and the Media
- v. Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion
- vi. Right to Fair Hearing
- vii. Right to Freedom from Discrimination
- viii. Right to Family and Private Life
- ix. Right to Peaceful Assembly
- x. Right to Acquire and Own Property

PART 2: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- xi. Right to Health
- xii. Right to Education
- xiii. Labour Rights

PART 3: Other Thematic Areas

- xiv. Terrorism & Inter-Communal Violence
- xv. Corruption
- xvi. Access to Justice and Independence of Judiciary
- xvii. Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- xviii. Rights of the Child

- xix. Environment and Niger Delta
- xx. Human Trafficking
- xxi. Election and Political Participation
- xxii. Others

Each chapter begins with an introduction of the thematic area, followed by the conceptual clarification and/or definition of terms used. This is followed by the legal framework regulating each right under the international, regional and local instruments. The chapter contributor then gives a discussion of topical issues affecting the thematic area followed by complaints received and investigated by the Commission. Also reports from the media on human rights violations are also considered. The chapter contributor concludes the chapter offering recommendations as well on ways to address the challenges regarding issues of the thematic area being discussed.

It is worthy to note that issues that touch on violations of the rights of the child to development, protection and survival are highlighted in the year under review. Most complaints in this classification expose the vulnerability of children to domestic abuse, neglect and abandonment of parental care which has triggered untold discomfort to children leading to abuse of child's education, nutrition, health and parental attention. The other highpoints of the book include complaints relating to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Terrorism and Inter-Communal Violence, Civil and Political Rights as well as Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The following symbols have been adopted in this publication on the basis of privacy and ease of reference:

- X - Female Complainant
- Y - Male Complainant
- XY - Third Party Complainant

Okay Benedict Agu, Esq
Head, Monitoring Department
National Human Rights Commission

Chapter 1

RIGHT TO LIFE

By

Mariam A. Kadiri¹

Introduction

The right to life is undoubtedly a pivotal point in the concept of the protection of human rights. This is because survival is a prerequisite for benefiting from other rights.² In the same vein, the sanctity of human life is emphasized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other instruments which underscore the protection of human life as they acknowledge the inviolability of human beings and the rights of persons to be accorded the right to life and integrity of their person.³

This chapter seeks to discuss the scope of the fundamental human rights to life as enshrined under Section 33 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), and as well consider its effects in our society. This research begins with an introduction, conceptual clarification of terms. This chapter lays down the legal framework guiding the protection of the Right to Life and finally arrives at a conclusion and provides recommendations.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Right to Life

Right to life means that nobody including the government can try to end your life, it also means the government should take appropriate measures to safeguard life by making laws to protect everyone's life and in some circumstances, by taking steps to protect its citizens if their lives are at risk. It is the belief that a human being has the right to live and should not be killed by another entity.

It has been argued in various fora in Nigeria by the human rights community, scholars and practitioners that concept of right to life cannot be restricted to arbitrary killings only. The right to life is intrinsically connected to the enjoyment of other rights whether economic, civil, political, social and cultural. Hence, the need to interpret this right in a broad and expansive spirit so as to vest it with the significance and

-
- 1 Chief Legal Officer, National Human Rights Commission, Abuja
 - 2 See Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted 10 December 1948 UNGA Res 217 A(III) (UDHR).
 - 3 S Reisođlu, 'Perceptions' [1998] 3(4) Journal of International Affairs <<http://sam.gov.tr/pdf/perceptions/Volume-III/december%201998-february%201999/SafaReisoglu.pdf>> accessed 26 March 2023

vitality that may endure for years to come and enhance the dignity of citizens and the worth of the human person.⁴

Human Rights

Human rights are interdependent, indivisible and interrelated, this means that violating the right to life will impair the enjoyment of other human rights such as the right to food, shelter, health, work and vice versa. Therefore, nation states are enjoined to guarantee the creation of the conditions required in order that violations of this right do not occur.

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of living should be the focus of every state whose interest is in its economic advancement.⁵ The achievement of this obligation seems far-fetched, given the rampant incidents of kidnapping, deaths arising from road accidents due to bad roads, poor health care facilities and the current “Japa”⁶ syndrome of our health care providers, assassinations, death from the barrel of armed robbers, farmer-herders clashes, thugs during elections, death from extremist bombs, it is clearly the duty of state to take progressive measures in ensuring that the right to life of its citizens are protected. Effective administration of justice system that will investigate, adjudicate punish and redress any deprivation of life by state agents and individuals are put in place.⁷

Legal Framework

International

Article 6 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the inherent right of every person to life, this life shall be protected by law and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life. No derogation is permitted under article 4(2) even in times of armed conflict or public emergency.

Article 6(1) of the Convention on the Right of the Child states that State parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. Article 24 states that special measures of protection are implemented in order to protect the right to life of the child, such as being registered

4 A Enabulele, 'The right to life or the right to compensation upon death: Perspectives on an inclusive understanding of the constitutional right to life in Nigeria' [2014] 3(1) Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy <<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jsdlp/article/view/122618>> accessed 27 March 2023

5 *Ibid*

6 Nigerian term: to run, flee, or escape from one's country for better opportunities

7 Enabulele (n 4)

immediately after birth, having a name and the right to acquire a nationality and so on.⁸

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance requires states to criminalize enforced disappearances and provide access to legal remedies for its victims within domestic legislation. The convention forbids secret detention, requires full transparent records of detainees status and location as well as the right to legal counsel. The convention was adopted in 2006 to deal with enforced disappearances which are a form of deprivation of liberty committed by state agents or individuals, groups acting with such state authority, support or acquiescence.⁹

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families¹⁰ provides under Article 9 that the right to life of migrant workers and their families shall be protected by law. The convention is seen as recognizing the rights specific to the situation of migrant workers, targeting particular areas where migrant workers may remain vulnerable or exploited.

Regional

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

The African Charter states that the right to life is inviolable, every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life and the integrity of his person. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right.¹¹

The African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child:

Article 5 states that every child has an inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. States parties to the charter shall ensure, to

8 *Convention on the Rights of the child* (1989) Treaty no. 27531. *United Nations Treaty Series*, 1577, pp. 3-178. available online at: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1990/09/19900902%2003-14%20AM/Ch_IV_11p.pdf accessed 28 April, 2023

9 UN General Assembly, *International Convention For The Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance* 20 December 2006 available online at <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/cped-2006>> accessed 27 March 2023

10 UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*, 18 December 1990, A/RES/45/158 available online at <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-protection-rights-all-migrant-workers>> accessed 29 March 2023

11 See Article 4 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights ("Banjul Charter"), 27 June 1981, CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 5, 21 I.L.M. 58 (1982) available online at <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36804-treaty-0014_-_african_charter_on_the_rights_and_welfare_of_the_child_e.pdf> accessed 27 March 2023

maximum extent possible, the survival, protection and development of the child.¹²

Domestic

(1999) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Section 33(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended states that everyone has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in the execution of the sentence of a Court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria.

Limitations

It is important to mention that the right to life as contemplated by the Constitution and other international and regional instruments is not absolute. To this end, a person's right to life cannot be enforced in a situation where such a person has been found guilty and sentenced to death by a court of competent jurisdiction.¹³ This position was emphasized by the Supreme Court in *Kalu v State*.¹⁴ In this case, the court deliberated upon the constitutionality or validity of the death penalty. The Supreme Court held that the death penalty was constitutional in Nigeria subject to section 33 (1) of the Constitution. It went further to stress that although the right to life is fully guaranteed, it is however subject to the execution of a sentence of a court of law in respect of a criminal offence of which one has been found guilty.

Furthermore, section 33(2) of the Constitution provides that a person shall not be regarded as having been deprived of his life in contravention of this section if he dies as a result of the use, to such extent and in such circumstance as are permitted by law, of such force as is reasonably necessary for the defense of any person from unlawful violation or for the defense of property, in order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained, for the purpose of suppressing a riot insurrection or mutiny. From the foregoing it could be comprehended that the right to life can be justifiably deprived in exercise of self-defense or in defense of property, or in defense of a person under ones legitimate control in circumstance of unlawful violence.

What amounts to reasonable use of force has been subjected over the years to judicial test in examining what amounts to reasonable use of force and apprehension of death or harm in a plethora of decided cases and even then, it depends on the circumstances of each case.¹⁵

12 *Ibid*

13 Enabulele (n 4)

14 (SC 24/1996) [1998] 6

15 Enabulele (n 4)

The Constitution in section 33 (2) (b) recognizes the use of such force as may lead to death of the person being sought for arrest or prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained, this provision is emphasized under section 271 and 273 of the Criminal Code which states that where a police officer or peace officer are in the course of effecting the lawful arrest of a person with or without a warrant, they are authorized to use force as may be reasonably necessary to effect such arrest and that where the offence is one punishable with death or seven years in imprisonment or more, he may kill such person where he cannot be arrested.

This power conferred on police officers to kill a suspect where he cannot be arrested is a free rein to kill which has been exploited and abused by security agencies in violating citizens' right to life. Because of these violations the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) set up the ENDSARS panel to hear cases of police brutality, arbitrary arrest, physical and sexual assault of those in police custody, use of torture to extract confession and extrajudicial killings. We all woke up to the news of the death of a lawyer killed by the police in Lagos on Christmas day for a mere traffic offence.

Section 33(2) (c) of the constitution provides that any person may lawfully kill in order to suppress a riot provided that the danger to be averted from warrants such killing. Section 73 and 276-280 of the Criminal Code are instructive as to the circumstances where law enforcement officer may use lethal force in suppressing riots, mutiny and insurrections. These sections which confer discretionary powers on security agencies have been misused and these justifications recognized by the constitutions are blanket derogations from right to life.

Abortion

Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy by the removal or expulsion from the uterus, fetus or an embryo, resulting in the death of the fetus. This can be induced in order to preserve the health or life of the mother, or induced for any other reason. Abortion is one of the most debated issues of our time. The Pro-Choice supporters favor a woman's reproductive rights, including right to choose to have an abortion,¹⁶ while the Pro-Life advocates oppose abortion for any reason or who may only accept abortion in extreme circumstances, as when the mother's life would be threatened by carrying the pregnancy to term.

It is worthy of note that under sections 17(1) of the Child Right Act 2003 and 307 of the Criminal Code, an unborn child does not come within the contemplation of a person in section 33(1) for the purpose of initiating the offence of murder or manslaughter. However, given the

¹⁶ *Roe v Wade* 410 U.S. 113 (1973)

provisions of sections 228-230, 309, 328, of the Criminal Code and sections 232-236 Penal Code, it is clear that the Nigerian jurisprudence recognizes as a matter of law that life begins at conception. The law has provided measures to punish the causing of death before or during the birth of the child. This was established in the case of State v Njoku.¹⁷ Although, it must be noted that Section 297 of the Criminal Code permits abortion if it is done in good faith to preserve the mother's life, as stated below:

Any person is not criminally responsible for performing in good faith and with reasonable care and skill a surgical operation upon any person for his benefit, or upon an unborn child for the preservation of the mother's life if the performance of the operation is reasonable, having regard to the patient's state at the time and to all the circumstances of the case.

Extra Judicial Killings

National and international laws both frown upon extrajudicial killings because of its disregard for the due process of the law in relation to fair hearing, justice and respect of the right to life. Extra judicial killings are high in Nigeria with the Nigerian police force personnel at the center of most of the cases. They participate in mass killings, burying suspects in shallow graves, while their personnel fail to keep adequate records of people in their custody, knowing that failing to do so facilitates abuse against detainees and suspects.¹⁸

Another aspect of extra judicial killings in Nigeria is jungle justice. This practice is widespread in different parts of the country. It is a practice whereby an alleged criminal is seriously beaten, humiliated, and in some cases, brutally tortured to death without recourse to criminal justice procedure. Undoubtedly, the practice of jungle justice is a clear disregard of the rule of law and in a resultant occurrence of the demise of the victim, the victim's right to life is violated.

Euthanasia

In Nigeria the right to life does not include the right to die. Euthanasia is a crime in Nigeria, any intentional killing is classified as murder which attracts the death penalty irrespective of the consent of the person killed.

17 [1973] ECCLR 638

18. S Fabamise V Aluko, 'Appraisal Of The Right To Life And Death Penalty In Nigeria' [2019] 5(3) ABUAD Law Review <<https://djetlawyer.com/appraisal-of-the-right-to-life-and-death-penalty-in-nigeria/>> accessed 26 March 2023

Euthanasia, suicide and deliberate killing of a person who is ill is a taboo and abomination in the country.¹⁹

Section 316 Criminal Code defines murder and states in subsection (5) that anyone who causes the death of another by administering any stupefying or overpowering drug is guilty of murder. Therefore, a physician who administers such drugs with the intention to cause the death of the patient will be held liable for murder. The consent of the patient is not a defense under the Criminal Code and the Penal Code, although the Criminal Code and the Penal Code did not use the term euthanasia but it can be inferred from the provisions of the law, that any intentional killing is murder and attracts the death penalty.²⁰

Some of the Complaints Received by the Commission under Right to Life are as follows:

C/2021/CPR/3236-3240/HQ/NHRC/EBO/219

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st January 2022 from XY alleging that Y was arrested on 9th September 2021 by police officers of Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki, He reported that all efforts made to release him by the relatives failed. XY further alleged that Y died in Police detention after four days of his arrest and torture.

C/2022/CPR/1221/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th November 2022, from one Mr. XY, alleging that his brother was unlawfully murdered by members of the 'OSPAC' Vigilante Group and his body till date is yet to be found despite efforts to recover the body.

KB/C/2022/036

The Commission received a complaint from X on 18th August, 2022. Her husband, who was on duty as an Army Officer, was allegedly hit and killed by the Kebbi State Deputy Governor's convoy while returning from the 2019 gubernatorial campaign at an Army Checkpoint on the Koko Road. After the incident, the state government promised to take care of her children at school, give her a job with the state government, buy her house, and provide her with everything she needs to feed her two children.

CRS/C/2022/98

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th December, 2022 from XY alleging extra judicial killing of Y on 5th December by Policemen from

19. Fabamise (n 18)

20 *Ibid*

Special Anti-Kidnapping Squad. The incident took place at about 8pm, at No 16 OtuEtteta lane off Jonathan bypass, Calabar, Cross River State

CRS/C/2022/85

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th November, 2022 from XY on behalf of victims of witchcraft accusation who were murdered at NdongUwong village in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State. XY stated that the victims were murdered in cold blood and efforts should be made to bring the perpetrators to book.

C/2022/ESCR/375/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th December 2022, from X, alleging that her neighbour and his wife have been calling her all sorts of unprintable names, harassing and threatened to kill her. X further alleged that living with them in the same environment has become very uncomfortable for her because of their constant threat to her life.

C/2022/CPR/325/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October 2022 from X alleging that she was hit by a stray bullet by a Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp (NSCDC) staff while attending a marriage ceremony. X further alleged that she was dissatisfied in the way and manner the authority concerned handled the matter.

C/2022/CPR/6295-6322/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September, 2022 from X alleging that her brother who works with the Bauchi State Governor denied her the share of property she inherited after the demise of her father. X further alleged that the brother has threatened her life many times and told her that he will kill her.

CRS/C/2022/82

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from X alleging that her niece was murdered by her fiancé who is a Police Officer with the Cross River State Command.

C/2022/CPR/172/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st December, 2022 from XY (a law Firm) alleging that their client's life is in grave threat by unknown gunmen. XY stated that these threats were heightened when there was a reported invasion of their client's country home in Anambra State on 14th April, 2022 by the unknown gunmen who were said to be vigorously in search of their client for inexplicable reasons.

LSO/22/704

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd June, 2022 from Y of Ikeja, Lagos State alleging that XY has been threatening his life because of a job that was given to him although he has delivered on the job.

LSO/22/713-715

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th August, 2022 from Y alleging that the death of his child was caused by the negligence of the staff of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital Lagos.

C/2022/CPR/160/ANS

The Commission received complaint dated 11th November, 2022 brought by Y alleging that his tenant who lives in his apartment in Ide, Enugu-ukwu Uruogbo village Njikoka Local government is threatening his life. Y stated that his house is for residential purpose, but the tenant is using it for illegal production of chemicals 'agbo' without NAFDAC number and these chemicals are floating on the air causing health hazards to both the complainant and other neighbors in the compound.

LSO/22/365

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th May, 2022 from Y alleging threat to life against the respondents. Y who lives in Odokekere, Ogun State alleged that the three respondents threatened her life. The incident occurred on 28th April, 2022 at Odokeke, Ogun State.

C/2022/CPR/184-186/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated the 19th July, 2022 from XY of Babura Local Government Area, Jigawa State against X and two (2) others of Kyambo village in the same Local Government. XY alleged that the respondents conspired and killed his son (20 years old) at Gidan Bakoshi Village Kyambo of the same Local Government on the 31st May, 2022.

C/2022/ABS/108,319-108,322

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th June, 2022 from X against her husband. X alleged that her husband abandoned his responsibility of catering for the upkeep and maintenance of the children since 20th April, 2022 making it difficult for them to cope. X further stated that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation and he had threatened to kill her on several occasions in October and November, 2021 respectively.

NHRC/ABS/2022/108,330

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th June, 2022 from Y alleging that the boyfriend in collaboration with his two friends lured his 20 year old daughter to a hotel located at Ogbor Hill Aba - Abia State. Y further alleged that his daughter went along with her 11 months old son and the son was murdered by her boyfriend and two of his friends.

C/ABS/2022/108,318

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th June, 2022 from Y alleging that his 22 year old younger brother was murdered in a Hotel at Ukwuegbu Aba on 31st May, 2021 by 20 young men. Y further alleged that the young men came into his hotel room, dragged him downstairs, beat him mercilessly and eventually strangled him to death.

C/2022/243/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd August, 2022 from X alleging that her husband who is a trader in Akpan Andem market in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State is in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation especially when she ask for feeding money. X further claimed that her husband threatened to kill her.

C/2022/204/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June, 2022 from X alleging that she is 17 years old and a native of Cross River State. X further alleged that her father paid the sum of ₦30, 000 (Thirty Thousand Naira) only for her to stay with her aunty and learn the work of a chemist at Odiokltam in Itu L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State. X also claimed that her aunty is in the habit of abusing, harassing, and intimidating her both in private and public places.

X stated that on 17th May, 2022, she left her aunt's place for her uncle's house at Ibiaku Offot in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and since then, her aunty and her father threatened to kill her.

C/DSO/2022/194-195

The Commission received a complaint from XY dated 26th July, 2022 alleging that a policeman attached to a pastor had shot and killed Y who was riding a tricycle on 25th July, 2022 in Ubolokposo in Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta state. XY stated that all effort to bring the culprit to book proved abortive.

C/2022/003/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January 2022 from X alleging that her three siblings sent her and their mother out of the house at Njobbore Modire ward Girei LGA – Adamawa State and shared their

late father's possessions amongst themselves. X further claimed that her three siblings have threatened to kill her.

C/2022/267/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd August, 2022 from X alleging constant beating at any slightest provocation by her husband ever since they started having children and he has often threatened to kill her.

C/2022/216/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July, 2022 from Y alleging that he was into a relationship with X and they have separated for few years now due to irreconcilable differences. Y further alleged that X took his property without his knowledge and has threatened to kill him.

C/2022/239/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st August, 2022 from Y, alleging that his father is in the habit of beating him with hard objects, and on August, 2022, he chased him out of the house with cutlass threatening to kill him.

C/2022/187/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022, from X alleging domestic violence and threat to her life by her husband. X further alleged that her husband has beaten her on several occasions, and he has requested that she leaves his house or else he will kill her.

C/LSO/22/071

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January, 2022 from XY who reside in Lagos who alleged the mysterious death of a student in a College in Lagos Island that was allegedly beaten by older schoolmates for his refusal to join a cult.

Conclusion

This chapter establishes the inviolability and sanctity of human life as prerequisites for the enjoyment of other rights and privileges. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing every individual's inherent dignity and the responsibility of government to protect and promote human life.

Given the current judicial landscape in Nigeria, there is a pressing need for legal reforms that strengthen the protection of life and ensure accountability for violations. The chapter also underscores the significance of improving existing regulations to foster a culture of

respect for human rights and a society that values and upholds the sanctity of life.

It is important for the institutions in Nigeria to work together to implement these reforms and ensure that they are effectively enforced. Additionally, civil society organizations and the media play a crucial role in advocating for human rights and holding the government accountable for any violations. By fostering collaboration and creating a supportive environment, Nigeria can make significant progress in protecting human life and promoting a culture of respect for human rights.

Recommendation

This chapter recommends the training of the Security and Law Enforcement Personnel in public relations techniques so as to help them relate better with members of the public. Also, the poor condition of service of Law Enforcement Personnel should be improved to give them a good standard of living so as to reduce frustration which may lead to extortion, physical, verbal abuse and extra-judicial killing.

The chapter also recommends that Government should strengthen oversight mechanisms in order to ensure accountability for the violations of the right to life by Security Personnel.

Chapter 2

RIGHT TO DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

By

Patrick Uchechukwu Okafor, Esq. *

Introduction

The right to dignity of the human person as a concept is an inherent and inalienable right given to all human beings as a divine right. The right upholds the positive image of the person in the eyes of the society and in the view of the person enjoying the right. This right originates from birth and lingers with man until life ends. A deprivation of the right affects other rights, since it is the source of other rights. The right flourishes where there is no interference with the personality of a human being. A prevalent form of disregard for this right is infliction of torture and ill-treatment.¹

According to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), recognition of the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world². The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) both state that all human rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person.³

This Chapter discusses the right to dignity of the human person, commencing with conceptual clarification of some key words, the legal framework guaranteeing the rights; the significance of the right to dignity of the human person; the connection between Human Rights, Human Dignity and Power; and the chapter also gives a brief assessment of the situation of this right under the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari in the perspective of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The instances of violation as well as complaints received touching on the right to dignity of the human person were also highlighted, with conclusion and recommendations.

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1 B S Maigari, 'Promotion of the Right to Dignity of Person: The Need for Criminalization of Torture in Nigeria', available online at <chrome://external-file/maigari_barbara.pdf> accessed 4 April, 2023

2 Provision of the first preamble paragraph of the UDHR.

3 Provision of the second preamble paragraph of both the ICCPR and the ICESCR.

Despite the immense contribution of the NHRC in the bid to check the rising trend of the violation of the right to dignity of human person, this chapter is of the view that some known state actors are regular violators of this right because the process of bringing them to account for the recorded abuse involves some procedural bottlenecks which ultimately takes time to achieve. Therefore, the NHRC as the relevant government authority saddled with the mandate to act as the enforcer of the rights of the Nigerian citizens needs to be further empowered with prosecutorial powers and financial autonomy to execute these tasks in line with its mandate and ultimately ensure a continuous downward reduction in the trend of abuse of the right to dignity of the human person.

Conceptual Clarification

Dignity

“Dignity” is defined as “the state of being worthy of honour or respect”⁴. When this concept is associated with the adjective human, it is used to denote that all human beings possess equal and inherent worth and therefore ought to be accorded the highest respect and care, regardless of age, sex, socioeconomic status, health condition, ethnic origin, political ideas, or religion. More specifically, the word inherent, in relation to dignity, means that dignity is inseparable from the human condition, is the same for all, cannot be gained or lost, and does not allow for any degree.⁵ Even the worst criminal cannot be stripped of his or her inherent dignity and has therefore the right not be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments.⁶ The principle of human dignity is a constitutional principle of international law which gives binding character to the various declarations on human rights. It is difficult to find a subject in which is more clear the universal *opinio juris*⁷. (See source)

The Right to Dignity

The right to dignity is one of the most fundamental rights enjoyed by all individuals. It is well recognized in almost all the international and regional human rights instruments.

The preamble of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) declares that the recognition of dignity and of the equal and inalienable

4 Oxford Encyclopaedic English Dictionary (See OSCOLA).

5 H Spiegelberg, ‘Human dignity: A challenge to contemporary philosophy’ in R. Gotesky & E. Laszlo (Eds.), *Human dignity: This century and the next* (Gordon and Breach New York 1970). 39–62.

6. R Andorno, ‘Human Dignity and Human Rights’, in H A M J ten Have and B Gordijn (Eds), *Handbook of Global Bioethics* (Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2014) 45

7 C Salcedo, ‘Sovereignty of States and Human Rights in Contemporary International Law’ (Tecnos Madrid 1995) pp.100-106 and 135.

rights of all individuals is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.⁸

Article 1 of the UDHR further states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.⁹

Under other human rights instruments, the protection of human dignity is often expressed in provisions relating to the rights to be free from inhuman and degrading treatment. For example, Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) provides that “No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation”.¹⁰

Legal Framework

International, regional and domestic human rights instruments guarantee the right to dignity of the human person.

International Instruments

According to international instruments on human rights, the dignity of the human person is the foundation of human rights, and both human dignity and human rights are inherent to the human being, universal and inviolable.¹¹

Turning ourselves towards the International Bill on Human Rights, and to instruments on Human Rights in general, we note that almost all of them state literally that human dignity is the foundation of human rights.¹²

Two important Conventions regulate the right to dignity of the human person at the international stage. They are the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.¹³ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted

8 Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) adopted on 10 December 1948. GA res. 217A(III) U.N Doc A.

9 *ibid*, particularly at 2

10 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, G.A. Res. 2200, U.N. GAOR, Supp. No. 16 at 52, U.N. DOC. A/6316 (1966), 999 U.N.T.S. 171, 174 (entered into force on 23 March 1976) (herein after ICCPR).

11. JPA de Aguilar, ‘Human Dignity according to International Instruments on Human Rights’, (2011) 22 REEI available at <file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/Dialnet-Human Dignity According To International Instruments OnH-3828386.pdf> accessed 11April2023.

12 *ibid*

13 P U Okafor, ‘Right to Dignity of the Human Person,’ in T Ojukwu and O B Agu (eds), ‘2019 Human Rights Situation Assessment in Nigeria’, p.24.

by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 10th December 1948, in its first preamble provides thus:

“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity... of all members of the human family is the foundation... justice and peace in the world... Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person”.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) was adopted by the UNGA on 16th December 1966. The following provision was made in its preamble:

“Liberty, Justice and World peace have as foundation the recognition of the inherent dignity of all members of the human family; Recognizing that these rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person.”

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), adopted on 16th December 1966, provides under its preamble as follows:

“...in accordance with the principles...of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family...”

Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, 10th December 2008, provides under its preamble as follows:

“Considering that...recognition of the inherent dignity...of all members of the human family is the foundation of...justice...”

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 10th December 1984, preamble:

“Recognizing that those rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person...”

Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20th November 1989 (Take to footnote), provides under its preamble as follows:

“Considering that...recognition of the inherent dignity...of all members of the human family is the foundation of...justice....”

The Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, Paris, 11th November 1997: (Take to footnote) “Recognizing that

research on the human genome and the resulting applications open up vast prospects for progress in improving the health of individuals and of humankind as a whole, but emphasizing that such research should fully respect human dignity, freedom and human rights, as well as the prohibition of all forms of discrimination based on genetic characteristics...

In other words, by the preamble of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights 1997 captured above, **no research** or research applications concerning the human genome, in particular in the fields of biology, genetics and medicine, **should prevail over respect for the human rights**, fundamental freedoms and human dignity of individuals or, where applicable, of groups of people.¹⁴

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, under Article 13, provides that:

*“Recognizing that these rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person; American Convention on Human Rights, “Pact of San José, Costa Rica”, 22nd November 1969 (Take to footnote), Article 11 (1): “Everyone has the right to have his honour respected and his dignity recognized”.*¹⁵

The United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 is the single most important reference point for cross-cultural discussion of human freedom and dignity in the world today. As described in a leading text, "It is the parent document, the initial burst of enthusiasm and idealism, terser, more general and grander than the treaties, in some sense the constitution of the entire movement the single most invoked human rights instrument."¹⁶ The preamble begins by asserting the dependence of freedom, justice, and peace upon the universal recognition of human dignity and rights. It announces the principal innovation of the Declaration: that human rights are universal, belonging to "all members of the human family." In other words, it repudiates the long-standing view that the relation between a sovereign state and its own citizens is that nation's own business.¹⁷

14. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/universal-declaration-human-genome-and-human-rights#:~:text=No%20research%20or%20research%20applications,applicable%2C%20of%20groups%20of%20people> accessed 18 April, 2023.

15 *ibid* (n12)

16. M A Glendon, 'Knowing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights', (1998) 73 Notre Dame L. Rev. 1153. Available at: <http://scholarship.law.nd.edu/ndlr/vol73/iss5/18>, accessed 4 April, 2023.

17 *ibid*

The main body has the following introductory paragraph: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”¹⁸

Regional Instruments

The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)¹⁹ provides adequately for the right to dignity of the human person under its instruments.

Article 5 of the ACHPR provides that “Every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, and treatment shall be prohibited.”²⁰

Although the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights is still to take up a proper role in terms of effective judgment delivery on a question of fundamental human rights such as the above provision and in any case would have to dismiss direct claims from individuals, however the ECOWAS Court has a good track record when it comes to delivery of decisions in line with its jurisdiction over alleged violations of human rights contained in the 1948 UDHR and more specifically by the supplementary protocol adopted in 2005, individuals in member states can now challenge their government with regard to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms which hitherto they could only do through their own government. Thus, the Court of Justice of the ECOWAS in the case of *Hadijatou Mani v Niger* held that the case under consideration was a case of slavery beyond any doubt and the State of Niger was responsible for not doing enough to protect its citizens, and Hadijatou in particular, from slavery and further awarded 10 Million West African Francs (CFA) as compensation to the victim for the damages suffered.²¹

Domestic Law

Nigeria makes clear provisions for the protection of the right to dignity of the human person under our Constitution, which is the *grundnorm*.

18 *ibid*

19 Article 8

20. African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, ‘African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights’ (Banjul Charter), available online at <https://www.achpr.org/legalinstruments/detail?id=49> accessed 17 April 2023

21. J Beirnaert, ‘International Union Rights (2009) Vol16 Iss2, Page18-19, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_140854.pdf accessed 24 April, 2023.

Section 34 (1) (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides as follows:

“(1) 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;

(b) no person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and

(c) no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

(2) for the purposes of subsection (1) (c) of this section, "forced or compulsory labour" does not include -

(a) any labour required in consequence of the sentence or order of a court;

(b) any labour required of members of the armed forces of the Federation or the Nigeria Police Force in pursuance of their duties as such;

(c) in the case of persons who have conscientious objections to service in the armed forces of the Federation, any labour required instead of such service;

(d) any labour required which is reasonably necessary in the event of any emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community; or

(e) any labour or service that forms part of -

(i) normal communal or other civic obligations of the well-being of the community.

(ii) such compulsory national service in the armed forces of the Federation as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly, or

(iii) such compulsory national service which forms part of the education and training of citizens of Nigeria as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.”

The right to dignity of human person as a constitutional right is therefore entrenched in the constitution to guarantee the dignity of man in society, to ensure that every human person should be treated with respect deserving of humans and not to be treated in degrading and unacceptable manner.

The Significance of Human Dignity

Human dignity is significant because it justifies human rights. When people are divided and given a value based on characteristics like class, gender, religion, and so on, it creates unequal societies where discrimination runs rampant. People assigned a higher value get

preferential treatment. Anyone who does not fit into the privileged category is abandoned or oppressed.²²

There has been a sharp decline of sense of human dignity in the world today especially among teenagers.²³ Through the subtle influence of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), teenage girls and boys are encouraged to feel normally inclined towards the opposite sex, or, the same sex (gay and lesbian practices), at such an early age doing so at the expense of losing their worth as humans. This sense is in reference to education as being “directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity”.²⁴

Again, economic empowerment of the citizenry is a proper step to enjoying the right to human dignity. In other words, a poor man should have the same level of human dignity and rights as that of a rich man. However, in reality, the poor man is usually less dignified because of his poor condition. This therefore necessitates the need for every citizen to possess a dignified form of livelihood in a bid to uphold his self-worth.²⁵ This sense is in reference to “economic, social and cultural rights as indispensable for [persons’] dignity and the free development of [their] personality”.²⁶

The Connection between Human Right, Human Dignity and Power

The connection between human rights, human dignity, and power has been explored in Pablo Gilabert’s published work.²⁷ According to him, “Extreme poverty and social exclusion constitute a violation of human dignity and ... urgent steps are necessary to achieve better knowledge of extreme poverty and its causes, including those related to the problem of development, in order to promote the human rights of the poorest, and to put an end to extreme poverty and social exclusion and to promote the enjoyment of the fruits of social progress. It is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process

22. What is Human Dignity? Common Definitions. Available at <https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/definitions-what-is-human-dignity/> accessed 20 April, 2023.

23. S Slater, Keynote Address in ‘One-Day Conference on Human Dignity and Human Rights’, organized by Institute of Humanities, Pan-Atlantic University, 2021, Lekki, Lagos.

24. Article 13 First Clause, ICESCR; P Gilabert, “Human Rights, Human Dignity, and Power”, available at <https://philpapers.org/archive/GILHRH> accessed 21 April, 2023.

25. F Falana, Paper presented in ‘One-Day Conference on Human Dignity and Human Rights’ (n24)

26 Article 22 UDHR; Gilabert (n25).

27 *ibid*

by the community in which they live, the promotion of human rights and the efforts to combat extreme poverty”.²⁸

It has been further suggested that some statements intimate a connection between dignity, rights, and social and political power. They are:

- (a) “All human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person, and ... the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and consequently should be the principal beneficiary and should participate actively in the realization of these rights and freedoms”,²⁹
- (b) “Extreme poverty and social exclusion constitute a violation of human dignity and ... 4 urgent steps are necessary to achieve better knowledge of extreme poverty and its causes, including those related to the problem of development, in order to promote the human rights of the poorest, and to put an end to extreme poverty and social exclusion and to promote the enjoyment of the fruits of social progress. It is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process by the community in which they live, the promotion of human rights and the efforts to combat extreme poverty”³⁰.
- (c) “Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression and injustice. Democratic participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights”³¹.

In other words, a community reading of the postulations as captured in the provisions of the aforesaid universal instruments simply suggests that people should have the power to participate in shaping the social processes that fulfill their human rights rather than be merely the passive recipients of it. Again, that “democratic participatory governance ... best assures” the fulfillment of human rights. To state it more succinctly, political empowerment appears to have at least instrumental significance.

In line with the above position and by way of illustration, this Chapter states that the recent developments in Nigeria like the #EndSARS Movement as well as the Not Too Young to Rule campaign are reactions of the youths, civil society groups and the general populace to the continuous maladministration and numerous human rights abuses, including but not limited to inhuman and degrading treatment, cruelty and

28 *ibid*; Article 25 Vienna Declaration.

29 Vienna Declaration, Preamble, third sentence.

30 (n29)

31 Article 6, UN Millennium Declaration

other forms of police brutality of Nigerians, mostly the youths, by the police and a few other state actors.

These modes of socio-political activism have yielded great results: the SARS outfit has been disbanded by the federal government; violators tried and penalized following their indictments at the Independent Investigative Panel (IIP), and the victims and their families compensated. Also, the youths participated greatly in the just concluded general elections with the result that more youths got elected to represent their constituencies defeating popular career politicians in the process. They have therefore seized to take the backseat in the governance of their affairs.

Assessment of the situation of the Right to Dignity of Human Person under President Muhammadu Buhari Administration (2015-2023): the NHRC Perspective

The provision of section 34 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) guarantees the right to dignity of the human person. For emphasis, by that section no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment; no person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

The question that arises is: how has the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari promoted and protected the right to dignity of the human person? In an attempt to answer this pertinent question, we shall take a brief assessment of the promotion and protection of the right to dignity as guaranteed by the Constitution under the present administration. As a preliminary to that, what does human right promotion and protection mean?

Human rights promotion involves making citizens know their rights, to be able to defend them, as well as know the rights of others, to be able to respect and not breach them. It also includes training of the law enforcement personnel and those involved in the administration of justice, to enable them show greater respect for other people's rights, and sensitivity and tact in handling human rights issues in their duties as public officers. All these are aimed at embedding the culture of respect for human rights.

Human rights protection entails conscious efforts targeted at preventing violations of constitutionally and legally guaranteed rights and offering redress, remedies or sanctions if human rights are violated and anticipating problems and using effective strategies and mechanisms to deal with the anticipated problems before they occur. It also involves

receiving and responding approximately to, and acting upon individual and group complaints on human rights violations.³²

The administration of President Muhammadu Buhari came with high hopes and expectation of bringing the much desired change that the citizenry yearns for having promised *change* in all ramifications. In the assessment of the government's promotion and protection of human rights, particularly of the right to dignity of the human person, there has been records of infractions and violations no doubt, but the government through its agencies and institutions have continued to play a vital role in the defense of the rights of its citizens to dignity of their person. There continues to be the use of excessive force, impunity, abuses by security forces, incidence of police brutality, just to mention a few. More particularly, incidences of violations of the right to dignity of the human person occurred before and during the Independent Investigative Panel on SARS popularly known as the #EndSARS Panel. These violations were treated at the Panel hearing with victims and their families compensated following conclusion of hearing and the findings of the Panel.

Some of the complaints received by the Commission on the Right to Dignity of Human Person are as follows-

C/2022/002/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from XY alleging that on 29th December, 2021 his brother (victim) was arrested by Officers of the Crack Squad, Yola by Westside Hotel, Atuba within Jimeta Metropolis. XY further added that the victim was granted bail but attacked and beaten severely by a group of vigilantes within its vicinity. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/006/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from Y alleging that on 12th January, 2022 an Army Officer accompanied his friend to his sport viewing center at Sabon Gari, in Sangere, FUTY community in Girei L.G.A, Adamawa State. He left without paying and returned to catch a game on 13th January, 2022 afterwards he made demands for the previous payment but he was assaulted by the Officer. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/036/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th March, 2022 from X alleging that she gave her phone to a Police Officer to help her install an

32 *ibid*

application at Jimeta Shopping Complex – Adamawa State. The phone got missing and the Officer pledged to give money in place of the said missing phone, the following day she visited the Officer at his residence (Bachure, Yola North L.G.A) but she was beaten up. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/WGR/39/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th of March, 2022 from X of 29, Sabomi Road, Ode-Irele, Ondo State alleging the infringement on her right to human dignity by some persons. The persons posted a sex tape/ video on the internet and tagged her without proof. The Complainant expressed her grievances on the matter and seeks the intervention of the Commission.

C/ LSO/22/084

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April, 2022 from XY. He alleged that three (3) persons illegally working with Officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) attacked a motorist (victim) at Oshodi, opposite its Headquarters. XY stated that the victim was brutally tortured and his vehicle impounded by the LASTMA Officials at its office. Upon efforts to get his vehicle released, he discovered that his Jack, wheel spanner, four (4) new tyres and other valuables were stolen and the Officials demanded for money as a strict condition for the release of the vehicle. XY sought for the Commission's intervention.

C/BSO/MDR/184/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th April, 2022 from Y1 against Y2. Y1 alleged that Y2, serving military personnel threatened his life at Shagari Lowcost, Maiduguri. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/CPR/275/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th September, 2022 from Y who resides close to Fatima Estate behind international market Mararaba - Nasarawa State. Y alleged that his neighbor has falsely accused him of a crime which he did not commit and this has defamed his character. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 276 – 279/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th October, 2022 from X who resides in Lokoja, Kogi State. X alleged that her husband is in the habit of scolding her at the slightest provocation and had often

threatened to kill her. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/CPR/6401/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October, 2022 from Y alleging that the respondent beat him up brutally and inflicted several degrees of injuries on him. Y further alleged that when he reported the incident to the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) Bauchi State Command, no action was taken against the respondent and he cannot afford the medical bill of the injuries he sustained from the beating. The matter was admitted for investigation at the Commission.

C/2022/CPR/6406 - 6407 /BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from X of Unguwar Kasuwan Shanu, Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State alleging inhuman and degrading treatment of her sales boy by Officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). X further alleged that her sales boy was brutally mishandled by the Officials of the agency while on investigation mission. The matter was admitted for investigation at the Commission.

C/2022/CPR/123/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th December, 2022 from Y alleging that he conveyed goods in his tricycle for a businessman in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, sometime in 2020. Y further alleged that he received a telephone call from some Officers of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State requesting him to testify against a failed business transaction between the businessman and his partner. Y also claimed that he feared that he could be detained by the Police while testifying since the Police Officers have been threatening and intimidating him. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/CPR/116/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st November, 2022 from Y alleging that some Police Officers in Ekeki Police Division Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, has threatened to detain him over rent default which is civil in nature. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/CPR/100/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2022 from Y. She alleged that a staff of the Department of Security Service (DSS) Kaduna Command assaulted his younger brother and verbally abused his wife. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/CPR/109/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th October, 2022 from Y alleging that his tricycle was seized by Officers of Bayelsa State Police Command on 27th October, 2022 in spite of hitting them. Y further alleged that the Police Officers compelled him to pay certain amount of money before his tricycle may be release to him. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/CPR/107/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th October, 2022 from Y alleging that the Officers of Bayelsa Command, Division "A" placed a call to him on 19th October, 2022 threatening to detain him for refusing to pay for an alleged missing phone. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/CPR/111/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th November, 2022 from X alleging that on 1st November, 2022 Officers of the Akenfa Police Division, Bayelsa State invited her over to the Station. She was constrained by the Officers to pay for a damaged phone which was previously charged in her shop by a third party. X further alleged that she has been under series of threats by the Police to pay for the damaged phone. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/EBO/217

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th January, 2022 from Y of Akayi Edema Nkalagu, Ebonyi State against X (his wife) over allegations of excessive beating, threat to life and family neglect. He claimed that she has become verbally abusive towards him once she retires for the day's activities (bar business). The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/BAU/2022/035

The Bauchi State office of the Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from Y of Yanakari Express, Bauchi State alleging threat to his life by the Chairman of Yankari Express. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LSO/22/326-327

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April, 2022 from Y alleging assault against OPC Lekki Zone 10, Lagos State. Y alleged that on 7th April 2022, members of OPC, Lekki, Zone 10 beat him up when he laid a complaint against the improper disposal of bodily waste his place of business. He reported the matter to the Maroko Police Station,

but they have failed to act appropriately. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/364

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y (her husband) has subjected her to inhuman and degrading treatment by denying her access to basic needs in their house at Ngomari Airport Maiduguri. On this note, X seeks the intervention of the Commission.

C/LSO/22/328-329

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th April, 2022 from X in Okiaro, Ishaga, Lagos State. She is alleging wife battery, threat to her and the neglect of their six (6) year old son by Y (her husband). The incident occurred in Okiaro, Ishaga, Lagos State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LSO/22/367

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th April, 2022 from X alleging intimidation, harassment and extortion against some Police Officers at Ajiwe Police Station. X alleged that her fiancé had laid a complaint of theft against her at the Station and this has led to constant harassment by the Officers. The incident occurred at Randu Street, Surulere, Lagos State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LSO/22/373

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th April, 2022 from X alleging assault, intimidation and harassment against Y (an Inspector of police). X alleged that on 25th April, 2020 at Shogunle area of Ikeja, GRA, Lagos State. Y assaulted and threatened to shoot her with his rifle over altercation with a co-tenant. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/ABS/108,338

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th July, 2022 from Y against his mother. Y alleged that his mother has been physically assaulting her domestic staff that lives at No 37 School Road Umuahia. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/ABS/2022/108,324

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th May, 2022 from X alleging that her brother has been threatening her life following a misunderstanding between them since she returned back to the village

in Umuobutu Old Umuahia at Abia State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/108,472/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th August, 2022 from Y alleging that some group of persons from Umuda Okpuala Isingwu in Umuahia North of Abia State assaulted and inflicted injuries on him. Y further alleged that the incident happened on 4th April 2022 and 2nd August 2022 respectively and that he reported the incident to the CPS Police Station Umuahia. However, no action was taken on the matter rather one of the persons in the group laid another complaint at Zone 9 Umuahia against him. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/258/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th August, 2022 from X, alleging excessive abuse from her son in her home located at Use-Offot, in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. X further added that her son broke into her house with an accomplice (girl friend), stole her personal belongings and also threaten to throw her out of her private property. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/081/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July, 2022 from Y alleging that on Tuesday, 5th July 2022 at Mangale Street Nassarawo ward Jimeta-Yola, Adamawa State. He stated that he engaged in a violent conflict with his neighbors over alleged misappropriation of money kept in his trust for the maintenance of the residence which resulted to inflicting bodily harm on him. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/098/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd August, 2022 from Y alleging inhuman treatment and threat to life against his brother. Y further alleged that on 20th August, 2022 his brother called him on phone and threaten to deal with him on his next visit to the village in Guyuk LGA, Adamawa State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/097/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th August, 2022 from X alleging that on 10th December, 2021 a man approached her and demanded to know who authorized her to cut down a eucalyptus tree in a plot of land at Madanya in Mubi LGA, Adamawa State. X further stated

that she was assaulted by an Officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) accompanied by three (3) others persons which led to a severe fracture on her shoulders and a broken rib bone; she was further arraigned before the Area Court opposite Adamawa State University Mubi, Adamawa State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/271/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th August, 2022 from X alleging that she is a 300 level student in Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Akwa Ibom State Study Center Ndon Eyo. X stated that on 20th August, 2022 her landlord assaulted her using an object or deadly weapon (firewood) in a manner likely to cause harm or threaten serious bodily injury on her. Subsequently, she was denied access to her kitchen resulting to spoiled food in her storage; in addition the landlord's domesticated animals (goats) destroyed her crops. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/BAU/2022/140 - 141

The Bauchi State Office of the Commission received a complaint dated 28th February, 2022 from X of Tuji/Tura, Bauchi, Bauchi State alleging verbal abuse and threat to her life and that of her sibling by their brother who is a Police Officer. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/NGSO/2022/020

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd February, 2022 bordering on threat to Life at the instance of XY who brought the Complaint on behalf of Tudun Wada North residents in Tunga, Minna, Niger state alleging that an investor is taking measures to install a Gas refilling Plant at Top Medical Junction, Tunga Minna an area which is densely populated with local amenities would consequently pose a life to threat of the residents or community if not promptly checked. The complaint sought the intervention of the commission.

C/NGSO/2022/023

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd February, 2022 from Y (25 years old) alleging assault and causing serious bodily injury against the Niger State Traffic Vanguard who ran into Him while walking on a pedestrian walk at Tunga, Minna, Niger State on the 20th February 2022. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/ESO/2022/45

The Commission received a complaint dated 25/01/2022 from X alleging that the her husband had a business transaction sometime in December, 2021 with the respondent within Achi, Oji River LGA, Enugu State. On 10th February, 2022 some persons within the community invaded their home (Achi, Oji River L.G.A, Enugu State) and held her husband hostage for hours with an intention to harm him. The complainant seeks the intervention of the Commission on this matter.

C/2022/CPR/005/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 14th of March, 2022 from Y at Bolakale Street Checking Point off Airport Road Ilorin Kwara State, alleging an unidentified person threatened him on phone. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/ESO/2022/85

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd March,2022 from Y alleging that his father-in-law whom he resides with in the same village at Obuoffia, Awkunanaw, Enugu State threatens his life because he had not paid back the money he borrowed to offset his wife's medical bills. Y appeals to the Commission to ensure that these threats to his life are stopped.

C/2022/IMS/82

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March, 2022 from X alleging that Y (the school security officer) verbally attacked her I on 7th March, 2022 at Police Children School Orlu Road, Amakohia Uratta in Owerri North L.G.A, Imo State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/IMS/61-C/2020/CPR/2392/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th February, 2022 from XY alleging threat to life and destruction of properties by XY, Muslims living in the South-Eastern part of Nigeria sometime in October 2021. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/ESO/2022/08

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th January, 2022 from X alleged that her husband gruesomely poisoned three (3) of their four (4) children who eventually died on 4th January, 2022. X appeals to the Commission to ensure that her husband is brought to the book.

C/2022/IMS/68

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th March, 2022 from X alleging that Y, his client was killed by hoodlums at Nekede in Owerri West L.G.A, Imo State on 20th January, 2021. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/008/NHRC/KGSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th February, 2022 from XY on behalf of Y. They stated that Y was employed to rear cattle for the respondent sometime in 2015, with a reward of two (2) cows annually. XY stated that they were informed in 2021 that the respondent had killed Y and converted all cattle (numbering 9) belonging to him into his and sold some. XY sought the Commission's intervention to get justice for Y. The complaint was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/IMS/16

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from XY, alleging that Y, Officers of the Nigerian Army 34 Artillery Brigade Obinze have been indiscriminately killing and destroying properties in Umuokwu Community Izombe in Oguta L.G.A, Imo State since 8th October 2021. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/CPR/005/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 14th of March, 2022 from Y at Bolakale Street Checking Point off Airport Road Ilorin Kwara State, alleging that an unidentified person threatened him on the phone. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/NGSO/2022/049

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May, 2022 bordering on allegation of threat to Life at the instance of X (31 years old) of Angwan Kadara, Maitumbi, Minna, Niger state against Y (her husband) of Maitumbi, Minna. X alleged that sometime in March 2022 following discovery that Y defiled their biological daughter who is a minor, X reported to the security agency and Y was arraigned in Court for rape but subsequently granted bail. X alleges that since 20th April 2022, her life has been under serious threat from Y and His brothers who have vowed to end her life for reporting the incidence of the rape to the Police, as she is also at the moment staying on her own for fear of her life. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/124/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th April, 2022, from X who lives at Nung Uko, Uyo against her husband who is an Officer with the

Nigeria Police Force (NPF). X alleged that her husband is in the habit of treating her in an inhumane and degrading manner by constantly beating her. X further claimed that the husband recently threatened to shoot her with his rifle if she dare complains of his attitude towards her. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/109/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th April, 2022 from X against her employer alleging that she was assaulted by her employer while working at his company located at Nwaniba, Ekanaba Nsukara Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/BAU/2022/094

The commission received a complaint dated 7th February, 2022 from XY of Ruhu Tulu Tama of Toro LGA Bauchi against Police Division Tulu. XY stated on 6th January, 2022 that his brother was strike with a machete in several parts of his body; the matter was reported to Police Division Tulu. XY further stated that the respondent was arrested and later released after three (3) days without recourse to court for justice. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/050/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th April, 2022 from Y alleging that sometime in March, 2022 his younger sister was subjected to ill treatments orchestrated by their step mother at Damare Inji Uku, opposite Aliyu Mustapha clinic, Yola – Adamawa State. XY further stated that on 1st April, 2022 when he came home from Gombe state he again witnessed the severe punishment of his younger sister by their step mother. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/029/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th January, 2022 from Y alleging that a Police Officer who is attached to Oron Divisional Police Station, Akwa Ibom State, Police Command, has been using his position to intimidate and harass family members over family issues. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/136/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th April, 2022 from X alleging that the respondent who resides at Eman Road, Idu Uruan, Akwa Ibom State has subjected her to inhuman and degrading treatment by constantly victimizing her. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/05/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February, 2022 from X alleging that his neighbor molested his wife over an issue on the 26th January, 2022 at No. 2 Asuquo Ibanga Usu Ofot. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention

Conclusion

The Nigerian society is faced with prevalence of immunity and disrespect for the right to the dignity of person, not minding the constitutional provisions as well as other regional and international instruments upholding the right. Police brutality, Torture, cruel inhuman and degrading treatments, are perpetrated by state and non-state actors alike despite the copious amounts of local, regional and international instruments prohibiting them. The prevalence of this menace continues despite the immense contribution of the NHRC in the bid to check their rise.

The NHRC was established by the National Human Rights Commissions Act of 1995 (as amended) in line with Resolution 48/134 of the United Nations General Assembly which enjoins all member states to establish independent National Institutions for the promotion, protection and enforcement of human rights. For an independent establishment imbued with powers to achieve the above mandate such as the NHRC, therefore, the Commission must as a matter of importance take steps it deems necessary to ensure the exercise of its independence that will enable it carry out its mandate to its full capacity.

Recommendations

As the relevant government authority saddled with the mandate to act as the enforcer of the rights of the Nigerian citizens needs to be further empowered with more prosecutorial powers and financial capacity to execute these tasks in line with their mandate and ultimately ensure that a continuous downward reduction in the trend of abuse in view of the reported cases so far.

It is recommended that the following should be considered to ensure compliance to the right to dignity of the human person as an important right from which other rights derive their origin:

1. Sponsor an amendment of the National Human Rights Amendment Act to allow for the prosecutorial powers of the Commission.
2. Financial autonomy to guarantee its independence.
3. Create human rights offices at the local government level.
4. Increase funding of the Commission to enable it satisfactorily carry out the numerous tasks and activities that falls within its mandate.

Chapter 3

RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

By

Dorothy Amah¹

Introduction

Right to personal liberty is perhaps one of the most essential rights that humans enjoy, this is because without efficient guarantee of the liberty of a person it is almost impossible to protect other individual rights. The right can be traced back to the English Magna Carta of 1215. The right is referred to in some laws strictly as personal liberty while some laws pair it with security of the person. This shows the relation between the liberty of a person and his security. The right to personal liberty serves to protect people from the excesses of governments and their agents. This right is provided for as a human right by law at the national, regional and international level. The right to personal liberty is however not absolute and restrictions to this right abound under the law.

Webster's Dictionary defines personal liberty as the freedom of the individual to do as he pleases limited only by the authority of politically organized society to regulate his action to secure the public health, safety, or morals or of other recognized social interests

In March 2003, a panel-beater, Sikiru Alade was arrested by a member of the Nigeria Police Force and remanded under a holding charge by a Magistrate Court in Yaba, Lagos without any determination of whether sufficient grounds existed for his detention. He was then promptly forgotten at the Kirikiri Maximum Security Prison for almost a decade.²

Despite the global recognition of this right, in Nigeria, just like other countries across the globe, cases of illegal detention such as the case of Sikiru Alade are common. As at February 2023, the percentage of inmates who are pre-trial detainees is an estimated 69.7% of the total prison population.³ In the Federal Capital Territory, the Partners Global Organisation reports that, "more than 80% of the prison population is currently awaiting trial. Many detainees are held in overcrowded pre-trial custodial facilities for extended periods of time, with little to no provisions

1. Deputy Director Legal/ Head Complaints Registry, National Human Rights Commission

2. *Alade v the Federal Republic of Nigeria*, (2012) ECW/CCJ/JUD/10/12

3. Nigeria, World prison brief data, World Prison Brief (2018)
<https://www.prisonstudies.org/country/nigeria> < accessed 18th April 2023>

or access to legal counsel⁴. In 2022 in the FCT alone, the National Human Rights Commission received eighty-four (84) complaints on unlawful detention.

The right to personal liberty provides that every person is entitled to freedom from any arrest or detention that is arbitrary or outside the process laid down by law. This is as laid down in the Constitution, “Every person shall be entitled to his personal liberty and no person shall be deprived of such liberty save...in accordance with a procedure permitted by law.”⁵ Anyone who is detained can only be detained for reasons provided for by the law and must be informed of the reason(s) for their detention. They must also be brought before a competent court of jurisdiction within a reasonable time which is twenty-four hours (24) hours if there is a court of competent jurisdiction within a radius of forty kilometres or forty-eight (48) hours or longer as the court may consider reasonable in the circumstance⁶.

The right, as guaranteed by the constitution is also in consonance with the principles laid down in goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 3rd target of the SDG 16 is to “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all,”⁷ and a key indicator for the achievement of this access to justice is the number of “unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.”

It is therefore evident that Nigeria has to pay a lot more attention to the right to personal liberty in order to meet the SDG targets. Thus, this paper will examine the right to personal liberty, its origin and jurisprudence, and will explore the legal mechanisms in place to protect it in Nigeria and at the international level.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Human Rights

Human rights are those rights that accrue to humans by virtue of their humanity regardless of their religion, race, sex, nationality, ethnicity or any other status. These rights are interrelated, interdependent, indivisible and inalienable. Human Rights are usually classified in three categories: Civil and Political Rights (1st generation); Economic, Social

4. Bonane M and Usman H, “Increasing Access to Justice for Pretrial Detainees in Nigeria” (PartnersGlobal2023)
<https://www.partnersglobal.org/newsroom/increasing-access-to-justice-for-pretrial-detainees-in-nigeria/>> accessed April 20, 2023

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

6. *Ibid* n 5

7. “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform” (United Nations)
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/Post2015/Transformingourworld>> accessed April 20, 2023

and Cultural Rights (2nd generation); Group or Collective Rights (3rd generation).

Personal Rights

A personal right (*ius in personam*) can be referred to as a vested right that one human being has against another human being to claim performance or the enjoyment of a thing. Personal right is defined by the Find Law Legal Dictionary (source) as a right that is based on the status of a person and does not derive from property. These are rights that affect the person's physical enjoyment of their rights. Some of such rights include right to personal liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of religion and thought to mention a few.

The Concept of Personal Liberty

Personal Liberty is one of the most important human rights, as it is central to human existence. The UDHR declares that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile," Here, liberty exists as an ideal of total freedom, differentiated from a state of "political subjection, imprisonment, or slavery."⁸

The concept of liberty has been extended across the world to encompass political, civil and socio-economic freedoms to be determined by whether violations result in "the inability of a person to manifest his or her own personality, self-fulfilment and to reach his or her own potential."⁹ For example, 'the right to leave any country, including one's country, and to return' is an idea that relates to personal liberty under international law.¹⁰

The right to personal liberty is tied closely to the right to free movement, and as a result, it is classified as one of the three natural rights: 'life', 'liberty' and 'property', which, according to John Locke, are held simply by virtue of being a human being.¹¹ The extension of his argument is that the function of society is to create a higher human authority that ensures compliance to protect these rights.¹²

8. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Liberty". Encyclopaedia Britannica (2018) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/liberty-human-rights>. <Accessed 18 March 2023>

9. Colucci FJ, Justice Kennedy's Jurisprudence: The Full and Necessary Meaning of Liberty University Press of Kansas (2009)< accessed 18th April 2023>

10. McAdam, J. "An Intellectual History of Freedom of Movement in International Law : The Right to Leave as a Personal Liberty." 2011. Melbourne Journal of International Law, vol. 12, no. 1, University of Melbourne, 2011, pp. 27–56, <https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/agispt.20114509>.

11. Locke, John. Second Treatise of Government. Edited by Macpherson C.B. (ed) Hackett Publishing Company, (1980).

12. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Two Treatises of Government". Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John->

Locke's vision of freedom in the political society inspired the UDHR, which is the framework for most modern human rights instruments continues to influence the bodies we create to enforce human rights and penalise its violation.

Legal Framework

The right to personal Liberty is guaranteed by various documents under Nigerian legislation and international treaties, and is protected by numerous institutional bodies created for the purpose.

International/Regional

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in Article 3 provides that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". The integration of the right to liberty with the right to life under the UDHR highlights the importance of the right to liberty as stated in the opening paragraph of this paper. The right to liberty like right to life is a key foundation for the enjoyment of other rights. The UDHR goes further to support the right to liberty in the provision of Article 9 which states that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹³ provides as follows:

"Everyone has the right to liberty and security of persons, no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, no one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as established by law".

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights also have similar provisions. Article 6 provides that every individual shall have the right to liberty and security of his person.

The ECOWAS court in *Dasuki v. Federal Republic of Nigeria*¹⁴ highlighted the right to liberty as one of the most fundamental human rights recognized under International Human Rights Law based on the

Locke/Two-Treatises-of-Government. Accessed 18 March 2023.

13. Article 9(1) "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" (OHCHR) <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>> accessed April 21, 2023

14. "*Dasuki v Federal Republic of Nigeria* (ECW/CCJ/Jud/23/16) [2016] ECOWASCJ 54; (4 October 2016)" (*Dasuki v Federal Republic of Nigeria* (ECW/CCJ/JUD/23/16) [2016] ECOWASCJ 54; (4 October 2016) | African Legal Information Institute) ;<https://africanlii.org/ecowas/judgment/ecowas-community-court-justice/2016/54-0>>; accessed April 21, 2023

provisions of the UDHR, ACHPR and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)¹⁵ which provide that; Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

Municipal

The right to personal Liberty is enshrined in Section 35 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

The act of impeding personal Liberty is punishable under criminal and civil law with provisions such as the criminalisation of illegal detention, kidnapping, and the tort of false imprisonment. Some of these laws, institutions, policies and standards that provide for the right to personal liberty and its enforcement include 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act 2010 and the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) (FREP) 2009¹⁶.

The Court of Appeal in *Jim-Jaja v. Commissioner of Police & 2 ors*¹⁷ on the issue of right to personal liberty held that it is a basic fundamental right that an individual can only be denied of or deprived under the circumstances provided for in Section 35(1) (c) of the 1999 Constitution. The court went further to state that false or unlawful detention amounts to a violation of the right to personal liberty notwithstanding the length of the detention. The court defined false or unlawful detention as “a complete deprivation of any person’s liberty for any time, however short, without lawful excuse”.

Some of the Complaints Received by the Commission on Right to Personal Liberty are as follows:

C/2022/046/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th April, 2022 from Y alleging that he went to withdraw money from his wife’s account using her ATM, but he discovered that the line has been blocked. Y further claimed that when he went into the banking hall to make complaint, the ATM card was collected from him, and he was handed over to DSS. Y claimed that he was detained in Yola and later transferred to Taraba State for further investigation while he was detained for 7 days before he was finally released.

15 Article 9(1) Ibid n 13

16. Rules made under authority gleaned from section 46(3) of the CFRN 1999, Ibid n 5

17 (2011) 2 NWLR (Pt. 1231) 375

C/2022/CPR/102/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim was arrested in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State on 18th August, 2022 while driving his tricycle at a 'Stop and Search' checkpoint by operatives of Doo Akpo Security (a Unit of Nigeria Police). XY further alleged that the victim was transferred to SCIID on 6th September, 2022 and all efforts to secure his bail proved abortive and the victim was not charged to court.

C/2022/CPR/096/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim was arrested along with his siblings on 21st June, 2022 in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State and all efforts for his family to secure their bail or charge the matter to court proved abortive.

C/2022/CPR/088/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th September, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim and two of his friends were arrested at Amassoma, Bayelsa State on 7th September 2022 by Doo- Akpo Security Unit of Nigeria Police for allegations they know nothing about. XY further alleged that they had been in detention since then and all efforts to secure their bail or charge the matter to court by the Police has been abortive.

C/2022/CPR/092/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd September, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim was arrested by the Police in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State on 20th September, 2022 and all efforts to secure their bail or charge the matter to court was denied by the Police.

C/2022/CPR/117/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim and some of his colleagues were arrested by X-Squad Unit of Nigeria Police in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State on 20th November, 2022. XY further alleged that all efforts to secure their bail or charge the matter to court was denied by the Police.

C/2022/IMS/455

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th July, 2022 from XY alleging that some minors were arrested and detained by officers from the Department of State Security from their respective homes in Njaba local Government Area, Imo State and no one had secured their bail and they have not been charged to court.

C/2022/CPR/100/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th October, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim was arrested by the Police in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in June, 2022 by 'Puff Adder' Security Unit of the Nigeria Police Force and detained since then. XY further alleged that all efforts to secure his bail or charge the matter to court by the Police failed.

C/2022/CPR/099/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th October, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim was detained by the Doo-Akpo Unit of the Police in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State on 30th September, 2022 and released on 1st October, 2022. XY further alleged that the victim was arrested in lieu of his twin brother.

C/2022/CPR/115/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th November, 2022 from X alleging that her son was arrested on 17th November, 2022 in his house at Okaka, Yenagoa, and detained by the Anti-Cultism Unit of the Police Command, Bayelsa State for an allegation he knows nothing about.

C/2022/CPR/105/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th October, 2022 from XY alleging that the victim was arrested on 8th September, 2022 by the Police of Tororuwa Police station in Sagbama, Bayelsa State for an allegation he knows nothing about. XY further alleged that all efforts to secure his bail or charge him to court by the Police have not been successful.

C/2022/CP/578/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th December, 2022 from Y alleging that his brother was arrested by CJTF on his way to fetch firewood along Dalori Camp Area, Borno State on December, 2021. He further alleged that after the arrest, he handed him to the military, and he was later transferred to Giwa Barrack. Y also claimed that all efforts to secure his bail or charge him to court proved abortive.

C/2022/CP/603/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th December 2022 from X alleging that the Nigerian Military arrested her son on his way to work on October 20th 2022 and he has been detained. X further alleged that all efforts to secure his bail or charge him to court proved abortive.

C/LSO/22/334-336

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st April 2022 from Y1 and Y2 on behalf of X, his sister alleging Enforced disappearance against Mr. and Mrs. XY. Y1 and Y2 alleged that X went missing while working for XY. The incident occurred at Kirikiri, Lagos State.

C/ABS/2022/108,202

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th May 2022 from X alleging that for failure to sell their land, her late husband's first son beat her up, ensured that she was arrested and detained by a team of police officers from Isiala Ngwa Police Station in Abia State on the 1st June 2022 and remained in detention as at time of the report. . X further alleged that she was arrested while she was in her house at Umuode Ihie in Isiala Ngwa North, at Abia State and every effort made to secure her bail was futile.

C/ABS/108,296-108,316

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th June 2022 from Y alleging that his brother and children instigated the community youths on the 12th May 2022 at Umuode Ihie Isiala Ngwa North and they threw all their properties out and beat them and gave them cuts with machetes and hammer. That they arrested and detained them with a team of police officers from Okpuala Ngwa Police Station for 3 days and later took their father to Zone 9 Umuahia on the 15th May 2022 where he was detained for two days

C/2022/101/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August 2022 from Y who is a in the Nigerian Army of Gibson Jalo Military Cantonment Jimeta-Yola, Adamawa State. Y alleged that he was framed by a lady he knew on the issue of an officer where they both talked about his health status and fanatic behaviors. Y further stated that thereafter, he was invited to Battalion Soldier club where he was beaten and locked up for 3 days in the guard room.

C/2022/103/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from Y alleging that on 22nd August, 2022 at 8:05pm in Nyibango Yola North LGA, Adamawa State his son was unlawfully arrested and detained at Dougirei Police division Jimeta-Yola., Adamawa State. Y further alleged that his son before and during his arrest he was dehumanized and cruelly maltreated by a team of Policemen and hunters without any just cause or investigation.

C/2022/086/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th July, 2022 from XY alleging that on 13th July, 2022 a fight broke out in their neighborhood in Jambutu and the Police were alerted. However, the concerned persons escaped. XY further stated that, the Police made one arrest on that day and the next day four more were arrested and detained at Jambutu divisional Police station Adamawa State because they were said to be at the scene of the fight .

C/BSO/MDR/080/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th February 2022 from X on behalf of Y, her husband alleging prolonged detention against the Nigerian Army. X alleged that the Nigerian Army arrested and detained Y in Gashua LGA of Yobe State. She further alleged that Y has suffered prolong detention since the time of his arrest.

C/BSO/MDR/183/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th April, 2022 from X on behalf of Y, her son alleging prolonged detention against The Nigeria Army. X alleged that her son Y was arrested by the Military 9 years ago at Lagos Street Maiduguri without committing any offence. X further alleged that Y was later transferred to Kainji in Niger State thereby suffering undue prolonged detention.

C/BSO/MDR/158/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st March, 2022 from Y1 against the CJTF and Nigerian Military. Y1 alleged that the CJTF arrested Y2 in the year 2014 and handed him over to Nigerian Military in Maiduguri and that Y2 was detained at Giwa Barracks Maiduguri before he was transferred to Maximum Prison Maiduguri and that they have not seen him since then

C/2022/043/AKS

The Commission received a Complaint dated 8th February 2022 from Y alleging that he worked for his employer for a period of 2 years and thereafter, his employer terminated his appointment without paying him the period he worked. Y further alleged that when he requested for his unpaid salaries and entitlements, his former employer instructed a team of Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) to arrest and detain him.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In the light of all the issues enumerated in this paper highlighting the right to personal liberty as a fundamental human right and in view of Nigeria's

international obligations under the Sustainable Development Goals, it is pertinent that Nigeria intensifies efforts to ensure the enjoyment of the right to liberty of its citizens and all those living within its territory. It is recommended that one of the ways of ensuring the protection of the rights to personal liberty is the full implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 (ACJA), which provides for arrest, bail and preventive justice¹⁸. The Act in Sections 1 to 7 deals extensively with issues surrounding arrest that routinely led to violation of the right to personal liberty.

18 Part 2 ACJA

Chapter 4

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS

By

Ivy Iember Acka*

Introduction

The right to freedom of expression and the press is the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of your choice without interference and regardless of frontiers. This means: You have the freedom to express yourself online and to access information and the opinions and expressions of others. The term “freedom of speech and expression”¹ includes any act of seeking, receiving and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used. Freedom of speech is understood as a multi-faceted right including not only the right to express or disseminate information, but also including the right to artistic freedom and expression.

This right is a fundamental human right which is contained under Section 39 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which states that: *“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the rights includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”*. The exercise of this right by the press in any society is essential to maintaining the principle of good governance, democracy and rule of law in that society. Without free expression and free media, violations of human rights may remain hidden with the propensity to give rise to impunity and continuous violations.²

Freedom of expression and the press is therefore one of the major dividends of democracy as it allows for the free exchange of ideas,

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1 OHCHR, ‘RE: Submission to Study on Social Media Search and Freedom of Expression’
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Opinion/ContentRegulation/Nigeria.docx> accessed 16 February, 2023

2 NHRC, ‘Freedom of Expression and the Media’
<<https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng/focus-areas/freedom-of-expression-and-the-media.html>> accessed 16 February, 2023

opinions and information and thus allows members of society to form their own opinions on issues of public importance. This therefore gives room for public debate as it supports a free and independent press, informed citizenship and the transparent functioning of the state. The press, radio, television, and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the government to the people³. Therefore, independent media and quality journalism are considered to be the “watchdog” of a democratic society.

Conceptual Clarifications of Terms

Artistic Freedom

Artistic freedom is the freedom to imagine, create and distribute diverse cultural expressions free of governmental censorship, political interference or the pressures of non- State actors⁴. The freedom of expression in whatever medium is important, artistic expression thereby allows creativity and project imaginations into images that can be displayed and captured within the ambit of the law. This should be encouraged rather than restricted or sanctioned.

According to J.S Mill⁵ ‘artistic freedom must be guaranteed on the basis of general utility because the arts provide irreplaceable knowledge about the emotional dimension of human life’. Cultural diversity can be protected and promoted only if human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, information and communication, are guaranteed.

The Right to Freedom of Expression on the Internet

Digital rights are an emerging trend of human rights, which is closely linked to freedom of expression and privacy that allows people to access, use, create and publish digital media, as well as access and use computers, other electronic devices and communications networks. The advancement of technology has brought about many issues both negative and positive including human rights. Digital rights are a set of universal human rights that ensures everybody, regardless of their gender, age, race, sexuality, and more has equal access to an open internet that is governed in an inclusive, accountable, and transparent manner to ensure peoples’ fundamental freedoms and rights.⁶

3 Section 22 CFRN 1999 (as amended)

4 UNESCO, ‘Artistic freedom/Diversity of Cultural Expressions’ <https://en.unesco.org/publications> accessed on 11 May, 2023

5 J S Mill, ‘Artistic Freedom and Censorship’, (Cambridge University Press 12 August 2020)

6 Living Democracy, ‘What about Digital Rights?’, <https://www.living-democracy.com/what-about-digital-rights/> accessed 11 May, 2023

The social media today is the largest platform where individuals ranging from youths to the oldest in the society exercise the right to freedom of opinion and expression through communication and exchange of ideas. According to the United Nations, 63% of the world now uses the internet, a surge from 54% to 63% between 2019 and 2021⁷, which goes to prove that the right to freedom of expression online is largely exercised.

Restrictions of the Right to Freedom of Expression

The right to freedom of expression like some other fundamental human rights is not an absolute right, it is governed by certain exemptions of the Law as provided under Section 39(3)⁸. These restrictions are applicable in instances where the freedom of expression of one person violates the rights of another person or the values of society as a whole. The State therefore make provisions that lawfully restrict or punish expressions that cause harm. Some examples of these violations are; breach of private life, defamation, hate speech, obscenity, pornography, breach of public order, national security, classified information, trade secrets or copyright violations.

Artistic censorship can also be classified as a form of restriction to the rights to freedom of expression. Where speech, artistic creation and ideas instigates harm to others, certain regulatory bodies like the National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB), Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC) makes provision for censorship. However, in some instances, censorship pose as a threat to the artistic expression, as some corporations, political organisations, religious body and other groups, make use of it to their own advantage where it contest or critique political ideologies, religious beliefs, cultural or social preferences.

According to the United Nations, at least 27 of the 46 least developed countries have implemented shutdowns between 2016 and 2021, most of which have received support to increase connectivity. The report urges States to refrain from imposing shutdowns, to maximize internet access and remove the multiple obstacles standing in the way of communication.⁹

As a result of censorship, the right of artists to criticize government policies and demand accountability in governance is threatened. Artists

7 UN Report, '63% of the World now uses the internet', (Axios World): <https://www.axios.com/world>; accessed 11 May, 2023

8 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)

9 UNHR, 'Internet Shutdowns: UN Report Details 'Dramatic' Impact On People's Lives And Human Rights', (2022) <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/06/internet-shutdowns-un-report-details-dramatic-impact-peoples-lives-and-human>> accessed 11 May, 2023

are limited by excessive censorship regulations, laws and other restrictions which when defied, put their personal safety and freedom in jeopardy. Most of the art censorship regulations are disguised as protecting public morality, preserving cultural heritage and averting political and religious tensions, prevention of hate speech, incitement, defamation, threats to national security, etc. While it is appropriate for government to regulate artistic contents in the form of age classification to protect children from exposure to adult contents, research findings have revealed that Nigerian authorities often only use overly broad censorship regulations as a pretext to stifle freedom of expression.¹⁰

Legal frameworks

The right to freedom of expression and the press is protected under international, regional and national human rights instruments.

International

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 (UDHR)

Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 (UDHR)¹¹ states that:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Similarly, Article 19 of The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹² provides for the right to freedom of expression as follows:

- “1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.*
- 2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or print in the form of art or through any other medium of his choice”.*

10 Unchained Vibes, ‘A Review of Recent Censorship and Artistic Freedom Restrictions in Nigeria’, <https://ntm.ng/2022/04/29/for-freedom-vibes-5-0-activists-artists-examine-state-of-censorship-restrictions-to-creativity-in-nigeria/> accessed 11 may, 2023

11 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 (UDHR)

12 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Article 19

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

Article 19 (1) & (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)¹³ states that:

“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print in, in the form of art, or through other any media of his choice”.

The 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural¹⁴ Expressions puts forward that Artistic freedom embodies a bundle of rights protected under international law.

Regional

African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights

Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights¹⁵ also provides for the Protection of the right to freedom of expression states as follows:

- “1. Every individual shall have the right to receive information.*
- 2. Every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinion within the law.”*

Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa

The Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (the Declaration)¹⁶ establishes or affirms the principles for anchoring the rights to freedom of expression and access to information in conformance with Article 9 of the African Charter which guarantees individuals the right to receive information as well as the right to express and disseminate information.

Domestic

The Constitution of Federal Republic Nigeria 1999

Section 39(1) (2) of the Constitution of Federal Republic Nigeria 1999 (as amended) guarantees freedom of expression as a fundamental human rights, it states as follows;

13 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Article 19,(1)(2)

14 UN 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

15 African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights Article 9

16 Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa, 22 October 2002, available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4753d3a40.html> accessed 13 September 2023

- (1) *“Everyone is entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.*
- (2) *without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section, every person shall be entitled to own, establish and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions: provided that no person, other than the Government of the Federation or of a State or any other person or body authorized by the President on the fulfillment of conditions laid down by an Act of the National Assembly, shall own, establish or operate a television or wireless broadcasting station for , any purpose whatsoever.”*

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the *Grundnorm*, in which all other laws operational within Nigeria derives its validity. It is therefore expected that all other legislations relating to freedom of expression and the press should be consistent with the constitution, and anything contrary to this, remains null and void.

The Freedom of Information Act 2011

The Freedom of Information Act 2011¹⁷ repeals the **Official Secrets Act 2004**, and amongst other things provides protection for the confidentiality of information sources and enhances citizen’s enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and the press.

Generally, freedom of expression connotes the liberty of every person to openly discuss issues, hold opinions and impart ideas without restrictions, restraints or fear of punishment. In every human society, Nigeria not being an exception, the desire and freedom of an individual to hold an opinion and share the same with a listener of his choice is a fundamental one. This is because a person has the right to have a perspective of the world, the circumstances around him and the people he interacts with¹⁸.

The State of the Right to Freedom of Expression and the Press in Nigeria

The Nigerian authorities have signed and ratified almost all international instruments dealing with freedom of expression and the media. Among them are the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights and the declaration of principles of freedom of expression in Africa. The country

17 Freedom of Information Act 2011

18 I J Udofa, ‘Right To Freedom Of Expression And The Law Of Defamation In Nigeria’, International Journal of Advance Legal Studies and Governance, (Vol 2, No 1, April 2011)

is also a party to more than a dozen UN human rights conventions and has domesticated a few of these instruments and integrated them into certain media laws.

The media space is needlessly shrinking by the day and becoming hostile because of the Government's reluctance in some cases to honor Regional and International instruments that guarantees these rights. Freedom of expression enshrined in **Article 19** of the UDHR; but governments have used arbitrary arrest and detention, politically motivated criminal charges, and overbroad libel and sedition laws to try and silence People especially journalists¹⁹.

The Nigerian authorities have adopted a half-hearted approach to honoring international conventions and instruments. While current laws have permitted a diverse media landscape to emerge, media regulation is still not independent. Criminal defamation, which is universally considered unacceptable, is still in force. At the same time, State-media have not been transformed into public media in the spirit of the principles of freedom of expression in Africa.²⁰

Ordinarily, the Constitution and other relevant laws affirming the right to freedom of expression and the press are sacrosanct. However, there are certain legislations that tend to negate these rights, which also limit their full enjoyment by citizens. For example **Section 10 of the Nigerian Press Council Act**²¹ and **Code 4.6 (a.)(b.) of the Nigerian Broadcasting Code**²² respectively made provisions that could affect free dissemination of information or broadcasting as the case may be. Also, there are clauses in the constitution that limits the full enjoyment of these rights. For instance, **Section 36 of the Constitution**²³ gives judges the power to hold trials behind closed doors under certain circumstances, this infringes on the ability of journalists to cover court proceedings. **Section 39(3)**²⁴ enables public officials to indiscriminately deny journalists access to certain new sources and locations. The sub-section states that:

(3) Nothing in this section(referring to Section 39(1&2) shall invalidate ant law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society-(a) for the purpose of preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence,

19 Concept note: Defending the rights of journalists and media practioners through national safety mechanisms-Department of Corporate Affairs and External Linkages, NHRC

20 African Media barometer-Nigeria 2019- Friedrich- Ebert-Stiftung (FES), <<https://nigeria.fes.de/e/fes-nigeria-launches-the-african-media-barometer-2019-report>> accessed 13 September, 2023

21 Nigerian Press Council Act, 2018

22 Nigerian Broadcasting Code, (6th Edition), 2016

23 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)

24 *Supra*

maintaining the authority and independence of courts or regulating telephony, wireless broadcasting, television or the exhibition of cinematograph films; or(b) imposing restrictions upon persons holding office under the Government of the Federation or of a State, members of the armed forces of the federation or members of the Nigerian Police Force or other Government security services or agencies established by law²⁵.

It appears that the Constitution in providing protection for the freedom of expression and the press also finds a way to circumvent a right it has granted.

Some instances of violation of the Right to Freedom of Expression and the Press through Media Reports are as follows:

The Internal Press Institute has on the 31st January 2023 carefully documented various reports on the violation of the right to freedom of expression and the press. The report contains “that powerful public figures are resorting to legal harassment to cripple critical journalism. A magistrate court in Kano recently summoned reporters from the online news platform WikkiTimes over the publication of a story exposing shoddy construction works supported with public funds. The plaintiff accused the media platform of “untrue, malicious, unfounded and wicked” publications through invoking Nigeria’s cybercrime law²⁶.

Other recent incidents of press freedom violations, carried out mainly by public figures and security forces, in response to journalists’ work on transparency and accountability, have raised similar alarm in recent months.

On December 27, 2022, police in Lagos arrested and detained a journalist, Yau Saeed Mubi, owner of Y2S TV, an online media platform. According to reports, the journalist’s arrest was ordered by a political figure, Senator Elisha Abbo, a lawmaker of Adamawa North Senatorial district, in the National Assembly. Yau was arrested over a publication of people’s opinions on the lack of good governance in the senator’s district²⁷.

25 *Supra*

26 Media Rights Agenda, ‘Kano Magistrate Court Summons WikkiTimes over Alleged Defamation, Cyberstalking’, <<https://mediarightsagenda.org/kano-magistrate-court-summons-wikkitimes-over-alleged-defamation-cyberstalking/>> accessed 13 September, 2023

27 Sahara Reporters, Available at <https://saharareporters.com/2023/01/04/nigerian-police-arrest-detain-journalists-orders-sex-toy-lover-senator-abbo-deny-reporter>

On November 27, 2023, journalist Ayodele Samuel, was arrested and detained²⁸ for two weeks before being released on December 12, 2023. He was also arrested on the orders of Darius Ishaku, the governor of Taraba State in north-east Nigeria over a report that exposed the governor's alleged plans to sell the Taraba Liaison Office and the state-owned Mambilla Beverages Company.

In November, 2022, two political leaders assaulted²⁹ two journalists in different incidents, as IPI previously reported.

IPI also documented six press freedom violations in Nigeria in October, including arrests of journalists and forced closures of media outlets³⁰. In May 2022, at least 15 journalists were assaulted while reporting on pre-elections activities across the country³¹."

Leadership newspaper 3rd March, 2022 reported that journalists were barred from proceedings as security cordons court. Journalists were barred from the proceedings in the case of abduction and subsequent killing of a Hanifa, a 5 year old girl by her school proprietor. Premium Times 17th September, 2022 reported that Agba Jalingo, the publisher of Cross River Watch, an online news portal in Nigeria, was arraigned and charged with cybercrime on December 6, 2022. He was arrested and detained in August 2022, by the police over alleged defamation and infringement of integrity of Elizabeth Ayade, the wife of Frank Ayade, who is the brother of the Cross River State Governor Ben Ayade.

Sahara Reporters 20th December, 2022 reported that police assaulted Muhammed Bello Dabai, a journalist working with Premier Radio, based in Kano, the capital town of Kano State in northern Nigeria. Bello was taking pictures of an incident in which members of the public were throwing stones at an alleged thief who had fallen in front of the station while attempting to flee from police custody.

Punchng.com 20th December, 2022 reported that On December 19, 2022, journalist Luminous Jannamike was arbitrarily arrested and

28 Nigerian journalist Ayodele Samuel freed after spending two weeks in detention, <<https://www.mfwa.org/issues-in-focus/nigerian-journalist-ayodele-samuel-freed-after-spending-two-weeks-in-detention/>> accessed 13 September, 2023

29 Dateline, 'Nigeria: IPI urges increased protection of press freedom as elections approach' Available at <https://www.dateline.ng/nigeria-ipi-urges-increased-protection-of-press-freedom-as-elections-approach/> accessed 18 September, 2023

30 International Press Institute, 'IPI Africa Monitoring: Journalists in Somalia, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria faced increasing attacks in October', Available at <https://ipi.media/ipi-africa-monitoring-journalists-in-somalia-zimbabwe-and-nigeria-faced-increasing-attacks-in-october/> accessed 18 September, 2023

31 International Press Institute, 'Nigeria: Attacks on journalists spike as election season starts', Available at <https://ipi.media/nigeria-attacks-on-journalists-spike-as-election-season-starts/> accessed 18 September, 2023

detained for five hours in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, on the orders of a high-level official from the Federal Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (FCIID).

Conclusion and Recommendation

Freedom of expression and the press is a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution and other International and Regional Instruments as well as some National laws. It is therefore paramount for both citizens and the Government to comply with local and international Laws and treaties guiding the right. The right to freedom of expression and the press should include the right to freedom of expression in the digital space, as well as artistic freedom of expression.

Censorship and restriction can only be justified where expression is liable to cause harm to others and ignite violence. However, there should be a balance between censorship and the freedom of expression and the press.

The Commission should intensify efforts along with other relevant MDAs, CSOs, Media and the International community in creating awareness on the right to freedom of expression and the press, and the protection of this right in the international, regional and domestic frameworks.

Chapter 5

RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

By

Zainab Aliyu Abubakar¹

Introduction

Discrimination strikes at the very heart of being human. It can be described to mean the intentional act of violating someone's rights simply because of who they are or what they believe. Discrimination is harmful and perpetuates inequality.

Every citizen has the right to be treated equally, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, caste, religion, belief, sex, gender, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, age, health or other status. However, too often we hear heartbreaking stories of people who suffer cruelty simply for belonging to a "different" group from those in positions of privilege or power.²

Right to Freedom from Discrimination is an integral part of the principle of equality. It ensures that no one is denied their rights because of factors such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property or birth. In addition to the aforementioned grounds, discrimination on other grounds should also be prohibited. These grounds include age, nationality, marital status, disability, place of residence within a country and sexual orientation.

Conceptual Clarification Of The Terms

Equality

Equality as defined by Black's Law Dictionary is, 'the condition of possessing substantially the same rights, privileges, and immunities, and being liable to substantially the same duties'.³ All humans are born free and equal, and thus are all subject to the same rights and duties. However, it often occurs that an individual suffers undue disadvantage, or another enjoys a privilege above others, even though they both possess basically the same qualities. This prejudicial act is termed Discrimination.

The word Discrimination as defined by the Black's Law Dictionary is, 'the effect of a statute which confers particular privilege on a class

1 ACLO National Human Rights Institute, Abuja

2 Amnesty International, 'Discrimination', www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination accessed 23 February, 2023

3 Blacks Law Dictionary, < <https://thelawdictionary.org/equality/>> accessed 23 February, 2023

arbitrarily selected from a large number of persons, all of whom stand in the same relation to the privileges granted and between whom and those not favored no reasonable distinction can be found.⁴

Discrimination occurs when a person is unable to enjoy his or her human rights or other legal rights on an equal basis with others because of an unjustified distinction made in policy, law or treatment.

The right to freedom from discrimination is a human right fundamental to the existence of man and to his personal dignity, amongst other rights. This right has been guaranteed by the constitution of nations as a fundamental right, thus having the force of law, and so a person can seek redress for its violation in a court of law.

Legal Framework

International And Regional Legal Framework

Non-discrimination and equality are core elements of the international human rights normative framework. Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that every human being is entitled to all rights and freedoms “without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”.

Similarly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) require the respective States parties to guarantee the enjoyment of all rights without discrimination of any kind. Both also have specific provisions for the “equal right” of men and women in the enjoyment of all rights.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, Articles 11e and 14), the International Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD, Article 5) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, Article 28) likewise enshrined a prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the rights set out in each Convention, including the right to social security.

Under international human rights law, States are expected to eliminate discrimination in law and practice; on the grounds of race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, physical or mental disability, health status (including HIV/AIDS), sexual orientation, and civil, political, social or other status; when it has the intention or effect of nullifying or impairing the equal enjoyment or exercise of the right to social security. It also

4 J E Atatigho, ‘An evaluation of the Right to Non-discrimination in Nigeria’(2015), <https://www.academia.edu/29532974/AN_EVALUATION_OF_THE_RIGHT_TO_NON_DISCRIMINATION_IN_NIGERIA_docx> accessed 23 February, 2023

requires states to take special measures to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population as a matter of priority.⁵

Regionally, another instrument ratified by Nigeria is the African Charter on Human and People's Rights which protects the rights of people in Africa including women. The Charter provides a framework for the protection of human rights in Nigeria such as civil and political rights, socio-economic and cultural rights, and individual and collective rights. The Charter was domesticated in Nigeria through the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act 1983.⁶

Municipal/Domestic Legal Framework

At the domestic level, Nigeria is not left out in this regard as it has made provision for right to freedom from discrimination under section 42 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

Section 42 (1) of the Constitution Of The Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999(as amended) provides that, 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.

Some laws and policies promoting right to equality and non-discrimination in Nigeria are:

The Child Rights Act, 2003.

The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015.

The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018.

The National Senior Citizens Act, 2017.

The HIV/AIDS (Anti-Discrimination) Act 2014.

The Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.

The National Anti-Trafficking In Persons Prohibition Act, 2015.

The Universal Basic Education Law 2004.

The National Health Act 2014.

The National Health Policy 2016.

The National Employment Policy 2017.

The National Gender Policy 2006 (reviewed in 2014).

Second national action plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (2017).

The National Policy on Special Needs.

The Federal Character Principle.

5 Social Protection And Human Rights, available online < <https://socialprotection-humanrights.org/>> accessed on 21 February, 2023

6 *Sage Journals*, available online < <https://journals.sagepub.com/>> accessed 21 February, 2023

The Violence Against Person Prohibition Act known as VAPP Act was signed in 2015 in response to the problems of gender-based violence in Nigeria, an important legal tool and more comprehensive law designed to address, prohibit, and eliminate all forms of violence against persons in private and public life. It is also focused on maximum protection of persons against the different forms of violence. It makes provision for compensation to victims and punishment to offenders. It is an improvement on the Penal and Criminal Code in relation to violence in northern and southern parts of the country respectively.

Some of the complaints, received by the Commission on Right to Freedom from Discrimination are as follows:

C/2022/058/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st February 2022 from X alleging that her brother shared their late father's property on July 2022 at Aka Road without including her because she is being discriminated against on grounds that she is a woman.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/047

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st March 2022 from XY of Buni Yadi, Gujba LGA, who alleged that Y, the Local Government Authority denied issuance of a letter of indigeneity to Christian indigenes regardless of the fact that most of their children were born and brought up in the local government area. XY raised that, their children obtained forms for interviews into various jobs, but such was in vain for not having indigene letters. XY sought the Commission's intervention.

C/2022/084/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st March, 2022 from X alleging that her elder brother denied her access to her room in their late father's house and he is also threatening to take over the rooms belonging to their other sisters on the basis that they don't have rights to own property simply because they are females.

C/2022/207/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th June, 2022 from X alleging that their two brothers shared their late father's properties situated at Nung Akpan Ime Street off Udo Udoma Avenue, Uyo Akwa Ibom State amongst themselves excluding the females siblings.

C/2022/279/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging that her step brother threatened and drove her and her other

female siblings out of their late father's compound, claiming that they are females and cannot claim any property belonging to their late father.

C/2022/IMS/472

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th September 2022 from Y alleging ostracization, threat to life and degrading and inhuman treatment by some of his kinsmen on the 5th of January, 2022. At Umuekwarafor Umuchoke Amaugbo Nwangele Local Government Area of Imo State.

C/2022/IMS/488

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is discriminating against her because of circumstance of birth and he is not also providing upkeep. The incident took place at PS Naze Umuakielu Owerri, from 2021-2022.

C/2022/WC/365/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November 2022 from X alleging that she has been on constant threat and intimidation from her cousin over the inheritance of her late father. X further alleged that her cousin told her that she is not entitle to her father's inheritance because she is a woman.

C/2022/WC/374/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd December, 2022 from X alleging that her brother has been threatening her life over the years and he told her that she cannot inherit any portion of their father's property merely because she is a woman. X also alleged that the brother came to her residence and destroyed the CCTV she installed for surveillance and security purposes.

C/2022/WC/339/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November, 2022, from X alleging that her late mother's relatives refused her from burying her mother's corpse on the landed property she inherited from the father, merely because she is a woman.

C/2022/WC/389/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st November 2022 from X alleging that her eldest stepbrother sold their late father's property worth ₦12 million Naira and has refused to include her in the share of the proceeds because she is a woman and not entitle to inheritance. X further alleged that her uncle who was included in the sharing of the proceeds is in support of her eldest stepbrother action.

C/2022/WC/343/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th November 2022 from X alleging that her nephew denied her and her sister the right to inherit their father's properties merely because they are female children.

C/2022/WC/311/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October 2022 from X alleging that her stepbrothers in 2003 sent her out of the room given to her by their late father while he was alive and they went and rented it out. X further alleged that she has been paying for house rent and can longer afford it, due to harsh economic situation and demanded for her room back from her stepbrothers. X also stated that her step brothers refuse giving her back the room and told her that she is not entitle to any inheritance in their late father's compound at Akpan Adem in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

C/2022/WC/339/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022, from X alleging that her step-son denied her access to her late husband's house. X further alleged that after the death of her husband, her stepson took over the house she and her husband jointly built and other landed property without allotting any one to her because she is a woman.

C/2022/WC/358/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th November, 2022, from X alleging that her nephew claimed all her late father's property and told her that because she is a women, she cannot inherit her father's landed property.

C/2022/WC/283/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th September, 2022 from X alleging that their father left properties behind after his death wherein he shared his property to all his children. X further alleged that her brother, refused to adhere to the wishes of their late father and went ahead and seized all their father's properties claiming that they are women and not entitle to be given an inheritance in their father's house.

C/2022/WC/388/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th December, 2022, from X alleging that her late husband's brother forceful evicted her and the children from her late husband's house after the death of her husband thereby violating her rights to inheritance. X further alleged that presently

she and her children are living in an uncompleted building given to her by one of her relatives who took pity on her and her children and that her late husband brother denied her the property merely because she is a woman.

C/2022/WC/284/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September, 2022 from X alleging that her only surviving brother took over the administration of their late father's house located at Akwa Ibom State. X further alleged that the brother rather prefers to give the share of the proceeds to their nephews who are males children excluding the females children who are direct beneficiaries and have right of inheritance to their late father's estate.

C/2022/CPR/355/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November 2022 from Y alleging that his village head took side with the person he has misunderstanding with over a family shop. Y further alleged that the village head has ordered that he should be banned from going to church, marketplaces and that the people in the village should not visit his house in Etinan L.G.A. of Akwa Ibom State.

C/2022/VG/6434 /BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 from Y of Toro LGA, Bauchi State alleging that he was discriminated against by the Bauchi State Government over an issue that occurred between both parties.

C/2022/196/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd June, 2022 from X of Inyang Utono Street, off Nwaniba Road, Uyo Akwa Ibom State alleging that after the death of her husband, the deceased relatives forcefully evicted her from her late husband's house and took possession of the building on the basis that she do not have rights to own property simply because she is a women.

C/2022/240/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August, 2022 from X alleging that her only brother has excluded their women and her from the share of their late father's property simply because they are women.

C/2022/260/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th August, 2022 from X alleging that her brother has sold their late father's landed property

without her knowledge claiming that she is not entitle to their father's property. X further claimed that the brother has threw her out of their father's compound and told her to go and marry.

C/2022/240/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August, 2022 from X alleging that her only brother has excluded their women and her from the share of their late father's property simply because they are women.

C/2022/260/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th August, 2022 from X alleging that her brother has sold their late father's landed property without her knowledge claiming that she is not entitle to their father's property. X further claimed that the brother has threw her out of their father's compound and told her to go and marry.

C/2022/212/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th July, 2022 from Y alleging that his eldest brother went ahead with the village council to share their late father's properties and discriminated against his siblings that are females. Y also stated that his female siblings played a vital role and contributed immensely during their late father's burial at Atai Street, Use Offot Village in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and when they requested his eldest brother to give an account of the burial expenditure, he bluntly refused and could not account for the money that was solely contributed by his female siblings.

C/2022/223/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd July, 2022 from X alleging that her uncle wants to take over her late father's property on the ground that they are females. X further alleged that she with her sister are the only surviving daughters of their late father and that the only brother they have died five years ago.

C/2022/207/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th June, 2022 from X alleging that their two brothers shared their late father's properties situated at Nung Akpan Ime Street off Udo Udoma Avenue, Uyo Akwa Ibom State amongst themselves excluding the females siblings.

C/2022/279/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging that her step brother threatened and drove her and her other

female siblings out of their late father's compound, claiming that they are females and cannot claim any property belonging to their late father.

C/2022/196/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd June, 2022 from X of Inyang Utono Street, off Nwaniba Road, Uyo Akwa Ibom State alleging that after the death of her husband, the deceased relatives forcefully evicted her from her late husband's house and took possession of the building on the basis that she do not have rights to own property simply because she is a women.

C/2022/246/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th August, 2022 from X alleging that the sister to her late husband is in the possession of her late husband's properties on the basis that she has only a girl child. For her late husband.

C/2022/211/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July, 2022 from X alleging that her elder brother has excluded her from their father's inheritance simply because she is a woman.

C/2022/220/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th July, 2022 from X alleging that Y who is her only brother has excluded her from having a share in their father's inheritance simply because she is a woman.

C/2022/259/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August, 2022 from X alleging that her step brothers deprive her and her other sisters from inheriting their late father's properties because they are female children.

C/2022/079/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th March, 2022 from X, alleging that her elder brother threatened to send her and the sister out of their father's house because they are females. X further stated that she and her sister was beaten by their elder brother on 10th March, 2022, because of the property.

C/2022/025/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from X, who is a widow. X alleged that an extended relation of her late husband wanted to take over the administration of her late husband's property at Ita Uruan, Akwa Ibom State. X further stated that she has five female

children for her late husband, and because her late husband was looking for a male child has additional three children from two women who were not legally married to him. X claimed that the late husband's relation has made life for her and her children very difficult on the basis that they don't have rights to own property simply because are children are all females.

C/2022/083/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th March, 2022 from X against her younger brother alleging that her younger brother has taking possession of all the properties that belong to their late parent. X also alleged that the younger brother has requested she leaves the family house and get married, claiming that she is of age and women don't have right to property.

C/2022/052/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th February from X alleging that her siblings who are males have shared their late father's property located at Mbribit Itam, Itu L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State excluding her and the other two siblings, on the basis that they don't have rights to own property simply because they are females.

C/2022/12/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th January 2022 from X against her cousin. X alleged that after the death of their father, their cousin and other members of their father's extended families took ownership of their late father's properties simply on the basis that females don't have right of inheritance to property.

C/2022/022/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th January, 2022 from X against the uncle. X alleged that the uncle has taken over the only house left by their late parent, simply because they are all females. X further alleged that her uncle sold the only landed property left for her and her siblings by their late parent.

C/2022/38/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd February 2022 from Y against his father. Y alleged that the father shared property amongst his children excluding him simply because he is from another woman. Y further alleged that he is being equally discriminated upon by the other children in relation to whatever belongs to his father.

C/2022/IMS/37

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th February, 2022 from Y alleging intimidation and harassment by their caretaker on 3rd February, 2022 at High Tower Hostel Anyanwuocha Street Akwakuma in Owerri North L.G.A, Imo State.

C/2022/IMS/66

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd March, 2022 from X alleging denial of inheritance of her late husband's properties by her brother in-laws in 2021 at Umuokwum- Umuanunu, Obinze in Owerri West L.G.A, Imo State simply on the basis that she is female.

Conclusion and Recommendations

To address inequality, there first needs to be a change to people's attitude and conceptions about gender. Everyone needs to be made aware that, gender, and gender roles are socially constructed and fostered by culture and religion. There is therefore a need for knowledgeable individuals and organizations to sensitize people on the harmful effects of gender stereotypes in the society. By raising awareness, people will understand the pervasiveness of gender bias and how it informs societal values and norms which they are expected to conform.

Chapter 6

RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

By

Salome Loko¹

Introduction

The right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association is guaranteed under section 40 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended). In addition, Nigeria is also a state party to international and regional instruments which support these rights. This right was initially established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), then included in the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and a lot of other international and regional human rights treaties². Association and assembly are closely related and mutually reinforcing however they are made up of very separate rights³, while the aim of the right to association can be understood to be protecting ongoing and continuous connections between persons, the right to assembly leans towards being more episodic⁴. This paper supports the averments that one of the rights protected under the right to peaceful assembly is the right to protests or demonstration though not expressly mentioned in the provisions of the Constitution.

Protests are a vital part in the political, civil, social, cultural and economic life of every society and through history protests have often inspired positive social change and improved the protection of human rights. Article 19 on the Right to Protest: Principles on the protection of human rights in protests⁵ has stated further that protests have continued

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- 1 Chief Legal Officer (Civil & Political Department) National Human Rights Commission
 - 2 Breen C (2019). Article 15: The rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. In J. Tobin (Ed.), *The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: A commentary* (pp. 517–550). Oxford University Press
 - 3 Kiai M & UN Human Rights Council. (2012). *Report of the special rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, A/HRC/20/27*. UN. Accessed 12th April 2023, from <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/730881>.
 - 4 Lansdown G (2022). Article 15: The Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly. In *Monitoring State Compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (p. 85).
 - 5 Article 19, “The Right to Protest: Principles on the Protection of Human Rights in Protest” (*The Right to Protest: Principles on the protection of human rights in protest | Global Freedom of Expression*)

to assist in the definition and protection of civil spaces, encouraged the development of engaged and informed citizens and strengthen the representative democracy by enabling the direct participation in public affairs. The principles on the protection of human rights in protests is a set of minimum standards for the respect of the right to protest and represent a progressive interpretation of international human rights standards including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).⁶

It is generally accepted that the expression of disagreement through protests, demonstration or public procession is a normal and acceptable practice in democracy, so far as it is done within the ambits of the law. However, in Nigeria, the prevalence of military regimes in its political history has resulted in a culture of intolerance to this democratic right⁷ and the return of the country to civil rule brought with it civil protests which as expected were met with state repression⁸, including the alleged use of legitimate legislation as a tool of oppression and denial of the enjoyment of these rights.

The 1979 Public Order Act⁹ is the primary legislation that regulates assemblies in Nigeria¹⁰, it recognises and regulates demonstrations, protests, rallies or processions in Nigeria. However, the provisions of the act with regard to protests has remained a contentious issue, while the position of the government is that the act is necessary to maintain public order and safety, critics argue that the act is a means to suppress legitimate protests hence violate the right of Nigerians.

This paper will seek to examine the legality of the right to civil protests in Nigeria and the notion that the right to civil protest is a fundamental human right and a legitimate democratic right guaranteed under Nigerian municipal law and international law. It will further contend that that restrictions or derogations to the exercise of this right must be

<https://teaching.globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/resources/right-protest-principles-protection-human-rights-protest> accessed April 19, 2023

6 *Ibid* n5

7 IT Sampson, 'The right to demonstrate in a democracy: An evaluation of public order policing in Nigeria' [2010] 10(2) African Human Rights Law Journal, http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1996-20962010000200006 accessed 18 April 2023

8 *Ibid* n 7

9 Public Order Act 1979, Cap P42, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004

10 Author Article 19, "The Right to Protest: Principles on the Protection of Human Rights in Protest" (The Right to Protest: Principles on the protection of human rights in protest | Global Freedom of Expression) <https://teaching.globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/resources/right-protest-principles-protection-human-rights-protest> accessed April 19, 2023

in accordance with fundamental rights and freedoms in order to allow democracy run its course while enforcing the law.

Conceptual Clarifications

Protest

Amnesty international defines Protests as an invaluable way to speak truth to power¹¹ further, that through history, it has been the driving force behind some of the strongest social movements, exposing abuse and injustice, inspiring citizens to continue hoping for a better future and demanding accountability. It is an umbrella term for some of the tactics used to attain social change, including non- violent direct action, creative performance, protests marches, generally, acts that are actions that are not violent in nature¹². The word “protests” in the context of this paper refers to peaceful or non- violent protests and could be used interchangeably with demonstrations.

Right to Peaceful Assembly

Assembly has been defined as ‘an intentional and temporary gathering in a private or public space for a specific purpose’.¹³ The right to peaceful assembly is the right of persons to pursue common goals or gather for a common purpose for example protesting or meeting¹⁴. This right includes gatherings in private or public, not including however, ‘assemblies’ of just one person.¹⁵ These assemblies presently extend to that of religious, social, charitable, cultural or professional, though the original purpose for this right was for the protection of peaceful participation and demonstration in democratic processes¹⁶

11 Article 19, “The Right to Protest: Principles on the Protection of Human Rights in Protest” (The Right to Protest: Principles on the protection of human rights in protest | Global Freedom of Expression) <https://teaching.globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/resources/right-protest-principles-protection-human-rights-protest> accessed April 19, 2023

12 “Does Peaceful Protest Work?” (Greenpeace UK June 9, 2022) <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/does-peaceful-protest-work/> accessed April 19, 2023

13 Honstein E, “Report of the Study Group on Freedom of Association & Assembly in Africa” ICNL(2019) <https://www.icnl.org/post/report/report-of-the-study-group-on-freedom-of-association-assembly-in-africa> accessed April 19, 2023

14 “Right to Freedom of Assembly and Association” (Attorney-General's Department) (2020) <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-scrutiny/public-sector-guidance-sheets/right-freedom-assembly-and-association> accessed April 19, 2023

15 *Ibid* n14

16 *Ibid* n14

Freedom of Association

On the other hand, the right to freedom of association refers to the right to associate with others for the purpose of protecting common interests which can be economic, political, recreational, professional or cultural¹⁷ The right to peaceful assembly includes the right to strikes, rallies, hold meetings, protests or demonstrations both offline and online, while the right to freedom of association involves the rights of persons to interact and organise themselves to collectively pursue, express, promote and defend common interests¹⁸

Legal framework

A legal framework has been defined as a broad system of rules that governs and regulates decision making, laws, agreements etc¹⁹. In this section, the legal framework governing the right to peaceful assembly and association in Nigeria shall be briefly considered.

International framework

Nigeria as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966 is bound by its provision. Unlike the Nigerian Constitution that provides for the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom in the same provision, the ICCPR provides for these rights separately, Article 21 of the ICCPR provides for the right of peaceful assembly as follows:

The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be place on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interest of national security or public safety, public order (order public) the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedom of others.

While Article 22 provides for the right to association thus:

1. *Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.*
2. *No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those which are prescribed by law and which are*

17 *Ibid* n14

18 "Freedom of Assembly and of Association" (OHCHR April 6, 2023) ;<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/freedom-assembly-and-association>> accessed April 19, 2023

19 "Legal Framework Meaning - Legal Definition" (*World Law Dictionary*) <https://dictionary.translegal.com/en/legal-framework/noun> accessed April 1, 2023

necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on members of the armed forces and of the police in their exercise of this right.

3. *Nothing in this article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labour Organisation Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures which would prejudice, or to apply the law in such a manner as to prejudice, the guarantees provided for in that Convention.*

In the ICCPR, the human right to protest or demonstrate has not been expressly stated and according to O’Flaherty these words are not contained in any international human right instrument for that matter.²⁰ However, he is of the opinion that though not expressly mentioned the human right to protest is ‘*an amalgam of different rights, including, the right to freedom of peacefully assembly (Art. 21 ICCPR), the right to freedom of association (Art. 22 ICCPR), the right to freedom of expression (Art. 19 ICCPR) and the right to participate in the conduct of political affairs (Art. 25 ICCPR)*’

The ICCPR has a wide definition of the right to peaceful assembly and it mandates state parties to recognise every person’s right to peaceful assembly with some restrictions listed in the convention. The express guarantee of this right presupposes a negative obligation on state parties, the effect of which is that there is supposed to be a presumption of the right of the right to peaceful assembly.²¹

The right to peaceful assembly guaranteed under article 21 ICCPR is not absolute; it can be derogated or limited under certain circumstances. The ICCPR provides these circumstances to include through legislation which are in conformity with law, necessary in a democratic state, public safety, national security, and public order, the protection of public morals or health or protection of freedom or right of others. It can also be lawfully derogated during periods of public emergencies provided under article 4 ICCPR²². Unfortunately to limit this right, states often invoke national laws and this has a negative impact on

20 O’Flaherty M, “Effective Measures and Best Practices to Ensure the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests :” (United Nations) <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/746346>> accessed April 19, 2023

21 Boyle K and Shah S, “11. Thought, Expression, Association, and Assembly” [2013] International Human Rights Law 217

22 *Ibid* n 9

the right as well as other rights²³. However, the first optional protocol to the ICCPR permits individuals to petition the Human Rights Committee where they feel the state has violated their rights as protected under the ICCPR, however because Nigeria is not a party to this protocol, this option is not available to us²⁴.

Regional Framework

At the regional level, Nigeria is a party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights 1981 and article 11 of the charter provides that:

Every individual shall have the right to assemble freely with others. The exercise of this right shall be subject only to necessary restrictions provided for by law in particular those enacted in the interest of national security, the safety, health, ethics and rights and freedoms of others.

The African Commission on Human and People's right (African Commission) has also breathed life into this provision through its numerous decisions²⁵. Further in 2014 at the African Commission's 55th Session, the resolution on the right to peaceful demonstration was adopted in recognition of the need to address the threat posed by a significant number of state parties to the right to peaceful demonstration²⁶. In the resolution, the Commission condemned severe restrictions imposed to fundamental rights and freedoms, especially the right to information and peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression²⁷.

There is no provision for the derogation of any right under the African Charter²⁸ however article 11 of the Charter, provides for a possible limitation to the right to peaceful assembly thus:

...The exercise of this right shall be subject only to necessary restrictions provided for by law in particular those enacted in the interest of national security, the safety, health, ethics and the rights and freedoms of others.

23 *Ibid* n 9

24 Efinji, J 'The Mechanism of law as medium of violence and the emergence of end SARS: Towards the articulation of good leadership in Nigeria'[2020] 1(1) Journal of rare ideas <<http://raristphilosophy.com/>> accessed 1 April 2023

25 *Ibid* n 7

26 "Resolution on the Right to Peaceful Demonstrations" (africanlii) <https://agp.africanlii.org/akn/aa-au/statement/resolution/achpr/2014/281>> accessed April 20, 2023

27 *Ibid* n 7

28 Constitutional Rights Project and Others v Nigeria (2000) African Human Rights Law Report 227 (ACHPR 1999), 41

It has been argued that the silence on derogation by the African charter may constitute a “normative innovation” while at the same time, it puts the African Charter at loggerheads with the domestic constitutional administration of many African states²⁹. Worthy of note is that opinions vary on the non-inclusion of a derogation clause in the charter, while some scholars view this non-inclusion as a fundamental omission³⁰ others have viewed it as a welcomed development, even viewing the absence of the clause as lifting the charter to the status of a “compelling law” (Jus Cogens)³¹

Further, Nigeria is a party to the protocol on the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) 1988, but has however not allowed the right of petition to the court by individual and non-governmental organizations.³²

The Domestic Legal Framework on the Right of Peaceful Assembly

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria³³ is the supreme law of the country and has a binding force on all persons and authorities across the Federal Republic of Nigeria and houses the fundamental human rights. These are the legal entitlements of persons and which ordinarily cannot be denied a person (human or body corporate) by any government or person except based on conditions provided within the Constitution itself.

Section 40 of the 1999 Constitution³⁴ provides as follows

Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely and associate with other persons, and in particular he may form or belong to any political party, trade union or any other association for the protection of his interests.

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not derogate from the powers conferred by this Constitution on the Independent National Electoral Commission with

29 Viljoen F, *International Human Rights Law in Africa* (Oxford University Press 2013) 333

30 Christof Heyns, “The African Regional Human Rights System: In Need of Reform?” *African Human Rights Law Journal* 1 (2001): 155; Laurent Sermet, “The Absence of a Derogation Clause from the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights: A Critical Discussion,” *African Human Rights Law Journal* 7 (2007): 142.

31 Ali AJ, “Derogation from Constitutional Rights and Its Implication under the ...” (2013) ;<https://journals.co.za/doi/pdf/10.4314/idd.v17i1.5>> accessed April 20, 2023 87; *Ibid* 19

32 *Ibid* n 19

33 “Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria” ;<https://nigeriarights.gov.ng/files/constitution.pdf> > accessed April 20, 2023

34 *Ibid* n33

respect to political parties to which that Commission does not accord recognition.

However, this right by the provision of Section 45 CFRN can be restricted in the *interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or ... for the purpose of protecting the rights and freedom of other persons.*

From the contents of section 40, the constitution remains the major law that governs the Nigerian electoral process. It provides for the right of persons to form political parties and association, it also provides that all persons shall have the right to assemble and associate with other persons freely, specifically to form or belong to any political party, trade union or any association for the protection of his interest as far as this assembly or association does not derogate from the powers conferred on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) by the Constitution regarding political parties not recognized by it.³⁵ Consequently, the denial of an individual's right to belong to or opt out of a political party, trade union or other association for the protection of his interest is illegal. However, this right is not sacrosanct, as stated by the Supreme Court in *Registered Trustees of National Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria & 2 others v Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria*.³⁶

Another right that is protected under section 40 CFRN 1999 is the right to protests (demonstrations). According to Olutola³⁷ it is immaterial that the section does not specifically mention the word demonstration or protest, I agree with his opinion that the right to peaceful assembly comes with a concomitant right to peaceful protest. Further, in the Nigerian context, even though no constitution or human right instrument grants absolute right to protest, such right to protest is in itself an expression of the right of freedom to assemble³⁸. Protests apart from affording the citizen of a country an avenue to express his/her views, demonstrations imply and is proof of a citizen's continued participation in subsequent elections and is therefore one of the hallmarks of a pluralist and democratic state as Nigeria.

35 Akanibo S and Nuleera D, "Electoral Justice as a Catalyst in the Promotion of Human Rights Norms ..." (International Journal of Business & Law 2021) 9(2) <https://seahipaj.org/journals-ci/june-2021/IJBLR/full/IJBLR-J-4-2021.pdf>> accessed April 20, 2023

36 (2008) 2 NWLR (pt 1072)575

37 Olutola. B., *The Right to Peaceful Assembly in a Chaotic Democracy: An Analysis of Nigerian Law*. in Addaney and others (eds), *Governance, human rights and political transformation in Africa* (Palgrave Macmillan, Cham 2020) 217-249

38 *ibid*

Civil Protests and Right to Peaceful assembly in Nigeria

From the foregoing, it has been established that the right to protest in Nigeria is supported and protected by the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the African Charter and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and other instruments ratified by Nigeria. Worthy of consideration at this point is the Public Order Act³⁹, as stated earlier; the Public Order Act (POA) is the legislation that governs protests and other forms of assembly in Nigeria. It gives the police power to control and disperse any public assembly or procession that they deem to be a threat to public safety or order.

The POA was a colonial piece of legislation⁴⁰ that is currently an act of the national assembly and domiciled in the Laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004. It derives its powers from Section 45(1) 1999 Constitution⁴¹. This is by virtue of the fact that the act, which stipulates conditions to be fulfilled before a demonstration, protest or procession can be lawfully carried out, is premised on the likelihood of an eventual breakdown in law and order⁴². Therefore, the act can be viewed as giving effect to the derogation anticipated by section 45(1) 1999 Constitution. In recent times, it has been argued that the Nigerian government has used the Public Order Act to crack down on some protests especially against police brutality, government corruption and economic and social issues⁴³ for which the government has been accused of human rights violations of freedom of speech and assembly. Therefore, the need to discuss the issue of this act vis a vis the right to protest in Nigeria.

The POA prescribes conditions to be fulfilled before a procession, protest or demonstration can be lawfully carried out, including the requirement for a permit before embarking for such protests. These provisions appear have been said to form the basis for the police to deny persons their right to protests or demonstrations and this stance of the police and its manifestations has led to the numerous challenges of the

39 Public Order Act 1979 (Nigeria) Cap P42, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 https://www.rightofassembly.info/assets/downloads/1979_Public_Order_Act_of_Nigeria.pdf> accessed April 20, 2023

40 Inspector-General of Police v All Nigeria Peoples Party & Others (2007) 18 NWLR 469 500 paras B-C.

41 *Ibid* n 40

42 Sampson, I. T. "The right to demonstrate in a democracy: An evaluation of public order policing in Nigeria". *African Human Rights Law Journal*, (2010) 10(2), 432-456.

43 Chinedu AK and others, "The State, End SARS Protests and Human Rights Violation in Nigeria" (Journal of institute of African studies (2021), 22(2) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354447752_The_State_End_SARS_Protests_and_Human_Rights_Violation_in_Nigeria> accessed April 20, 2023

provisions of this act in court⁴⁴. Ultimately resulting in the quashing of several sections of the Act by the Court of Appeal, for instance, the requirement for notification of the police before a protest has been quashed, there is no need to notify the police unless the group requires police protection⁴⁵.

Practically however the police still insist on enforcing some of these limitations despite the court decision abolishing same. This action of law enforcement has been linked to the nature of Nigeria's politics and the quest for power for economic and social gain, also fear of losing to rival factions⁴⁶. The thirst for power in this case and many other situations in Nigeria has been responsible for the wrongful use of police force to intimidate and repress. Consequently leading to calls for the abolition or repeal of the public order act⁴⁷

However, worthy of note is that this section 40, which provides for the right of protests among others has a derogation and the derogation is for the sake of public order or public safety. Public order and public safety are very important factors in the enjoyment of not just the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association, but also the enjoyment of many other fundamental human rights such as rights to expression, right to life etc.

The organization saddled with the responsibility to protect lives and property, ensure public safety and public order is the Nigerian Police Force. Section 215 (3) and (4) of the 1999 Constitution provides the basic functions of the police as the "maintenance and securing of safety and Public Order as may be considered necessary..." while The Police Act and Police and Regulations Act specifically states the general duties of the police⁴⁸. Agreed the permit to organise or embark on a protest can be considered to be a strong challenge to the right envisaged under Section 40, however, it is my opinion that the police and governor need to be notified and should reserve the power to guide how the protests are held and conducted, specifically with regard to dates and timing of protests. Among others, informing the police of planned protests, timing and routes will enable the police to guide protests to avoid clashes between groups with opposite ideologies, congestions and attacks from the public with differing sentiments. These all amount to and have the effect of a breakdown in public order and putting public safety at risk.

44 *Ibid* n 40

45 *Ibid* n 43

46 Ake, C "Democracy and development in Africa" (2001) in n 42

47 Chinelo Chinweze, "The Constitutionality of the Public Order Act in a Democracy: 'A Square Peg in a Round Hole'," available at <http://www.gamji.com/article5000/NEWS5960.htm> accessed April 18, 2023.

48 Ekwenze SA, "Public Order, State Security and Democracy: Nigeria as Current Misery Index" [2012] SSRN Electronic Journal

A very interesting argument for the need for a permit for protest was made in the case of *Rassemblement Jurassien and Unite Jurassienne v Switzerland*, where the court state that “ *the need to apply for authorisation to assemble does not normally encroach on the essence of the right, especially if it allows authorities to ensure the peaceful nature of the meeting*”⁴⁹ Any such restrictions, however, need to be proportionate⁵⁰. Although it has to be admitted that this particular provision can be abused in a country like Nigeria, hence will amount to the violation of the right to peaceful assembly in a country like Nigeria. Essentially, what is being argued here is that the call for the complete abolition or repeal of the entire POA might be “throwing the baby with the bath water”, as there are some useful aspects of the act. Instead, this article supports the calls for the amendment or removal of the offending clauses as the importance of the POA as one of the legislations for maintaining peace and order cannot be over emphasized.

Conclusion and Recommendation

From the above, it has been established that protests are lawful in Nigeria and democratic societies. However, an uncontrolled exercise of this right can result in greater violations of the rights of others; therefore the imposition of reasonable conditions for orderly exercise of this right is important and necessary. Unfortunately, the POA which seeks to provide such order to society at the time of these protests has been inappropriately used by politicians leading to the declaration of some of its provision as being contrary to the right of peaceful assembly guaranteed by the constitution. It is therefore necessary that urgent legislative measures are taken to revamp the act in order to avoid possible catastrophe in the future. In other words, borrowing the words of the Honourable Justice of the Court of Appeal, the POA should be “promulgated to compliment sections 39 and 40 of the 1999 constitution in context and not to cripple or stifle it”⁵¹

49 (*Rassemblement Jurassien and Unite Jurassienne v Switzerland* (1979) 17 Eur Comm HR 108 [3])

50 “Right to Freedom of Assembly and Association” Attorney-General's Department (2020)

<https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-scrutiny/public-sector-guidance-sheets/right-freedom-assembly-and-association>> accessed April 20, 2023

51 *Ibid* n 40

Chapter 7

RIGHT TO ACQUIRE AND OWN PROPERTY

By

B.A Naiyeju*

Introduction

The right to acquire and own property in Nigeria is one of the rights guaranteed under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. However, this right like every other right is not an absolute right, as it is subject to certain limitations. The provisions of Section 43, thereof guarantees the right of every Nigerian to own and acquire property anywhere within the country. . In this regard, no one shall be deprived of this right, except otherwise prescribed by law. The circumstances upon which a person may be deprived of the right to acquire property are contained in section 44(1) of the Constitution which states that:

No moveable property or any interest in an immovable property shall be taken possession of compulsorily and no right over or interest in any such property shall be acquired compulsorily in any part of Nigeria except in the manner and for the purposes prescribed by a law...

The effect of this section is that no person, organization or State can intentionally deprive anyone of their right to acquire and own immovable and movable property, unless on the exceptional grounds as provided by the Constitution.¹ In *Adeyemi v. A.G. Oyo State*² the court described property right as the uppermost right that should be cautiously safeguarded.

The provisions of Section 1 of the Land Use Act³ vests all land comprised in the territory of each State in the Federation, to the Governor of that State, which shall be held in trust and administered for use by citizens. However, the provisions under Section 28(2) (b) and (c) of the Land Use Act identified some exceptions upon which a person's right to a landed property can be revoked or compulsorily acquired.

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1 Sections 44(1) (a) (b) and 44(2) (a-m) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended

2 (1984) 1 SCNLR 525

3 Land Use Act 1978 Cap. L5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

This chapter therefore seeks to give deep insights on the right to acquire and own property as guaranteed under international and domestic human rights instruments. It will define some concepts as it relates to property rights, identify international and domestic instruments guiding the right to own and acquire property in Nigeria, enumerate certain exceptions to the right to own and acquire immovable property in Nigeria as provided by law, highlight some extracts of complaints on the right to own property as received by the National Human Rights Commission and make appropriate recommendations.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Property

Property is anything that a person or organization can possess, whether it be tangible or intangible objects or qualities. The most comprehensive right to anything is ownership of it; it can be moveable or immovable and can be used, transferred, or disposed of by the owner.⁴

Movable Property

Property which you own and may move with you is referred to as movable property and excludes homes, apartments, and real estate. These may include but are not limited to vehicles, jewelry, electronic devices, and royalty, etc.

Immovable Property

An asset that cannot be transported from one location to another is called immovable property. Examples of which may include lands, houses, and other such assets attached to the ground.

Legal Framework

There are various international, regional and domestic laws regulating the right to own and acquire property in Nigeria, and they are as follows;

International Framework

Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) makes provision for peoples' right to property as follows:

Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property.⁵

4 Cornell Law School, 'Property' (*Legal Information Institute*) <<https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/property>> accessed 15 April 2023

5 United Nations, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', General Assembly Resolution 217A (Adopted 10 December 1948), available online at <<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>> accessed 15 April 2023

Regional framework

Article 14 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights provides for the right of people to own and acquire property, as well as the grounds upon which such right can be revoked or retrieved;

*The right to property shall be guaranteed. It may only be encroached upon in the interest of public need or in the general interest of the community and in accordance with the provisions of appropriate laws.*⁶

Going by this provision, the right to immovable property can only be revoked where such rights encroaches on or overrides with public interest. In such instance, the Government can, upon giving ample notice to the owner of the immovable property, rescind its consent and provide compensation for the damages that might have been caused.

Domestic Framework

The right to own and acquire property in Nigeria is governed by domestic laws, which vary from State to State. However, the Land Use Act and the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) are the most significant ones that are applicable in all States of Nigeria.

1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended)

Section 43 of the Constitution guarantees citizens' rights to own and acquire property:

"Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, every citizen of Nigeria shall have the right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria".

By the provision of this section, the right to own and acquire immovable property anywhere in Nigeria is vested in the citizens, and such right would not be subject to any form of discrimination on the grounds of culture, gender, language, religion, political or social beliefs.

Section 44 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) went ahead to reiterate that the rights in any movable or immovable property can be acquired anywhere within Nigeria and such rights or ownership, shall not be compulsorily acquired, except otherwise prescribed by Law. Subsection (2) (a-m) of the provision enumerated some exceptions to the right to own and acquire property:

"No moveable property or any interest in an immovable property shall be taken possession of compulsorily and

6 Organization of African Unity, (OAU), African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights ("Banjul Charter"), CAB/LEG/67/3 rev 5, 21 ILM 58 (Organization of African Unity, 27 June 1981) available online at <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36390-treaty-0011_-_african_charter_on_human_and_peoples_rights_e.pdf> accessed 15 April 2023

no right over or interest in any such property shall be acquired compulsorily in any part of Nigeria except in the manner and for the purposes prescribed by a law”.

Exceptions to the right to own and acquire immovable property in Nigeria as provided under section 44(2) (a-m) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended)

The provisions of Section 44(2) (a-m) of the Constitution identified various exemptions upon which an interest in an immovable property maybe compulsorily acquired in any part of Nigeria, and these exemptions are:

- a) *for the imposition or enforcement of any tax, rate or duty;*
- b) *for the imposition of penalties or forfeiture for breach of any law, whether under civil process or after conviction for an offence;*
- c) *relating to leases, tenancies, mortgages, charges, bills of sale or any other rights or obligations arising out of contracts;*
- d) *relating to the vesting and administration of property of persons adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt or insolvent, of persons of unsound mind or deceased persons, and of corporate or unincorporated bodies in the course of being wound-up;*
- e) *relating to the execution of judgements or orders of court;*
- f) *providing for the taking of possession of property that is in a dangerous state or is injurious to the health of human beings, plants or animals;*
- g) *relating to enemy property;*
- h) *relating to trusts and trustees;*
- i) *relating to limitation of actions;*
- j) *relating to property vested in bodies corporate directly established by any law in force in Nigeria;*
- k) *relating to the temporary taking of possession of property for the purpose of any examination, investigation or enquiry;*
- l) *providing for the carrying out of work on land for the purpose of soil-conservation; or subject to prompt payment of compensation for damage to buildings, economic trees or crops, providing for any authority or person to enter, survey or dig any land, or to lay, install or erect poles, cables, wires, pipes, or other conductors or structures on any land, in order to provide or maintain the supply or distribution of energy, fuel, water, sewage, telecommunication services or other public facilities or public utilities.*

Land Use Act

By the provision of Section 1 of the Land Use Act,⁷ all land in the territory of the State is vested in the Governor of that State to hold in trust for the use and benefit of the State. The Section states as follows;

all land comprised in the territory of each State in the Federation are hereby vested in the Governor of that State and such land shall be held in trust and administered for the use and common benefit of all Nigerians in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

However, it shall be unlawful for the holder of a statutory right of occupancy granted by the Governor to alienate his right of occupancy or any part thereof by assignment, mortgage, and transfer of possession, sublease or otherwise without the consent of the Governor first had and obtained.⁸ Nevertheless, the Governor may also revoke a right of occupancy for overriding public interest.⁹

Types of Overriding Public Interest Available Under the Land Use Act

The provisions of *Section 28(2) and (3)* of the *Land Use Act* gave a detailed distinction of what may classified as overriding public interests as follows:

- a) Overriding public interest in the case of a statutory right of occupancy¹⁰

Some instances of overriding public interest in the case of a statutory right of occupancy are highlighted under *Section 28(2)(a-c)* of the *Land Use Act*, among which we have; the alienation by the occupier by assignment, mortgage, transfer of possession, the requirement of the land by the Government of the State or by a Local Government in the State, in either case for public purposes within the State, or the requirement of the land by the Government of the Federation for public purposes of the Federation and the requirement of the land for mining purposes or oil pipelines or for any purpose connected therewith.

- b) Overriding public interest in the case of a customary right of occupancy¹¹

Some examples of the overriding public interest in the case of a customary right of occupancy are highlighted under *Section 28(3) (a-d)* of the *Land Use Act*, among which we have;

- (b) *The requirement of the land for mining purposes or oil pipelines or for any purpose connected therewith;*

7 Land Use Act (n 7)

8 Land Use Act (n 7) Section 22(1)

9 Land Use Act (n 7) Section 28

10 *Ibid*

11 *Ibid*

- (c) *The requirement of the land for the extraction of building materials and*
- (d) *The alienation by the occupier, the sale, assignment, mortgage, transfer of possession, sub-lease, bequest or otherwise of the right of occupancy without the requisite consent or approval.*

Persons Exempted from Owning and Acquiring Immovable Property in Nigeria.

1. Persons adjudged to be of unsound mind by a court in Nigeria or elsewhere are incapable of validly making or being a party to the acquisition or transfer of an interest in land. Generally, a person who has been adjudged to be of unsound mind is exempted from entering into a valid contract. However, the purchase and sale of an immovable property is a contractual one and as such only legally fit persons can enter into it;
2. Persons below the age of 21 years: The Land Use Act under *Section 7* subject to certain exceptions prescribes that, *“It shall be unlawful for the Governor of a State to grant statutory rights of occupancy or consent to the assignment or subletting of a statutory right of occupancy to a person under the age of 21 years”*.
3. Incarcerated persons: The provisions of *Section 44 (2) (b) and (e)* of the *1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)*, stated that for the purpose of imposing penalties or forfeiture for breach of any law; or relating to the execution of judgments or order of courts, a person’s right in an immovable property can be compulsorily taken possession of.

Some of the Complaints received by the Commission under the Right to Acquire and own Property are as follows

C/2022/ESCR/332/AKS

The Commission received a complaint on 1st November, 2022 from Y alleging that the elders of his community and few members of his family in Ikot Ufot, in Mkpato Enin Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State disallowed the youth of the community access to their families oil palm fruit plantation for over a period of years now. Y also alleged that the palm fruit plantations are sold to them at a very high price which makes it difficult for them to purchase and own them.

C/CRS/2022/81

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from XY alleging deprivation of their client’s right to own property by illegal demolition of their client property on 21st September, 2022 in Cross River State. XY further alleged that the demolition was conducted by the

Director, Town Planning, the Nigerian Police and the Nigerian Army , who all took part in the demolition of their client`s property.

C/ABS/2022/108,240

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th May 2022 from X alleging that the officials of Transmission Company of Nigeria undervalued her property, marked for demolition situated at No 15 Ohamereze Street, Abaji Ariaria Aba, Abia State. X further alleged that the property was valued for a compensation of ₦3.5 million Naira instead of the current value of ₦12 million Naira.

C/2022/CPR/231-239/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September, 2022 from Y alleging denial of access to inheritance of the estate left behind by their late father. Y further alleged that his uncle who is the brother of the deceased infringed on their right to inheritance by taking over the property the late father bequeathed to him and his siblings.

C/ABS/2022/108,209

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th May 2022 from Y alleging that the Officials of Transmission Company of Nigeria undervalued his property earmarked for demolition situated at No 1B Ohamereze Street Abayi, Ariara Aba, Abia State. Y claimed that the property was valued for a compensation of ₦3.9million instead of the current value of ₦15 million.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The Governor of the State has the power to revoke any right to own and acquire immovable property if such rights are in conflict with overriding public interest. However, various checks have been put in place by law to ensure that this revocation or compulsory acquisition is not done on selfish or biased grounds. The *Land Use Act*, which is the primary law guiding the ownership and acquisition of lands in Nigeria, identified various circumstances of overriding public interest, and further stated under *Section 28(5)*¹² grounds upon which the Governor may revoke a right of occupancy.

According to *Section 28(6)*,¹³ the right of occupancy may only be revoked, when a notice under the hand of a public officer duly authorized in that behalf by the Governor is given to the holder. *Section 29*¹⁴ further stated that a compensation would be payable upon revocation of this

12 *Land Use Act* (n 7)

13 *Ibid*

14 *Ibid*

right by the Governor in certain instance as provided, under the subsection.

It is therefore important to intensify efforts to promote and protect the right to own and acquire property in Nigeria against compulsory acquisition, as it is a well-recognized and acknowledged right across the world, which is germane to the growth and development of any State. Effective measures should however be put in place to deter the violation of this right.

Chapter 8

RIGHT TO HEALTH

By

Zainab Sa'eed Hamma*

Introduction

All persons have the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and members of their family. This standard includes food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services. It also includes the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control.¹ The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic, or social condition.²

The realization of the right to health is underpinned by the adoption of multiple, yet complementary approaches towards achieving access to health for all persons. These can be in the form of enactment of laws, the formulation of health policies, or the implementation of health programmes developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), or the adoption of specific legal instruments.³ Therefore, the enjoyment of the Right to Health is the responsibility of government at both federal and state level to strengthen the Health Care System including Primary Health Care (PHC). Certainly, a sustainable health system for universal health coverage (UHC) and health-related Sustainable Development Goals is a constitutional and legal imperative for government to guarantee the Right to Health. This should be achieved by adopting the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health, as well as social well-being.

This chapter will discuss the Right to Health and explore channels through which the right can be enjoyed in Nigeria. It will show that the Right to Health is a fundamental right which is protected by international, regional and domestic human rights and legal instruments. Also, this

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1 Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

2 The World Health Organization (kindly cite source)

3 Article 12, CESCR General Comment No. 14: '*The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health*' available online at <<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4538838d0.pdf>> accessed on 16 May 2023

chapter asserts that the Legal and Regulatory Framework on the Right to Health is backed by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended and other legislation that create institutions to implement policies that guarantee the Right to Health in Nigeria. In the end, the chapter draws a brief conclusion which emphasizes the importance of the Right to Health in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Health

Health is the condition of the human body which is free from any injury or illness but staying healthy is defined as staying mentally, physically and socially fit. Maintaining good health will ultimately lead to a happy mind which is more valuable than any precious gift in today's life. It is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.⁴

Right to Health

The right to health is the right of every individual to have the physical and mental health necessary to lead a life of dignity. It should be understood to mean a right to the enjoyment of a variety of facilities and conditions which the government is responsible for providing as being necessary for the attainment and maintenance of good health.⁵ It is helpful to view the right to health as having two basic components. It includes the right to access health services, information, and resources, and to receive necessary medical treatment. In this regard, it is the responsibility of governments to ensure that all people have access to health services and to provide adequate resources for health systems⁶. This responsibility is achieved when government provides safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, education, information, promotes gender equality and utilizes available resources to achieve health coverage.

There are also human rights considerations that are attached to the right to health. These include right to freedom from discrimination, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and harmful traditional practices. Other related human rights include the right to life, education,

4 United Nations, 'Academic Impact – World Health Organisation' available online at <https://www.un.org/en/academicimpact/who#:~:text=Health%2C%20as%20defined%20in%20the,absence%20of%20disease%20or%20infirmity> accessed 16 May 2023

5 J Asher, 'The Right to Health: A Resource Manual for NGOs' (Commonwealth Medical Trust, London 2004) 17 available online at https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/s3fs-public/RT_Health.pdf accessed 16 May 2023

6 *Ibid*

nutrition, privacy, participation and the right to receive and impart information.⁷

Another important component of the rights to health worthy of mention is that of Public Health which includes Comprehensive Primary Health Care, adequate, accessible, , and affordable, health care services. It also includes access to basic immunization, information and services, nutrition, housing, freedom from violence, sexual and reproductive health and in general, the right to a clean and safe environment.⁸

Legal Framework

International/Regional

The right to health is enshrined in international and regional human rights instruments to which Nigeria is party. These include the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). For example, Article 11 of the ICESCR provides that:

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent.

The United Nations Committee of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights make it an obligation of government to provide healthcare facilities as well as services that are essential for treatment of illnesses and rehabilitation.⁹ Other obligations under this ambit include the provision of safe and portable water, sanitation, nutrition and housing. There are other issues that presuppose government obligations to provide for adequate healthcare such as ensuring healthy environment, and access to education and information about health.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights in Article 16 provides that “Every individual shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health” and that “States parties

7 *Ibid*

8 CESCR General Comment No. 14 (n 19)

9 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘CESCR General Comment No. 14: The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health’ - E/C.12/2000/4) available online at <<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4538838d0.pdf>> accessed 16 May 2023

to the present Charter shall take the necessary measures to protect the health of their people and to ensure that they receive medical attention when they are sick”.

Domestic

In Nigeria, the right to health is protected under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended as well as other legislation as follows:

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended

Right to health is one of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provided for under the Fundamental Objectives and Directive principles of State policy found in Chapter II of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). Section 17 (c) and (d) provide that the government has a responsibility to “*ensure that health and safety of all persons in employment are safeguarded*” and that “*there are adequate medical and health facilities for all persons.*”

Furthermore, the Supreme Court of Nigeria in *Attorney General of Ondo State v Attorney General of the Federation*,¹⁰ held that where the subject of promoting and enforcing the observance of the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy comes under the purview of legislative powers the National Assembly can enact a law to enforce the observance of the objectives contained in Chapter II of the CFRN 1999. As a consequence, there are laws that have been enacted to protect and guarantee the right to health, namely:

The National Health Act 2014

The National Health Act is a comprehensive health legislation that provides the legal framework for the Nigerian health system and regulates the health sector. This Act provides the legal framework for the implementation of the National Health Policy, establishes a National Health System, and provides for the regulation of health care services. Section 1 thereof establishes the National Health System (NHS). The NHS defines and provides a framework for standards and regulation of health services, without prejudice to other professional regulatory laws and among other things, protect, promote and fulfill the rights of all persons to access health care services in Nigeria.

The NHS in line with the Act includes the Federal Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Health in every State and the Federal Capital Territory Department responsible for Health. Others are parastatals under the Federal and State Ministries of Health, all local government health

10 (2002) 6 S.C (Part I) 1

authorities, the ward health committees, the village health committees, the private health care providers, traditional health care providers, and alternative healthcare providers.

Part III of the Act sets out the rights and obligations of users and health care providers to include emergency treatment, rights of health care personnel, indemnity of the healthcare provider, right to have full knowledge of diagnosis and treatment, the duty to disseminate information, obligation to keep record, confidentiality, right to access health records and right to lay complaints.

National Primary Health Care Development Agency Act 2004

This Act establishes the National Primary Health Care Development Agency to strengthen health systems in Nigeria, improve access to primary health care services, reduce infant and maternal mortality, and reduce the spread of communicable diseases. The agency also works to promote maternal and child health, improve nutrition, and support the prevention, control, and management of non-communicable diseases.

National Health Insurance Authority Act 2022

This Act established the National Health Insurance Authority to promote, regulate, and integrate health insurance schemes in the country. The aim is to provide easy access to healthcare for all Nigerians at an affordable cost through various prepayment systems. It seeks to guarantee universal coverage and access to adequate and affordable healthcare in order to improve the health status of Nigerians, especially for those participating in the various programmes of the scheme.

Policies and Programs

a. National Health Policy (2016) and National Strategic Health Development Plan (2018-2022):

The National Health Policy and the National Strategic Health Development Plan provide a comprehensive framework for the Nigerian health sector, emphasizing the need for a stronger primary healthcare system (Federal Ministry of Health, 2016; Federal Ministry of Health, 2018). The plans propose the integration of all Primary Healthcare under One Roof (PHCUOR), an initiative aimed at consolidating services and promoting collaboration between different healthcare providers (Federal Ministry of Health, 2018). Additionally, these policies stress the importance of community involvement and participation in healthcare delivery (Federal Ministry of Health, 2016).

b. National Primary Healthcare Revitalization Initiative (NPHRI):

The NPHRI is a comprehensive program that aims to revitalize and expand primary healthcare centers (PHCs) across Nigeria (Presidency

Nigeria, 2017). The initiative focuses on strengthening human resources for health, providing better funding and performance management, and ensuring that PHCs offer a broad range of essential health services (Presidency Nigeria, 2017).

Disease Control and Prevention

a. ***National Malaria Strategic Plan (2014-2020) and the National Malaria Elimination Programme:*** Nigeria has made significant strides in controlling malaria through the National Malaria Strategic Plan and the National Malaria Elimination Programme (Federal Ministry of Health, 2014). These initiatives focus on vector control, the distribution of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of malaria (Federal Ministry of Health, 2014). The programs also emphasize the importance of effective malaria case management and treatment (Federal Ministry of Health, 2014).

b. ***National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework (2017-2021) and the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA):***

The National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework and NACA work towards reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria by providing comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, and care services (National Agency for the Control of AIDS, 2017). They also focus on reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination and strengthening the HIV/AIDS surveillance system (National Agency for the Control of AIDS, 2017).

Maternal and Child Health Policies and Programs

a. ***Saving One Million Lives Initiative (SOML) and the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (2014-2019):*** The SOML and the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition target the improvement of maternal and child health outcomes in Nigeria (Federal Ministry of Health, 2015). They emphasize focused antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care, integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI), routine immunization, community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), and micronutrient supplementation (Federal Ministry of Health, 2015).

b. ***Nigeria's Every Newborn Action Plan (2014):*** This plan aims to reduce newborn mortality by expanding access to quality newborn care services, strengthening newborn health data and monitoring systems, and integrating newborn care into existing maternal and child health services (Federal Ministry of Health, 2014).

Healthcare Financing Policies and Programs

- a. **National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS):** Established in 2005, the NHIS is designed to provide affordable healthcare services to Nigerians, especially those in the informal sector and vulnerable groups (National Health Insurance Scheme, 2005). The scheme encourages public-private partnerships in healthcare financing and faces ongoing challenges in expanding coverage and ensuring effectiveness (National Health Insurance Scheme, 2005).
- b. **Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF):** The BHCPF, established in 2014 through the National Health Act, is a financing mechanism that aims to ensure financial risk protection and reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for healthcare services (Federal Ministry of Health, 2014). It focuses on strengthening governance, accountability, and transparency in healthcare financing (Federal Ministry of Health, 2014).

Challenges

The Health Care System (HCS) in Nigeria, in spite of the legal and regulatory frameworks and policies continue to face enormous challenges towards guaranteeing the Right to Health. The HCS faced the following challenges in the year 2022:

COVID-19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization in 2020 declared COVID 19 a Pandemic.¹¹ For two years since the declaration, the pandemic overwhelmed Nigeria's healthcare system and facilities. This contributed to the abandonment of other serious ailments. Other healthcare services like childbirth, and antenatal care suffered some level of neglect.¹² Also, several hospitals were shut down, while some facilities were overburdened, and the frontline workers experienced a more demanding schedule.¹³ The pandemic also led to the death of doctors in the country and several health workers tested positive for COVID-19.¹⁴

11 World Health Organisation, 'WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19' (11 March 2020) available online at <<https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>> accessed 22 May 2023.

12 R Ejifoma, 'A Look at Nigeria's Healthcare System in 2022' (ThisDay Newspaper, 22 May 2023) <<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/12/29/a-look-at-nigerias-healthcare-system-in-2022/>> accessed 22 May 2023.

13 Ibid.

14 N Tambe, 'COVID-19: 20 Nigerian doctors died in last one week — NMA' (Premium Times, 25 December 2020) available online at

Brain Drain

The year under review witnessed massive exodus of experienced health workers who left Nigeria in search of better remuneration and work conditions. These experienced health workers include doctors, nurses, medical laboratory practitioners, pharmacists and allied personnel. This situation made the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNW) to complain that 57,000 nurses migrated from Nigeria between 2017 and 2022.¹⁵

In the same vein, a 2022 UK immigration report showed that 13,609 Nigerian healthcare workers including doctors were granted working visas in the past year. This designated Nigeria as the country with the second-largest migration record following India which led with 42,966.¹⁶

Poor Salaries, Zero Incentives

In relation to the issue of brain drain, the health sector grapples with the challenge of poor financial incentives, meager salaries and welfare packages. This has affected access to quality health care in the country. According to the Minister of Health, Nigeria lost \$2 billion annually to medical tourism, a figure higher than Nigeria's total health expenditure in 2022.¹⁷

Incessant Strikes

Incessant strike actions which occur as a result of the aforementioned, affect access to quality health care in the country. This singular action has become a bane in the healthcare system for years.¹⁸

Some of the Complaints received by the Commission under the Right to Health are as follows:

C/2022/03/CAL

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from X alleging that her brother Y has denied their 88 year old father residing at Akpabuyo LGA the right to health. X further alleged that Y kept their sick father in the house and refused to take him to the hospital.

C/BAU/2022/169-4668

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd March, 2022 from Y of Mararraban Badara village, Alkaleri L.G.A, Bauchi. X alleged that the

<<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/433171-covid-19-20-nigerian-doctors-died-in-last-one-week-nma.html?tztc=1>> accessed 22 May 2023

15 Ejifoma (n 28)

16 *Ibid.*

17 *Ibid.*

18 *Ibid.*

Alkaleri Local Government Chairman denied them access to their health facilities, thereby making it difficult for people of that community to access the health care centre.

C/2022/1, 104/KAN

The Commission received a complaint 26th September, 2022 from XY alleging that Kunya Chemist and Maternity situated at Tudun Bojuwa Kurna, Asabe Quarters, Kano State has removed the womb of his wife without her knowledge as a result of a surgery she had at their Clinic in the year 2018.

C/2022//387/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August, 2022 from XY alleging that Y has been denied the right to health by his mother and his biological brother as he is need of desperate medical assistance. XY stated that he is willing to pay the medical bill for Y, but the mother and brother are frustrating all his efforts.

C/LSO/22/091

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th Feb 2022 from XY (Non-Governmental Organisation) of Idiaraba, Lagos, who wrote on behalf of X, alleging that Y (mentally challenged patient) was detained by Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) against their family wish to have him released to them for proper care.

CRS/C/2022/76

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October, 2022 from Y against his neighbor and the state Urban Development Authourity. Y alleged violation of his right to health as a result of the waste dumped at his compound by his neighbour and the inability of the agency to evacuate the waste timely.

C/2022/ESCR/010/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th May, 2022 from Y at Ile Nla Oja Gboro, Ilorin Kwara State, alleging the Managing Director a Company that deals in the production of wires at Asa Dam Road that he got involved in an accident while offloading some chemical acid that was transported from Lagos and this affect his left eye.

C/ESO/2022/157

The Commission received a complaint from Y on 31/05/2022. Y complained to the Commission that Airtel Nigeria Ltd constructed a mast in his compound without his approval. Y told the Commission that he did everything possible to stop them from the construction but they overpowered him with the use of thugs, he now decided to run to the

Commission for help as his right to health is seriously being threatened. This incident happened in Oguru Town, Uzo-Uwani L.G.A. of Enugu State.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This chapter has established that health is a fundamental human right that is essential for the enjoyment of other rights. Therefore, enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity is sacrosanct.

The right to health in Nigeria is embedded in legislation, policies and programmes that seek to improve access to quality healthcare services and address health disparities. Considering that the country has one of the fastest growing populations in the world, there is need to strengthen healthcare institutions for better service delivery in order to guarantee the Right to Health and implement evidence-based policies and programs that improve and challenge the right to health for all persons in Nigeria.

Chapter 9

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

By

Bridget O B Robert*

Introduction

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) has continued to be a recurring decimal in our society and the world over. Sexual and gender-based violence is violence committed against a person because of his or her sex or gender hence, the interchangeable use or reference to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Gender Based Violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females.¹

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life."² Sexual Violence includes any form of non-consensual sexual contact, including rape and sexual harassment. Sadly, sexual violence is committed more against the women and girl folks, leaving them in a recluse state and feeling too different from normal people in the society.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is forcing another person to do something against his or her will through violence, coercion, threats, deception, cultural expectations, or economic means. Although the majority of victims and survivors of SGBV are girls and women, boys and men can also be harmed by SGBV³ but fail to report due to low reportage by the male folks on the perceived role of strength and superiority.

Violence against women is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. Violence against women is often embedded in and supported by social and cultural values, structures and practices. It is a widespread and persuasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality. It is rooted in the

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1 J Ward and J Lafrenière, 'Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings' (UNICEF 2015)

2 Article 1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. UN General Assembly Resolution 48/104.

3 UNHCR, '*Sexual and Gender-Based Violence*' (The UN Refugee Agency) <<https://tinyurl.com/mwe8kb99>> accessed 23 March 2023.

historically unequal power relations between the men and women. The vast majority of perpetrators of the violence are male while victims are female.⁴

Clearly, violence against women is the most visible sign of pervasive patriarchy and chauvinism that directly impacts women's physical and psychological health and their entire life.

Violence against women is the most extreme form of discrimination. According to available data by UN Women, from 2005 to 2016, 19 per cent of women in 87 countries between 15 and 49 years of age said they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. In the most extreme cases, such violence can lead to death.⁵

Forms of Violence

Violence comes under sexual violence, physical violence, verbal violence, psychological violence, socio-economic violence, domestic violence or intimate relationships, harassment and sexual harassment.⁶

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is any act, attempted or threatened, that is sexual in nature and carried out without the consent of the victim. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual abuse and harassment, exploitation, and forced prostitution. It can happen within marriages, especially when there is lack of consent for sexual activity by one of the spouses. Article 2 of United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of the Violence against Women refers to sexual violence within the family, the general community and committed by the State. It is reported that the declaration also made specific reference to sexual abuse of female children in the house hold, marital rape, rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Rape

Rape is forced, unwanted sexual intercourse. Rape knows no borders or age; as it has been reported that it affects females in every country in the world, and perpetrated against girls as young as a few months old and women as old as 90 years. It is especially prevalent in the contexts

4 United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime, Handbook on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence Against Women and Girls (1 edn, United Nations 2014)

5 Statistics Division UN, "Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls; SDG Indicators" (Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; SDG Indicators) <[6 UNHCR \(n 46\)](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/goal-05/#:~:text=Proportion%20of%20ever-partnered%20women%20and%20girls%20aged%2015,of%20the%20world%E2%80%99s%20population%29%20over%20the%20period%202005-2016.> accessed 23 March 2023</p></div><div data-bbox=)

of war and conflict.⁷ A person commits the offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person with any other part of his or her body anything else; the other person does not consent to the penetration; or the consent is obtained by force or means of threat 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 the use of any substance or additive capable of taking away the will of such person or in the case of a married person by impersonating his or her spouse.⁸

The Child Rights Act, provides, “No person, shall have sexual intercourse with a child.” A person who contravenes the provision of Subsection (1) of this section commits an offence of rape and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for life.⁹ The Act also provides for other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Any sexual activity with a child (any person who has not yet completed 18 years of age) constitutes sexual violence. It has devastating effects on the development of the child involved, as well as on his or her physical and mental health.¹⁰

Some of the prevalent aspects of sexual gender based violence are numerated below however it is not exhaustive.

Sexual Assault

It is unwanted sexual contact which is very close to rape or attempted rape, the difference is that it may not end in actually intercourse. Example is when a man touches a woman without her consent. Sexual assault takes many forms and is very common in the workplace environment and should never be treated as anything less than a serious offense.¹¹

Domestic Violence

This is the most common form of violence against women. It refers to physical and sexual attacks in the home within a family or an intimate relationship. It includes intimate partner violence, marital rape, assault and battery and sexual abuse in the household. Worldwide, an intimate partner kills 40–70 per cent of all female murder victims. The men claim

7 M Makinde, “*Various Forms of Violence Against Women*” (The Guardian, 2 December 2017) <https://guardian.ng/guardian-woman/various-forms-of-violence-against-women/#:~:text=FINANCIAL%20ABUSE%3A%20Any%20behavior%20that,woman%20of%20her%20financial%20independence>. accessed 4 March 2022

8 See Section 1(1) of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (2015)

9 See Section 31(1) (2) of the Child Rights Act, 2003,

10 Makinde (Ibid n 42)

11 *Ibid*

beating is a form of correction and discipline but that is wrong. It is a tool of power and control.

Domestic violence is defined as, “All acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violation that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses and partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.”¹²

Child Marriage

“Child marriage is formal or informal union before age 18”.¹³ It can be referred to as forced marriage of a girl under the age of 18; girls as young as six or seven have been victims. Such girls are extremely vulnerable to sexual violence. Early or forced marriage jeopardizes a girl’s physical, emotional and spiritual well-being as they are not physically, sexually, mentally, psychologically, physiologically and emotionally ready for the role yet.

Early marriage or child betrothal refers to the promise or engagement between a man and a newly born baby girl or where parents agree to the marriage of their under aged children. According to the United Nations, “...it is a human rights violation. Despite laws against it, the practice remains widespread”.¹⁴ Due to uneven power dynamics, girls who marry young are at greater risk of face violence, abuse, and forced sexual intercourse.¹⁵

Amongst the Becheve people of Cross-River State, early marriage (money marriage) is still being practiced. This is where children (two years and older) are given out for marriage as a means to repay the debts of their parents.¹⁶

Forced marriage is defined as, “the intentional conduct of forcing an adult or a child to enter into a marriage and the intentional conduct of luring an adult or a child to the territory of a party or state other than the one she or he resides in with the purpose of forcing this adult or child to enter into a marriage.”¹⁷

12 Article 3 (b) Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210)

13 Save the Children, '*Child Marriage: The Devastating End of Childhood*' <<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/child-marriage-a-violation-of-child-rights>> accessed 24 March 2023

14 “Child Marriage” (United Nations Population Fund) <<https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage>> accessed on 24 March 2023

15 Plan International, “*Child Marriage*” (Plan International, n.d) <<https://plan-international.org/srhr/child-marriage-early-forced/>> accessed on 24 March 2023

16 DailyTrust Newspaper “*Money marriage: How ancient tradition ‘refuse to die in Cross-River’*” (Cross-River, 6 November 2022) accessed 24 March 2023

17 Article 37 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210)

Harmful Traditional Practice (Inheritance/Widowhood)

The patriarchal nature of African society generally lays emphasis on the superiority of men over women in every sphere of life. When a woman dies, in most African societies, her legacy is usually inherited by the husband, children, and her family. But if a man dies, the widow, usually experiences false accusations of killing her husband to deny her the share of her husband's properties.¹⁸ And she is most times depending on the State or community subjected to heinous discriminatory traditional rites like drinking the water used to wash the corpse of the deceased husband, shave her hair, sleep with the corpse for some days, not take her bath, confined to a room to mention but a few.

The status of women and their roles and rights in the society has remained an unresolved issue across cultures and societies. In Africa and modern societies, her economic status has constituted another issue of heated debate and controversy in ideologies, religions, and culture. In some cultures and societies she had no property and inheritance right. Rather, she is part of the legacy to be inherited. Abuse and violence against female gender is a 'ubiquitous plague that has continually beleaguered society in Nigeria'.¹⁹

The traditional practice or custom of depriving women and children from the right to inherit still holds sway in some communities in Nigeria, contrary to the provisions of the law.²⁰ The Supreme Court in a unanimous decision on April 14, 2014 in *Ukeje v Ukeje* affirmed the decisions of two lower courts, which had found unconstitutional an Igbo customary law of succession excluding female offspring from eligibility to inherit the property of their father.²¹ It stated that the law was in conflict with the non-discrimination provision of the Constitution of 1999 and therefore void.²²

Psychological/Emotional Abuse

This refers to any act that provokes fear, diminishes the individual's self-worth, dignity or self-esteem, inflicts psychological trauma on another person. In the family, acts of intimidation, silent treatment, yelling, talking down, playing on emotions, degradation, treating her as though she was a child, blackmailing, threatening, coming home drunk or stoned,

18 P S Akorede, A A Muinat, 'Abuses of Women in Inheritance Across Cultures: An Exploratory Study of Its Prevalence and Religious Panacea' [2017], 1

19 R Arisi, P Oromareghake, 'Cultural Violence and the Nigerian Woman' [2011] 5(4) African Research Review <<https://doi.org/10.4314/afrrrev.v5i4.69290>> accessed 14 March 2023

20 See Sections 34 (1) (a), 37 and 42 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended, Ss. 10 (1) and 11 of the Child Rights Act, 2003.

21 *Mrs Lois Chituru Ukeje and Enyinaya Lazarus Ukeje v. Mrs Gladys Ada Ukeje* [2004](SC)224

refusing to provide support or help out with the children amounts to emotional abuse.²³

Financial Abuse

This is any action that reduces or deprives a woman of her financial independence. Examples are refusing her to work, run her own business or engage in any financial activity, taking her money, forging her signature or name, withholding money, spending money on addiction, gambling, sexual services at the expense of her wellbeing and up-keep, keeping her in the dark concerning the family finances and assets, etc.²⁴

Using Privilege/Social Status

Any comments or actions that suggest she is inferior because she comes from a different socio-economic background is discriminatory and violates her fundamental human rights which are guaranteed nationally, regionally and internationally.²⁵ A victim stated, “My abuser who was a pilot used to say to me: “You daughter of a cook, do you have any pilot in your family? Have you seen a pilot before in your life?” He also used his social status and influence to hide and deny his abusive behavior so I could not get help. At the end, he tried to use his position to engage me in expensive legal proceedings in another city far away from where we both lived and he did everything possible to manipulate and prolong legal proceedings.”

These are the various ways men abuse women using their social status.²⁶

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined to include unwelcome sexual behavior as in physical contact and advances, sexist remarks, forcefully showing pornography and making sexual demands, whether by words or actions.²⁷ It is also defined as, “Any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of

23 Makinde (Ibid n 42)

24 Makinde (Ibid n 42)

25 Ss 34 (1) (a), 37 and 42 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended, S.10 (1), 11 of the Child Rights Act, 2003, as well as the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of the Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

26 Makinde (n 42)

27 No. 19, General Recommendation of the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.”²⁸

Stalking

It is the intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another, causing her to fear for her safety.²⁹ Stalking can be done both physically and technologically (cyber stalking),³⁰ that is, using social media and its several platforms to repeatedly intimidate, harass and threaten a person.

Causes of Violence

There are occasions when violence against women is justified by harmful gender norms, which frequently result in gender stereotypes.

Hunger: Food shortage contributes to an increase in gender-based violence, just as empowering women may help alleviate hunger.³¹

The most frequent causes of conflict and war might be seen as incorrect attempts to deal with emotions. Violence is frequently a person's preferred method of expressing emotions like rage, frustration, or despair.

Violence may also be viewed as a sort of manipulation used by certain people to try to achieve what they want or need. Aggressive behavior can sometimes be employed as a kind of retaliation, a way to make things equal.

Violent behavior is sometimes caused by trauma because people grow up seeing violence openly displayed. Violence then becomes learned as an “appropriate” way to behave. Individuals who act violently overlook healthier behaviour and safer forms of expression to deal with their emotions or to meet their needs. Sometimes, individuals will choose violence as a means to manipulate others to gain control over a situation.³²

Other factors which can cause of violence include: peer influence, lack of attention or respect, having low self-worth, experiencing abuse or neglect, witnessing violence in the home, community, or media, access to weapons.³³

28 Article 40 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210)

29 Article 34 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210)

30 Cyber Crime Act, 2015

31 S Jacobson, '*Understanding Violence: What Causes It & How Should You Respond?*' (Harley Therapy Mental Health Blog, 4 March) <<https://bit.ly/3sLDp1a>> accessed 24 March 2023

32 *Ibid*

33 *Ibid*

Some Indicators of Violence

Warning signs for the potential development of violent behavior and acts include, but are not limited to: having a record of past violent behavior; membership/affiliation with organized crime, having an unhealthy interest in weapons, isolation, harboring feelings of rejection, use of alcohol and drugs, destruction of property or vandalism, voicing threats or plans to hurt others, loss of control over emotions, being a victim of bullying, poor academic performance.³⁴

Statistics

As a nation, we do not have a comprehensive data of SGBV case. A national survey in 2014 found that 6 out of 10 children reported having suffered one or more forms of violence before reaching 18 years of age, with 70 per cent of those experiencing multiple incidents of violence

- i According to UNICEF Annual Report 2017, Nigeria has the largest number of child brides in Africa and second highest number globally: 23 million girls and women were married as children.³⁵
- ii According to Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2016-2017 Harmful practices such as child marriage are prevalent in Nigeria, with 43 per cent of girls married before the age of 18.³⁶
- iii One in four females experience sexual violence in childhood with appropriately 70% reporting more than one incident of sexual violence. 5% sought help, with only 3.5% receiving any services. (National Survey on Violence against Children in Nigeria, 2014).³⁷
- iv In its recent data analysis, UN Women reports that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence:
- v Around 736 million women globally have been victims of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once.
- vi In 2018, about one in seven women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the last 12 months.
- vii 37% of women aged 15 to 49 living in countries classified by the Sustainable Development Goals as “least developed” have been victims of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence.

34 *Ibid*

35 Tunde Ajaja, 'Nigeria has second highest number of child bride – UNICEF' (Punch News, November 2019)
<<https://punchng.com/nigeria-has-second-highest-number-of-child-brides-unicef/>> accessed 24 March 2023.

36 UN Women, 2020, “*Violence against Women and Girls: The Shadow Pandemic*”
<<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/statement-ed-phumzile-violence-against-women-during-pandemic>> accessed on 24 March 2023

37 Women at Risk International Foundation, “*Rape Stats in Nigeria*”
<<https://warifng.org/rape-stats-in-nigeria/>> accessed 24 March 2023

- viii 137 women are killed by a member of their family every day from forced and early marriages to the physical, mental or sexual assault on a woman. 1 in 3 Nigerian women have experienced physical violence by age 15 (NDHS 2013).
- ix According to the 2018 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), 33% of women age 15-49 in Nigeria have experienced physical or sexual violence; 24% have experienced only physical violence, 2% have experienced only sexual violence, while 7% have experienced both physical and sexual violence.
- x In 2012, almost half that is 50 per cent of all women who were victims of intentional homicide worldwide were killed by an intimate partner or family member, compared to 6 per cent of male victims.³⁸
- xi 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. This includes a range of behaviours (e.g. slapping, shoving, and pushing) and in some cases might not be considered "domestic violence." 1 in 7 women and 1 in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.³⁹
- xii A total of 5, 623 cases of SGBV cases was reported by Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) to have been recorded in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe between January 2018 to July 2022. The report stated that cases of rape in the IDP camps have become an epidemic.⁴⁰

Legal Framework

Aside the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, which is our *grundnorm*, Nigeria has signed and ratified several International and regional human rights instruments. The Constitution provides that, "*no treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the binding force of law except to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly...*"⁴¹ and by inference the State Houses of Assembly. Some of these laws which are relevant to this discuss are: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),⁴² the International Bill of Rights for women, the Convention

38. Worldbank, '*Social Sustainability Brief*' <<https://www.worldbank.org/socialsustainability/brief>> accessed on 24 March 2023

39 NCADV, '*Statistics*' <[ncadv.org https://ncadv.org/STATISTICS](https://ncadv.org/STATISTICS)> accessed on 24 March 2023

40 Kunle Sanni '*Stop Gender Based Violence*' (Premium Times, 2022) accessed on 24 March 2023

41 S. 12 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

42 Ratified 10 December, 1979 IB Rana and V Perrie, '*CEDAW: A Tool for Addressing Violence Against Women*' (Sustainable Development Policy Institute 2019)

on the Rights of the Child (CRC),⁴³ the Council of Europe Convention,⁴⁴ the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights with its Optional Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), which is yet to be domesticated, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,⁴⁵ and the Cyber Crime Act of 2015.

On the national level, we have the Child's Right Act of 2003, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP), 2015 which have been passed by the 36 States of the Federation, though some States intentionally omitted vital provisions. In Lagos State, it is the Protection against Domestic Violence Law of Lagos States,⁴⁶ known as the Child Protection Law.

Some of the Complaints Received by the Commission under Sexual and Gender Based Violence are as follows:

C/LSO/22/305-309

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th April, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and threat to her life against her husband. X alleged that he has been beating and hitting her resulting in bleeding. She also alleged that he also hits their children who try to intervene or stop him. The incidence occurred on 10th April, 2022.

C/LSO/22/323-324

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and lack of care against her husband. X alleged that he has been beating her. and not been taking care of her and their child.

C/LSO/22/349-350

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th of April 2022 from X alleging domestic violence against Y, her lover. X alleged that Y has been maltreating and beating her since she became pregnant with their child. X further alleged that Y has neglected his fatherly duties towards their child.

C/LSO/22/368

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th April, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence against Y, her fiancé. X alleged that on 8th January, 2022, Y started abusing her physically and emotionally.

43 Ratified on 20 November, 1989

44 Nigeria acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on 6th July 2022 on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185 received on 28th August)

45 Entered into force November 29, 1999

46 Passed into Law in 2007

C/BSO/MDR/006/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th January 2022 from XY, on behalf of X against Y. XY alleged that X was raped by Y and taken to hospital for tests and it was confirmed that she was raped.

C/BSO/MDR/010/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th January, 2022 from X against her husband. X alleged that she has been married to Y for over 2 years without any issues, but recently Y started maltreating and beating her and has abandoned his responsibilities towards her.

C/BSO/MDR/C/067/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd February, 2022 from X against her boyfriend. X alleged that he got her pregnant and has refused to take up his responsibilities towards the pregnancy.

C/BSO/MDR/C/081/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th February, 2022 from Y on behalf of X, his daughter against their neighbour. Y alleged that the neighbour raped his daughter and threatened to slit her throat if she told anybody.

C/BSO/MDR/C/090/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st February, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged maltreatment and lack of maintenance of her and the children by her husband.

C/BSO/MDR/C/069/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th February, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that her husband has failed to take care of her and the children's basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/C/074/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th February, 2022 from X against Y, her husband, alleging abandonment and lack of maintenance of her and their 10 children.

C/BSO/MDR/C/093/2022

The Commission received a Complaint dated 24th February, 2022 from XY on behalf of X against Y, her husband. XY alleged that Y has not been adequately providing for her basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/C/125/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st March, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has been maltreating her and has neglected to provide for her maintenance in their home.

C/BSO/MDR/C/117/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th March, 2022 from XY on behalf of X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has failed to provide for her maintenance also failed to pay the remaining balance of her dowry (N30, 000).

C/BSO/MDR/C/105/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th March, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has been maltreating her by beating her and has also neglected to provide for her upkeep and maintenance.

C/BSO/MDR/C/189/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th April, 2022 from X alleging that her husband has been beating her.

C/BSO/MDR/C/205/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th April, 2022 from X alleging that her husband has been maltreating her and also failed to provide for her maintenance.

C/BSO/MDR/C/181/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th April, 2022 from X alleging abandonment and lack of maintenance against her husband.

C/BSO/MDR/C/185/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd April, 2022 from Y against his wife alleging that the wife left their matrimonial home, and he wants her to return back home.

C/BSO/MDR/C/197/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th April, 2022 from X, a representative of a widows group against the Nigeria Army. X alleged that she and the other widows were asked to vacate the Barracks premises in 10 days but are seeking their entitlement before moving out of the Barracks.

C/2022/WC/264/GME

The Commission received the complaint dated 29th August, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband abandoned her and left her without taking up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/207/GME

The Commission received the complaint from X dated 14th July, 2022. X alleged that her husband left for Abuja and abandoned his family since 2020 and has failed to cater for them.

C/2022/WC/263/GME

The Commission received the complaint dated 29th August, 2022 from X against her husband. She alleged abandonment by him and failure to provide for food other basic necessities. X also alleged that he owed her money and refused to give her.

C/2022/WC/125/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May, 2022 from X against her husband alleging inhuman treatment and abandonment. X alleged that he was in the habit maltreating and insulting her.

C/2022/WC/174/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th June, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband was in the habit of beating her whenever she asks for food items.

C/2022/WC/196/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st July, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband, who is a drug addict, brought his friend to their house, but the friend attempted to rape her.

C/2022/WC/195/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th June, 2022 from X against her husband. She alleged domestic violence. That he was in the habit of beating her whenever slight issues arose.

C/2022/WC/257/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd August, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence by her sister. X further alleged that her sister has been maltreating her and causing trouble in the family.

C/2022/WC/180/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X. She alleged domestic violence by her step mother, who was the habit of causing serious trouble in which sometimes led to serious fights.

C/2022/WC/162

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st June, 2022 from X. She alleged that her uncle, who is living in the same house that belongs to her mother, has been beating her resulting in bodily injuries.

C/2022/WC/126/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May, 2022 from X against her ex-husband. She alleged that he destroyed her belongings while she was packing.

C/2022/WC/124/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May, 2022 from X against her husband. She alleged that he restricted her from movement and locked her indoors.

C/2022/WC/172/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th June, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband borrowed from her money and whenever she asks him for the money, he insults her and assaults her.

C/2022/WC/168/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th June, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband has been abusing her, claiming that she does not dress well and she smells.

C/2022/WC/165/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband divorced her and sent her away without the children. She also alleged that he has been threatening her.

C/2022/WC/147-150/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th May, 2022 from Y. He alleged that his ex-wife left his house with four (4) of his children after he divorced her, denying him access to them.

C/2022/WC/171/GME

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022 from X. She alleged that she was assaulted by her husband who also threatened to kill her.

C/2022/172/KD

The Commission received a complaint date 13th July, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence against her husband. She alleged that her husband whips her, causing serious bodily harm to her.

C/2022/156/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th June, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband's friend denied her access to her late husband's property.

C/2022/WC/191/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August 2022, from X. She alleged that her ex-husband intended to forcefully marry out their daughter to a person not known to her.

C/2022/WC/177/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th June, 2022 from XY on behalf of X against Y, who is the victim's father. XY alleged that Y insisted on forcefully marrying out X against her will.

C/2022/WC/180/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June 2022, from Y on behalf of his daughter, alleging that she was raped on 25th June 2022.

C/2022/WC/198-199/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August, 2022 from XY on behalf of X against Y of Kano state. The complainant alleged that X was sexually assaulted by Y on 15th June, 2022 at Jigawa state, which resulted in pregnancy and all efforts to prosecute Y proved abortive.

C/2022/037/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th March, 2022 from X alleging that her husband constantly beats her and on 14th March, 2022, her husband beat her mercilessly which led to her miscarriage.

C/2022/049/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th April, 2022 from X alleging that since she and her husband got married in 2021, her husband has abandoned his responsibility towards her and has been humiliating and beating her. X further claimed that her husband sent her out of the house without and refused to take responsibility for her 8 month pregnancy.

C/2022/045/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April, 2022 from X alleging that she had 2 children out of wedlock with Y and they eventually got separated in 2021. X further alleged that on 10th April, 2022 Y invited her to his residence and beat her.

C/2022/077/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th March, 2022 from X alleging that she was cohabiting with Y with whom she had two children. She further alleged that Y has been constantly maltreating her.

C/2022/098/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th March, 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her at any slightest provocation, and on 27th March, 2022 he beat her severely.

C/2022/103/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st March, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is fond of beating her and on January 2022 he beat and almost killed her.

C/2022/112/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April 2022, from Y alleging that his wife is so violent and aggressive in nature and that most times when they fight, they inflict injuries on themselves.

C/2022/139/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th April 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her publicly and inflicts on her bodily injuries. He also abuses and starves her and their children of food.

C/2022/049/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February, 2022 from X against her husband. X alleged constant domestic violence with inflicted bruises on her body by her husband. X further stated that because of the constant beatings, she had to leave the house to avoid being killed and that her husband collected their baby who is still under exclusive breast feeding from her.

C/2022/120/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April, 2022 from X against her husband. X alleged constant beating and abuses at any slightest opportunity by her husband. X further stated that their marriage is blessed with two female children and her husband forcefully sent her out of their matrimonial and has since refused to cater for the welfare and maintenance of their children living with her.

C/2022/096/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th March, 2022 from X against her husband alleging that their marriage is blessed with eleven children, while eight are dead. X further alleged that despite all she had gone through with the death of her children, the husband maltreats and humiliates her in public on constant bases. X also claimed that when the eighth child died on 22nd January 2022, her husband immediately sold her properties without her consent, denied her access to her farmland and also left the corpse of their last dead child unburied, with the intention of suffering her.

C/2022/091/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th March, 2022 from X alleging that her husband in 2016 is in the habit of beating and abusing her at any slightest provocation. X further stated that their marriage is blessed with eight children who are all adult.

C/2022/095/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th March, 2022 from X against her husband who is in the habit of beating and humiliating her publicly and before their children had severely locked her outside their matrimonial home after beating.

C/2022/113/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th April, 2022 from X alleging that on 12th April, 2022 she had a misunderstanding with her husband that made him to hit her on the right side of her neck. X further alleged that the husband has always exhibited ill treatment and wickedness attitude towards her.

C/2022/116/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th April, 2022 from X, against her husband who has been constantly beating and abusing her publicly. X alleged that the marriage is blessed with six children. X further claimed that the husband has sent her out of their matrimonial

home and now occupied the six shops they both built which has been a source of income to the family.

C/2022/093/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th March, 2022 from X, alleging that she got separated from her husband in January, 2022 due to irreconcilable differences. X further alleged that after the separation, her husband indoctrinated their children against her and all efforts to access her children living with their father proved abortive.

C/2022034/AKS/C/2021/404/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th January, 2022 from X alleging that her husband maltreats her by constantly beating and has refused to cater for her.

C/2022/011/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from X alleging that her husband habitually beats her and uses a matchet to frighten her whenever she requested for feeding money. X also alleged that she is a nursing mother and her baby is barely three months old and she is threatened to leave her 3 months old child due to her inability to feed as she is a nursing mother.

C/2022/IMS/156

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st April, 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her at any slightest provocation. X further alleged that her husband abandoned her and their children on 21st April, 2022.

C/2022/115/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th April, 2022 from X against her husband. X alleged that after their traditional marriage in October 2021, her husband has been in the habit of going out with several women and whenever she complained about his infidelity, her husband and his siblings jointly beat her and verbally abuse her. X also claimed that because she has not been able to get pregnant since they got married, living with him has affected her psychologically and she is finding it difficult to stay in the marriage.

C/2022/097/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th March, 2022, from X against her husband. X alleged that her husband is fond of beating her and the children at every slightest provocation and has refused to cater

for the family basic needs. X further alleged that her husband usually threatened her and the children of sending them out of his house.

C/2022/085/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th March, 2022, from X alleging that her husband battered her at every slightest provocation and he has equally neglected his responsibilities as a father and husband to his family.

C/2022/009/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January, 2022, from X against her husband. X alleged that her husband is in the habit of beating her whenever they had misunderstanding and he has also threatened to deal with her if she does not pack her things and leave his house.

C/2022/130/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd April, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and forceful eviction from her marital home by her husband. X further alleged that her husband did not allow her to pick her belongings with her when he sent her out of his house. X also stated that the husband has equally denied her access into his house to pick the remaining of her belongings for the past two months thereby rendering her homeless and without clothing.

C/2022/075/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th March 2022 from X alleging that her husband is fond of beating her at any slightest provocation despite her stage of pregnancy and that her life is endangered.

C/2022/020/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from X alleging that her live has been laden with constant physical assault by her husband and that he sent her packing and denied her access to his house to enable her pack her belongings.

C/2022/054/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th February, 2022 from X alleging that her husband has been abusing her physically and emotionally for the past 28 years of their marriage. X further alleged that because of the constant domestic violence, she has been admitted severally at the hospital.

C/2022/50/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February, 2022, from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation and had threatened to kill her severally. X further alleged that her husband has stopped providing for the family to serve as part of her punishment.

C/2022/006/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th January, 2022 from X alleging that she has been under constant beating at any slightest provocation by her husband. X further stated that she was beaten to the extent that she has to leave their matrimonial house at Lagos and relocated to Akwa Ibom with their 9 years old son for fear of repeated domestic violence.

C/2022/10/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January 2022 from X alleging that she co-habited with the respondent for a period of 11 years and within these period, the respondent has been beating her. X further claimed that the respondent took possession of her ATM card and withdrew money without her consent and she had to move out of his house because of the constant abuses.

C/2022/IMS/87

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st March, 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her at any slightest provocation. X further alleged that her husband abandoned her and her children since 21st March, 2022.

C/2022/IMS/117

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st April, 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats and inflicted injuries on her, in January, 2022 at their residence in Imo State.

C/ANS/SEZ/2022/19

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th February 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her at any slightest provocation and had threatened to kill her. X further mentioned that her husband took her two (2) years old son from her since December 2021.

C/ANS/SEZ /2022/43

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th March 2022 from X alleging that she is an Ivorian and her husband who is a Nigerian beats her regularly. X further alleged that the family of her husband has

intervened severally when both of them have argument and all efforts to ensure that both of them live peacefully proved abortive.

C/ANS/SEZ/2022/60

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd April 2022 from X against her husband who beat her at the slightest provocation, threatens to kill her and refuse to provide for the family.

C/ANS/SEZ/2022/44

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th March 2022 from X against her brother in-law. X alleged that her brother-in-law makes sexual advances to her and her refusal resulted to beating, threatening and deprivation of her share from family land proceeds.

C/ANS/SEZ/2022/60

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd April 2022 from X against her husband who beats her at the slightest provocation, threatened to kill her and has refuse to provide for the family.

C/2022/W&GR/577/NSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd August, 2022 from X alleging that her husband of 22 years of marriage has been maltreating and beating her on regular bases.

C/2022/W-GR/588/NSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and threat to life by her husband on 20th August, 2022. X further alleged that since they got married in 2014 she has been experiencing domestic violence.

C/2022/W&GR/590-592/NSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th August, 2022 from X alleging that her estranged husband has denied her access to their children who now stay with him and his new wife.

C/LSO/22/140-144

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st February 2022 from X alleging that her brother in-law physically assaulted her and her husband did not do anything.

C/2022/WCR/011/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st January, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the the slightest provocation.

C/2022/WCR/003/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X alleging constant misunderstanding, beating and molestation by her husband.

C/2022/WCR/014/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th February, 2022 from X alleging her husband's emotionally abuses, which has led to constant violence in their marriage.

C/2022/WCR/018/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th February, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of maltreating her at any given opportunity.

C/2022/WCR/043/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd April, 2022 from X alleging that her husband abuses her physically and emotionally on constant bases.

C/2022/CPR/003/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th February, 2022 from Y alleging that as the result of his elder brother assaulted and maltreated towards the mother, she was admitted in the hospital.

C/LSO/22/013-014

The Commission received a complaint 10th January, 2022 from X alleging that her husband abandoned her and their son and also seized her personal documents (credentials) as a result of disagreement they both had..

C/LSO/22/031- 032

The Commission received a complaint datted 14th January, 2022 from X alleging constant physical domestic violence and threat to her life by her husband.

C/LSO/22/033-038

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from Y alleging that his mother who is an asthmatic patient, has constantly been maltreated by his step dad for years.

C/N/LSO/22/074-075

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January, 2022 from X alleging that her father and step mum normally maltreat her and her younger sisters.

C/LSO/22/092-096

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th February 2022, from X alleging that her husband does not provide for the welfare of the family and is always threatening to divorce her.

C/LSO/22/103

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th February 2022 from X alleging constant beating and harassment from her husband. X further alleged that her husband has threatened to kill her if she leaves his house and this has led her living in perpetual fear at home.

C/LSO/22/105-107

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th March, 2022, from X alleging physical domestic violence and lack of fatherly responsibilities towards their children by her husband.

C/ABS/2022/108,440

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd August 2022 from X alleging domestic violence by her husband. X further alleged that the husband usually unsure that he inflict physical injury in her body when beating her.

C/ABS/2022/108/258

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation including whenever she is pregnant. X further alleged that the husband eventually threw her out of their house and took custody of their two year old son and has been denying her access to their son.

C/2022/108,465/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th August 2022 from X alleging that the respondent living in the same compound with her abducted her with his fellow tricycle rider on 9th February 2022, took her to a bush and raped her. X further claimed that the incident was videoed by his friend using his cell phone. X further alleged that since the incident, the respondent has been forcing her to have intercourse with him with the threat that if she refuses, he would make the rape video go viral on social media.

C/2022/108,295/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st June 2022 from X alleging all forms of physical and mentally abuses from her husband for over 13 years of marriage. X further alleged that on 27th May 2022, after a misunderstanding, her husband beats her so badly that her face was swollen and she started having blurred vision.

C/ABS/2022/108/253

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th May 2022 from X alleging that her boyfriend violently raped her on 29th November 2019.

C/2022/071/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th June, 2022 from X alleging that she has been going through a lot of physical and emotional maltreatments from her husband since 2019. X further alleged that despite her present pregnancy with their second child the husband has failed in providing their basic needs.

C/2022/089/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd August, 2022 from XY alleging that on 31st July, 2022 he witnessed, the ill treatment and beatings of a woman by her husband where he locked her inside the room and started beating her and made it difficult for neighbours to come to her rescue.

C/2022/080/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th July, 2022 from X alleging that on 20th February, 2022 at their residence in Jimeta-Yola Adamawa State, at 11:00pm her husband came home angrily and started threatening her life. X further stated that her husband normally beats her at any slightest provocation and promised to stop her from attending any religious activities.

C/2022/092/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th August, 2022 from X alleging that since 2016 her husband has been beating and using abusive and dehumanizing words on her which led to her attempted suicide. X further stated that on 14th July, 2022 he beats her so badly that her cry for help attracted neighbours, who came to her rescue.

C/2022/059/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th May, 2022 from X alleging that she is 8 months pregnant but her husband has neglected all his responsibilities towards her such as feeding, health and ante-

natal. X further alleged that on 10th May, 2022 she had a misunderstanding whereby he beats her at their residence in Yola South LGA, Adamawa State.

C/2022/073/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th June, 2022 from X alleging that since she got married 7 years ago she had faced different kinds of maltreatments and neglects from her husband. X further stated that early 2022 he threatened her life in Edo State where they resided before she ran for her life.

C/2022/162/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th May, 2022, from X alleging that her husband is very quarrelsome at any slightest provocation. X further alleged that on 16th May, 2022 at Akwa Ibom State, they had a misunderstanding and during the process he sprinkled unidentified chemical on her that burnt some part of her body.

C/2022/214/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th July, 2022, from X of Uyo, Akwa State alleging domestic violence by her husband. X alleged that her husband constantly beats her and inflicts injuries all over her body. X further stated that her husband claimed he got married to her out of pity.

C/2022/209/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July from X alleging constant physically abuse in their marriage by the respondent. X further alleged that the recent verbal and physical abuse she experienced landed her in admission in the hospital.

C/2022/235/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September, 2022 from X alleging that the respondent has been abusing her physically and emotionally for the past 17 years of their marriage.

C/2022/085/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th July, 2022 from X alleging that since she got married on 22nd December, 2013, her husband has neglected his responsibilities towards her. X further stated that her husband stopped her from going to work, engaging in any business and threatened her life on several occasions.

C/2022/186/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th June, 2022 from Y alleging that his life is being threatened by a woman he got engaged to and intended to marry. Y further alleged that he told her before engagement that he has a son with another woman out of wedlock and she accepted. Y also stated that after citing the picture of his son, she got angry, torn the cloth she was wearing and started breaking every items in his house and she further threatened to burn down their family compound. Y claimed that he had to flee for his life and since his life is endangered.

C/2022/277/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th August, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her with dangerous weapons and requested she leaves his house or else he will kill her. X further alleged that due to his threat, she left his house with her children on 23rd August, 2022 to stay with her sisters. Since then he does not provide for her or the children.

C/2022/222/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband threw her belongings out of his house on 31st may, 2022 at Ikot EkpeyakIkono, in Akwa Ibom State over a minor dispute. X further stated that since he sent her packing out of his house, it has affected her business of farming and processing of palm oil which she has invested so much time and resources.

C/2022/294/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th August, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating and abusing her in the presence of their children and that the last beating and abuses was on 24th August 2022 at their residence in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

C/2022/210/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July, 2022 from X alleging that her husband normally beats her for unjust reason to the extent of inflicting injuries on her body.

C/2022/233/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th July, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of torturing her by ways of constantly beating her at any slightest provocation, and this has caused her great emotional pain.

C/2022/191/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th June, 2022, from X alleging that her husband on 15th June, 2022 during a misunderstanding, beats her in Akwa Ibom State.

C/2022/240/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th August, 2022 from X alleging that her husband abuses her physically and emotionally. She further alleged he has failed to provide for his family thereby leaving all responsibilities of the family on her.

C/2022/257/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th August, 2022 from X alleging that since she got married, her husband has refused her to visit her family. X further alleged that on 12th August 2022 she went to visit her parent after a long time and when she came back she was seriously beaten by the husband.

C/2022/255/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September, 2022 from X alleging that her husband usually beat her at any slightest provocation. X further alleged that on 12th August, 2022 she was beaten by her husband during a conversation they were both having.

C/2022/170/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th May, 2022 from X against her husband. X alleged that as from 26th November, 2008, their marriage was been under constant fights and in 2013 her husband abandoned her with the children making it difficult for her and the children to cope.

C/2022/215/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th July, 2022, from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating and harassing her both in public and in private.

C/163/2022/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th May 2022, from X of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State alleging domestic violence. X further alleged that her husband physically abused her and does not take care of his family.

C/2022/149/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th May, 2022, from X who resides at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State alleging wife abandonment. X alleged

that her husband packed out of their matrimonial home few months after their marriage ceremony to another location. X further alleged that the landlord chased her out of the compound with a cutlass when she visited the husband in the church where he pastored.

C/2022/226/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th July, 2022, from X against her husband. X alleged that her husband beats her whenever he comes home drunk. X further alleged that one day at midnight, when she woke up she saw her husband with a cutlass ready for a fight with her and insisting that he will kill her.

CRS/C/2022/32

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th May, 2022 from X against her husband alleging domestic violence and threat to life which prompted her to leave the marriage. X further stated that the husband went to her village in Cross River State and took the children promising to return them after the Easter break but has since declined to do so and denied her access to them.

CRS/C/2022/35

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th May 2022 from Y alleging that his sister's husband residing at No. 2 Williamson Close, Anantigha, Calabar is in the habit of beating and threatening her life at the slightest provocation. Y further alleged that the man has refused to take care of his sister and the children which has in turn made life very difficult for them.

CRS/C/2022/39

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th May, 2022, from X alleging that her husband has been treating her unfairly for the past ten years. X also alleged that he physically assaulted her and threatened her life on the 24th May, 2022 at their house located at Calabar.

CRS/C/2022/62

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th July, 2022, from XY against Y who beat up his girlfriend a mother of one, and stripped her naked publicly because she confronted him over a sexual affair he allegedly had with another girl.

CRS/C/2022/63

The Commission received a Complaint dated 2nd August, 2022, from X against her husband alleging domestic violence. X further alleged that

their one year and three months old marriage has been characterized by physical assault, psychological, mental, and emotional abuses.

CRS/C/2022/36

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May, 2022 from X alleging that her brother who resides in Calabar has denied her access to their late parents' estate and income including proceeds from the sale of their late parents' jeep vehicle. X also alleged that the brother threatens her and arbitrarily makes mockery of her.

CRS/C/2022/55

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July, 2022, from X alleging that her ex-husband who is based in Abuja assaulted her and attempted to kill her. X further alleged that her ex-husband threatened to kill her parents and in the company of armed military personnel invaded her family residence in Calabar and took away their one-year-old twin babies whose whereabouts remained unknown to her.

CRS/C/2022/56

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th June, 2022, from XY alleging that X who resides in Plateau State has been denied access to her four children, her life threatened and her properties sold off by the father of the children who resides with them in Ogoja Cross River State.

CRS/C/2022/47

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th June, 2022 from XY residing at Ugep, Cross River State against her father, alleging that her father has subjected her mother to all forms of domestic violence ranging from severe beatings, threat to life and more. XY further alleged that the abuses have made her mother to move out of the matrimonial home for fear of her life.

C/DSO/2022/143

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June 2022 from X who alleged that her husband usually engages her in a fight and beat her up mercilessly because he wants to marry another wife.

C/ DSO/2022/132

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th May 2022 from X alleging that her husband always maltreats her for no just cause. She stated that she had tried stopping him but no avail.

C/DSO/2022/155

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th June 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in habit of supporting his relative that previously made sexual advances at her and also beating her at any slightest provocation and that he had threatened to kill her too.

C/DSO/2022/182

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th July 2022 from X alleging that her husband had abused her on several occasions. X alleged that he beats her up to the extent that she almost lost her life.

C/DSO/2022/183

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th July 2022 from X alleging that her husband has abused her on several occasions and that he also threatened that if she does not leave his life that her life will be in danger.

C/DSO/2022/190-191

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd May 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation and had sent her out of the house and also denied her access to their child.

C/DSO/2022/184-185

The Commission received a complaint dated the 26th July 2022 from X alleging domestic violence against the alleged violator whom she was in a relationship with. She further stated that as soon as she discovered that he was married with children; he started assaulting her and inflicting her with several injuries on her body.

C/DSO/2022/172

The Commission received a complaint dated the 15th July 2022 from X alleging that her husband always maltreats her for no just cause. X alleged further that the husband beats her up in front of their kids and the neighbors. She stated that she had tried stopping him but no avail.

C/DSO/2022/57-59

The Commission received a complaint dated the 21st March 2022 from X who alleged that her husband has neglected taking care of her and their three daughters. She further alleged that he stopped attending to the needs of the family and that all effort to convince him proved abortive.

C/2022/32/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th May, 2022 from X alleging her husband of attempting to stab her and damaging her phone. X further stated that families of both parties have made several fruitless attempts to mediate and sustain their marriage but to no avail.

C/2022/34/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th May, 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her at any slight provocation and has threatened to kill her. X further stated that her husband has relocated the children to an unknown location which makes it impossible for her to access the children.

C/2022/WGR/191-192/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th September, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence by her husband.

C/2022/WC/193/AKR

The Commission in receipt of a complaint dated 30th September, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and forcefully taking of their three (3) years old child away from her by her husband.

C/2022/WGR/195/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is of the habit of physically assaulting her.

C/2022/WGR/196-197/AKR

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 6th October, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is of the habit of physically assaulting her. X further alleged that Y has failed to fulfill his parental responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/WGR/199-201/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence, threat to life and denial of access to her child by her husband. X further alleged that her husband was in the habit of assaulting her physically which was affecting her emotionally and psychologically.

C/2022/WGR/202/AKR

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 12th October, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and negligence by her husband.

C/2022/WGR-CPR/203-204/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th October, 2022 from X alleging that the family of her late husband were denying her the custody of her three children. She further alleged that they threatened her life.

C/2022/WGR/RC/209-210/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th of October, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and child abandonment against Y, her husband. X stated that after she gave birth to their first daughter, Y started smoking cigarettes and marijuana actively. She stated that he also started cheating with another woman, which led to him stop coming home regularly. X stated that long before then, Y had failed in taking up his responsibility towards the children's upkeep financially and that Y had beaten her twice for reporting him to their family members.

C/2022/WGR/217/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th November, 2022 from X, alleging domestic violence against her husband. X further alleged that he was in the habit of assaulting her at the slightest provocation and this violent act is affecting her psychological and emotional wellbeing.

C/2022/WGR/227/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022 from X alleging threats to her life against Y, her husband, who is a police officer. X stated that she is psychologically and emotionally traumatized by Y's rage and violence each time they have a misunderstanding. X also alleged that Y threatened to kill her and thus fears for the security of her life.

C/2022/WGR/229/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th November, 2022 from X, alleging domestic violence against her husband. X stated that she is pregnant, and he still physically assaults her physically in her current state.

C/2022/CPR/235/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December 2022 from X alleging that her boyfriend physically assaulted her and threatened her life. X stated that, most recently, he saw her Whatsapp Status post of another man and physically assaulted her on the 13th of December, 2022 because of it.

C/2022/WGR/237/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st November 2022 from X alleging that her husband was subjecting her to domestic violence. X alleged that her health is failing as a result of the incessant physical assaults.

C/2022/WC/273/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November 2022 from X alleging that her husband threatened to kill her at any time.

C/2022/WC/192/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating and maltreating her.

C/2022/WC/217/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th October 2022 from X alleging that Y has been beating her at the slightest provocation.

C/2022/WC/249/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November 2022 from X alleging that her father has denied her access to the child. X also alleged that her husband forcefully evicted her from their house and was in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation.

C/2022/WC/1263—1266

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th December 2022 from X alleging that her husband was in the habit of beating and humiliating her. X further disclosed that he beats her to the extent of stripping her naked.

C/2022/WC/1091-1096/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October 2022 from X against her late husband's family over disinheritance of her late husband's property on the grounds that she only bore him daughters while he was alive.

C/2022/WC/1036-1038/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September 2022 from X against her husband's family concerning the inheritance of her late husband's property. X alleged that his family wanted to sell the only house the husband left behind, which she still lives in and thus have asked her to vacate the house with nowhere else to go.

C/2022/WC&VG/308/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th November 2022 from X. X alleged that her husband beats her at the slightest provocation.

C/2022/WC & VG/289/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November 2023 from X who alleged that her husband beats her at the slightest provocation and has been threatening her life whenever they have a fight.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 296 – 299/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd October 2022 from X. X alleged domestic violence and threat to life by her husband.

C/2022/WC/2578 – 2580/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband beats her and does not provide for the family's welfare.

C/2022/WC&VG/217-232/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th September 2022 from X who alleged that her husband beats her at the slightest provocation and inflicts injuries on her body. X also stated that the husband has failed in his parental responsibility towards their children.

C/2022/WC&VG/329/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st December 2022 from X, alleging that her husband has been taking her money without her permission and whenever she confronts him, he beats her up.

C/2022/WC&VG/2458-2460/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October 2022 from X who alleged that her husband was constantly putting her through emotional and psychological trauma.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 320 – 321/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December 2022 from , who alleged defamation of character, threat and emotional abuses on a constant basis, by her husband.

C/WG & VG/ 233 – 235/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September 2022 from X against her husband. X alleged that her husband abdicated his parental responsibilities towards their children and liked to constantly humiliate her.

C/2022/WC & VG /207 – 209/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th September 2022 from X who alleged that her husband has been physically, verbally and psychologically assaulting her.

C/2022/WC & VG/296 – 299/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd October 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband beats her at the slightest provocation and has also threatened her life on many occasions.

C/2022/WC/3186 – 3190/HQI

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband had been in the habit of beating her ever since they got married. X further alleged that recently, he beat her and she had to be hospitalized.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 318 – 319/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband has not been fulfilling his fatherly responsibility towards their children and has continually threatened her on different occasions.

C/2022/ WC & VG/ 325 – 328/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st December 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband beats her at the slightest provocation and has sent her out of his house.

C/2022/ WC & VG/246 – 247/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th September 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband abandoned her and the children and left for an unknown destination and all efforts to locate his whereabouts proved abortive.

C/2022/WC/345/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th November 2022 from X alleging that her husband was in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation. She further stated that the husband abandoned her and the children for another woman.

C/2022/WC/302/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd September 2022 from X alleging that her husband was in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation and had threatened to deprive her of seeing her children. X

further stated that her husband had packed all her belongings back to her family's compound without her consent.

C/2022/WC/378/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th December 2022 from X alleging that her husband was in the habit of beating her each time she demanded money for feeding the family. X also alleged that her daughter is not left out of the domestic violence and that her husband is threatening to send her and their daughter out of their home.

C/2022/WC/393/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th December 2022, from X alleging that her husband was in the habit of beating her at any slightest provocation. X further alleged that on the 28th of December 2022, the husband threw out her belongings and those of their children from their matrimonial home.

C/2022/WC/372/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st November 2022 from X alleging that on 16th December 2010, she got married to her husband and they have been having problems due to her inability to conceive. X further alleged that on 4th September 2022, her husband forcefully sent her out of their matrimonial home.

C/2022/WC/367/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th December 2022 from X alleging that before she separated from her husband he was in the habit of beating her, using a machete to threaten her and burning her clothes whenever they have misunderstanding. X further stated that he has denied her access to their children.

C/2022/WC/333/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st November 2022, from X alleging that her husband locked the house while beating her and inflicted injuries on her body, then sent her out in the middle of the night, by exposing her to more harm.

C/2022/WC/326/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th October 2022 from X alleging that she got married to her husband and the union is blessed with six (6) children. X further alleged that the husband falsely accused her of having an affair with one of the members of her fellowship and requested she leave the fellowship after seizing her phone. X also

claimed that it was the fellowship that supported them in building the house they were presently living in.

C/2022/WC/320/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October 2022, from X, alleging that her husband was in the habit of maltreating and beating her unjustly and this has caused her emotional pain and he is scared of living with him in the house.

C/2022/WC/281/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September 2022, from X alleging that the husband is in the habit of beating her at any slightest provocation and he has threatened to kill her. X further alleged that this made her run to her aunt's house for safety.

C/2022/WC/286/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September 2022, from X alleging that she and her husband are blessed with four children. X further alleged that her husband was in the habit of beating her and had threatened her life and that of her siblings living with her on many occasions. X also stated that her husband refused to provide for the family's upkeep.

C/2022/WC/292/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September 2022, from X alleging wife battery and neglect of parental responsibility by her husband. X further alleged that her husband is a drug addict, which makes it difficult for him to sustain the upkeep of his family's basic needs.

C/2022/WC/330/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October 2022 from X alleging that her husband has been maltreating her by beating her at the slightest provocation which resulted in her running out of the house for her safety.

C/2022/WC/296/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th September 2022, from X, alleging that her husband sleeps outside their home on a regular basis and whenever she confronts him about the reason for his action, he beats her and threatens to leave her and the children. X further alleged that the husband has neglected his responsibility as a husband and as a father to their children.

C/2022/WC/340/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th November 2022 from X alleging that she and her husband are blessed with five children. X further alleged that her husband sleeps out for days and comes home whenever he likes and she has no right to question him. X also alleged that he drove her out of their matrimonial home one day, after beating her mercilessly.

C/2022/WC/250/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th November 2023, from X alleging inhuman and degrading treatment against her husband. X further alleged that she had been married to her husband for over twenty years and presently, the husband drove her and the children out of their matrimonial home and went ahead to marry another wife. X also claimed that her husband has not been taking care of the children.

C/2022/WC/379/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December 2022, from X, alleging that her husband beats her both in public and in private and has neglected his responsibilities as a father by not catering for the children's upkeep and education. X further alleged that at a certain time, the husband abandoned the family and went to an unknown destination, which made life miserable for them.

C/2022/WCR/6326-6330/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October 2022 from X alleging that she got married to the respondent in 2007 and the marriage was blessed with 4 children, one male and three females, aged 12, 8, 5, and 3 years old respectively. X also alleged that the respondent was in the habit of beating and abusing her.

C/2022/WCR/6417 - 6418 /BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October 2022 from X alleging that she was raped, impregnated and abandoned by the respondent.

C/2022/WCR/6459-6460/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th December 2022 from X alleging domestic violence against her husband.

C/2022/VG/6438/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th November 2022 from XY on behalf of X, one of their members, alleging that she has been

experiencing forms of maltreatment and abuse from her husband constantly resulting in emotional pain.

C/2022/WC/592/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December 2022 from XY on behalf of her sister alleging that she was married with two children. XY further alleged that her sister's husband was in the habit of beating and insulting her sister in public, which has affected her emotional well-being.

C/2022/WC/594/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband abandoned her for over 11 months and failed to provide maintenance.

C/CRS/2022/WGR/74

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th September, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband beats and assaults her at the slightest provocation and attempts by both families to caution him proved abortive.

C/CRS/2022/75

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September, 2022 from X alleging domestic violence against her husband. X further stated that she has been battered by her husband for seven years of living together and has caused her emotional pain.

C/2022/IMS/502

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th September, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband is in the habit of threatening her at my slighted provocation and has been subjecting her to various kinds of Inhuman /degrading treatment. X further stated that her husband traveled to Abuja and locked them out of the house in Owerri on 7th September, 2022 and also ceased her personal belongings.

C/2022/IMS/440

The Commission received a complaint dated 1ST September, 2022 from X alleging that she lost her husband on 23rd August, 2017 through an auto crash. Thereafter her brother in-laws took charge of his account, phone and landed documents. X further state that her brother in-law threatened to take her 2 children away from her because she decided to remarry.

C/2022/IMS/457

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th September, 2022 from X against Y. She alleged that Y physically assault, beat and threatens her life both privately and publicly.

C/2022/IMS/475

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October,2022 from X against her husband Y who is a retired Deputy Commissioner of Police. Y constantly harasses her and her children with gun, handcuffing them, and arresting them at will. X alleged further that her husband abandoned his family for over five years.

C/2022/IMS/458

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th September, 2022 from X against her husband alleging domestic violence. X further stated that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation and had threatened to kill her.

C/2022/IMS/439

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September, 2022 from X alleging denial of access of her right to inheritance

C/2022/IMS/534

The Commission received a complaint from X dated 15th December, 2022 against her husband. Y has threatened to terminate their marriage and forcefully ejected her from their matrimonial home. Y has seized some of her properties including her certificates.

C/2022/WC/255/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th day of November, 2022 from X. She alleged that one Y of the same address raped her nine (9) year old daughter.

C/2022/WC/251/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd November, 2022 from XY against Y. XY alleged that the respondent raped, impregnated his daughter and abandoned his responsibilities towards her. Several efforts made to ensure that the victim has access to justice and fairness was futile.

C/2022/WC/200-202/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th September, 2022 from XY and (2) others against Y. XY alleged that a 13 year old was raped by

Y. All efforts made to ensure that the victim has access to justice was futile.

C/2022/CPR/242/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd day of September, 2022 from XY on behalf of their client against Y and two others. XY alleged that the trio denied her child's right to inherit her deceased husband's property who died. All efforts made to resolve the matter prove abortive.

C/2022/WC/1337/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd December, 2022 from Y against his children. He alleged disrespectful treatment meted to him by his children.

C/2022/WC/1089/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September, 2022 from X who sought intervention to reconcile domestic violence.

C/2022/WC/1, 349/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th December, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband is in the habit of beating her.

C/2022/WC/1/332/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th November, 2022 from X. She alleged having issues with her mother in-law.

C/2022/WC/1279/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband is in the habit of beating her. X further stated that he has tossed her properties out and told her to vacate their house.

C/2022/WC/1138-1143/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th October, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband is cheating on her by relating with other ladies including her friends.

C/2022/WC/1016/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st September, 2022 from. She alleged that her husband constantly beats her up because of his daughter.

C/2022/WC/1316/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation and had threatened to kill her.

C/2022/CPR/064/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th September, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband denied the paternity of their daughter.

C/2022/CPR/100/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th November, 2022 from X. She alleged that her co-wife and her children usually intimidate, threatened and beat her.

C/2022/CPR/094/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th November, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband beat her and he is in the habit of bringing his adult brothers into their matrimonial bedroom.

C/2022/CPR/092/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th November, 2022 from Y. He alleged that his ex-wife harasses him all the times without any reasonable cause.

C/2022/CPR/083/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th October, 2022 from Y. He alleged that a staff of NDLEA during their patrol in town slapped him.
Right to Inhuman Treatment

C/2022/WC/102/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd December, 2022 from X. She alleged that Y attempted to rape her inside his car and even tore her cloth, but she is able to protect herself.

C/2022/WC/037/KGS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December 2022 from X. She alleged that after the death of her husband, her father-in-law asked her to go to her home town to spend some time there and leave the children with him. According to her, on her return, the father in-law denied her access to her children and have gone ahead to take possession of her and the children's belonging.

C/2022/CPR/029/KGS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th December 2022 from XY on behalf of X who is his sister. XY alleged that X was married to her husband who died in 2008, that their union was blessed with a girl child. XY stated further that since the demise of X's husband, the family of the late husband did not contribute to the upkeep of the child and that when X remarried in 2015, the family came forward to claim custody of their late son's child by issuing threats to X.

C/2022/ESCR/418/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th September, 2022 from X. She alleged that the father of her child beat and rape her in the presence of their 4years old child, which is affecting the child psychologically.

C/LSO/22/845-848

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September 2022, from X against her husband. She alleged that he incited the children to be violent and hateful to her.

C/22/LEG/849/LAG

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging that Y beats her at her place of work and sustained eye injury and chest pain as a result of the incident.

C/2022/WC/8408/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th of November, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband, who works at XY threatened to deal with her mercilessly, saying that she and their 3 children are witches. X further alleged that her husband attacked her and the children at her shop. He pulled her hair off during the attack and their second son dislocated his left arm. X had to file a divorce due to her husband's constant violence.

C/2022/WC/8466-8409/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th of September, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband, uses his belt to beat her on her legs and back. She further alleged that he does not provide food and upkeep for their 2 years old baby. Y deserted her and later married another woman and have relocated thereby making life difficult for her and their baby.

C/2022/WC/8516-8520/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th of October 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband, married another woman and he keeps threatening to kill her whenever she asks him questions about it. X further alleged that Y neglected his responsibilities of providing food and paying school fees of their 4 children. She has suffered emotionally and physically due to his bad attitude.

C/2022/WC/8452-8455/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th of September, 2022 from X against Y, her husband, who abandoned his responsibilities of catering for the upkeep, school fees and maintenance of their 3 children. X alleged that Y, his mother and two siblings have been making life unbearable for her and the children. She further alleged that while she was relaxing at their residence, her husband's two siblings ganged up against her, beat and threw her personal belongings outside saying that she is always rude to their mother and they cannot tolerate that.

C/2022/WC/8552-8555/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st of October, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband has subjected her to physical, verbal and emotional abuse for the past 12 years of their marriage and all efforts to make him stop proved abortive. X further stated that Y wants to continue to be the one in charge of her finances including the full details of how she spends money in the last 3 years. She claims that as a result of the constant abuse, she now has high blood pressure and has been attending trauma healing sessions at the Hospital.

C/2022/WC/294/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October, 2022 from X alleging that her husband beat her forcefully and dragged their 3 month old baby outside at midnight. She also alleged that he refuses to provide for the feeding, upkeep and education of their children.

C/2022/WC/310/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from X alleging that her husband abused, violated and thrown her out of their matrimonial home.

C/2022/WC/311/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th October, 2022 from X alleging that her husband attacked her physically by squeezing her neck. She also alleged that he refused to pay rent and to take care of the children's food and school needs.

C/2022/WC/336/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th November, 2022 from Y alleging that his wife had abandoned the matrimonial. He also alleged that she denies him conjugal rights under the guise of catering work.

C/2022/WC/344/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her up physically, seizing her phone, refusing to give her money for their children's feeding, schooling and upkeep and is always threatening to kill her.

C/2022/WC/349/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st December, 2022 from X alleging that Y, with whom she has been co-habiting for 12 years, physically abuses and assaults her by infliction of bodily injuries

C/2022/WC/325/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th November 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband beats her up at any slightest provocation. Y denies the paternity of their children always, saying that they will never inherit anything from him.

C/2022/WC/328/ENU

The Commission received a complaint from X dated 10th November 2022. X complained that Y, her brother, maltreats and beats her up any time he has the opportunity to do so. X also stated that Y threatens to kill her if she doesn't do whatever he asks of her at any given time.

C/2022/WC/329/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th November 2022 from X. X complained that her Uncles have been denying her and her mother access to their father's property because their father did have any male child before his demise. X complained that they deny them even access to their farm land to get food to eat, telling them that they don't have any share there because they are just women. They have reported to the Community head and other appropriate quarters and nothing was done.

C/2022/CPR/347/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 16 November 2022 from X. X complained that her uncle and his son has been denying her and her siblings access to their father's property on the basis that they have no male child in their family. As all these were ongoing, they sought the intervention of their Kinsmen, who settled the matter amicably and a portion of land was allocated to them to build their house. As the house

was in progress her Uncle and his son resurfaced and started threatening them again, which now warranted them to complain to the Commission.

C/2022/WC/366/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd December 2022 from X alleging that her boyfriend abandoned her after he got her pregnant. X further alleged that he is not ready to marry her neither take responsibility of the pregnancy.

C/2022/WC/275/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September, 2022 from X against her husband, alleging threat to life and domestic violence. X stated that he abuses her verbally and physically at any slightest provocation and also threatened to kill her with a knife for disobeying him by going to their neighbour's house.

C/2022/WC/320/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd November, 2022 from X against her husband alleging that he beats her and locked her out at midnight with their 2 months old baby requesting that she should never return to his house. She further alleged that her husband took all her belongings and their five children to his village and has denied her access to their children.

C/2022/WC/324/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November, 2022 from X against her husband alleging that Y beats her up incessantly at any slightest provocation especially in the middle of the night. X further stated that he has neglected his family by not catering for his family thereby leaving the responsibility for her alone.

C/2022/WC/355/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th December, 2022 from X against her husband alleging domestic violence and denial of access to their children. X stated that her husband beats her at any slightest provocation and one day he called some security men to drag and pick her up from the church service and later dropped her at her parents' house. She stated that the next day, when she went back to their house her husband prevented her access to the house and the children.

C/2022/WC/364/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th December, 2022 from X against her husband, alleging that he beats her up incessantly at any

slightest provocation, locks her out and burns her clothes. X further stated that he threatens to kill and occasionally wakes her up to abuse her verbally in the dead of the night.

C/2022/WC/270/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th September 2022 from X alleging that her husband hits her with any object he finds around and abuses her sexually.

C/2022/WC/273/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th September 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her up at any slightest provocation and has evicted her from their matrimonial home.

C/2022/WC/276/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her without reason even in her pregnant state, abandons her and the children without food for days.

C/2022/WC/286/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd September 2022 from X alleging that her husband, beats her, maltreats their children and refuses to provide for their basic needs.

C/2022/WC/299/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th October 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her whenever she is pregnant and has refused to provide for the family.

C/2022/WC/307/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th October 2022 from X alleging that her husband beats her when in her pregnant state, threatens to poisoned her drugs and food.

C/2022/WC/308/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October 2022 from X alleging that her boy-friend beats her whenever he likes and collects her money without paying back.

C/2022/WC/272/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th September 2022 from X alleging that her husband, abandoned her, and has failed to provide for her and denied her access to their first child.

C/2022/WC/281/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September 2022 from X against her husband, alleging that he beats her at any slightest provocation, threatened to kill her and destroyed her belongings.

C/2022/WC/323/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November 2022 from X against her husband alleging that he beats her at will, sent her out of their matrimonial home and do not provide for their children's upkeep and education.

C/2022/WC/339/ENU

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th November 2022 from X against her husband, alleging that her husband abuses her at will and abandoned her with their two children.

C/2022/ESC/137/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th November 2022 from X alleging that her husband, who is a teacher at Government day Secondary School Minna has neglected his responsibilities towards her and the children for the pass 16 years of marriage. X further alleged that anytime she complains to him about taking up his responsibility as a husband, he always quarrels and beats her up.

C/2022/CPR/140/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November 2022 from X alleging wife battery and negligence of fatherly responsibility by her husband of 15 years of marriage. X further alleged that her husband is suspecting her of having extra marital affairs and has refused to cater for the basic needs of her and their three children.

C/2022/WC/146/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st November 2022 from X alleging that her husband, who is a carpenter working has neglected his responsibilities as a husband and father towards his children. X further alleged that her husband no longer cater for his family thereby leaving her to shoulder the burden of taking care of the children welfare.

C/2022/CPR/147/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th November 2022 from Y alleging that his sister who is married to the respondent who is a lawyer has been harassing and maltreatment her as well as not providing for her basic necessities for the past 5 years.

C/2022/WC/126/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th October 2022 from X against her husband on domestic violence. X alleged that the marriage of four years has been saddled with various act of domestic violence to an extent of inflicting injuries on her body after having a slight misunderstanding.

C/2022/WC/131/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th October 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of maltreating her since she got married to him in December 2021. X further claimed that her husband is found of beating her and often threatened to end her life.

C/2022/WC/132/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th October 2022 from X alleging that she has been married to her husband for the past 10 years and of recent he suddenly developed the habit of beating her at every slightest provocation. X further alleged that the most recent incident of beating which happened on 20th October 2022 landed her in the hospital.

C/2022/WC/117/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September 2022 from X alleging that her husband is fond of beating her. X further alleged that the last incident of violence occurred on 7th August 2022 following a misunderstanding they both had which made him to beat her to the point of inflicting injuries on her body.

C/2022/WC/149/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd December 2022 from X alleging that her husband is fond of beating her whenever they had a little misunderstanding. X stated further that her husband has been threatening to kill and she no longer feel safe staying in his house.

C/2022/WC/181-183/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September, 2023 from XY alleging that Y left the house without informing his wife and children based on the accusation that she is behind his misfortune and that his daughter also needs deliverance.

C/2022/CPR/198-199/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th September, 2022 from X alleging that a 15-year-old girl was raped by Y in his community.

C/2022/WC/201-202/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th September 2022 from X alleging that Y, the father of her daughter, always beat her. X further alleged that he had not been taking responsibility for the upkeep of their daughter.

C/2022/WC/203-205/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from X alleging that Y, the father of her children, stopped taking responsibility for the upkeep of the children because she refused to abide by his directives to return back their son to his former school.

C/2022/WC/233/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th October, 2022 from X. She alleged that Y, the father of her child, whom she met since 2017 during I.T went to her office in September 2022 and forcefully took her to Ijebu. X alleged that Y threatened her with a knife and beat her till she sustained severe injuries and was admitted in hospital for two weeks.

C/2022/WC/251/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th November, 2022 from XY alleging that Y, his father has been maltreating X, his mother and that he also beats her.

C/2022/WC/410/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022 from X alleging that she has been a victim of domestic Violence by Y, her fiancé for more than 10months because she got pregnant.

C/2022/WC/415/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st December, 2022 from Y who alleged that X, his wife, was in the habit of insulting him anytime they are having a conversation.

C/2022/WC/416/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd December, 2022 from X alleging that Y, the Father of their child, with whom she shares custody of the child always threatened her and her parents.

C/2022/WC/10/1061-1068/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th October 2022 from X alleging that Y her husband consistently batters her, because she confronts and accuses him of having an affair with someone else within

the neighborhood. She further alleged that her husband had refused to pay the children's fee, upkeep and accommodation.

C/2022/WC/973-977/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating and pushing her out from the house at midnight. X further alleged that the husband accused her of infidelity and refused to accept the paternity of their baby that she gave birth. X and her children are currently living elsewhere.

C/2022/CPR/135/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October 2022 from X. She alleged Y of threatening her and calling her names, and his daughters also threaten to beat her daughters after calling them names and treat them like slaves in the compound.

C/2022/CPR/168/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd December, 2022 from X alleged that due to a heated argument she had with her husband, their 22year old son got in the way when Y threatened to kill her. Their son was badly injured by a broken bottle on his back by Y in the process.

C/2022/WC/156/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September 2022 from X. She alleged Y knocked down her X daughter with Keke Napep and took her away in the guise of taking her to the Hospital for treatment. Y rather took her to his house and raped her which has resulted to pregnancy.

C/KB/2022/50

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October 2022, from Y of the Kalgo area, alleged that YY raped his sixteen-year-old daughter, causing injuries to her private part.

C/2022/WC/170/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th November 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband beats her and fails to fulfil his role of feeding, medication and clothing. X further alleged that Y recently brutalized her while with 8 months pregnancy, she was rescued by his sister and taken to hospital, now she had fear on the health of her unborn child.

C/2022/WC/108,517/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th October 2022 from X alleged that Y her husband had abandoned his responsibility of catering for the upkeep and maintenance of their children. X further alleged that her husband is in the habit of beating her, chasing her with cutlass and gun but eventually the Police has collected the gun and the cutlass from him.

C/ABS/2022/WC/108,523

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October 2022 from X alleged that Y her husband was in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation has been threatening her life and wants to convert her property to his own.

C/KB/2022/58

The Commission received a complaint dated December 19th, 2022, from Y. He alleged that YY married his younger sister and had been maltreating her, seizing her phone, and cutting all ties with her relatives. Y further alleged that YY threatened his wife that she would never see her relatives until she died she had been seriously sick and her relatives did not even know if she was still alive.

C/ABS/2022/WC/109,918

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2022 from X alleged that her husband is in the habit of beating her up at the slightest provocation and has stopped her from associating with her people and was also forcing her to swear with matchet.

C/2022/WC/112/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th September, 2022 from X alleging that for the past seven years of their marriage, she has been going through a lot from her husband. He injured her neck with a stick and also threatened her with a knife.

C/2022/WC/108,547/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband abducted their 4-year-old son from their house and took him to Abuja without her knowledge which has resulted in constant quarrelling.

C/KB/2022/41

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th September 2022 from X. She alleged that she was in a promised marriage relationship between her and Y the respondent and she has been forced to spend

N2,000 on food each day for the labourers working at his house. This amounted to a total sum of N40,000. X further alleged that Y impregnated her and later aborted the pregnancy without her consent. She believes that she was being subjected to unfair and unjust treatment.

C/2022/WC/109,883/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th November 2022 from X alleging that Y her husband damaged her goods, and chased her and her children away from the house she built with her hard-earned money. She further alleged that Y has been threatening her life and that of their children.

C/2022/WC/109,952/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st December 2022 from X. She alleged that Y ambushed her and made her to be under a spell, he had carnal knowledge of her first daughter and threatened to kill her.

C/2022/CPR/149/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November, 2022 from X. She alleged that she went to collect food items from her boyfriend Y because he promised to cater for her needs but due to a misunderstanding they had, Y and the shop owner beat her up.

C/ABS/2022/ESCR 109-885

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th November 2022 from X alleged that Y her husband has been threatening her life and has denied her access to her house, livestock, palm plantation and cassava farmland.

C/2022/WC/140/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from X. She alleged that her husband started exhibiting some strange behaviours and started maltreating her. They had a misunderstanding and he ended up breaking her left leg.

C/2022/WC/146/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th November, 2022 from X. She alleged that her 14 year old daughter was sexually abused and harassed by Y, a 30-year-old cousin.

C/2022/WC/160/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th December, 2022 from Y. He alleged that his 14year old daughter due to a health condition was

taken to the hospital for an operation but was later referred to Modibbo Adama University Teaching Hospital and during further examination, it was discovered that she was defiled by YYY (three men).

C/SOK/C/2022/66

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th December 2022 from X who alleged that Y her husband beat her up, divorce her, and sent her out of his house. She further alleged that she has a cow in the house and that Y had refused her access to the house.

C/2022/WC/164/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th November 2022 from XY alleging that Y, a shop owner, rapes their daughter who is in Primary 5. The girl takes sachet water for sale from him. XY further alleged that Y locked himself and girl in his shop and have carnal knowledge of her and when she came back home the following day her mother noticed a stain of blood in her cloth. The matter was reported to the Police but his counsel and the Police convinced the girl to wash her stain cloth after which Y denied the allegation as directed by his counsel.

C/2022/WC/158/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th November 2022 from XY alleging Y asked for his 15 years old daughter's hand in marriage. Y had carnal knowledge of her that led to pregnancy. Y then renegades from his plan of marriage.

C/2022/ESCR/151/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st November 2022 from X. She alleged her ex-husband denied her from taking personal properties after divorcing her. X also alleged that, she has undergone 6 miscarriages when she was with him under hardship and starvation.

C/2022/WC/165/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st November 2022 from X. She alleged her husband of 14 years and father to their 5 children of beating her. X further that since Y divorced her, he had refused to pay back the money he directed her to borrow and also refused to provide her with transfer fare to move her properties to Maiduguri.

C/2022/WC/173/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th December 2022 from Y. He alleged that a neighbor of lured his daughter while on her way to Islamiyya School, promising to marry her and later had carnal knowledge of her that led to pregnancy. Y further alleged that YY was confronted

with the allegation which he accepted but later disappeared from the town.

C/2022/ESCR/183/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd December 2022 from Y. He alleged that his brother relocated with his belongings but when he requested for access his properties, he was attacked and injured by the brother.

C/2022/VG/148/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st December 2022 from X alleging her boyfriend, a Polio victim like herself, agreed to marry her but later deceived her and impregnated her. Y refused to marry because she is living with disability. X further alleged that he was asked to pay N2,000 weekly for the maintenance of the pregnancy, which he paid for two months and stopped.

C/2022/WC/174/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th December 2022 from Y. He alleged that discovered his wife came to his house with 2 months pregnancy, which he was not responsible for. Y also alleged that X parent are aware of the pregnancy.

C/2022/WC/126/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September 2022 from X alleging that her husband does not provide food, cloth for her and insults her mother. She further alleged that Y also denies her of visiting her parents.

C/SOK/C/2022/53

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September 2022 from X alleging that her husband is not providing for her and their children. She also alleged that he also beat up her sister.

C/SOK/C/2022/55

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th September 2022, from X alleging that her husband insults and beats her on regular bases and has also drove her to her parent house which she has being staying for the past one year and five months. X further alleged that the husband has abandoned her in her parent house because he has not come to check on her neither asked for her.

C/2022/VG/1072/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October 2022 from Y, alleging that he was slapped by his landlord which led to him having pains in his ear.

C/2022/WC/079/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd September 2022 from Y who alleged YY lured his 2 daughters age 13 and 11 years old and had their carnal knowledge.

C/2022/CPR/1073/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October 2022 from against her Father over assault and threat to life. She alleged that her father always threatens and sexually abused her.

C/2022/WC/1236-1238/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th December 2022 from X alleging that Y her husband has been maltreating her for the past 26years of their marriage, he broke her hand and on constant bases meted out physical and verbal abuses on her.

C/2022/CPR/1097-1098/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st October, 2022 from Y alleging that a man that is dating her sister X beat her and forced her to take a blood oath to marry him or else, he will kill her.

C/2022/WC/1315/RSO

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 22nd December 2022 from X alleging that her boyfriend got her pregnant and they agreed to keep the pregnancy but has not been catering for her and the unborn child.

C/2022/CPR/1230/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd December 2022, from X alleging that her brother was hit by a Truck belonging to XY company. She further alleged that they spent 7 months in the hospital and the victim had three surgeries which the company paid for. After the last surgery the victim was discharged but not paid compensation.

C/ABS/2022/108/282

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st May, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in habit of beating her at any slightest provocation with dangerous weapons such as bottle and harmful objects.

X further stated that her husband threatened to kill her and do not mind being prosecuted.

C/ABS/2022/108,318

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th June 2022 from Y alleging that his 22 years old younger brother was murdered by 20 young men. Y further alleged that the young men stormed into his hotel room, dragged him downstairs, beat him mercilessly and eventually strangled him to death.

C/2022/204/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June, 2022 from X alleging that she is 17 years old. X further alleged that her father paid the sum of ₦30,000 (Thirty Thousand Naira) to stay with her aunty and learn the work of a chemist. X also claimed that her aunty is in the habit of abusing, harassing and intimidating her both in private and public places. X stated that since then, her aunty and her father threaten to kill her.

C/2022/203/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June, 2022 from X alleging that her mother maltreats her on daily basis and told her that she wished she was not born and her mother's attitude towards her is driving her towards suicidal thought.

C/2022/155/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th May, 2022 from X alleging that her husband is in the habit of harassing and beating her at any slightest provocation. X further alleged that he beats her to the point of losing her breath.

C/2022/239/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st August, 2022 from Y, alleging that his father is in the habit of beating him with hard objects, and on August, 2022, he chased him out of the house with cutlass.

C/BAU/2022/006

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th January, 2022 from X. She alleged that her sister was physically abused by her husband

C/2022/IMS/109

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April, 2022 from X. She complained of denial of sexual/conjugal rights by her husband. X further alleged that her husband beats her and threatened her

GSO/C/2022/078

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st April, 2022 from XY against Y alleging forced marriage. XY claimed that the Y forcefully married X to someone without her consent.

C/2022/IMS/71

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th March, 2022 from XY against Y, his sister's husband. XY alleged that his sister died as a result of inhuman and degrading treatment meted on her by her husband few days after her delivery before she died. XY further alleged that her sister's husband has also abandoned his children and has not been taking responsibility for their upkeep and maintenance

C/2022/IMS/28

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st February, 2022 from X. She alleged that her brother drove her out of her father's compound in December 2021

Conclusion

The fight against SGBV is a collective fight for which conscious and deliberate effort should be made. It is the responsibility of every citizen particularly Social worker to carry the responsibility of promotion and protection of human rights of survivors of SGBV and other vulnerable persons on their shoulders in order to prevail over the present day challenges of our country.

In the spirit of combating the menace of SGBV, the will power of the Government and all relevant stakeholders should be geared towards eliminating all harmful social and cultural practices affecting the welfare, dignity, normal growth and development of the child,⁴⁷ eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage,⁴⁸ ensure victim's rights are protected⁴⁹.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing, the following are recommended
National Human Rights Commission should continue to pursue its mandate⁵⁰ of promoting, protecting and enforcing the rights of victims/survivors through collaborations with stakeholder and partner to

47 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

48 Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

49 Section 38 of VAPP, 2015

50 Section 5 & 6 of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act 2010

ensure effective case management in the interest of the survivors rather than agency supremacy or superiority.

There is the need for: continuous advocacy and sensitization through engagement with religious and cultural leaders; work towards providing more accessible safe places by building on and improving on the available ones; have a national data base for SGBV cases in Nigeria, to assist in policy making and legislative processes; allocations to provide more forensic facilities that would help in the collection, preservation and storage of evidences for the prosecution of perpetrators.

Training and retraining of responders to SGBV can never be over emphasised, to avoid re-victimising or re-traumatising the victims/survivors. The intentional conduct of committing acts of physical violence against another person should be criminalized.⁵¹
The intentional conduct of seriously impairing a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats should be criminalized.⁵²

51 Article 35 of the Council of Europe Convention

52 Article 33 of the Council of Europe Convention

Chapter 10

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

By

Nkolika Catherine Ezugwu*

Introduction

Education is one of the best legacies a society can accord its future generation. This is because education is germane to the survival, development, protection, and participation (SDPP) of every child and indispensable to national development. Right to education is one of the fundamental rights recognized and guaranteed in international, regional and local instruments.¹ In a democracy, the observance of human rights is just one of the indicators of good governance, equality and non-discrimination must be a core value to ensure equity and justice. Upholding the right to education will end poverty and improve people's livelihood.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "every child has the right to quality education and learning".² Education has been recognized as a tool for the success of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4), which advocates and promotes inclusive and quality education for all even in the most difficult circumstances, leaving no one behind. However, a lot of children are left behind. Daily school age children are seen during school hours hawking and exposed to harm.

Concisely speaking, the benefit of education cannot be over emphasized; it is the gateway to development and interrelated for the enjoyment of other rights. It. Education is a human right for all throughout life and access must be matched with quality. As a society we are incomplete without knowledge, because education makes us right and knowledge is power.³

Poverty being a consequence of illiteracy, is not only the lack of material goods, but includes the lack of physical integrity, freedom from fear and

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1 AG Ossai, 'Right to Education in Nigeria: Meeting the Needs and Challenges of Children' [2020] 8(6) International Journal in Management and Social Science <https://www.academia.edu/43660076/Right_To_Education_In_Nigeria_Meeting_The_Needs_And_Challenges_Of_Children> accessed 17 April 2023

2 United Nation Children's Fund, "Education" (*Education | UNICEF*) available online at <<https://www.unicef.org/education>> accessed 17 April 2023

3 IGlobal Academy, 'Life is Incomplete without Education' <<https://iglobal-ac.net/life-is-incomplete-withouteducation>> accessed 14 April 2023.

violence, and an inability to live life with respect and dignity.⁴ These and more is what education is meant to actualize. In the light of the above, the observance of human rights generally is the responsibility of state actors, to respect, protect and fulfil; meaning that when rights are not fulfilled, the responsibilities of the different actors must be analysed and violators held accountable.

The high rate of youth unemployment in Nigeria gives cause for concern. Every year thousands of graduates leave tertiary institutions as unskilled and unemployable, they resort to criminality to occupy their minds. This is a disturbing trend and poses great danger for peace and national development. The education system in Nigeria lacks quality and is non-inclusive.

Persons with disability are not catered for but left at the mercy of poor parents who cannot provide for their needs. Notwithstanding the passage of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 in the year 2019, to ensure their integration into the society, taking responsibilities for their health needs, and education among others. This chapter seeks to interrogate the challenges of right to education.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Definition of the following terms will be carefully considered to aid the understanding of the subject matter.

Rights

Rights are inherent and inalienable in every human being. It can also be seen as demand and claims that the individuals or groups make on society, some which are protected by law while others remain aspirations to be attained in the future.

Education

Education is the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life; the act or process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills for profession.⁵ According to Aristotle, "It is the creation of a sound mind in a sound body".⁶

4 UNCCD, Human Rights and Desertification (Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 2008) accessed 18 April 2023.

5 <https://www.dictionary.com/browse>

6 Lowry GA, "What Is Education According To Aristotle? - Education Portal for Students in India" (*What Is Education According To Aristotle? - Education Portal for Students in India*, January 27, 2023)

Right to Education

The right to education is legally a human right, guaranteed for all without discrimination. It must be matched with quality, affordability, availability and accessibility.

Legal Framework

- (i) International/Regional Instruments
- (ii) Municipal /Domestic

International

Internationally, the Right to Education guaranteed that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 proclaimed in Article 26 that, “everyone has the right to education”.⁷ Since then, the right to education has been widely recognized and developed by a number of International Normative Instrument elaborated by the United Nations including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966, ICESCR), the Convention on the Right of the Child (1989, CRC) and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960, CADE). The right to education has also been reaffirmed in other treaties covering specific groups (women and girls, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, Indigenous Peoples, etc.), and context education (education during armed conflict). It has also been incorporated into various regional treaties and enshrined as a right in the constitution.

Municipal / Domestic

At the National level, Article 15 of the Child Rights Act (CRA) states that every child has the right to free compulsory and Universal Basic Education (UBEC) 2004, and it shall be the duty of the government in Nigeria to provide such education. Also, Chapter 1V of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999, Child Rights Act (2003), National University Commission (NUC) Act recognizes such rights.

Challenges of the Right to Education in Nigeria

Achieving the right to quality education has been a lingering dilemma years before the onset of insecurity in 2009 that eventually escalated the challenges facing the sector. The education sector is characterized by infrastructural decay, dilapidated buildings, unskilled personnel, poor teachers’ welfare, ill equipped laboratories and libraries. Unfortunately, the education sector is one of the institutions greatly affected by insecurity since its onset.

<https://www.saradaschool.in/educational-issues/what-is-education-according-to-aristotle.html> accessed 18 April 2023

7 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted 10 December 1948 UNGA Res 217 A(III) (UDHR)

- The challenges of insecurity and violence became widespread, cutting across the six geopolitical zones, taking different dimensions. Daily, countless children are exposed to dangers that hamper their development, they suffer immensely as casualties of violence; as refugees, displaced persons, homeless and forced to drop out of school; abandoned, neglected, and exploited. The insecurity situation in the North-East and North-West is triggered by Boko-Haram insurgency, targeting bombing mosques and churches, killings and abduction of school children.
- Similarly, in the year 2020, the shutdown of schools as a result of COVID- 19 pandemic affected schooling and saw a spike in domestic violence. The consequences of these ill actions and human rights violations have left many Nigerian children out-of-school, abandoned in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps while many have lost their lives.
- Worrisome is the growing data on the population of out-of-school children in Nigeria. According to recent statistics, India, Nigeria and Pakistan have the highest figures for out-of-school children globally. Nigeria now has 20 million out-of-schoolchildren, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).⁸ This increase is due to the degenerating security situation in the country, government's inability to rebuild and secure schools as well as rehabilitate Internally Displaced families due to unchecked corruption and lack of political will. Unfortunately, the collaboration between government and development partners to rebuild schools and relocate displaced persons in the IDP Camps to their communities has not yielded the desired objectives.

More so, the observance of human rights is a common good; it goes beyond the ratification of instruments. A major challenge is the government's lack of political will, especially in the education sector. Government's actions and inactions during the Academic Staff Union of Nigerian Universities (ASUU) strike which lingered for eight months, leaving thousands of students frustrated, demonstrated its disregard and lack of value for education and the Nigerian children.

In order to mitigate the infrastructural decay, adequate funding is vital. Budgetary allocation to the education sector has been abysmally low, even as the failing and poor standards persist in the sector. Reports show that in some states, pupils still learn under trees, or sit on

8M Alabi, '*Nigeria now has 20 million out-of-school children–UNESCO*', (Premium Times, 1 September 2022)
<<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/551804-breaking-nigeria-now-has-20-million-out-of-school-children-unesco.html?tztc=1>> accessed 18 April 2023.

classroom floors under leaking roofs. Example is the Local Education Authority (LEA) Primary School Lugbe 'B' zone 9, FCT, Abuja.⁹ This ugly trend is not peculiar to the Federal Capital Territory; it cuts across various states in the country. What these suggest is that the government is not fulfilling its obligations. Corruption is the new anthem of the day, accountability is no longer a characteristic of governance, and it is impunity all the way. However, it is disheartening that those who enjoyed free education during the early independence are the ones violating the right to education.

Complaints Received by the Commission under Right to Education are as Follows:

C/2022/WC/121/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th December, 2022 from XY alleging that her son, a JSS 1 student, was stopped from writing exams due to his inability to pay for the end of session party on time.

C/NGSO/2022/033

The Commission received a complaint on the 15th of March, 2022 from Y (27 years old) alleging infringement on his right to education against the Management of Federal Polytechnic, Bida, Niger state. He claimed he finished his Computer Science course since the 12th of July, 2019 and has passed all his courses but the school refused to release his results even after the court exonerated him of an offence he was wrongly accused of.

C/2022/ESCR/603/NSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd September, 2022 from XY, alleging denial of right to education and sexual harassment of her daughter by her boyfriend at Abu village in Adogi, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- In this circumstance, the provisions of basic literacy infrastructures are the most needed contributions for the development of a child. All children must be given the chance to find their identity and realize their worth, no matter the circumstances, including humanitarian crises. They must be prepared for responsible life in a free and safe society.

9D Tolu-Kolawole, 'Overcrowded Abuja schools where pupils learn on bare floor', (Punch Newspaper, 6 February 2023) <<https://punchng.com/overcrowded-abuja-schools-where-pupils-learn-on-bare-floor/>> accessed 18 April 2023.

- Duty bearers must tackle insecurity by engaging security experts for solutions and guarantee a peaceful atmosphere for education to thrive for all children without discrimination. The reintegration and rehabilitation of families affected by insurgency should be hastened and families empowered to engage in economic activities to sustain their livelihood and cater for their children's educational needs.
- The government should increase budgetary allocation in the education sector, facilitate the rebuilding of schools, set up schools in the IDP camps to ensure a rise in school enrolment and a decline in the soaring number of out-of-school children.
- Stakeholders in the education sector should do more and review the school curriculum in line with international best practices and save schools that will reflect inclusiveness, considering those left behind and quality learning.
- Also, the Legislative Arm should review laws that are anti-human rights, as well as legislate laws that will prompt changes in the education sector in the interest of the child, in order to change the ugly narrative
- Training and retraining of teachers should be given adequate attention and improve their welfare. Vocational education should be promoted and parents sensitized to encourage their children to embrace vocational education and entrepreneur skills.
- The Ministry of Education and Stakeholders should regularly monitor the use of funds mapped out for projects in education and ensure they are not diverted but used for the purpose they are meant for, as well as ensure accountability from duty bearers.

Chapter 11

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

By

Comfort Olowomoran*

Introduction

The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is a fundamental human right. This right connotes that all persons have the right to think freely, entertain ideas and hold positions based on conscientious, religious or other beliefs. This right consists of the freedom to change one's religion or belief and freedom - either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief, in worship, teaching practice and observance.

The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is subject to certain limitations as can be seen in Section 45 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. Such instances could arise from the need to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others¹ or even in the interest of national security.²

This Chapter critically analyses the right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion, beginning with conceptual clarification of key words. This research addresses the legal framework guaranteeing the right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion and circumstances where this right can be restricted or qualified. Thereafter, this chapter delves into a brief discourse of the regular violators of this right; citing instances of intolerance as well as complaints received by the Commission regarding the infringements of the right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion. This chapter ends with a conclusion and recommendations on how this right can be better protected by the state.

On whether the violation of the right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion is perpetrated by State or non-State actors, this chapter is of the view that the violation of this right is currently at an alarming rate. Therefore, responsible government authorities need to strengthen existing structures and institutions in order to check the rising trend of its violation in view of the reported cases so far.

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1 Article 18(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

2 *Ibid* Article 4

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

There is a need to clarify the meaning of the concepts of freedom of thought, freedom of conscience and freedom of religion as applied in this Chapter so as to guide the reader.

Freedom of thought

“Without freedom of thought there can be no such thing as wisdom and no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech”.³ Freedom of thought is one of the strongest human rights, enshrined in almost every human rights treaty.⁴ Although its protection is absolute in nature, it is however less clear what this inviolable sphere comprises.⁵ In an attempt at a definition, ‘thought’ – the object of the protection - refers to the inner world of the person, their psychological landscape and the mental processes that are involved in thinking, forming and revising opinions, ideas and beliefs.⁶

It is difficult to form thoughts without the freedom to express oneself and to exchange information. In other words, the respective protection and fulfillment of the right to freedom of thought of the individual must promote, rather than discourage, mutual respect for and tolerance of other’s thoughts.

Freedom of Conscience

The right to freedom of conscience falls under civil and political rights. This right protects a person from mandatory participation in an activity if the activity in question threatens the fundamental values of the individual. The right to freedom of conscience protects the right to live in accordance with our deeply held beliefs. Despite being protected by every major human rights treaty, this right is poorly understood and undermined.

Freedom of Religion

Religious freedom is a fundamental right and the first among rights guaranteed by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

3 New Jersey Council for the Humanities, “*What is the Meaning of Free Speech?*” <<https://njhumanities.org/humanities-to-go/psp/what-is-the-meaning-of-free-speech/>> accessed 7 November 2022

4 C Bublitz, ‘Freedom of Thought in the Age of Neuroscience: A Plea and a Proposal for the Renaissance of a Forgotten Fundamental Right’ (2014) 100(1) *Archiv fuer Rechts-&Sozialphilosophie (ARSP)*, 1, available at <https://www.academia.edu/34578713/Freedom_of_Thought_in_the_Age_of_Neuroscience_A_Plea_and_a_Proposal_for_the_Renaissance_of_a_Forgotten_Fundamental_Right?auto=citations&from=cover_page> accessed 1 November, 2022

5 *Ibid* particularly at 2

6 *Ibid*

as amended. It is the right to think, express and act upon what you deeply believe, according to the dictates of conscience.

Religion has a vital place in the society. To exert its positive influence, religious organizations and people need physical, social and legal space to practice their religion. Religion is not just private worship; it involves public expression on social and moral issues. Religious organizations and people are responsible to state their views reasonably and respectfully.

Interrelation of the Concepts

Freedom of thought (also called freedom of conscience or ideas) means that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.⁷

Legal Framework

The Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion as a fundamental human right is guaranteed by international, regional and domestic human rights instruments. Thus, to demonstrate her commitment to the respect of fundamental freedom and human rights, Nigeria is a party to major regional and international human rights instruments.

International Instruments

As a member-state of the United Nations (UN), Nigeria has signed and ratified several international and regional human rights instruments that guarantee and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. These instruments include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁹ and the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of

7 Section 38, *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)*

8 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 217A, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Adopted 10 December 1948), available online at <<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>> accessed 3 November 2022.

9 United Nations, Human Rights Instruments: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights', UN General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI) (Adopted 16 December 1966), Article 18 (1) available online at <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>> accessed 7 November 2022

Discrimination based on religion or belief,¹⁰ International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.¹¹

Article 18 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* provides that “everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”¹²

Article 18(1) of *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)* similarly provides that, “everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”¹³

By the above provisions of both the UDHR and the ICCPR, it is clear that Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion is a freedom that encompasses the right to religion of one’s choice, irrespective of whether or not one finds himself residing in a living environment amidst and/or is dominated by people of a different religious belief.

Regional Instruments

At the regional level, many of the instruments have both been ratified and domesticated such as the Article 8 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) which provides that, “*freedom of conscience, the profession and free practice of religion shall be*

10 Articles 1(1) and 4, UN Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, General Assembly Resolution 36/55 (25 November, 1981), available online at <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-elimination-all-forms-intolerance-and-discrimination#:~:text=relations%20between%20nations.-,Article%204,political%2C%20social%20and%20cultural%20life.>> accessed 7 November 2022

11 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2106 (XX) (adopted 21 December 1965) available online at <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial>> accessed 7 November 2022

12 United Nations Assembly Resolution 217A (n 106)

13 ICCPR (n 107)

guaranteed. No one may, subject to law and order, be submitted to measures restricting the exercise of these freedoms.”¹⁴

Evidently, the aforementioned ACHPR clause does not involve the consideration of rights for which one's freedom is to be enjoyed, and it was not stated anywhere else in the African Charter of Rights. Given the way these two terms are related, as was previously mentioned under the "conceptual clarification of key words" section, it would seem that the words "conscience" and "thought" have been used interchangeably.

Domestic law

The domestic protection for the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is contained in Section 38(1) of the *1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended*. This provides that:

Every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom (either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private) to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance...

Furthermore, this idea is strengthened by the provisions of *Section 10* which declares that: *“the Government of the Federation or of a State shall not adopt any religion as State Religion.”¹⁵*

This may have been enacted for the purpose of protecting individuals with different religious beliefs from state interference. This provision further allows for the coexistence of persons with varying religious beliefs in Nigeria. In other words, while Section 38 prohibits discrimination on religious ground, Section 10 prohibits federal and state governments from adopting any religion as a state religion.

As a country governed by a federal constitution, whereby one territory can be controlled by two levels of government – the Federal and State Governments – there is a tendency for both levels of government to exert legislative powers over a particular issue. A case in point, in this instance, is the adoption and successful practice of the Sharia Penal Code in 12 states of the Northern Nigeria since 1999. This effectively rendered Islam as the official religion in all the states concerned,¹⁶ in clear violation of the provisions of Sections 10 and 38 of the 1999

14 Organization of African Unity (OAU), *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights ("Banjul Charter")*, 27 June 1981, CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 5, 21 I.L.M. 58 (1982)

15 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended.

16 OHCHR, *'Human Rights Situation in the Federal Republic of Nigeria'* (2019) available online at

<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/NGA/INT_CPR_CSS_NGA_35125_E.pdf> accessed 4 November 2022

Constitution, respectively. Thus, despite the clear provisions of the 1999 Constitution guaranteeing this right, it is not always enjoyed by religious minorities in the Northern states.

There are arguments on the issue of whether the implementation of Sharia law in Northern states of Nigeria applies to all persons resident in the Northern states, irrespective of their religion. One view holds that the application is dependent on the willingness of the residents to subject themselves to the application of Sharia law in such adopting states. The reason given is that the Northern States respect the constitutional prohibition of a state religion by excluding non-Muslims who do not consent to being subjected to the application of the Islamic law.

It is, however, noteworthy that during the period under review, several human rights organizations have reported instances of violations of the right to freedom of religion in several parts of Nigeria, including in the Northern states which comes into play to debunk the view of willingness to be subjected to Sharia law. For instance, the International Society for Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law (Intersociety), a non-profit organization released a report in 2021 in which they alleged that roughly 3,462 Christians were killed in 2021 by Fulani militants and Boko Haram throughout Nigeria. In addition, about 3,000 Christians were allegedly abducted, while 300 churches and 10 priests were alleged to have been attacked. In their latest 2022 report covering January to October, it was alleged that about 4,020 Christians have been slaughtered by Jihadist terrorists and 2,315 have been abducted.¹⁷

Circumstances where the Right is Restricted or Qualified

The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, though absolute, can be interfered with by the state where it is paramount to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, as well as in the interest of national security.

For instance, on the 11th of March, 2020 during the COVID19 pandemic, the Federal Government, in compliance with the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the existence of a global pandemic, issued directives for social restrictions, and further declared a nationwide lockdown. This reportedly impacted the freedom of religion and belief because it effectively prevented restriction of free movement of persons to places of religious worship in order to ensure safety of public health.¹⁸

17 The International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety) available online at <<https://intersociety-ng.org/4020-christians-slaughtered-by-jihadist-terrorists-in-nigeria-in-jan-oct-2022-and-2315-abducted/>> accessed 7 November 2022

18 J C Nwaka, 'Between Religious Freedom and the Public Good: Reactions to Religious Restrictions to Prevent the Spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria', available

The Regular Perpetrators or Violators of this Right

Both state and non-state actors abuse the right to freedom of religion, thought and conscience ranging from convictions for blasphemy which could be death sentence or jungle justice,¹⁹ discrimination against religious minorities, even up to imposition of sharia law on non-Muslims.²⁰

State actors like the Nigerian Army, the Nigeria Police Force and other branches of the Armed Forces accounted for about 490 Christian deaths as contained in the report for 2021.²¹

Whereas non-state actors such as Boko-Haram, organized bandits and criminal gangs commit violations which include abductions, summary executions of individuals as well as attacks and extra-judicial killing of individuals, maiming/murder of Christian groups in several small numbers and looting and destruction of homes, businesses and houses of worship (either churches or mosques) respectively, based on the religious affiliation. The case of the killing of Deborah Samuel in 2022 on account of blasphemy by a mob consisting of her fellow students and classmates is a reference point.²²

Instances of Religious Intolerance/ Non-Tolerance of Behaviours

A plethora of evidence abounds to show how religious intolerance has negatively impacted on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, such as:

- a) Boko haram – The activities of the Boko Haram religious sect has caused wanton havoc on the freedom of religious worship in Nigeria. This group is accountable for the lost lives of several Christians and Southerners alike in the group's forceful attempt to impose a religious ideology on a constitutionally recognized secular state.²³
- b) Fulani herdsmen – The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) reported that Fulani herdsmen are believed to have killed at least 1,229 people in

online at <<https://kujenga-amani.ssrc.org/2020/05/20/between-religious-freedom-and-the-public-good-reactions-to-religious-restrictions-to-prevent-the-spread-of-covid-19-in-nigeria/>> accessed 7 November 2022

19 CNN, 'The WhatsApp voice note that led to a death sentence' (CNN, 29 September 2020) <<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/29/africa/blasphemy-trial-nigeria/index.html>> accessed 14 March 2023

20 Kenneth O Okhifoh, 'Sharia and the Plight of Non-Muslims in the Multi-Religious Nigeria' [2021] 1(1) Trinitarian International Journal of Arts and Humanities <<https://ezenwaohaetorc.org/journals/index.php/TIJAH/article/download/1700/1735>> accessed 18 March 2023

21 Intersociety (n 115)

22 CNN (n 117)

23 A Adesoji, 'The Boko Haram Uprising and Islamic Revivalism in Nigeria' (2010) 45(2) African Spectrum, 96

Nigeria in 2014.²⁴ The communal conflicts caused by Fulani herdsmen in Benue State had claimed the lives of more than 5,000 victims in the first half of 2014.²⁵ In Taraba State, about 77 people lost their lives during the crises between some Fulani herdsmen and the indigenous people of the area, while more than 40 people were treated “for various degrees of injuries sustained because of the attacks by the Fulani herdsmen.”²⁶ Same was reported in Zamfara, Jigawa, Kaduna (123 people killed in Sanga LGA in June 2014).²⁷ The story is the same in South-East Nigeria where cases have been reported in Abia,²⁸ Enugu,²⁹ Anambra,³⁰ Imo,³¹ Ebonyi, Rivers and Ogun³² States. In Ekiti State, the violent activities of Fulani herdsmen has made the State Governor to sign into law a bill regulating the activities of these herdsmen in the state.³³

- c) Unfounded allegations of blasphemy – Unproven accusations of blasphemy can result in targeted violence, including extrajudicial killings by non-state actors of individual Christians.³⁴ Wherever blasphemy is alleged, it invariably results in maiming and murder of the victim against whom it is alleged. The case of Deborah Samuel is still fresh in the mind. It is noteworthy that a presidential candidate of the Peoples’ Democratic Party in the person of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar had to pull down his tweet condemning the extra judicial killing of Deborah Samuel on allegation of blasphemy when he was

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- 24 GTI, *‘Measuring and understanding the impact of terrorism’* (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2015) available online at <<https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/194968/Global-terrorism-index-2015.pdf>> accessed 4 November 2022
- 25 T U Nte, ‘Fulani Herdsmen and Communal Conflicts Climate Change as precipitator’ (2016) 2(1) *International Journal of Political and Administrative Studies*, 27
- 26 *Ibid*, 28
- 27 J Shiklam, *‘Kaduna: Suspected Fulani herdsmen kill 123 in fresh attacks,’* (This Day Newspaper, 25 June, 2014)
- 28 C Nwopara & A Okoli, *‘Menace of Fulani Herdsmen: Tales and Woes from the East,’* (*Vanguard Newspaper*, 3 October, 2015)
- 29 T U Nte (n 123)
- 30 I F Ezeonwuka & A U Igwe, ‘Emerging challenges in Nigeria’s national security in the 21st century: The Fulani herdsmen menace’ (2016) 4(5), *Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 209
- 31 C Nwopara & A Okoli, (n 126)
- 32 I F Ezeonwuka & A U Igwe, (n 128)
- 33 E N Iheanacho, ‘The Menace of Fulani Herdsmen in Nigeria: A Threat to National Security’ (2017) 1(1) *South East Political Science Review*, 236-243, available online at <<https://journal.aphriapub.com/index.php/SEJPS/article/download/761/738/1493>> accessed 14 March 2023
- 34 OHCHR, (n 22)

threatened with withdrawal of support for his political ambition by majority of Northerners who viewed his tweet on Twitter.³⁵

- d) Significant threats – Significant threats to freedom of thought, conscience and religion arises in cases of perceived provocation. For instance, the cartoon of Prophet Mohammed published in faraway Denmark, the American invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11, and a local newspaper commentary during the 2002 Miss World beauty pageant by Isioma Daniel who suggested that if the Prophet Mohammed were alive he would have admired the contestants, and may even wish to have one of the beauty queens as a wife, triggered mob violence against Christians in the Northern Nigeria.³⁶

On Saturday 9th July, 2016, Mrs. Eunice Olawale was murdered and beheaded at about 5:30a.m. at Kubwa, Abuja, by group of persons suspected to be Hausa/Fulani Muslims who felt that her preaching was harmful to their Islamic faith. She went for early morning preaching close to her residence when she was attacked and her throat was slit, with her head rested on the bible she used for preaching. Prior to this killing, it was gathered that members of her church complained that they were always terrorized by the boys who lived in shanties. Church members said that the boys always spread their mats in front of the church to sleep and do their ablution, which had forced the church not to carry out their Tuesday and Thursday mid-week services. These are acts of provocation based on their religious beliefs.³⁷

In August 2021, a court charged Mubarak Bala under customary law with 10 counts charge for causing public disturbance in connection to “blasphemous” Facebook posts he was alleged to have made over the course of April 2020.

Again, on April 5, 2022, the Kano State High Court sentenced Bala to 24 years in prison after convicting him of 18 counts charge for causing public disturbance under Sections 210 and 114 of the Kano State Penal Code, respectively.³⁸

35 Victoria Edeme, “*Why I deleted tweet condemning Deborah’s murder –Atiku*” (Punch Newspaper, 12th December 2022) <<https://punchng.com/why-i-deleted-tweet-condemning-deborahs-murder-atiku/>> accessed 14 March 2023

36 Voice of America, ‘*Nigerian Journalist Isioma Daniels Speaks Out - 2003-01-29*’ (VOA, 29 October 2009) < <https://www.voanews.com/a/a-13-a-2003-01-29-54-nigerian-67441307/278877.html>> accessed 14 March 2023

37 K Omonobi, J Agbakwuru and I Jannah, ‘*They Killed My Mother Like A Chicken-15-Yr-Old Daughter*’ (Vanguard Newspaper, 11 July 2016) available online at <<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07/abuja-preachers-murder-killed-mother-like-chicken-15-yr-old-daughter/>> accessed 8 November 2022.

38 USCIRF, ‘*Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List- Mubarak Bala*’ available online at

Given the pattern of the aforementioned occurrences, this chapter argues that the victims of these attacks were deliberately targeted at the victims due to their alignment to a religious belief different from that of their attackers.

Cases where sharia law has not been properly implemented

There are several aspects of Sharia law which contravene international and regional human rights standards, which the Nigerian government has ratified and which both Federal and State Governments are obliged to uphold. Some of the current practices carried out in the name of Sharia or Islamic law violate principles of Sharia itself, as well as provisions within the Nigerian Constitution which are recognized as Human Rights. First of such instance is freedom of religion. According to the sharia law, a Muslim does not have the right to change his religion to another religion or to atheism. With regards to the punishment imposed under Sharia law, many Muslims believe that punishment was the least important aspect of the Sharia law, that the first priority should be for the state to provide for the people and that it should fulfill its responsibilities in that respect – by ensuring that everyone has a reasonable standard of living, access to housing, health, and education – before turning to the system of punishment.³⁹

Discrimination against religious minorities – There are several discriminatory practices ranging from denial of access to jobs in the security sector, denial of promotions once employment is secured, inability to compete for certain political posts and difficulty in accessing or enjoying education and/or scholarships or being able to study certain courses such as law or medicine. In some extreme cases, Christian children had to adopt Muslim names in order to be able to enjoy same preferences being accorded to Muslims.⁴⁰

It was reported that on 18th November, 2021, Daily Trust Newspaper on page 34 reported that the United States (US) had removed Nigeria from the list of countries engaged in or tolerated “systemic, on-going and egregious violations of religious freedom”. This was disclosed by the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken in a statement titled ‘Religious Freedom Designations.’

<<https://www.uscirf.gov/religious-prisoners-conscience/mubarak-bala>> accessed 8 November 2022.

39 Human Rights Watch, “*Political Shari’a? Human Rights and Islamic Law in Northern Nigeria*” (HRW, 22 September 2004)

<<https://www.hrw.org/report/2004/09/21/political-sharia/human-rights-and-islamic-law-northern-nigeria>> available online at

<<https://www.hrw.org/report/2004/09/21/political-sharia/human-rights-and-islamic-law-northern-nigeria>> accessed 7 November 2022.

40 OHCHR (n 36)

Complaints Received by the Commission under Right of Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion are as follows:

C/NGSO/2022/032

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March, 2022 from X who is 29 years old and resides at Dukugi, Lavun Local Government area of Niger State. X alleged denial by her parent on her right to freedom of religion of her choice.

Conclusion

Religions freedom allows different faiths and beliefs to flourish. It protects the rights of all groups and individuals, including the most vulnerable, whether religious or not. The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is regarded as one of the foundations of a democratic society. Nigerian citizens have continued to face significant threats to their rights to freedom of religion and belief. State actors have passed harsh sentences for blasphemers, improperly implemented Sharia law, unconstitutionally detained individuals for exercising their rights to freedom of belief and expression, and discriminated against religious minorities. Non-state actors continue to attack religious institutions and abduct and execute individuals based on their religious affiliation.⁴¹ The state must also ensure that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion of individuals are protected within the interest of public safety and public order.

Recommendations

- There is the need to continue to educate and disseminate information about the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion in an effort to build greater awareness and ensure its protection and promotion.
- The Federal and State governments should continue to protect and promote the right of Nigerians to practice their religious faith and beliefs, including enhancing the dialogue between different faith-based communities to address interreligious tensions and to combat all forms of extremism.
- Each religious group, while exercising their religious freedom, should refrain from attacking other religious groups. Forceful conversion of any person to any religion is unconstitutional, and should be condemned by the authorities. Voluntary conversion from one religion to another is to be free from discrimination and harassment.

41 U.S Commission on International Religious Freedom, 'Country Update: Nigeria' 5

- The government should refrain from using public funds to sponsor religious pilgrimages. Government should establish a national agency such as the Religious Enquiry Commission to be allowed to handle all issues relating to religion in the country.

Chapter 12

RIGHT TO A PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT

By

Uzoamaka V. Ifechi-Fred*

Introduction

All human beings depend on the environment in which we live. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. Without a healthy environment, we are unable to fulfil our aspirations. We may not have access to even the minimum standards of human dignity.¹

Therefore, Human rights and the environment are intertwined; human rights cannot be enjoyed without a safe, clean and healthy environment; and sustainable environmental governance cannot exist without the establishment of and respect for human rights. This relationship is increasingly recognized, as the right to a healthy environment is enshrined in over 100 Constitutions globally.

There are several established human rights related to the environment. Environmental rights are composed of substantive rights (fundamental rights) and procedural rights (tools used to achieve substantial rights).²

In Nigeria, the right to a protected environment is a right that is contained in Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended. Although it may be argued that this right is non-justiciable because it is contained in chapter 2 of the Constitution, it is important to establish its existence, the state's obligation to protect as contained and discuss the dangers of not protecting this right because without it other rights will not be enjoyed in peace.

Therefore, this chapter seeks to explain the concept of environmental protection, state the applicable international, regional and municipal laws that guarantee environmental protection in Nigeria and

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1 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-environment/about-human-rights-and-environment> <accessed April, 19 2023>

2 United Nations Environmental Programme: *Environmental rights and governance*, available online at <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/advancing-environmental-rights/what>, <accessed April, 19 2023>

proffer recommendations on practical ways in which environmental protection can be achieved as a human right.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Environment

The term "Environment" has been given different definitions. Black's Law Dictionary defines it as: "the totality of physical, economic, cultural, aesthetic, and social circumstances and factors which surround and affect the desirability and value of the property and which also affect the quality of people's lives." The English Dictionary defines the word as "the conditions under which any person or thing lives or is developed; the subtotal of influences which modify and determine the development of life or character." Under one Nigerian law, environment is defined as "the components of the earth," and includes:

- (a) Land, water and air, including all layers of the atmosphere,
- (b) All organic and inorganic matter and living organisms and,
- (c) The interacting natural systems that include components referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).

The first two definitions cover a broad concept of "environment." In that respect, they embrace everything within and around man that may have effect on or be affected by man; in other words, human environment as contrasted with physical environment. This more expansive concept of environment is synonymous with the human environment.

The definition under Nigerian law covers a narrower concept of "environment." This concept restricts the meaning "to the physical or natural environment, comprising God given natural resources, natural elements and natural environment whether or not modified by man"³

Protected

The term protected according to Cambridge online dictionary means to keep something safe from injury, damage or loss.⁴

Rights

According to the Stanford encyclopaedia or philosophy, Rights are entitlements (not) to perform certain actions, or (not) to be in certain

3 Dr. S. Gozie Ogbodo Environmental Protection in Nigeria: Two Decades After the Koko Incident
<https://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1125&context=annlsurvey>

4 Available online at
<<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/protected>>
accessed 17 September 2023

states; or entitlements that others (not) perform certain actions or (not) be in certain states.

Rights dominate modern understandings of what actions are permissible and which institutions are just. Rights structure the form of governments, the content of laws, and the shape of morality as many now see it. To accept a set of rights is to approve a distribution of freedom and authority, and so to endorse a certain view of what may, must, and must not be done.⁵

Therefore, the right to a protected environment means that people are entitled to an environment that is safe from damage or loss and does not cause injury or harm to the persons living therein.

Legal framework

The various legal frameworks for the guarantee of the right to a protected environment are provided as follows:

International and Regional

- **International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights**

Article 12 (2) (b) - The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene⁶

- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

This law is an international legal framework for all marine and maritime activities; it lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the World's Oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the ocean and their resources.

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Article 4(1) (f) - Take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on public health and on the quality of the environment, of projects or measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change.

- **African Charter on Human and People's Rights**

5 Available online at
<<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rights/>> accessed 17 September 2023

6 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights> <accessed 19 April, 2023>

Article 24 - All peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development.

Municipal and Domestic

- **The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999)**

The Constitution, as the national legal regulation recognizes the importance of improving and protecting the environment and makes provision for it. Relevant sections include:

Section 20 makes it an objective of the Nigerian State to improve and protect the air, land, water, forest and wildlife of Nigeria.

Section 12 establishes, though impliedly, that international treaties (including environmental treaties) ratified by the National Assembly should be implemented as law in Nigeria.

Section 33 and 34 which guarantee fundamental human rights to life and human dignity respectively, have also being argued to be linked to the need for a healthy and safe environment to give these rights effect.

- **National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act 2007**

This act is administered by the Ministry of Environment, the National Environment Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act of 2007 replaced the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) Act. It is the embodiment of laws and regulations focused on the protection and sustainable development of the environment and its natural resources. The following sections are worth noting:

Section 7 provides authority to ensure compliance with environmental laws, local and international, on environmental sanitation and pollution prevention and control through monitory and regulatory measures.

Section 8 (1) (K) empowers the Agency to make and review regulations on air and water quality, effluent limitations, control of harmful substances and other forms of environmental pollution and sanitation.

Section 27 prohibits, without lawful authority, the discharge of hazardous substances into the environment. This offence is punishable under this section, with a fine not exceeding, N1,000,000 (One Million Naira) and an imprisonment term of 5 years. In the case of a company,

there is an additional fine of N50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) for every day the offence persists.

Other Legal Framework under NESREA Include

- Environmental Impact Assessment Act
- The Land Use Act
- Harmful Waste (Special Criminal Provisions) Act
- Hydrocarbon Oil Refineries Act
- Associated Gas Re-injection Act
- The Endangered Species Act
- Sea Fisheries Act
- Exclusive Economic Zone Act
- Oil Pipelines Act
- Petroleum Act
- Petroleum Products and Distribution (Management Board) Act
- Territorial Waters Act
- Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act
- Nigerian Mining Corporation Act
- Quarantine Act
- River Basins Development Authority Act
- Pest Control of Production (Special Powers) Act
- Agricultural (Control of Importation) Act
- Animal Diseases (Control) Act
- Bees (Impact Control and Management) Act
- Civil Aviation Act
- Factories Act
- Water Resources Act
- Hides and Skins Act
- Federal National Park Act
- Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act.⁷

All these laws saddle the Government with the responsibility to take responsive and protective measure to promote, protect and ensure that the environment is well preserved. Despite all these laws, Nigeria is still plagued with severe environmental degradation caused by several activities by extractive industries and the Government seems to be able to fulfil its obligation to provide a protected environment in this regard.

⁷ <https://elri-ng.org/environmental-law-policies-in-nigeria/> (assessed Monday, 3 April 2023)

Complaints Received by the Commission under Right to Protected Environment are as follows:

C/LSO/22/109

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th May, 2021 from Y of Lekki, Lagos State. He alleged environmental pollution by IHS Nigeria Ltd by their act of operating a big generator that spills its content on the floor and thereby contaminating all drinkable water around and their borehole. Y sought for the Commission's intervention.

C/2022/CPR/259/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022 from Y of Jajere village in Maigatari local Government Jigawa State alleging that his neighbor who has been into poultry farming for the last 15years in large quantity has resulted to threat to his life due to the severe pollution caused by the farm in Jajere village in Maigatari local Government Jigawa State.

C/2022/CPR/1396/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from Y of Sabuwar Gandu, Kumbotso LGA, Kano State alleging that his business partner manages poultry farming close to his shop which pollutes the environment with unpleasant smell.

C/2022/CPR/090/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th September, 2022 from Y alleging that Nigerian AIP Oil Company (NAOC) has refused to pay environmental damages to his community - Oweiwari Community (Besini Clan) in Bayelsa State. Y further alleged that since 2019 till date his community has pleaded and made several protests to the oil company to do the needful due to the environmental and health issues their operation has caused the community.

Conclusion

The main function of environmental law is the protection of human health as well as the environment. Some practices might interfere with the safety of human health and environment, and the work of the law is to protect people in such instances. For instance, the use of harmful pesticides is one of the areas where the environmental law is concerned about. The point here is to make sure that the practices used in the environment where possible do not cause harm to the environment, human or animal health. It must protect environment regulatory officers. The individuals that work tirelessly to see that environmental laws are

obeyed also need protection, so that defaulters will not intimidate them. It must address the handling of waste and other harmful products and their management. If wastes and toxic products are not well managed, it will affect the environment. Environmental laws therefore address how waste should be managed.⁸

No matter how good a law may seem, no matter the number of agencies authorised to implement the laws, if the political will and the enabling environment to carry out such function is lacking, then the laws and the agencies will fail. The Federal government should provide security to law enforcement agencies to carry out their duty. The duplication of responsibilities is rather confusing than complementary in achieving the set goals of the law. Nigeria as a country has established many environmental laws which if implemented will enhance the environment and minimize environmental related problems.⁹

Recommendation

The Nigerian government, the judiciary, the Citizens, the environmental NGOs, and indeed, all stakeholders should appreciate the importance of a safe and protected environment and work in concert for its collective protection.¹⁰

The Government should ensure proper administrative compliance, stronger environmental policies, periodic review of enforcement procedure and strengthening of institutions charged with this task

8 Alexander Chinago Budnukaeku and Oku Hyginus, "Environmental Laws and Management Agencies in Nigeria– What Hope for Desecrated Landscape" (2021) 5 Biodiversity International Journal <<https://medcraveonline.com/BIJ/BIJ-05-00190.pdf>> accessed September 14, 2023

9 *Ibid* (N6)

10 *Ibid* (N4)

Chapter 13

LABOUR RIGHTS

By

Acha Peter*

Introduction

Of all the debates surrounding globalization, one of the most contentious issues is that which concern trade and workers right. The different interests between employers and employees have risen to a stage that calls for an equilibrium agreement. This work therefore seeks to evaluate the labour rights in Nigeria with the aim of identifying some of the ill practices as well as proffering some workable solutions.

In the story of the creation, it is evidently written that God put man in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it (Genesis 2:15). In the same vein, Saint Paul in his book to the Thessalonians emphasises on the dignity of labour. He summarized his write up by speaking against people who lived in idleness. The Holy Quran (53:39) says there is nothing for a person except what he strives for. In another verse, it says 'work and Allah will see your work (09:106). The holy books have therefore made it a duty for every faithful to work in order to make a good living; the onus is now on human developed policies to streamline what should be the responsibilities amongst employer, the employee and the government.

In Nigeria, the issue of labour right has generated a lot of controversies among scholars, institutions and trade unions with each holding on to the aspect of the laws that soothes them, it therefore raises the conflict tempo as each party tends to close their eyes to laws that do not favour their ill practice. The sad reality is that, the employees are always at the mercy of their employer and the institution that should set the record straight. This practice has negatively affected the employer and employee relationship which in most cases result to low output and industrial action.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

- i. **Labour:** this simply refers to the amount of physical, mental and social effort used to produce goods and services in an economy. Labour is categorized into three major segments namely: Skilled Labour which requires some degree of knowledge and expertise. Unskilled labour which does not necessarily require training or certificate, it is usually of manual labour e.g. farm work, truck

pushing or a custodial staff. The third is the semi-skilled labour which in most cases requires some level of education and training.

- ii. **Rights:** rights are legal, social, or ethical principles freedom or entitlement. It refers to the fundamental normative in rules about what is allowed of people or owed to people according to some legal system, social convention or ethical theory.

Labour Rights are therefore sets of legal and social rules of a human in relation to the employee, employer and regulatory body. The labour rights are popularly nicked named workers' right. The workers' rights are codified in national and international labour and employment laws. These rights influence working condition in relations to employment. Examples are freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, safe and healthy working environment rights to receive wages for work done among many other workers' rights.

Legal Framework International/Regional

On the 10th of December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Article 22 of the UDHR gives backing to the fundamental labour rights which states that "everyone as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each state, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and free development of his personality. The sub-sections of Article 22 of UDHR are as follows.¹

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone without any discrimination has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and join trade union for the protection of his interest.

1 International labour review, Vol.137 (1998) No.2

International Labour Law: This is the body of rules spanning public and private international law which concern the rights and duties of employees, employers, trade unions and governments in regulating Work (human activity) and the workplace. The International Labour Organization and the World Trade Organization have been the main international bodies involved in reforming labour markets. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have indirectly driven changes in labour policy by demanding structural adjustment conditions for receiving loans or grants. Issues regarding Conflict of laws arise, determined by national courts, when people work in more than one country, and supra-national bodies, particularly in the law of the European Union, has a growing body of rules regarding labour rights.

International Labour Standards: refer to conventions agreed upon by international actors, resulting from a series of value judgments, set forth to protect basic workers' rights, enhance workers' job security, and improve their terms of employment on a global scale. The intent of such standards, then, is to establish a worldwide minimum level of protection from inhumane labour practices through the adoption and implementation of said measures. From a theoretical standpoint, it has been maintained, on ethical grounds, that there are certain basic human rights that are universal to humankind. Thus, it is the aim of international labour standards to ensure the provision of such rights in the workplace, such as standards against workplace aggression, bullying, discrimination and gender inequality on the other hand for working diversity, workplace democracy and empowerment.

While the existence of international labour standards does not necessarily imply implementation or enforcement mechanisms, most real world cases have utilised formal treaties and agreements stemming from international institutions. The primary international agency responsible for developing working standards is the International Labour Organization (ILO). Established in 1919, the ILO advocates international standards as essential for the eradication of labour conditions involving "injustice, hardship and privation". According to the ILO, international labour standards contribute to the possibility of lasting peace, help to mitigate potentially adverse effects of international market competition and help the progress of international development.

Municipal/Domestic Law

There are various laws governing employment-related matters in Nigeria. Some of these employment laws include the Nigerian

Labour Act, the Pensions Act, the Industrial Training Act, Employee Compensation Act, Trade Unions Act, among few others. In this write-up, we will briefly discuss the impact of some of these laws on employment matters in Nigeria.

The Labour Act

The Nigerian Labour Act 1971 is the principal law that governs employment-related matters and the relationship between an employer and employee in Nigeria. The Act uses the word "workers" to describe employees and it defines workers in Section 91 of the Act as "any person who has entered into or works under a contract with an employer, whether the contract is for manual labour or clerical work or is expressed or implied or oral or written, and where it is a contract of service or a contract personally to execute any work or labour".

There are also certain categories of persons excluded from the definition of workers, and these categories of persons are governed by the terms and conditions contained in their contracts of employment. Section 91 of the Act goes further to describe these set of persons as "persons exercising administrative, executive, technical or professional functions as public officers or otherwise".

In respect of employment contracts, Section 7 of the Labour Act provides that "Not later than three months after the beginning of a worker's period of employment with an employer, the employer shall give to the worker a written statement specifying the following:

- The name of the employer or group of employers and where appropriate of the undertaking by which the employee is employed.
- The name of the employee, address, position to be occupied, and the date of engagement. The nature of the employment.
- If the contract is for a fixed term, the date when the contract expires.
- The appropriate period of notice to be given by the party wishing to terminate the contract. The rate of wages and method of calculation, and the manner and periodicity of payment.
- The terms and conditions relating to the hours of work, holiday pay, and conditions for incapacity to work due to sickness, injury, inclusive of provisions of sick pay.
- Leave allowance, medical and other special allowances to be accrued

Special Conditions of the Contract

- Another salient provision of the Labour Act is Section 11 of the Act, which provides for the termination of a contract of employment by the issuance of notice in writing. It states that either party to a contract of employment may terminate the contract on the expiration of a notice given by him to the other party of his intention to do so. The notice to be issued shall be in this format by the provisions of the law:

- One day, where the contract has continued for three months or less.
- One week, where the contract has continued for more than three months, but less than two years.
- Two weeks, where the contract has continued for two years but less than five years.
- One month, where the contract has continued for five years or more.

Employee Compensation Act

The Employee Compensation Act 2010 applies to all employees in the private and public sector in Nigeria. The Act imposes obligations on employers of labour in both the private and public sector of the economy throughout the Federation to deduct 1% from the monthly salary of its employees and remit it to an Employee Compensation Fund (which is the authority responsible for implementing the Act), as provided under Section 33 of the Act in event of death, injury, disease, or disability of the employee arising in course of employment.

The Act also established the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund Board (NSITF) by Section 2(2) of the Act as the Board that has the power to implement the fund established under the Act. The scheme is targeted at protecting private-sector, employees and their dependents from financial difficulties in the event of diseases, injury, or death associated with the employee's employment.

The scale of compensation for an injury, disease, or death suffered in the course of employment is provided under Part IV of the Act. Section 17 of the Act provides for compensation in fatal cases as it provides that where death results from an injury of an employee, compensation shall be paid to the dependents of the deceased. The compensation paid to the employee's widow(er) or children ranges from 30% -90% of the employee's total monthly remuneration as at the date of death, although this depends on the circumstances of the dependents.

When accepted, the employee compensation forbids or bars the affected employee or his siblings from further instituting any legal action against the employer in respect of the same subject matter.

The Industrial Training Act

Another employment law in Nigeria is the Industrial Training Act Cap L9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 which have been amended by the Industrial Training Amendment Act 2011. The Act was enacted to promote the acquisition of relevant skills in industry and commerce with the view to generate a pool of indigenous manpower to satisfy the needs of the economy as provided by Section 2 of the Act.

The Act further imposes a duty on employers to provide training for their indigenous staff to improve their job-related skills. It also provides that the Fund's Council may make a refund of up to 50% of the amount paid by an employer where it is satisfied that its training program is adequate as provided by Section 4 of the Act.

Section 6 of the Act provides that every employer having five or more employees in his establishment or having less than 5 employees but with a turnover of N50 Million Naira and above per annum shall in respect of each calendar year or the prescribed date contribute to the Fund 1% of his total annual payroll.

Failure to make contributions within the stipulated period in a calendar year attracts a penalty of five percent (5%) of the amount unpaid for each month or part of a month after the date on which payments should have been made as provided in Section 9.

Pensions Act

Another law that regulates employment-related matters is the Pension Reform Act 2014, which repealed the Pension Reform Act No.2 2004. The Act was enacted to promote and govern the administration of the uniform contributory pension scheme for an organization in both the public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy.

Section 1 of the Act provides that the objectives of the Act include establishing a uniform set of rules, regulations, and standards for the administration and payments of retirement benefits for the public service of the Federal Capital Territory, the Public Service of the State Governments, the Public Service of the Local Government Councils and the Private sector. It also

includes making provisions for the smooth operations of the Contributory Pension Scheme.

Section 2 of the Act further provides that the private sector employers with fifteen (15) or more employees must establish a Contributory Pension Scheme for the benefit of the employees, wherefrom retirement benefits would be paid to the employees.

Section 2(3) of the Act provides "that notwithstanding the prescribed mandatory minimum threshold stated, private sector employers with less than three (3) employees or self-employed persons are also entitled to voluntarily establish schemes, following guidelines issued by the National Pension Commission".

The Act in Section 4 provides that the minimum rate of contribution payable by the employer is 10% of an employer's monthly remuneration and 8% of an employee's monthly remuneration to be contributed by the employee.

The rate of contribution payable may also upon the agreement between the employer and employee be revised upwards from time to time and when such a situation arises, the Commission will be notified of the revision.

Trade Unions Act²

Trade Unions in Nigeria are associations joined by workers or employees to seek the improvement of working conditions through the use of collective efforts. They also seek to provide social and economic benefits for their members.

The Trade Union Act Cap T4 LFN 2004 is another law that regulates employment-related matters in Nigeria. It defines trade union in Section 1 as "any combination of workers or employers, whether temporary or permanent, the purpose of which is to regulate the terms and conditions of employment of workers, whether the combination in question would or would not, apart from this Act, be an unlawful combination by reason of any of its purposes being in restraint of trade, and whether its purpose does or do not include the provision of benefits for its members". By the provision of this Act, every worker or employee has the right to form a trade union or join an already existing trade union.

Section 17 of the Act provides for the deductions from wages of union members, that upon the registration and recognition of any of the trade union, the employer shall make deductions from the

2 Olusola John Jegede and Winifred Idiaru "overview of employment laws in Nigeria-manpower policy & regulations (2021)

wages of every worker who is a member of any of the trade unions to pay contributions to the trade union so registered and also, remit such deductions to the registered office of the trade union within a reasonable period or such period as may be prescribed from time to time by the registrar.

National Industrial Court ³

The National Industrial Court is a specialized superior court of record with the primary role of dispensing social justice in relation to trade disputes.

Some of the Complaints Received by the Commission on Labour Rights are as follows:

C/OYO/2022/262/ESCR

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th December, 2022 from X who lives in Area 1, Road 1, Harmony Estate Aafin Iyanu, Off Ologuneru road, Eleyele Road, Ibadan alleging that a Microfinance Bank terminated her appointment unlawfully.

C/2022/ESCR/212/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th October, 2022 from Fourteen (14) former members of the Ondo State Farmers Congress, alleging the management of the association of non-payment of salary arrears. The group claimed they were laid off in 2021, but the body still owes them about Fifteen (15) months' salary before their employment was terminated and are yet to pay.

C/2022/ESCR/213/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th October, 2022 from X of Oke-Eri New Site, Oba-Ile, Akure, Ondo State, alleging XY her employer of non-payment of salary because she was off-duty for One (1) day. She claimed that the day off was approved by her HOD and with the knowledge of the Proprietor.

C/2022/225/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd July, 2022 from Y. He alleged that he was employed at a Community Comprehensive Secondary School on 27th January 2009 and the school owes him his salary arrears amounting to ₦2.04 million.

3 Innocent Nkemjika Ezeugo,

C/2022/956/HQ/C/2022/201/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th June, 2022, from X alleging wrongful termination of her appointment with the Nigeria Union of Pensioners and other human rights violations which were meted on her as an employee.

C/2022/195/EDO

The Commission received a Complaint dated 15th June 2022 from Y. He alleged that he worked with an Aluminum Smelting Company where he had a workplace injury and instead of receiving compensation, he was sacked.

C/2022/190/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June 2022 from Y alleging that he works with a Construction Company and was not compensated when he had a workplace injury.

C/2022/ESCR/10-20/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd August, 2022 from Y and 10 others alleging Military Pension Board, Abuja of denial of right to pension and entitlements. X further alleged that the pension board has withheld their entitlements for 44 years and that all effort to get paid was futile.

C/2022/038/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st March, 2022 from Y alleging that he contributed to the National Housing Fund for 17 years of his service. Y further claimed that when he retired from active service on 27th January, 2019 and came to collect his entitlement at Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria FCT Branch at Area 2 Garki Abuja, they kept giving him excuses.

C/2022/040/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th March, 2022 from Y alleging that his employer terminated his appointment on 21st March, 2022 due to some irregularities. Y further alleged that while he was in service, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000) was deducted from his salary on 18th May, 2018 and his former employer has also denied him his insurance benefits.

C/2022/018/AKS

/The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from Y, alleging that the company he once worked for has refused to pay him

all his entitlements and all efforts geared toward getting his entitlements proved abortive.

C/2022/041/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th February, 2022 from Y, alleging that he was employed as a security guard and his employer has refused to pay him his salary for the period he worked with him. Y further claimed that whenever he asked for his salary he threatens him.

C/ANS/SEZ/2022/42:

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th March 2022 from Y, alleging that his boss whom he served for 6 years refused to settle him which is the agreement between Y and his boss, that instead of settling Y, his boss accused him of stealing his N10.5 Million Naira and liquidating his shop and he was arrested by the vigilante group and taken to Ekwulobia Police station on 15th March 2022.

C/2022/20/CAL

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st April, 2022 from X against a Bank of alleging denial of his Right to Entitlement. He also alleged that all efforts made by him from January, 2022 to retrieve the money he contributed for his two sons as education insurance to the tune of N190,000.00 (One Hundred and Ninety Thousand naira only), has proved abortive.

C/2022/19/CAL

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th March, 2022 from XY alleging that Y has been denied the payment of their entitlements and earnings stretching over 48 months by their employers, a Limited Liability Company located at Akamkpa, Cross River State.

C/BSO/MDR/194/2022

The Commission received a complaint from X against Intercommunity Development Social Organization (IDS) dated 27th April 2022, alleging X was engaged by IDS to work as a caseworker in Damboa LGA but IDS failed to pay her three months' outstanding allowances.

C/KTSO/C/2022/016

The commission received a complaint dated 16th February 2022 from Y, alleging that Katsina State government refused to compensate them on their farmland where construction of drainage is taking place.

C/2022/004/NHRC/KGSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd February 2022 from Y.

He alleged that he worked for XY for a period of 5 years and he resigned from his employment in August 2020. He claimed that he is yet to receive his entitlements according to the contracts of his employment which remained unpaid even after he had applied for same since April 2021.

C/KTSO/2022/020

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April 2022 from Y against his employer Ministry of Education Katsina State for administrative injustice and withholding of his two (2) month's salary.

C/2022/004/NHRC/KGSO

The Commission received a complaint date 2nd February 2022 from Y. He stated that he worked for XY the alleged violator for a period of 5 years and that he resigned from his employment in August 2020, have been employed in August 2015 he said his entitlements according to the contracts of his employment has remained unpaid even after he applied for the payment in April 2021.

C/2022/ESCR/185 - 250/OYO

The Commission received a complaint on the 22nd February, 2022 from some staff of Southwest Trade Agent against Star Gate Telecom/9mobile on non-payment of their seven months' salary/entitlement from August 2021 to February 2022.

C/2022/ESCR/183/OYO

The Commission received a complaint on the 31st of January 2022 from X against the Managing Director of Veterinary hospital for terminating her appointment as Human Resource Manager on the 26th of January 2022. She also claimed unlawful deduction from her December salary.

C/2022/ESCR/181/OYO

The Commission received a complaint on the 18th of January 2022 from Y. He alleged that X, the Managing Director, of his workplace with whom he had worked since 8th November 2021 unlawfully laid him off on the 15th of January 2022 without any payment of his entitlement.

C/2022/ESCR/184/OYO

The Commission received a complaint on the 16th of February, 2022 from Y, of Odo-Eran, Owode Oyo, alleging non-payment of his entitlement by the CEO of Multimedia Studio. Y further alleged that he was employed as a movie producer in the year 2020 with an agreed payment of One Hundred Thousand Naira (₦100,000) as his salary, which he was never paid in full till his dismissal on the 30th of July 2021.

C/Lso/22/302

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th April, 2022 from Y against XY industrial Company. Y alleged that he sustained injuries while working for XY and was rushed to the hospital for treatment. He also stated that the money given to him by XY to take care of his medical bills was not enough.

C/LSO/22/318

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April 2022 from Y against XY Medical Diagnostic Limited. Y alleged that he started working with XY on 12th July 2021 as a dispatch rider until his employment was terminated on 3rd March 2022, with his two weeks in-lieu of notice outstanding salary not paid to him.

C/LSO/22/330

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 20th April, 2022, by Y against XY. X alleged that after he was sacked by XY on the 22nd March, 2022, XY refused to pay him his salary since the day of his sack till date. The incident occurred at Lagos State.

C/LSO/22/338

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st April, 2022 from Y alleging non-payment of salary against Y2 of XY Lounge. Y alleged that he is being owed March 2022 salary by Y2 of XY Lounge situated at Ikeja Lagos State. He also claimed that all efforts to get paid his Salary were futile.

C/LSO/21/342

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 22nd April, 2022 from Y alleging Non-payment of salary and termination of appointment against General Manager of XY Specialist Hospital. Y alleged that XY terminated his appointment after several arguments and that XY did not pay him off immediately after the termination. Y is asking that he should be paid his half c/month salary.

C/LSO/22/364

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th April, 2022, from X on behalf of Y, her late husband alleging denial of retirement benefits against the Nigerian Army. X alleged that Y died while in active service with Nigerian Army and his retirement benefits was denied leading to the eviction of the widow from the property of the Nigerian Army.

C/LSO/22/366/2022/ESCR/728/HQ

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 29th April 2022 from Y alleging non-payment of salary against XY, a business organization. Y alleged that XY owes him January to March 2022 salary.

C/BSO/MDR/035/2022

The Commission received a Complaint dated 14th January, 2022 from Y against UNHCR, Maiduguri Office alleging withholding of his allowance. Y alleged that he was employed by UNHCR Maiduguri Office as driver for a period of three months' contract. Y further alleged that however, after he worked for one month, his contract was terminated without payment.

C/2022/034/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th February 2022 from Y alleging that he worked as a security guard at Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company from 2017 to 2021 and was wrongfully terminated.

C/KNSO/2022/333

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th April, 2022 from Y, alleging that his employer has refused to pay him his salary for the month of March, 2022. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/337

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April, 2022 from Y, alleging that his employer refused to pay his end of service benefits. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/336-366

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th April, 2022 from XY alleging that their benefits have not been paid by Halogen Security Company. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

KNSO/C/2022/370

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th April, 2022 from Y, alleging that his salary and allowances have not been paid by his employer. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/168

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th February, 2022 from Y, alleging that his employer has refused to pay him his salary. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/021

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from Y alleging that his employer has refused to pay him his end of service benefit. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/209

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th February, 2022 from Y, alleging that the Company terminated his appointment and refused to pay his exit package benefit, which is due to him. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/223

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd March, 2022 from Y alleging that his employer has refused to pay him his three (3) months' salary and it is causing untold hardship on him as this is his source of livelihood.

C/KNSO/2022/205

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd February, 2022 from Y alleging that his compensation benefit has not been paid by Solina Company. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/213

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th February 2022 from Y, alleging that his employer refused to pay his end-of-service benefit after his resignation from service. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/236

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th March 2022 from Y, alleging that his employer unlawfully terminated his appointment with the company. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/186

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th February 2022 from Y, alleging that her end-of-service benefit had not been paid for more than two (2) years by Arik Airways Company. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/KNSO/2022/274

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th March, 2022 from Y alleging that his employer failed to pay him three months' salary. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/035/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th January, 2022 from Y alleging that his appointment was unlawfully terminated by his employer, Motor Express Counties Service located in Kano, who failed to give him his benefits. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/040/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January 2022 from Y alleging that his employer, NSCDC, terminated his appointment and dismissed him from service in the year 2019. He further alleged that the dismissal was based on an allegation of sleeping on duty in 2019. All efforts to resume duty proved abortive.

C/2022/154/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th February, 2022 from Y alleging that his contract of appointment was terminated by his employer (Ara Table Water located at Sharada Phase I) illegally on 24th January, 2022 and the employer failed to pay him one month's salary. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/172/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th February 2022 from XY alleging that the employer of Y in Kano failed to pay him his full benefit and compensation when Y lost his finger in the process of discharging his duty at the company.

C/2022/206/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd February, 2022 from Y of Tudun Wada, Bompai, Kano, alleging that his employer Cape Gate Investment Limited situated in Kano withheld his seven (7) months' salary. Y further alleged that all efforts made to get his salaries were futile.

C/2022/208/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th February 2022 from Y of Panshekara Quarters, Kano, alleging that his pension contribution for the period of four (4) years had not been remitted to his pension fund

account by Kano Electricity and Distribution Company (KEDCO). He also alleged that he was owed thirteen (13) month's salary by the company.

C/2022/210 - 211/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th February 2022 from Y of Naibawa Gabas Kumbutso L.G.A of Kano State alleging that his pension contribution for the period of four (4) years had not been remitted to his pension fund account by Kano Electricity and Distribution Company (KEDCO) for thirteen months.

C/KNSO/2022/222

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th March 2022 from X of Rijiyar Zaki, Ungogo LGA alleging that the school where he teaches did not pay him his salary for four (4) months. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/ESCR/003/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th of March, 2022 from Y at Idi Ogede Kangu, Ilorin Kwara state. He alleged that Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) Ilorin Office refused to pay his late father's entitlement.

C/LSO/22/108

The Commission received a complaint on 10th February, 2022 from X of Victoria Island Lagos. He alleged that he started work with a Security Agency in Lagos on 13th December, 2021 and his salary of 2 months was not paid.

C/LSO/22/145-146

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th March 2022 from Y of Lagos State. He alleged that he is being owed Christmas bonus and end of contract letter by A Security Agency Ltd situated at Surulere Lagos State. He further alleged that all efforts to get paid and collect his end of contract letter were futile.

C/LSO/22/159

The Commission received a complaint on 28th February 2022 from Y of Lagos, alleging that he was employed as a plumber under XY. Y was issued a query letter for an offence of Infraction for working and rendering services for his personal gain to another company during his working hours which constitutes an offence under the company regulation handbook. The alleged violator had neither issued a letter of termination of his appointment nor taken any decision regarding his conduct.

C/2022/254/GME

The Commission received the complaint from Y dated 16th August, 2022 against Security Guard. He alleged Non-payment of wages as the respondent sacked him but they did not pay him his remaining balance.

C/2022/169/GME

The Commission received a complaint from Y dated 8th June, 2022. Y alleged that he worked for about 35 years in Nigerian Railway Cooperation until his retirement in January 2021. That till date he has not received his entitlement.

C/2022/ESCR/176/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th June 2022 from Y of Birnin Kudu Local Government Area Jigawa State against Sule Lamido University, Jigawa State. Y alleged that he was wrongfully terminated from his employment on the 6th day of June 2021 by the above name University without lawful justification.

C/LSO/22/727

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th August 2022 from Y, alleging that his employment was terminated without payment of his benefits. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LSO/22/825

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August 2022 from Y, alleging that though he submitted his notice of resignation one month in lieu as required by law, he was not paid his October 2021 salary. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LOS/22/710-712

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 4th of August 2022, from X1 and X2 demanding their denied benefits and entitlements from Y, their employer. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LSO/22/810

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd August 2022, from Y against his former employer for non-payment of salary. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LSO/22/835

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 26th August 2022, from Y alleging non-payment of one month's salary and other benefits from XY. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/LSO/22/836

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th August 2022 from X against her employer for Non-payment of salary. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/22/LEG/859/LAG

The Commission received a complaint dated 5^h August 2022, from Y against his employer alleging that he suffered a permanent disability during work and he wants compensation for the injury suffered. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/OS/22/095

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd June, 2022 from Y who was a former worker to XY First bank in Osun state. Y alleged that First Bank had denied him his entitlements; X further alleged that all effort he had made to ensure he was paid proved abortive.

C/22/ESCR/110/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 6th June, 2022 from Y alleging that he is being owed some months' Salary by XY his former employer in Ogun State where he was employed in January 2022. He further alleged that the school has breached the terms of the employment; he therefore wants the Commission's intervention to help him recover his outstanding salaries.

C/2022/OYO/254/ESCR

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May 2022 from Y who resides in Ilorin, alleging XY Bowen University Hospital of non-payment of his entitlements. Y wants the Commission to intervene to ensure he is paid his entitlements.

C/22/ESCR/084/OG

The Commission received a complaint from Y on 4th May, 2022 alleging that XY has breached the hire purchase agreement between them over a motor cycle. Y wants the Commission's intervention to resolve the dispute.

C/22/ESCR/085/OG - C/2022/ESCR/700/HQ

The Commission received a Complaint on 5th May, 2022. Y alleged unsafe working environment and abuse of workers' rights at Ding Xing Xiyuan Quarry and A & B Quarry.

C/2022//ESCR/157/OS

The Commission received a complaint date 30th August, 2022 from X, who resides in Osun State, alleging that YX her former employer denied her of her entitlement, in Osun State. She further alleged that all effort she has made to ensure she was paid prove abortive.

C/OS/22/107

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from Y, who resides in Osun state, alleged that, his former employee has refused to pay him, his entitlement in Osun State. He wants the commission to intervene on the matter.

C/OS/22/141

The Commission received a Complaint dated 11th August, 2022 from Y, who resides in Osun State, alleging XY his former employee has denied him of his entitlement, and wants the Commission help him to ensure his entitlement was paid to him.

C/22/ESCR/134/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 19th July, 2022 from XY alleging that his brother Y sustained a serious injury that led to a broken spinal cord while he was trying to cast iron in the course of working for Golden Diamond Construction Company LTD. XY further informed the Commission that the company did not pay for his brothers' medical bill and the situation is getting worse. The Complainant therefore appeals for the Commission's intervention in the matter.

C/22/ESCR/090/OG

The Commission received Complaint 12th May, 2022 from X alleging at XY collected the sum of N33,000 (thirty-three thousand naira from her) for purchase of land but has refused to refund the money for over two years and neither provided the land. X want the Commission's intervention on the matter.

C/22/ESCR/091/OG

The Commission received Complaint on 12th May, 2022 from X alleging that Y a pastor collected the sum of N230,000 (two hundred and thirty thousand naira) from her for purchase land without actually allocating

any land to her. She wants the Commission's intervention in the matter to recover her money.

C/22/ESCR/158/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 18th August, 2022 from XY on behalf of Y alleging that Y sustained an injury in the course of his work as a result of unsafe working environment at JINGWEI Construction Engineering Company LTD. The Complainant prays the Commission to intervene to help Y get compensated as the company has failed to assist with the medical bills.

C/22/ESCR/162/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 25th August, 2022 from XY, alleged that Y suffered injuries on his face, eyes and body on 14th June, 2022 as a result of a chemical explosion in the course of his work. XY alleged that the injuries were possible because the company West African Soy Industries Limited failed to provide safety kits for work and therefore should be held liable. XY therefore requested for compensation from the company to enable his client get treatment.

C/22/ESCR/173/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 31st August, 2022 from Y alleging that he sustained an injury while working at Lucky Steel Nigeria Ltd but the company failed to contribute to his medical bills.

C/2022/ESCR/193/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October 2022, from Y who resides at Oke-Afon Ile-Ife Osun State alleging the Nigeria Police Service Commission of not paying all his entitlements.

C/2022/ESCR/254/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th November 2022, from Y who resides at Osogbo, Osun State alleging that One Mutual Trust Microfinance Bank terminated his appointment without following due process.

C/2022/ESCR/283/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th October, 2022 from Y who resides at Nasarawa State. Y alleged that his employer wrongfully terminated his appointment and denied him his entitlement.

C/2022/ESCR/352/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th November, 2022, from Y alleging that he worked for Akwa Ibom State Government as a civil

servant for a period of thirty five years and the Akwa Ibom State Governemnt failed to pay his retirement benefits.

C/2022/ESCR/348/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th November, 2022 from X alleging that on 19th May, 2022, she was employed to work in a restaurant at Ikot Ekpene Road, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. X further alleged that she worked for five months and her employer only paid her for two months and all efforts to ensure that the remaining unpaid three month salary was paid, proved abortive.

C/2022/ESCR/6275/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September, 2022 from Y alleging that after he worked for his employer for a period of six months, his employer refused to pay him his entitlements.

C/2022/ESCR/6291/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September, 2022 from Y of Yelwan Tudu in Bauchi State. Y alleged the denial of his right to entitlements by the National Open University of Nigeria.

C/2022/ESCR/6332 /BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October, 2022 from Y of Gidan Alkali, Bauchi State alleging denial of his right to his entitlements by the Bauchi State Hospitals Management Board..

C/2022/ESCR/6409/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from X of Rinji Village, Bauchi State alleging that after he had worked for his employer for a period of one year, he was not paid his benefits and entitlements.

C/2022/ESCR/6410 /BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from Y of Lowcost, Bauchi State alleging denial of right to entitlement/benefits by the Bauchi State Local Government Pensions Board.

C/2022/ESCR/6424 /BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th September, 2022 from Y of Ungwan Jarmal Darazo LGA, Bauchi State alleging denial of right to entitlement of his late father who died in active service of the Nigeria Police Force.

C/2022/ESCR/6487/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th December, 2022, from Y alleging that after he had worked for his employer for a year, the employer refused to pay him his benefits and entitlements.

C/2022/CPR/127/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th December, 2022 from Y. He alleged that at the chemical pathology departmental meeting at Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, where he works, he made a suggestion and ever since his Departmental Head has been intimidating and threatening to frustrate him out of his job.

C/2022/CP/572/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2023 from Y alleging that he agreed to carry out some work for his employer at an agreed price after negotiation. Y further alleged that after the completion of the work, his employer refused to pay the amount that they both agreed initially.

C/2022/CPR/266/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th December, 2022 from Y in Jigawa State against XY, the manager of a company also in Jigawa State. Y alleged that his appointment was wrongly terminated and his character was defamed by the Manager on the 15th October, 2022. He further alleged that all effort made to settle the matter failed.

C/2022/ESCR/089/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from Y. He alleged that he was wrongfully dismissed from Katsina State Institute of Technology and Management without any offence committed. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/ESCR/087/KTN

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from Y. He alleged that his employment was wrongfully terminated by Local Government Pension Board Katsina State.

C/2022/ESCR/027/KGS

The Commission received a complaint from Y on 4th November 2022. He alleged that he was employed by the Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja in 1995. He further alleged that while on the job, he was involved in a ghastly motor accident in 1996 that resulted in a severe injury. He further alleged that despite the fact that he had this accident while on an official

assignment; his employer failed to show concern for his ordeal and stopped payment of his salary in September 1997.

C/2022/ESCR/035/KGS

The Commission received a complaint from Y on 19th December 2022. He alleged that his job was terminated in a humiliating manner by the management of Confluence Metal Fabricating Company Ltd on 14th December 2022. He also claimed that the condition of work at the company had exposed him to grave health impairment due to the lack of protective equipment and that he has had to undergo an eye surgery as a result. He alleged that after this surgery, he pleaded for transfer to a less hazardous section as a result, his employment was terminated.

C/2022/ESCR/8602/PL

The Commission received a complaint on 16th November 2022 from Y of Mado, Tudun Wada, Jos, Plateau state, alleging that his employer wrongfully terminated his employment due to a minor miscommunication. Y claimed that his employer had been unreasonable despite his efforts to resolve the issue.

C/2022/ESCR/8407/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September, 2022 from Y in Plateau State where he worked as a security guard with King's Guard Nigeria LTD and was posted to NNPC Jos Depot. He alleged that he fell sick for and was unable to attend to his official duties for a few days, consequent on which he informed his supervisor via text. However, upon resumption to work on the 4th September 2022, his appointment was immediately terminated and all attempts to claim his six (6) months unpaid salaries have been futile.

C/2022/ESCR/8562/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd of November, 2022 from Y in Plateau State. Y alleged that his former employer summarily terminated Y from his appointment and refused to pay him salaries owed. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/CPR/8533/PL

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from Y in Plateau State alleging that while he was employed by Hillcross Security Guard LTD to supervise and train guards. He also alleged that the company did not provide necessary kits needed for the employed guards and failed to pay their salaries. This made the guards leave the company and the employer accused Y of negligence and of acting unprofessionally after which he was wrongfully suspended from work.

C/2022/ESCR/333/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint on the 16th of November 2022 from X alleging that her employers, University of Nigeria Micro Finance Bank, terminated her appointment without following due process and have refused to pay her entitlements.

C/2022/ESCR/291/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October, 2022 from X alleging that her employer had denied her wages for two months and wrongfully terminated her employment on the 23rd of December, 2021.

C/2022/ESCR/274/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th September, 2022 from X against Y, alleging that Y wrongfully terminated her appointment. X claimed that she pleaded with him to pay her salary which was withheld for 6 months, but he instead decided to terminate her appointment without pay.

C/2022/ESCR/327/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th November, 2022 from X against the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, alleging that her salary was stopped in November 2021. X alleged that since November 2021 she had not received her salary and when she reported at Enugu State office, she was notified her that her salary stopped because she is due for retirement. X further alleged that she went to her PSA in Enugu, they requested for identification letter from the company but they failed to issue the letter because she is no longer their staff.

C/2022/ESCR/123/NG

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 6th October 2022 from Y of Minna bordering on non-payment of salary for the month of July 2022 by Inhacs Salus Primary School, Minna where He was a teacher.

C/2022/ESCR/200/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 28th September 2022 from X, alleging that her husband who worked for XY Company Perez Fresh Foods Nig. in Ogun State convinced the company to move operations from Kano to Ogun State. The company then purportedly stopped operations in Ogun State without giving him any compensation for his time at the company.

C/2022/ESCR/247/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 16th November, 2022 from Y alleging that the company he worked for did not provide him with treatment when he suffered injuries from an accident which happened in the course of duty for the company.

C/2022/ESCR/258- 408/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 24th November, 2022 from Y alleging that Hayat Kimija Big Limited unjustly sacked him and about 150 other workers without paying them their entitlement and compensation.

C/2022/ESCR/413/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 5th December, 2022 from X alleging that after serving the Ogun State Local Government Service for 29 years and 9 months, she was denied her pension since retirement.

C/2022/ESCR/126/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th October, 2022 from Y alleged that five years ago, Y and fourteen other, staff of Leadership Newspapers were denied their salaries. He further alleged that eleven staff were later paid, but three of them were ignored and all efforts to salvage the situation proved abortive.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing, labour rights exist not primarily in favour of employees; it is a right that seeks to protect the employer from unnecessary demands by their employee. Recent events and happenings have made it possible for parties in labour dispute to come to a round table and sort things out with better understanding and respect to each other.

Prior to the period of Covid 19 pandemic, not many employers and employees had the idea of working from home. Surprisingly, it was to the advantage of the employer who now sees reason not to bring too many persons to the work environment which in turn saves time, energy, and resources. The practice has also helped the employees to negotiate for number of hours to put in during work hours or work on pro-rata basis. This practice has further strengthened the rights of each party in negotiation and collective bargaining. It is important at this point to mention that there are factors that may hinder the enjoyment of labour rights which are totally out of control of the employer, e.g. armed conflict, terrorism, natural disaster etc.

It is therefore recommended that labour rights be adhered strictly by both employers and employee. The dynamic nature of the

different laws makes it even easier for negotiation. Women who are employed in an organization may negotiate for a longer maternity leave days to enable them recover and take care of their infant. In addition, employers and employees should adopt a hybrid working model that enables workers split their working hours between their homes and office.

Chapter 14

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

By

Nwankwo I. Ada^{*1}

Introduction

Children are the future and the building blocks of every society; they are also the most vulnerable class of any society. It is therefore not surprising that tremendous amounts of energy and resources are expended in researching, formulating, enacting and enforcing the rights of the child. These rights have the singular purpose of ensuring the best interests of the child in their survival and development.

A plethora of authorities and legal instruments have been enacted, domesticated and/or ratified to affirm the commitment of successive Nigerian governments, at all levels, in protecting the best interests of her children. However, limitations to protecting these rights equally abound as a result of cultural, sometimes socio-economic inability to accord children recognition as rights holders while overwhelming them with recognition as duty holders.

Children are duty holders in relation to enjoyment of their rights as legal instruments delineate some of their responsibilities in a bid to ensure a balance of development and perspective for the children; child rights also have responsibilities attached to them.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Definition of a child

Definition of the concept of who a child is are bound by scholarly, biological, scientific, legal and other classifications, however, we will limit this discuss to the legal definition of a child.

Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as every human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier².

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2 UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, (adopted 20 November 1989, entry into force 2 September 1990) Resolution 44/25, UN Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p. 3, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child> accessed 20th April 2023.

Regionally, the African Union in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child defined a child as every human being below the age of 18 years³.

Section 29(4) (a) of the Constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) defines “full age”⁴ as the age of eighteen years and above.

Other Federal legislation such as the Child Rights Act (CRA)⁵, the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act⁶ and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act⁷ all refer to 18 years as the age of maturity in Nigeria.

Rights of the child

Part II, Sections 3 – 17 of the **CRA** provides for the rights of the child while **Articles 4 – 17** of the **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child** provides for the rights of the child similar to the CRA. The rights as provided for in the CRA include:

1. Application of Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution - section 3
2. Survival and development - section 4
3. Right to a name and to be registered at birth - section 5
4. Freedom of association and peaceful assembly -section 6
5. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion - section 7
6. Right to private and family life, home, correspondence, telephone conversation and telegraphic communications - section 8
7. Right to freedom of movement - section 9
8. Right to freedom from discrimination - section 10
9. Right to dignity of the child - section 11

3 African Union, Article 2, *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (adopted 01 July 1990, entered into force on 29 November, 1999) available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36804-treaty-african_charter_on_rights_welfare_of_the_child.pdf accessed 20th April 2023.

4 Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), *The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999; Updated with the First, Second and Third Alterations (2010) and the Fourth Alteration (2017)*(Original print: 2019 Reprint: 2021) available at <https://placng.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Constitution-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Nigeria.pdf> accessed 21st April, 2023.

5 Section 277, *Child Rights Act, Cap C50* Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2003, available at <https://placng.org/lawsfnigeria/laws/C50.pdf> accessed 21st April, 2023.

6 *Trafficking In Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement And Administration Act, Cap T23* Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, available at <https://www.placng.org/lawsfnigeria/laws/T23.pdf> accessed 21st April, 2023.

7 Section 494, *Administration of Criminal Justice Act, Cap* Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, available at <https://placng.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Administration-of-Criminal-Justice-Act-2015-2.pdf> accessed 21st April, 2023.

Every child is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly, no child shall be-

- a. Subjected to physical, mental or emotional injury, abuse, neglect or maltreatment, including sexual abuse;
 - b. Subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
 - c. Subjected to attacks upon his honor or reputation; or
 - d. Held in slavery or servitude, while in the care of a parent, legal guardian or school authority or any other person or authority having the care of the child
10. Right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities - section 12
 11. Right to health and health services including provision of adequate nutrition and safe drinking water; good hygiene and environmental sanitation; deployment of technology to combat disease and malnutrition; appropriate health care for expectant and nursing mothers; provision of full immunisation for children under the age of two years - section 13.
 12. Right to parental care, protection and maintenance
- section 14 confers on a child the right to sue his parents or guardians for maintenance, in accordance with the extent of their means, in Family Court
 13. Right to free, compulsory and universal basic education
- section 15
 14. Right of a child in need of special protection measure
- section 16
 15. Right of the unborn child to protection against harm
- section 17

This section also confers right to institute an action by the child against 3rd parties.

Protection of the Rights of the Child

This is contained in **Part III** of the Act, **sections 21 – 36** addressing

1. Prohibition of child marriage - section 21
2. Child betrothal - section 22
3. Prohibition of tattoos and skin marks - section 24
4. Exposure to use, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs etc - section 25
5. Use of children in other criminal activities- section 26
6. Abduction, removal and transfer from lawful custody - section 27
7. Prohibition of exploitative labour - section 28
8. Prohibition of buying, selling, hiring or otherwise Dealing in children for the purpose of hawking or

- begging for alms or prostitution - section 30
- 9. Prohibition of Unlawful sexual intercourse with a child - section 31
- 10. Prohibition of forms of sexual abuse and exploitation - section 32
- 11. Prohibition of other forms of exploitation - section 33
- 12. Prohibition of recruitment of children into the Armed Forces - section 34
- 13. Prohibition of importation of harmful publication - section 35

Articles 18 – 30 of the **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child** provides for protection of the rights of the child similar to the CRA.

Articles 6 – 40 of the **International Convention on the Rights of the Child** provides for the rights and protection of the rights of the child similar to the CRA and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Responsibilities of the child

Section 20 of CRA states the duty of a parent to provide guidance with respect to the child's responsibilities as follows:

Every parent, guardian, institution, person and authority responsible for the care, maintenance, upbringing, education, training, socialisation, employment and rehabilitation of a child has the duty to provide the necessary guidance, discipline, education and training for the child in his or its care such as will equip the child to secure his assimilation, appreciation and observance of the responsibilities set out in this Part of the Act.

Article 20 of the **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child** makes provisions regarding parental responsibility.

Legal Framework

National, regional and international instruments abound with enumeration of the rights and in some cases responsibilities of the child.

International and regional instruments

International Convention on the Rights of the Child

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Domestic and municipal legislations

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)
Child Rights Act
Children and Young Persons Act
The Labour Act⁸
Factories Act⁹
The Criminal Code Act¹⁰
The Penal Code Act¹¹

Some of the Complaints Received by the Commission in relation to the Rights of the Child are as follows:

C/ESO/2022/29

The Commission received a complaint dated 25/01/2022 from Y, alleging that Y, his father whom he lives with at Abakpa Enugu after his divorce from his mother in January 2022 abandoned him and moved in with his girlfriend and has refused to provide for him. X appeals to the Commission to ensure that his father begins to provide for him. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/IMS/32

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th February 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband denied her access to her children on 1st July 2022 at Umuegwueze Umualum Nekede in Owerri West L.G.A, Imo State. The matter was admitted for investigation.

C/2022/IMS/03

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January 2022 from X alleging that Y, her brother-in-law denied her the custody of her children since December 2021 at Egbu in Owerri North L.G.A, Imo State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

8 Labour Act, 1974 Cap L1 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Section 59 is particularly instructive as it provides for prohibition of harmful employment of a child, hours/days of work for children in permitted employment and section 61 on night work by children.

9 *Factories Act*, Cap F1 Laws of the Federation available at <https://www.placng.org/laws/nigeria/laws/F1.pdf> Section 26(8&9) prohibits operation of a mechanical machine by a person under 18 years of age,

10 *The Criminal Code Act*, Cap C38 Laws of the Federation. Section 30 contains special provisions regarding criminal responsibility of children, among other provisions.

11 *The Penal Code Act*, Cap P3 Laws of the Federation.

C/ESO/2022/95

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th March 2022 from X against Y. X alleged that Y refuses to adequately provide for the education and feeding of their children, and this has led to most of their children dropping out of school. The Commission admitted the matter for investigation and intervention.

C/ESO/2022/26

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd February, 2022 from Y alleging that X his wife of eight years who lives with him and their four children in Enugu lives a promiscuous life which made her contract hepatitis B. Y further alleged that Y refused to take her medication, and on 21st January, 2022 absconded with their four children to an unknown location.

C/ESO/2022/100

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th April 2022 from X alleging that Y abandoned her and their six children in 1999 at Akogu Ezedike in Uzo- Uwani L.G.A, Enugu State. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/JG/2022/004

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January 2022, from X, alleging that Y, her ex-husband took the custody of her two (2) children since 20th March 2021. X, further alleged that her ex-husband has since denied her access to the children. That all efforts made to have access to the children were futile.

C/2022/IMS/52

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th January 2022 from X, alleging that Y, her brother-in-law denied her the custody of her children since January 2021 in Imo State; the matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/IMS/09

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th January 2022 from X alleging abandonment by Y, her husband. X further alleged that her husband has not been taking responsibility for her upkeep since 15th January, 022 at Orji in Owerri North L.G.A, and the matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/JG/2022/005

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th January 2022 from X in Kano state, alleging that Y, her ex-husband who resides in Jigawa

state has abandoned the upkeep responsibilities and maintenance of their four (4) children, since the 19th March 2021.

C/JG/2022/ 024

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th March 2022, from X in Jigawa state alleging that Y, her father has abandoned her basic needs, and maintenance since the 17th March 2011. Presently X is with her mother at Mobile Base Dutse, thereby, making it difficult for her to cope with the situation.

C/JG/2022/145

The Commission received a complaint dated the 12th day of April 2022 from X against one Y, of Kazaure local government, Jigawa state, alleging that Y has abandoned the responsibilities and maintenance of her siblings residing at Kalgon Mahauta village Dutse local government Jigawa state since on the 13th of March 2018, hereby making life difficult for the two children to cope with.

C/JG/2022/162

The Commission received a complaint dated the 10th day of May 2022 from X in Jigawa state against her husband Y for abandonment of the responsibilities of their children despite several demands made since 11th November 2021.

C/ESO/2022/105

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April 2022 from X alleging that Y her husband has been denying her access to their children since January 2022, she left his home in Enugu State.

C/ESO/2022/118

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th April 2022 from X against Y her estranged husband. X alleged that since Y sent her packing from their matrimonial home in 2020, he stopped providing for the welfare of their child.

C/ESO/2022/126

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th April 2022 from X against Y. She alleged that Y stopped providing for her and the children of their marriage though he had the means to do so. X also alleged that their son was diagnosed with hernia and was scheduled for surgery, yet her husband had refused to show concern and was adamant about not paying the medical.

C/KTSO/2022/002

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband abandoned his parental responsibilities towards their children.

C/KTSO/2022/005

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st January 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband is not taking care of their son who is living with his stepmother.

C/KTSO/2022/006

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st January 2022 from XY alleging that two (2) School children were burnt by their stepmothers in all parts of their bodies.

C/KTSO/2022/007

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd February 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband abandoned his parental responsibilities toward their children.

C/KTSO/2022/014

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st February 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband divorced her and took away their children without her consent.

C/KTSO/2022/017

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th March 2022 from XY alleging that Y is forcing his daughter a minor to marry someone that is not her choice.

C/2022/WCR/001/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 8th of January, 2022 from X, in Kwara State, alleging that Y, her husband wants to take custody of their three children who are ten years, five years, and nine months respectively.

C/2022/WCR/008/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 20th of January, 2022 from X in Kwara state. She alleged that she moved out of her husband's house together with three children, and now he wants custody of their first son.

C/2022/WCR/026/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 22nd March, 2022 from X in Kwara State, alleging that Y, her husband has taken away their only son who is thirteen. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/WCR/042/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 22nd April, 2022 from X in Kwara State, alleging that Y, her husband denied her custody of their two children (6 and 3 years respectively).

C/2022/WCR/039/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 12th of April, 2022 from X in Kwara State, alleging that Y, the father of their daughter is trying to take custody of their child of (1 year).

C/KTSO/2022/018

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th March 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband is not taking proper care of their children and also denied her access to their children.

C/KTSO/2022/019

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th April 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband abandoned his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WCR/005/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th January, 2022 from X in Kwara State, alleging that Y, her husband has failed to shoulder his responsibilities as a father to their two children (eight and six years old respectively). She further alleged that she has been the one taking care of their children's feeding, education, health and general upkeep.

C/2022/WCR/007/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 12th of January, 2022 from X in Kwara State. She alleged that Y, the father of their children has not been performing his fatherly responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/WCR/009/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 12th of January, 2022 from X, in Kwara State. She alleged that Y, the father of their children has not been performing his fatherly responsibilities to their children (Eight-year and Five years old respectively).

C/2022/WCR/017/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 15th February 2022 from X in Kwara State, X, alleged that Y, her husband has refused to perform his fatherly responsibilities over their two years old child.

C/2022/WCR/023/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 10th of March, 2022 from X in Kwara State, alleging that Y, her husband has failed to shoulder his responsibilities as a father to his two children (Sixteen and Five years respectively).

C/2022/WCR/030/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 28th of March, 2022 from X in Kwara State, alleging that Y, her husband has refused to take up his fatherly responsibilities towards his three children (eight, six, and three years respectively).

C/2022/WCR/028/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 28th of March, 2022 from X in Ilorin Kwara State. She alleged that her husband has not been performing his responsibilities as a father of their child since the delivery of the child 8 months ago.

C/2022/WCR/033/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 4th of April, 2022 from X in Kwara State. She alleged that Y, the father of her daughter has refused to take up his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WCR/038/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 11th of April, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband has failed to discharge his fatherly responsibilities towards their children. Who are ten and seven years respectively.

C/2022/WCR/004/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 7th of January, 2022 from Y, who alleged that X, his wife has been denying him access to their one year old son.

C/2022/WCR/015/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 4th of February, 2022 from Y, alleging that X, his wife has been denying him access to their son of three years.

C/2022/019/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th February, 2021 from X alleging that ill treatment and beatings from her husband resulted in two miscarriages in a year. X further alleged that her husband has abandoned the responsibility of their 3 year old child.

C/OS/22/096

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th May, 2022 from X, who resides in Osun State, alleged that Y abandoned their child and have refused to provide for the child.

C/OS/22/102

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022 from X, who resides in Osun state, alleging that Y had been denying her access to their children.

C/2022/OYO/580-586/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th July 2022 from X, alleging that Y her husband has failed to undertake his fatherly responsibilities over their children.

C /2022/OYO/615-616/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August 2022 from X, alleging that Y, her husband has failed to take responsibilities over their children since they separated.

C/2022/OYO/612-614/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th August 2022 from X, alleging Y her husband of not taking his fatherly responsibilities on their children since he sent them packing from their matrimonial home.

C/2022/OYO/544-545/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th May 2022 from X, alleging that Y her husband abandoned his fatherly responsibilities on their two children. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/OYO/582-586/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th July 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband neglected his parental responsibilities towards their children. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/2022/WC/889-890/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th August, 2022, from X, alleging that she got into a contract marriage with Y the father of their 4 year old child. X further alleged she left the marriage 5 months ago because of misunderstanding and violence suffered at the hand of her husband, Y has refused to provide for the welfare their child.

C/2022/WC/968-972/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th September, 2022, from X, alleging that she did not contract a statutory marriage with Y as they were cohabiting. She further alleged that the relationship led to the birth of four (4) children ages 12, 9, 3 and 1 respectively. She alleged that they now live separately and Y has been denying her access to their children.

C/2022/OYO/579/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th July 2022 from X. X alleged that she cohabited with Y an army officer since 2017 and they had a child together. She further alleged that Y sent her out of the house and has also stopped the paternal responsibilities towards their child.

C/OS/22/109

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X in Osun State, alleging Y her husband abandoning his fatherly responsibilities of their children.

C/2022/WC/168/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September, 2022 from X in Osun State, alleging Y her husband of abandoning their children, and had refused to provide for them.

C/2022/OYO/561/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th June 2022 from Y alleging X his ex-wife of denying him access to their children since their separation.

C/2022/OYO/594-596/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July 2022 from X alleging Y her husband of forcefully sending her and their children out of the house without providing an alternative or getting them an accommodation.

C/2022/OYO/625/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August 2022 from X alleging that Y abducted her child because she was owing her sum of N20,000(twenty thousand naira).

C/2022/OYO/617-621/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th August 2022 from X alleging Y her husband of absconding with their children without trace of their whereabouts.

C/2022/OYO/624/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August 2022 from X alleging Y her husband of abandoning of his fatherly responsibility on their son.

C/2022/OYO/535-536/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th May 2022, from X alleging Y her husband of denying her access to their children. She further alleged that all effort made to ensure she have access to their children prove abortive.

C/OYO/2022/541-542/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May 2022 from X alleging Y her husband of denying her access to their first child. She further alleged that her effort to ensure she have access to their child yielded no positive result.

C/OYO/2022/541-542/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May 2022 from X, accusing Y her husband of taking away their children without her consent to an unknown place. She wants the Commission's intervention.

C/2022/OYO/561/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th June 2022 from Y, alleging X his wife of denying him access to their children since their separation.

C/OYO/2022/555-556/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st May 2022 from X, alleging that Y her husband has failed in his paternal responsibilities for their two children.

C/2022/OYO/565-568/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June 2022 from X, alleging that Y, her husband has failed to take up his fatherly responsibilities for their children since the year 2021.

C/OS/22/121

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th June, 2022 from X, alleging that Y her husband took away their four (4) children down to Osun State without informing her of taking their custody.

C/NHRC/2022/OY /561/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st June 2022 from X, alleging that Y her husband abandoned their children and his fatherly responsibilities to them.

C/2022/OYO/571-574/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st June 2022 from X alleging Y her husband of abandoning their children and his fatherly responsibilities. She further alleged that all her effort to ensure he takes care of them failed.

C/2022/OYO/576/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June 2022 from X Alleged she was cohabiting with Y her boyfriend and got pregnant, and that Y has refused to take responsibility of the child, ever since she was born.

C/2022/WC/146/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th August, 2022 from X Osun State, alleging that Y the father of their child wants to forcefully take custody of their daughter,

C/2022/WC/160/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August,2022 from X, alleging that her husband Y has denied her access to their children since she left him after decades of physical abuse from him.

C/2022/OYO/577/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th June 2022 from X, alleging that Y the father of her child abandoned his parental responsibilities to their child.

C/2022/OYO/594/ WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July 2022 from X, alleging that Y, her husband abandoned their two children and his fatherly responsibilities towards them.

C/OS/22/097

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from X. She alleged that Y had been denying her access to their children in Osun State.

C/2022/OYO/594-596/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July 2022 from X, claiming that her husband of forcefully sent her and their children out of the house without providing an alternative or getting them an accommodation.

C/2022/OYO/578/WC

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th July 2022 from X, accusing XY, her sister in-law of denying her access to her children. X claimed she travelled to Cairo and left her children at XY apartment though without her consent but on getting back to Nigeria after 2 years in Cairo, XY denied her access to see her children.

C/2022/WC/148/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th August, 2022 from X, who resides in Osun State, alleging that Y her husband has been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibilities for their child.

C/2022/WC/161/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X Osun alleging that Y her husband denied their children of care and provision for their basic needs.

C/NHRC/2022/OYO/580/WCG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th July 2022 from X alleging Y her husband of sent her out of their matrimonial home with their two children and after 2 weeks X claimed Y came with some police officers to took their children away from her and has since them denied her access.

C/2022/WCG/617-621/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th August 2022 from alleging Y her husband of absconding with their children to an undisclosed location.

C/2022/WC/152/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August, 2022 from X in Osun State alleging that Y her boyfriend who her got pregnant has not been taking care of their child. X further alleged that she loaned him some amount of money and he has refused to pay back the loan.

C/OS/22/143

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd August, 2022, from alleging Y of abandoning their child and has refused to provide for the child's basic needs.

C/OS/22/110

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th June, 2022 from X in Osun State, alleged that Y her husband abandoned their child and has refused to provide for the child.

C/OS/22/112

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th July, 2022 from X, alleging that Y her husband had refused to perform his fatherly responsibility to their daughter.

C/2022/WC/167/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September, 2022 from X alleging Y her husband of constantly threatening to withdraw the custody of their children from her.

C/22/WC/142/OS

The Commission received a Complaint dated 16th August, 2022 from X alleging Y the father of their children of not taking care of them and has refused provide for their basic needs.

NHRC/OS/22/129

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th July, 2022 from X in Osun State, alleging Y her husband of refusal to perform his fatherly responsibilities on their child.

C/2022/WC/265/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging Y her husband abandoned their five children. All efforts to ensure that Y performs his fatherly responsibilities of their children have failed.

NHRC/OS/22/120

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th July, 2022 from X, in Osun state, alleging that Y have been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility on their child.

C/OS/22/123

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022, from Y alleging X of not taking adequate care of their child and demanded for custody of their child.

C/OS/22/124

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July,2022, from X Osun State, alleging Y of denying her access to their child.

C/OS/22/130

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th July, 2022 from alleged that Y her husband has refused to perform his fatherly responsibilities on their child.

C/OS/22/113

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th July, 2022 from X in Osun state, alleging that Y her husband had been maltreating their child.

C/OS/22/136

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022 from XY in Osun State, alleging that their teenage daughter X got pregnant for Y a fellow apprentice in a tailoring school and XY further stated that Y denied the pregnancy.

C/OS/22/137

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022 from X in Osun State alleging that her teenage daughter X1 was raped by an unknown Y on her way to their farm. X further reiterated that X1 her teenage daughter had given birth and she has been taking care of her and her other siblings since their father abandoned them and went to another woman.

C/OS/22/114

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th July, 2022 from X in Osun state alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility on their children.

C/OS/22/131

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th July, 2022 from XY alleging that Y abandoned X, their child. XY wants the Commission to help to ensure Y takes care of X.

C/OS/22/132

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th July, 2022 from X Osun State. X alleged that Y, her husband has been denying her access to their child. She further alleged that all effort made to ensure she had access to their child prove abortive.

C/OS/22/135

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th August, 2022 from X in Osun-State, alleging that her boyfriend Y who misled her into a relationship with the promise of marrying her got her pregnant and denied the pregnancy.

C/OS/22/133

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd August, 2022, from X alleging that Y, the father of her children has abandoned his responsibilities on their three (3) Children.

C/OS/22/115

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th July, 2022 from X, who resides in Osun state, alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility on their child, in Osun State.

C/2022/099/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th March, 2022, from X against Y alleging that Y neglected his parental responsibilities towards her and their child. X further alleged that Y has packed out of their matrimonial home to an unknown destination.

C/2022/114/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th April, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband has not been providing for her and their 3 children in terms of feeding and the education of the children. X further alleged that her husband ejected her out of the house at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on after severe beating.

C/2022/074/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th of March, 2022 from X who lives at Uruan L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State. X alleged neglect and

abandonment of their new baby since delivery. X further alleged that she had to pay for all the expenses incurred during the delivery.

C/2022/005/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X alleging that the father of her child has neglected his responsibilities of catering for the maintenance of their 9 months old child. X further alleged that catering for the welfare of their baby alone has become a task for her.

C/2022/027/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January, 2022 from X against Y. She alleged that her husband abandoned his responsibilities of maintenance of their children. X further alleged that due to the husband's lack of parental care, the burden of taking care of the children has been enormous on her.

C/2022/039/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd February, 2022 from X alleging that the father of her children has neglected his responsibilities of catering for the upkeep and maintenance of their 3 children, ages 9, 7 and 3 years respectively.

C/2022/098/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th March, 2022 from X alleging that the father of her child neglected the responsibility of his children and all the burden of taking care of them has been on her.

C/2022/122/AKS

The Commission received a complaint from X dated 19th April, 2022 against Y. She alleged that they have been into a relationship and they both resides at Uruan LGA in Akwa Ibom State with their 2 children. X claimed that Y beats and abuses her publicly, and he told her that he has plans to take away the children from her without allowing her to ever have access to them.

C/2022/080/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th March 2022 from X against Y of Anua Offot, Uyo LGA of Akwa Ibom State. X alleged that she was in a relationship with Y and they have 2 female children. X further alleged that she was not legally married to Y and that Y has been maltreating her. That he eventually sent her out of his house and got married to another woman in 2020. X further alleged that Y's new wife maltreats their children and she had to take them away from Y's house.

Since then, he has refused to cater for their upkeep, school fees, clothing's and other necessities.

C/2022/046/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th April, 2021 from X at Lapoloma, Jabi in Abuja against Y. X alleged that they were in a relationship with Y and they have a baby even though they were not legally married. X further stated that Y beats and constantly maltreats her, also attempted raping her younger sister who is 10 years old. X claimed infidelity and stated that she is no longer interested in the marriage and wishes to return to Akwa Ibom State where she hails from, because the respondent has blatantly refused to take care of their only child.

C/2022/008/AKS 8888

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January, 2022 from X against Y. X alleged that they both resided at Oron Road, Uyo Akwa Ibom State though they are not legally married, however, the relationship produced two children. X further alleged that the Y disappeared for a long period. That during the period he disappeared, he forwarded the sum of ₦5,000 (Five Thousand Naira) as upkeep for the children and then came back on 13th November 2021 and ever since then he has not been catering for the two children.

C/2022/141/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th April, 2022 from X against Y. She alleged that she got pregnant during the relationship and X has refused to cater for her and the unborn child. That it was her mother who registered her for anti-natal and bought other baby items for her due to Y nonchalant attitude towards the pregnancy.

C/2022/119/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April 2022 from X against the respondent. X alleged that the respondent has abandoned his responsibilities towards their children, thereby making it difficult for her to cater for their children.

C/2022/121/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th April, 2022 from X alleging that the respondent who is the father of her 6 years old child does not provide upkeep for her and the child. X further alleged that due to her inability to get another job, the respondent left the whole burden of catering for the family to her.

C/2022/IMS/29

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd February, 2022 from X alleging that her husband abandoned her and their children at Ndiawa Izomba in Oguta LGA Imo State and have not been taking responsibilities of their upkeep since 2018.

C/2022/IMS/51

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd February, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband abandoned her and their children at Imo State Oguta L.G.A. X further alleged that her husband has not been taking responsibilities of their children.

C/LSO/22/295-296

The Commission received a complaint from X against Y her son-in-law, dated 4th April, 2022. X alleged denial of access to her late daughter's 10-year-old granddaughter by Y. X also alleged the violation of the child's right to education by Y.

C/LSO/22/298

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th April, 2022 from X against Y of Ajuwon Baale Street, Lagos State who is her boyfriend. X alleged that Y abandoned her with pregnancy leaving her to care for their unborn child alone.

C/LSO/22/299

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th April, 2022 from Y against X of Imo State, his mother in-law. Y alleged that X who had been in custody of his child since the demise of his wife, abducted his child from him during the holiday.

C/LSO/22/300-301

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th of March, 2022, from X against Y. X alleged that Y denied her access to the child.

C/LSO/22/303-304

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th April, 2022 from X against Y. X alleged that Y abandoned and has not been taking care of his fatherly responsibilities towards their child.

C/LSO/22/311-315

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th April, 2022, from X against Y, her husband. X alleged abandonment and lack of care against Y.

LSO/22/316-317

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April, 2022 from X against Y, the father of their child. X alleged that Y has not been taking up responsibilities towards their child.

C/LSO/22/321-322

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th April, 2022, from X alleging abandonment and lack of care against Y, the father of their children. X alleged that Y has abandoned family.

C/LSO/22/331-333

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April, 2022 from XY on behalf of X, alleging abandonment and lack of care against Y, her lover. X alleged that Y impregnated her and abandoned her without caring for her and the pregnancy.

C/LSO/22/343-344

The Commission received a complaint dated on 22nd April, 2022, from Y alleging denial of access to child against X, the mother of their child. Y alleged that X denied him access to his daughter who is 3 years old, even after taking his responsibilities on the child.

C/LSO/22/347-348

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th April, 2022 from X alleging abandonment and lack of care against Y, the father of their child. X alleged that Y beat her up and sent her packing. X stated that she wants Y to take up his fatherly responsibilities on their child.

C/LSO/22/352-355

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th April, 2022 from X alleging abandonment and lack of care against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y left their home since January 2022 and stopped caring for her and the children. One of the children was diagnosed with kidney problem and he abandoned them all.

C/LSO/22/360 – 362

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th April, 2022 from X alleging denial of custody of children against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y denied her access and custody of their children.

C/LSO/22/377 – 381

The commission received a complaint dated on 29th April 2022 from X against Y. X alleged denial of access to her children who are 14,10 and

8years old respectively. X further alleged that Y has not been taking up the responsibility of the children.

C/BSO/MDR/045/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th January, 2022, from X against Y, her former husband. X alleged that Y has abandoned their four (4) children without providing for their up keep. The commission invited both parties and it was resolved that Y would take custody of the first child and also be responsible to the sum of N6,000 monthly to X for the upkeep of the remaining children. Y will also take responsibility of all medical bills of the children.

C/BSO/MDR/049/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has since their 10 years of marriage been maltreating her by beating and failing to provide for her basic necessities in their home in Maiduguri and that of their 3 children.

C/BSO/MDR/009/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has neglected his responsibility as the head of the family, also failed to provide for her basic necessities in their home in Maiduguri and that of their 3 children.

C/BSO/MDR/001/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th January, 2022 from Y against X, his ex-wife. Y alleged that X denied him custody of their daughter.

C/BSO/MDR/050/2022

The Commission received a complaint 26th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y failed to provide for the up-keep of his 5 children for the past 6 months. Both parties were invited and Y promised to stand up to his responsibilities and agreed to take the custody of the 2 boys while the 3 girls stay with their X.

C/BSO/MDR/015/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th February, 2022 from X against Y, her boyfriend. X alleged that Y has refused to take responsibilities of his child.

C/BSO/MDR/017/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th February, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has neglected his

responsibilities as the head of the family. He has not been providing for basic necessities in their house and that of their 2 children.

C/BSO/MDR/021/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that they got married for over 10 years now and they are blessed with 3 children but Y has failed to keep up to responsibilities of providing food and shelter to his family.

CBSO/MDR/021/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that they got married for over 10 years now and they are blessed with 3 children but Y has failed to keep up to responsibilities of providing food and shelter to his family.

C/BSO/MDR/031/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y who divorced her with pregnancy failed to provide food and other basic needs for her and the child.

C/BSO/MDR/038/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that she and Y are blessed with 3 children but the husband has not been taking care of them.

BSO/MDR/C/051/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st January, 2022, from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y abandoned his 2 children with her since their divorce. He has not been providing for their feeding, school, medical care and other basic necessities.

C/BSO/MDR/032/2022

The Commission received complaint dated 13th January, 2022 from X against Y her husband. X alleged that they have been married for over 15 years and were blessed with 6 children. X further alleged that since Y married a second wife few months ago, Y has not been staying at home.

C/BSO/MDR/036/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y abandoned his child with her without him taking care of the child. X further alleged that she is the

one taking the responsibilities of the child without any support from her ex-husband.

C/BSO/MDR/041/2022

The Commission received a referral dated 19th February, 2022, from International Medical Corps on behalf of X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has since their 8 Years of marriage not been taking care of her nor provide for her basic necessities and that of their 4 children.

C/BSO/MDR/028/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y has refuse to provide for the basic necessities and that of their 2 children in her custody for the past 4 months.

C/BSO/MDR/019/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from Medicine Du Monde (MDM) on behalf of X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y has for 2 Years been failing to provide for the basic necessities of her and their 4 children.

C/BSO/MDR/016/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y used to maltreat her. X further alleged that a misunderstanding came in between them which led the husband to slap her.

C/BSO/MDR/013/2022

The Commission received complaint dated 5th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y abandoned her and left the house for almost 3 months now. X further alleged that Y left her when she was 7 months pregnant without food.

C/BSO/MDR/047/2022

The Commission received complaint dated 19th January, 2022 from XY on behalf of X, a sixteen (16) years old girl against Y, a resident at Maiduguri. XY stated that he was informed by one of his niece's friends that they (the niece and X) went to Y's house to do some chores for him but X ended up being raped and stabbed by Y which later resulted in the death of X.

C/BSO/MDR/043/2022

The Commission received a Complaint dated 18th January, 2022, XY on behalf of X against Y, her husband. X alleged that they got married for over 14 years and they were blessed with 4 children but later got divorced. XY alleged that Y has abandonment their 4 children with X without provision and their basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/054/2022

The Commission received a complaint 24th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that she and Y have been married for over 11 years, but for 3 years Y has been maltreating her and failing to provide for her basic necessities and that of their 5 children.

C/BSO/MDR/052/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y had been neglecting to provide for her basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/048/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y has been failing to provide for the basic necessities of their 2 children nor pay their school fees.

C/BSO/MDR/042/2022

The commission received a complaint dated 18th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y has abandoned their two (2) children without providing for their basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/007/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th January, 2022 from X against Y, her boyfriend. X alleged that Y got her pregnant and has refused to take up responsibility of the pregnancy.

C/BSO/MDR/014/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y abandoned her with their 4 children for over 18 months and has been neglecting to provide for the maintenance of X and the 4 children.

C/BSO/MDR/020/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that they married for over 28 years and blessed with 6 children but her husband Y totally abandoned his

responsibility of providing for the family despite several attempts from their marriage guardian and family to resolve their differences.

C/BSO/MDR/024/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January, 2022 from X against Y her husband. X alleged that Y had abandoned her with their 2 children for over 7 months now without providing for their maintenance and needs of herself and their 2 children in Mari Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/065/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that she is married to Y for over 20 years and are blessed with 4 children whom are now grown up, however, Y doesn't provide for the family up keep nor care about their children's education.

C/BSO/MDR/064/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th January, 2022 from X against Y her husband. X alleged that Y has been maltreating her, he beats her and calls her a prostitute.

C/BSO/MDR/027/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from X against Y, her boyfriend. X alleged that Y has refused to take responsibility of his child.

C/BSO/MDRC//046/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y had neglected their 4 children in her custody since they got divorced 7 months ago. He has refuse to provide for the needs of their 7.

C/BSO/MDR/040/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has since their 1 year of their marriage been maltreating and insulting her. X is currently 7 months pregnant.

C/BSO/MDR/029/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has been maltreating and beating her and failing to provide for her basic needs.

C/BSO/MDRC/034/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y abandoned their 4 children with her without taking care of their basic needs. X further alleged that she is the one taking the responsibilities of the children without any support from the ex-husband.

C/BSO/MDR/003/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from XY on behalf of X against Y, his father. XY alleged that Y has been maltreating X (his mother). XY further alleged after Y divorced X and also told Y1 to leave the house together with his mother.

C/BSO/MDRC//026/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has been maltreating and failing to provide for her basic necessities.

C/BSO/MDR/025/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January, 2022 from X against Y her husband. X alleged that she got married to Y, but for the 3 months as at the time of the report he abandoned his responsibilities as a husband

C/BSO/MDR/023/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th January, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y abandoned her with 3 months old pregnant without provision of her basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/075/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th February, 2022 from X alleging lack of shelter against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has failed to provide shelter and maintenance for her and their 6 children.

C/BSO/MDR/082/2022

The Commission received a Complaint dated 9th February, 2022 from XY on behalf of X against Y, her husband. XY alleged that Y abandoned her with two months old pregnancy without provision of medical care.

C/BSO/MDR/078/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th February, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y has subjected their 3 children in his custody to cruel, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and that the children are not schooling due to his attitude.

C/BSO/MDR/092/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th February, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has not been providing her with basic needs. She further alleged lack of maintenance of their 5 children.

C/BSO/MDR/073/2022

The commission received a complaint dated 10th February, 2022 from X against Y, her boyfriend. X alleged that Y impregnated her and refused to take responsibility of the pregnancy. X further alleged that she is 4 months pregnant for Y who is still refusing to take the responsibility for the pregnancy.

C/BSO/MDR/085/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y had forcefully took their 2 years old daughter in X's custody to Madagali without her consent.

C/BSO/MDR/077/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that she is abandoned with 8 children by Y who failed to provide for their maintenance.

C/BSO/MDR/070/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th February, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y abandoned her and has not been providing for the maintenance of their daughter in her custody.

C/BSO/MDR/082/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th February, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband. X alleged that Y abandoned their one-year-old child in her custody without provision of maintenance.

C/BSO/MDR/094/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th February, 2021 from X against Y, her boyfriend. X alleged that Y got her pregnant in Wulari Maiduguri and after her delivery, he abandoned her and the child.

C/BSO/MDR/103/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th March, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y abandoned her in their home at Dusuman Area of Maiduguri without providing for basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/115/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th March, 2022 from X1 and X2 against Y, their husband. X1 and X2 both alleged that Y had not been catering for their wellbeing and maintenance of their children at home at Gwange City Rubber Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/112/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th March, 2022 from XY against X, her children's step-mother. XY alleged that since she was divorced from her marriage with Y, her ex-husband, X has assumed custody of her 3 children and has subjected them to inhuman and degrading treatment in her ex-husband's home at Maduganari Bye-Pass.

C/BSO/MDR/114/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th March, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y had been failing to provide for their basic needs particularly feeding and shelter of her and their 3 children in their home at Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/097/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th March, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y hardly provides for the up-keep of his 3 children including herself.

C/BSO/MDR/098/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd March, 2022 from X against Y, her husband. X alleged that Y has been neglecting to provide for her upkeep and maintenance of their children.

C/DSO/2022/98-102

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st March, 2022 from X against her husband, Y. X alleged that her husband deprives her the right of access to her children who reside with Y in Asaba Delta state and that he is not willing to release any of the children to her. All means to convince him to allow her have access to her children proved abortive.

C/DSO/2022/113-117

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th April, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband Y beats her at the slightest provocation and had sent her out of their matrimonial home in Asaba, Delta State on the 26th March 2022.

X also alleged that she left the house with their two daughters, since then, her husband has refused to take care of the children causing them deprivation of basic necessities.

C/EBO/249

The commission received a Complaint dated 19TH April 2022 from XY against Y of Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. XY alleged child labor and sexual abuse against Y who is a guardian of X, a minor. XY alleged that all effort made to stop Y from having sex with X was futile.

C/2022/29/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd February, 2021 from X of Ijero-Ekiti, Ekiti State, against her husband Y. X complained of domestic violence, negligence, and abandonment of their six children since September 2020.

C/2022/05/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th January, 2022 from X at Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. X alleged that her ex-husband neglects responsibilities towards their seven months old baby and denies her access to their children that are in his custody.

C/BAU/2022/007-008

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X of Unguwan Borno, Bauchi, Bauchi L.G.A alleging that the father of her child refused to take up his parental responsibilities, thereby making it difficult for X to cater for the child.

C/BAU/2022/ 095-098

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th February, 2022 from X of Sabon Gari Lushi Bauchi against her husband. X alleged that her husband abandoned her and their 3 three children of ages 12, 5 and 2, respectively.

C/BAU/2022/144-146

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th March, 2022 from X of Birshin Gandu Bauchi against her husband. X alleged that her husband

abandoned her and their two children of ages 5 and 3. X further alleged that her husband is in the habit of beating her.

C/BAU/2022/157-165

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th March, 2022 from X of Tirwun Bauchi State, against Y her husband. X alleged that her husband abandoned her and their 8 children. X further alleged that besides the abandonment, Y has abdicated his parental responsibilities towards the children, and that their development and welfare is jeopardized by Y's conduct.

C/BAU/2022/105-106

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th February, 2022 from XY of Rafin Zurfi, Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State, alleging that his 2 under aged sisters were being denied right to education and were about to be subjected to early marriage.

C/BAU/2022/011-013

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from Y of yelwa sabon kaura, alleging that his wife took his two children of ages 5 and 2 to Tafawa Balewa Village and denied them access to education.

C/2022/IMS/19

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January, 2022 from XY alleging that X was defiled by Y on 24th of November, 2021 at Owerri West L.G.A, Imo State.

C/2022/IMS/128

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th April, 2022 from X of Ezinihitte Mbaise L.G.A, Imo State. X alleged denial of access and custody of her 2 years old daughter by her brother in-law after the death of her husband on 2nd January, 2022. She reported that the interest and welfare of the child is at stake as her brother in-law is not capable of taking care of the child.

C/2022/IMS/124

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th April, 2022 from XY alleging that X was defiled by Y on 29th March, 2022 at Owerri Municipal, Imo State.

C/2022/WC &VG/290 – 295/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th November, 2022 from X. She alleged that her Y, father-in-law took her children away from her

after the death of her husband and the children are not well taken care of by him.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 268 - 270/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September, 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband beats her on a daily basis which has resulted to psychological trauma. She further alleged that her husband has abandoned his fatherly responsibility of taking care of their children.

C/2022/WC&VG/286-288/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th October, 2022 from X, who resides in Nyanya, Abuja. X alleged that her daughter's husband has abandoned his fatherly responsibilities towards his children.

C/2022/WC&VG/240-245/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th August, 2022 from X, who resides in unghuar Dkatu, New Nyanya, Nasarawa State. X alleged abandonment of fatherly responsibility towards their children.

C/2022/WC&VG/236-239/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th September, 2022 from X who resides in Springville Area A, Nyanya, Abuja. X alleged that her husband has abandoned his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WC&VG/204-206/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September, 2022 from X who resides in Nyanya, Abuja. X alleged that the father of her children has not been taking up his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WC&VG/261-264/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October, 2022 from X who resides in Karu opposite Masaka market junction Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has failed as a father towards taking up the responsibilities of their children.

C/2022/WC&VG/300-307/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th November, 2022 from X who resides Maraba, Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has refused to support her in providing for the welfare of their children.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 322 – 323/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December, 2022 from X who resides behind Mopol 21 Nyanya Abuja. X alleged that her

husband has refused to take care of their 7 months old daughter who has been sick and needs urgent medical treatment.

C/2022/WC & VG/311 – 314/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 from X who resides at behind the Young shall grow, Mararaba, Nasarawa State. X alleged abandonment of fatherly responsibility.

C/2022/ WC & VG/ 280 – 282/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th October, 2022 from Y who alleged that since he got separated from his wife X, he has been psychologically traumatized by her on issues that have to do with the upkeep and development of their children.

C/2022/WC &VG/214 – 216/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th September, 2022 from X who resides at Masaka, Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has neglected his parental responsibilities towards their children

C/22/WC/165-169/OG

The Ogun State Office of the Commission received a Complaint on 29th August, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband has not been responsible for the upkeep of the children.

C/OS/22/116

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th July, 2022 from X in Osun state, alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility to their child.

C/22/WC/170-171/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 30th August, 2022 from X alleging that Y the father of their son forcefully took custody of their child from her.

C/OS/22/088

The commission received a complaint dated 25th May, 2022 from X in Osogbo Osun State, who alleged that Y abandoned their children. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/OS/22/094

The commission received a complaint dated 1st June, 2022 from X alleging that Y denied her access to their children.

C/OS/22/105

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X, who resides in Osun state, alleging that Y her husband had refused to perform his fatherly responsibility on their children in Osun State.

C/OS/22/106

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X, who resides in Osun State. X alleged that Y has refused to provide for their child, and she wants the Commission to intervene.

C/OS/22/089

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th May, 2022 from Y who resides in Osun state, alleging that X had been denying him access to their children in Osun State.

C/OS/22/091

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th May, 2022 from X alleging that Y refused to take his responsibility of catering for the upkeep of their child.

C/OS/22/087

The commission received a complaint dated 24th May, 2022 from X who resides in Osun State, alleging that Y abandoned and denied their child care, provision and basic needs of the child.

C/OS/22/077

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May, 2022 from X who resides in Osun state, alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility on their children in Osun State.

C/OS/22/078

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May, 2022, from X alleging that Y has not been performing his fatherly responsibilities to their children and he has threatened to stop the little he had been doing because he wants X to abort the new pregnancy on the premise that he doesn't want another child.

C/OS/22/084

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th May 2022, from Y, who alleged that X has been denying him access to his daughter.

C/2022/358/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th June, 2022 from X alleging that the husband is in the habit of beating her up without been

provoked. X further alleged that on May, 2021, she left the marriage with their three children as a result of the husband's ill treatment and returned back after pleading from him but things has not changed. X also alleges that the husband does not provide for the upkeep and education of the children. She wants the Commission's intervention.

C/2022/ESCR/001/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th February, 2022 from X of Ilorin Kwara State. She alleged that that her son sustained Spinal Cord injury at Junior Secondary School Cherubim and Seraphim College Ilorin, during a compulsory school environmental sanitation.

C/22/WC/151-155/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 11th August, 2022 from X alleging that her husband Y has not been meeting up with upkeep of the family and that this causes crisis at home.

C/22/WC/157/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 17th August, 2022 from X alleging that her husband Y has not been performing his role of providing upkeep.

C/22/WC/137-140/OG

The Ogun State Office of the Commission received a Complaint on 27th July, 2022 from X alleging that Y, the father of her children has not been fulfilling his fatherly responsibility to his children over the past six (6) years and has not been in any communication with them.

C/22/WC/148/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 8th August, 2022 from X, alleging that her partner Y denied her access to her child after a misunderstanding between them which led to her voluntarily leaving the child with him for peace to reign.

C/ESO/2022/159

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st May, 2022 from X against her husband Y. X alleged that Y abandoned their children, denying them all forms of parental care and went ahead to marry another wife.

C/22/WC/126/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 8th July, 2022 from X alleging that her husband Y beat her up after which he served her with divorce paper and has refused to take care of the children.

C/22/WC/127-129/OG

The Commission received a Complaint on 13th July, 2022 from X alleging that her husband Y stated he is no longer interested in their union. X further alleged that Y has not been taking care of their kids.

C/ESO/2022/166

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd June, 2022 from Y against X (his child's mother) alleging that X denied their child access to good healthcare.

C/22/WC/114/OG

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 16th June, 2022 from X alleging that her husband has not been taking proper care of their children. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/22/WC/116/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 29th June 2022 from Y. Y alleged that X who got pregnant for him sometime in 2011 and had the baby has denied him access to the child because Y had previously expressed doubts as to being the father of the child.

C/2022/WC/254/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th August, 2022 from X against X (her mother-in-law). X alleged that her mother-in-law seized and denied her access to her children.

C/ESO/2022/135

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May, 2022 from X alleging that her husband who paid her bride price as custom demands, suddenly denied being her husband as he stated that he married her for his late father. X further alleged that she accepted to be the wife of his late father, but he never bothered to provide for her children's upkeep, school fees and medical care.

C/2022/022/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February, 2022 from X alleging that her husband has been maltreating and beating her, and has also neglected the responsibilities of their three children.

C/2022/WC&VG/236-239/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th September, 2022 from X, who resides in Nyanya, Abuja. X alleged that her husband has abandoned his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WC&VG/204-206/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September, 2022 from X, who resides in Nyanya, Abuja. X alleged that the father of her children has not been taking up his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WC&VG/261-264/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October, 2022 from X, who resides in Karu opposite Masaka market junction Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has failed as a father towards taking up the responsibilities of their children.

C/2022/WC&VG/300-307/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th November, 2022 from X, who resides in Maraba Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has refused to support her in providing for the welfare of their children.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 322 – 323/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December, 2022 from X, who resides behind Mopol 21 Nyanya Abuja. X alleged that her husband has refused to take care of their 7 months old daughter who has been sick and needs urgent medical treatment.

C/2022/WC & VG/311 – 314/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 from X, who resides at Chris Park Hotel, behind the Young shall grow, Mararaba, Nasarawa State. X alleged abandonment of fatherly responsibility.

C/2022/ WC & VG/ 280 – 282/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th October, 2022 from Y, who alleged that since he got separated from his wife, he has been psychologically traumatized by his wife on issues that has to do with the upkeep and development of their children.

C/2022/WC &VG/214 – 216/AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th September, 2022 from X, who resides at Masaka, Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has neglected his parental responsibilities towards his children.

C/2022/WC/376/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th December, 2022, from X alleging that her ex-husband and his new wife maltreat and beat her 8 years old child living with them for no just reason. X further alleged that the child is not comfortable living with them.

C/2022/WC/3318-3319/HQ/C/2022/WC

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th December, from X, alleging that her brother has refused to contribute to the welfare of his family thereby leaving the burden of taking care of his wife and children to her. X further alleged that the responsibilities are getting too much for her to bear alone.

C/2022/WC/334/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st November, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband has refused to contribute to the welfare and development of their children since 2010 thereby making life burdensome for her.

C/2022/WC/354/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 fro X, alleging that her husband has refused to cater for the upkeep and education of their 3 years old child thereby making life difficult for her to cope without his assistance.

C/2022/WC/384/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th December, 2022 from Y, alleging that his ex-wife has denied him access to their 6 years old son claiming publicly that he is not the father of the child, despite all his contributions towards his upkeep and education over the years.

C/2022/WC/385/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated, 14th December, 2022, from X. She alleged that her husband has abandoned his family and moved in with another woman and this has brought untold hardship to her as she alone cannot cater for their children.

C/2022/WC/307/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September, 2022, from X. She alleged lack of care of their unborn baby by the husband.

C/2022/WC/309/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th September, 2022, from X. She alleged that her husband ejected her and their children from his house and has refused to take responsibilities of the children's upkeep and education.

C/2022/WC/295/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th December, 2022, from X, alleging that her husband has refused to provide for the family including the children's education.

C/2022/WC/294/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th September, 2022 from Y alleging that his ex-wife has denied him access to their daughter for a long period of time even when the children are on vacations despite the fact that he takes responsibilities of their upkeep and education.

C/2022/WC/282/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September, 2022 from X, alleging that she got married to her husband and the union is blessed with a 3 years old child. X further alleged that the husband has refused to cater for the child including his other children from his ex-wife. That the husband drove his first son from the house for no reason, then, brought another woman to the house.

C/2022/WC/321/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from X, alleging that she sent her daughter to school and the respondent kept her in his house for more than a month and got her pregnant. X further alleged that the respondent has refused to formalize the relationship and instead h has been fighting the family and also refuse has refused to cater for her daughter before and after pregnancy.

C/2022/WC/381/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her at any slightest provocation and had threatened to kill her. X further alleged that he has abandoned his responsibilities towards the family.

C/2022/027/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th March, 2022 from Y alleging that in February, 2015 he gave X his 9 years old niece as a house help. Y claimed that on 19th February, 2022 the women returned his niece back to him and Y discovered on 28th February, 2022 that his niece was pregnant. Y further claimed that his niece confessed that it was the woman's daughter he left her with that introduced her to men who have been having canal knowledge of her.

C/2022/018/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th February, 2022 from X alleging that in November, 2016 her late husband's sister took her daughter from Anambra State without her knowledge to an unknown destination. X claimed she discovered that her late husband's sister has been engaging her daughter in street hawking. X further alleged that all efforts to see her child after her husband's demise in 2019 proved abortive.

C/2022/032/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st March, 2022 from X alleging that she took their two children from her ex-husband on his request. X claimed that in March, 2022 her ex-husband came to her residence and accused her of kidnapping them.

C/2022/052/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th April, 2022 from X alleging that she got married to her husband on 7th January, 2009 and they were blessed with 2 children. X claimed that she was five months pregnant when her husband died and immediately after the death of her husband, her in-laws came to take the children away from her. X further claimed that after 6 years of the death of her husband she did not receive any assistance from her in-laws and when she travelled to her in-laws place to see her children, her brother in-law denied her access and all efforts to see her children, proved abortive.

C/2022/004/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January, 2022 from X alleging that since her ex-husband divorced her on 25th November, 2021, he has abandoned the responsibilities of upkeep and maintenance of their 3 children.

C/2022/010/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from X alleging that her ex-husband neglected the responsibilities of their 3 children from the time they got separated on 25th November, 2021.

C/2022/048/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from X alleging that her husband, Y divorced her due to a minor issue they both had. X further alleged that Y denied being the father of their 5 children thereby neglecting his fatherly duties of feeding, paying school fees, welfare and other necessities for the survival and development of their children.

C/2022/044/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th April, 2022 from X alleging that since her mother's demise, she lived with her maternal grandmother and went through maltreatments at the instance of her grandmother. X further alleged that her father failed in taking responsibility of her wellbeing.

C/2022/047/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April, 2022 from X alleging that her husband has neglected his responsibility towards their 2 children since 2014.

C/2022/020/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th February, 2022 from X alleging that the father of her 2 years old son abandoned his responsibilities to the child since she got pregnant.

C/2022/030/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th March, 2022 from X alleging that after she separated from her ex-husband Y, he took their daughter and the child she was breastfeeding to live with his mother. X further claimed that when Y married another woman he took the children from his mother and they started living with him and the new wife. X also claimed that whenever she visited the children, they looked haggard, hungry and afraid due to the constant beating they receive from the wife of Y.

C/2022/029/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th March, 2022 from X alleging that she got separated from Y, her ex-husband in October, 2020 and her ex-husband has abandoned his responsibility towards their 4 years old daughter.

C/2022/034/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th March, 2022 from X alleging that her marriage with her ex-husband was blessed with 5 children, but they got separated in March, 2022 due minor arguments. X further claimed that she is finding it very difficult to cope with the responsibilities of taking care of the children alone as their father has refused to take up his responsibilities towards them.

C/2022/041/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st March, 2022 from X alleging the neglect of their 2 years old son by her husband in Adamawa State.

C/2022/008/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from X alleging that her 6 years old son went to live with his father who is her ex-husband for 2 years. X further claimed that after their son came back to stay with her, all efforts to see that her ex-husband take up the responsibility of their son proved abortive.

C/2022/009/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from X alleging that after she and her husband got divorced, he abandoned his parental responsibilities towards their children.

C/2022/054/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th April, 2022 from X alleging that the father of her 11 years old son denied the paternity of the child and all efforts for him to take paternal responsibility for the child proved abortive.

C/2022/011/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January, 2022 from X alleging that she got married to the father of their 4 children in 2005 and he has neglected his parental responsibilities towards their children.

C/2022/013/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th January, 2022 from X alleging that, her husband had abandoned the responsibilities of taking care of the children for the past 3 years.

C/2022/015/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th February, 2022 from XY alleging that an inspector who works with the Nigeria Police Force abandoned his fatherly responsibility of his 3 years old child after he divorced his wife at Kastina State.

C/2022/048/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th July, 2021 from X, alleging that her husband has abandoned their two children, aged 4 years old and 7 months old. X further alleged that in 2020, she had to

leave their matrimonial home to stay with her parents because she could not bear the burden of catering for the children alone.

C/2022/004/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th January, 2022 from X alleging that she got pregnant out of wedlock for Y in October, 202. After delivery of the child, Y abandoned his responsibility towards her and the baby.

C/2022/WC&VG/309-310/AMO

The Commission received a complaint date 19th November, 2022 from X who resides in Jikwoyi along Kurudu. Abuja. X alleged that for the past four months now, her husband has failed to perform his fatherly responsibilities towards their children.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 203/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st September, 2022 from X who resides at Apo Abuja. X alleged that the man she cohabits with, has abandoned her with an unborn child and has failed to take any responsibility of the child.

C/2022/WC /3020 – 3021/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th October, 2022 from X, who resides in Mararaba, Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has refused to take up his fatherly responsibility towards their children and has continually threatened and harassed her and her parents since their got separated.

C/2022/256 – 260/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th October, 2022 from X, who resides in Jikwoyi, Abuja. X alleged that her husband has left the responsibilities of their children to her to shoulder alone.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 315 – 317/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th December, 2022 from X, who resides in Nyanya, Abuja. X alleged that her ex-husband has refused to take responsibilities of their children living with her.

C/ 2022/ WC & VG/ 271 – 274/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th October, 2022 from X, who resides at New Nyanya, Nasarawa State. X alleged that her husband has abandoned his fatherly responsibilities towards their children to her alone.

C/2022/WC & VG/ 330 – 331/ AMO

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd December, 2022 from X, who resides at opposite Madona Hospital Mararaba, Nasarawa State. X alleged that her ex-husband has denied her the custody of their 9 years old daughter.

C/2022/WC/318/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th October, 2022 from X, who alleged that her husband beat her at any slightest provocation. X further claimed that her husband threw her belongings outside their matrimonial home and has deprived her of seeing their children.

C/2022/WC/300/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September, 2022 from X against her in-laws who denied her custody of her child after the death of her late husband in June 2019.

C/2022/035/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th March, 2022 from X alleging that their four children living with her ex-husband are being exposed to bad habits such as smoking, drinking and the use of vulgar language. X further alleged that her ex-husband has restrained her from seeing their children either at his place or at school. X stated that on 15th March, 2022 when she went to his, she witnessed their two years old child that is yet to be enrolled in school, locked in the house crying.

C/2022/WC/304/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th September, 2022 from X alleging that after their relocation back to Akwa Ibom from Lagos her husband abandoned her and the children and moved in with another younger woman. X further alleged that their children are presently out of school and he has refused to cater for the children's well-being and maintenance.

C/2022/WCR/6280-6282/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th September, 2022 from X of Liman Katagum, Bauchi State alleging that her ex-husband refused to take up the responsibilities of their two children and she is finding it difficult to cope without his contribution towards the welfare of their children.

C/2022/WCR/6283-6286/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September, 2022 from X of Unguwan Kofar Gombe, Bauchi alleging that her husband has abandoned his parental responsibilities towards their children.

C/2022/WCR/6288 – 6290 /BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th September, 2022 from X of Turum Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State alleging that her husband neglects his responsibilities towards their children.

C/2022/WCR/6324-6325/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th September, 2022 from X of Nahutan Taba Village, Toro L.G.A, Bauchi State alleging that her brother-in-law took custody of her child, who is still a minor, after the demise of her husband and refused to return the child to her.

C/2022/WCR/6408/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th October, 2022 from Y of Makama New Extension Federal Low-cost Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State alleging inhuman and degrading treatment of his 14 years old daughter by the respondent.

C/2022/WCR/6419/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from Y of Tulu Village, Toro L.G.A, Bauchi State alleging that his neighbour raped his 4 years old daughter.

C/2022/WCR/6428/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th November, 2022 from Y of Miya village, Ganjuwa L.G.A, Bauchi State alleging that his 14 years old daughter was raped and impregnated by the respondent and the matter was reported to Kafin Madaki Police Division Bauchi State. Y further alleged that no arrest has been carried out since the matter was reported to the Nigeria Police.

C/2022/WC/098/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th October, 2022 from X of Police Barrack, Opolo, Yenagoa in Bayelsa State alleging that her husband who is a police officer abandoned their four years old son since 2019 in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. X further alleged that her husband does not cater for the feeding and welfare of the child despite the fact that he wrote a letter of undertaking to provide N15, 000.00 monthly for upkeep of the child before his transfer to Abuja.

C/2022/WC/095/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th September, 2022 from X alleging that she was in a relationship with the respondent in Bayelsa State in 2018 which produced a two years old child. X further alleged that the respondent has refused to contribute to the welfare of the child.

C/2022/WC/120/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th December, 2022 from X alleging that her 16 years old daughter was sexually abuse in Amarata, Yenagoa Bayelsa State in 2022, by the respondent. X further alleged that the abuse led to a 4 months old pregnancy.

C/2022/WC/122/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th December, 2022 from X alleging that she was once in a relationship with the respondent in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State and it produced two children, ten (10) and eight (8) years old respectively. X further alleged that she separated in 2019 from the respondent and an agreement was made for the respondent to have custody of their children. X also claimed that she was told that the children are being maltreated by the respondent and the respondent is planning to take the children away to an unknown destination.

C/2022/WC/094/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September, 2022 from X alleging that she got married to her husband in 2014 in Bayelsa State and their union produce four children with ages 15, 13,10 and 6 years old respectively. X further alleged that when they separated in 2018, her husband took custody of three out of their four children and took them to live with his mother who resides in Lagos thereby denying her access to the three children.

C/2022/WCR/6487-6491/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th November,2022 from X of Fadaman Mada, Bauchi, alleging that she got engaged to the respondent in 2009 and they are blessed with 4 children, 2 males and 2 females, aged 13, 11, 9, and 7 years old respectively. X further alleged that her partner has abdicated his fatherly responsibilities and their relationship has been laden with domestic violence. X further claimed that the overwhelming responsibility of caring for their children alone, resulted in some of them dropping out from school.

C/2022/WC/125/BAY

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2022 from X alleging that after the demise of her husband on 15th November, 2020

in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, her late husband's brother converted all the brother's property, withdrew money from his account and also collected his amnesty allowance amounting to (#60,000.00) monthly. X also alleged that her late husband's brother is leaving her with nothing to take care of the children.

C/2022/WC/577/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2022 from X alleging that the respondent impregnated her 16 year old granddaughter outside wedlock and the matter was reported at Ngomari Police Divisional Command. X further alleged that the respondent was arrested and he accepted the pregnancy, and he was mandated to pay the sum of N5, 000 monthly for upkeep of the girl and the unborn child. X also claimed that, after the respondent paid for two months, he stopped paying and the girl is about to put to bed.

C/2022/WC/596/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th December, 2022, from X alleging that her husband divorced her a year ago, and they are blessed with 5 children. X further alleged that her ex-husband took custody of three out of the five children, moved them out of where she is living and left them under the care of his wife in Katsina State. X also claimed that the children are being subjected to torture by his wife and denied her access to the children.

C/2022/WC/590/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2022 from Y alleging that his father-in-law has denied him access to his children in his custody at Gwange Sabon Layi Maiduguri, Borno State.

C/2022/WC/601/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th December, 2022 from X alleging that her husband has been maltreating her since 2021 and has neglected his duties towards the wellbeing and maintenance of their 5 children in their home at Gomari Costin Maiduguri, Borno State.

KB/C/2022/033

On the 11th of August 2022, the Commission received a complaint from Y of Chakadu, Bunza Local Government Area, claiming that his fifteen-year-old daughter was impregnated by X. The matter was reported to the state C.I.D and alleged that X influenced the investigation officer of the case to prove him innocent in the matter.

C/2022/RC/801/NSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th December, 2022 from X alleging sexual harassment/abuse by her guardian at home located at Bukan Sidi, Lafia, Nasarawa State from 16th August 2016, till the date the complaint was made.

C/2022/WCR/030/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 2nd of March, 2022 from X at Ilorin Kwara State. X alleged, that her 7 years old daughter was molested, sexually abused, harassed, and unlawfully kept hostage by a teacher working with a private School in Oyun, Kwara State.

C/2022/WCR/027/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 23rd of March, 2022 from X at Ogbomoso Oyo State, alleging her husband has abandoned her and her eight years old son.

C/2022/WCR/029/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th of March, 2022 from X at Behinde Abiye Hospital Ganmo, Kwara State alleged her husband abandoned her and their four children since November 2021 after they had a misunderstanding.

C/2022/WCR/040/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th of April, 2022 from XY at Pakata Road, Ilorin, Kwara State. XY alleged that one man abandoned his son with a local Islamic teacher.

C/2022/ESCR/001/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd of February, 2022 from Y of Opposite Ilorin Grammar School, Ilorin Kwara State. Y alleged that his parents only sponsored his primary education up to Junior Secondary School but they refused to let him further his education, thereby enrolling him in an Arabic school where he is being beaten and maltreated.

C/2022/WCR/025/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st of March, 2022 from X at Shao Moro, Kwara State. X alleged that her late husband's family denied her children the right to education after taking over her late husband's properties.

C/LSO/22/003

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th January, 2022 from Y against his wife. Y alleged that his wife left their matrimonial home with

their son on the 15th of April, 2021 and since then has denied him access to the child. Y further alleged she withdrew all the money in his bank account through the ATM.

C/LSO/22/008-012

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th January, 2022 from X of Agege Lagos. She alleged that Y divorced her, but she wants the Commission to plead with Y to pay the children's school fees, house rent, feeding and her Antenatal/delivery cost.

C/LSO/22/27-30

The Commission received a complaint dated the 13th January, 2022, from X who resides in Ojo, Lagos State. She alleged denial of access to children by Y.

C/LSO/22/0061

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd January, 2022 from XY who resides in Mushin, Lagos state. The complainant alleged that on 2nd of January, 2022 X violated the right of Y (11-year-old) who is serving her as a domestic staff in Festac area, Lagos state, by engaging him in child labour.

LSO/22/098-100

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from X of Imo State, who claimed that she has a 7-year-old daughter for Y and has single handedly raised her. X wants Y to take up the responsibility of their child.

LSO/22/043-045

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th of January 2022, from X of Ojodu, Lagos state, against Y. She alleged that Y does not provide adequately for the welfare of the family.

LSO/22/064-068

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th January, 2022 from Y who resides in Mushin, Lagos State against his wife. Y alleged that his wife is having ex-marital affairs, hence she has no time to care for the kids. Y further alleged that she threatened his life through her friend that she will eliminate him so that she will be free to continue with her extra-marital affairs. Y prayed that custody of the kids should be given to him.

LSO/22/157-158

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th February, 2022 from Y who resides in Festac, Lagos against his ex-girlfriend. Y alleged that the alleged violator went away with their child to an undisclosed location and every effort to locate them through phone calls has been futile as the alleged violator blocked every means of contact with him.

C/2022/1595/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th July, 2022 from XY who resides in Wadata, Makurdi, Benue State. He alleged that the Management of a Secondary School in Gboko LGA, Benue State, suspended indefinitely, a minor who is an SS2 student of the school after he was assaulted and injured at the school premises.

C/CRS/2022/68

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August, 2022, from Y alleging that he and his siblings aged 8, 16, and 23 years respectively, have been abandoned by their father who is a lecturer at College of Education Akamkpa, Cross River State. Y further stated that their mother has been the one taking care of them.

C/CRS/2022/61

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022 from XY alleging that a child has been abused by the mother who resides at Marian Rd Calabar. XY further alleged that the beatings resulted in the child sustaining physical injuries all over the body.

C/CRS/2022/50

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X who resides at Calabar against the father of her one year and three months old daughter. It was further alleged that after Seven months of her delivery, the father of her child stopped taking care and referred her to the parents who provided an inadequate sum of Twenty Thousand Naira only (N20, 000.00) per month for the child's upkeep.

C/CRS/2022/71

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging that her Nine-year-old son had been constantly abused by his father's fiancée who resides at Edim Otop Street Calabar.

C/CRS/2022/49

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022 from XY alleging that a certain businessman residing at Ediba in Abi LGA of

Cross River State sexually abused a 14-year-old minor on several occasions leading to health complications and death of the victim.

C/CRS/ 2022/42

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th May, 2022 from Y against his wife, alleging that she abandoned their 7-year-old son with her elderly mother at Enugu State and came to reside alone in Calabar. He further stated that she has denied him custody of their child who he intends to take to his base in New York, USA.

C/CRS/2022/53

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June, 2022 from X alleging abandonment and refusal to take responsibilities by the father of her one year and eight months old baby boy. X further stated that the house rent at Ekpo Abasi Calabar South was paid by her as the man is not willing to provide for her and the child.

C/CRS/2022/64

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd August, 2022 from X who is resident in Port Harcourt alleging that the father of her child who resides at Itam Street, Mbukpa Calabar has abandoned her and their baby, which has made life very difficult for her and the child.

C/CRS/2022/45

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st May, 2022, from XY alleging that a businessman based in Calabar beat up his 15-year-old apprentice inflicting bodily harm on him. XY further stated that the matter had been reported at Atakpa Police Division of the Nigeria Police Force, Calabar.

C/CRS/2022/43

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th May, 2022 from XY alleging that his daughter has suffered physical, emotional, verbal, and psychological abuses from a man she has been cohabiting with since 2013 at Obubra LGA of Cross River State. He further stated that all efforts to put an end to the abuse failed.

C/2022/WC/210-213/DEL

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd August, 2022 from X alleging against the father of her children. X alleged that he abandoned her and the children in Asaba and has failed to take up his responsibility towards them thereby making life difficult. X stated that all efforts to make him fulfil his obligation have been abortive.

C/DSO/2022/174

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th July, 2022 from X who resides in Oshimilli South, Delta state. She alleged that since 21st May 2022 her husband abandoned her and their child and has refused to take up his responsibilities towards the family.

C/2022/36/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th April, 2022 from XY, alleging that X is responsible for the disappearance of a 16 years old girl, trafficked victim, who is in the custody of the Ekiti State Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC) located at Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Along Adebayo Way, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, where she was kept while investigation was ongoing.

C/2022/37/EK

The Commission received a complaint from X dated 10th June, 2022 alleging that her husband Abandoned and Neglected his responsibilities towards their children after she left his house, beside Bobas High School Ikere in year 2014 to No.1 Jide Awe Close, Polytechnic Satellite Campus, off NTA Road, Ado-Ekiti. She added that all efforts by their family members to resolve the issue proved abortive.

C/2022/40/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th July, 2022 from X, alleging that the father of her child neglected his responsibilities towards his child and threatened to withdraw the child from her custody. This occurred at No 13, Oke-Adin Quarters, Ilawe-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

C/2022/42/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th July, 2022 from Y who resides at Akogun Compound, Beside Old WAEC office, Mofere, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. He alleged that his wife denied him access to their children. Y also complained about molestation of the said children by their mother.

C/2022/44/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th July, 2022 from Y alleging that the maternal grandmother of his child is denying him access to the child. This happened at Opposite Osogbo Garage, Aramoko-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

C/2022/46/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th July, 2022 from X alleging that her husband withdrew their children from her lawful custody

and is denying her access to them. This happened at No 42, Boluwaduro Road 7, Adehun, Ado-Ekiti.

C/2022/WC/4-5/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd August, 2022 from Y alleging that the child has been withdrawn from his custody by his child's uncle. This happened at Q34, Ilaro Quarters, Ifaki, Ekiti State.

C/2022/WC/7-10/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging that the father of her children is threatening to withdraw the children in her custody. This happened at No 4, Aladetoyinbo Close, Onigari, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

C/2022/WC/165/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th May, 2022 from XY of Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa state. He alleged that on 1st December, 2021, X of Takai Local Government Area, Kano state, forced his sister into child labour against her will (domestic house help).

C/2022/CPR/175/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from XY of Gumel town Jigawa State alleging that Y (a class room teacher) tortured his brother (victim) on the 25th April, 2022 at a public Primary School in Gumel Local Government Area, Jigawa state. The teacher later dismissed his brother from the school.

C/2022/WC/194-195/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August, 2022 from X of Birnin Kudu Local Government Area Jigawa State against her ex-husband of Zaria Local Government Kaduna State. She alleged that he has abandoned his responsibilities towards his children who have been in her custody since 8th January 2022, thereby making it difficult for them to cope.

C/CRS/2022/83

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th October, 2022 from X, against Y her husband. X alleged domestic violence, forceful ejection of her and their 8 (eight) children from their home in Calabar since February, 2022, and has abandoned them.

C/CRS/2022/97

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th December, 2022 from X who resides at Road 1C Plot 12, Basin Satellite Town Ikot Eneobong

Calabar, Cross River State against Y (her husband) who resides at No. 10 Jaba Road, off Noodle by Refinery Junction, Kaduna State. X alleged that her husband has not been taking care of her and the children and has completely abandoned them since they left Kaduna for Calabar in September 2022 because of his ill treatment of them. She claimed that the children's upkeep and development are in jeopardy as a result of Y's neglect and abandonment hence she sought the Commission's intervention to cause him to take responsibility.

C/CRS/2022/101

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th December, 2022 from X residing at No 16 Stream Road, Nyanghasang, Calabar, Cross River State against Y the father of her 16-year-old daughter. X stated that since January 2022, Y has refused to pay the agreed monthly upkeep and has abandoned the child's education, health, feeding and other related needs.

C/2022/314/EBS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th December, 2022 from XY alleging that one Y, a 75 years old man is insisting to forcefully marry some children in their community against their wish and the interest of their parents. XY further alleged that Y was using Police Officer from Abakaliki Area Command, Ebonyi State to intimidate and arrest parents of the children for refusing him to marry them.

C/2022/WC/13-18/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th September, 2022 from X of No 54, Olotoro, Oke-Ila, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, against her husband Y, a Police officer and father of her children. She complained of negligence and abdication of responsibilities. She claims that he deserted them and does not provide for the children's upkeep resulting in deprivation of necessities for their survival and development.

C/2022/IMS/481

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th October, 2022 from X of Amaraku, Isiala Mbano LGA against Y, her husband. X alleged that her husband took away her 4-year-old son and chased her out of the house and also threatened to kill her if she comes back to his house. She further stated she wants to have custody of the child as he is too young, while the husband will take care of his welfare.

C/2022/IMS/507

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 from X who hail from Umuoma Vli Ihiala LGA, Anambra state alleging that her

husband has been maltreating and beating her and has been unfaithful to her. X also told the Commission that her husband eloped with her baby girl of 10-months-old

C/2022/CPR/253/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November, 2022 from XY of Gandun Sarki Quarters, Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa State against Nigeria Police Dutse Area Command. XY alleged that his child was unlawfully arrested by the police on 3rd November, 2022. All efforts made to secure his bail failed.

C/2022/WC/218-219/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September, 2022 from X of Yalwan Kagadama, Bauchi Local Government Area, Bauchi State against Y (ex-husband) of Dutse Secondary School, Takur site, Jigawa State for alleged abandonment of responsibilities and denial of access to child under the father's custody, since 12th August, 2022.

C/2022/WC/260/JG.

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from X of Fanisau Quarters, Dutse Jigawa State, against Y (ex-husband) of Nigeria Police attached to Jigawa State Police Command for alleged neglect and abandonment of responsibilities of their three (3) children from 29th October, 2022 to date. X further stated that, efforts made to resolve the matter at family level failed.

C/2022/WC/260/JG.

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st November, 2022 from X of Gantsa Kofar Fada, Buji Local Government Area Jigawa State against Y (ex-husband) of Central Primary, Gantsa Jigawa State for alleged abandonment of responsibilities of his eleven (11) year old daughter. X further stated that the custody and responsibilities of their child has been hers, since 17th February, 2017 which made it difficult for her to cope with the situation.

C/2022/WC/204/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th September, 2022 from X of Sabuwar Takur, Dutse Jigawa State alleging that, Y (ex-husband) who resides at Mopol Base, Dutse, has abandoned his responsibilities towards their two (2) children since 16th August 2021 to date.

C/2022/WC/206/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th September, 2022 from X of Yalwawa Quarters Dutse, alleging that, her husband who resides at Mobile Base, Dutse has abandoned the responsibilities of his children and refuse to pay their medical bills.

C/2022/WC/220-230/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th September, 2022 from X of Makadawa Quarters, Gumel Local Government Area , Jigawa State, alleging that Y (husband) of same address has abandoned the responsibilities of his family from 2nd August 2022, to date.

C/2022/WC/211-217/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 08th September, 2022 from X of Fanisau Barrack Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa State alleging that Y (her husband) has abandoned her and their children's responsibilities from 12th May, 2012 to 8th September, 2022.

C/2022/WC/258/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022 from X of Yalawa Mainoni, Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa State against Y (her husband) of same address for alleged abandonment of responsibilities of her and their children since 15th January, 2022. All efforts made to ensure that he continue to take full responsibilities as a father and husband was futile.

C/2022/WC/246/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from X of Yalwawa quarters, Layin Gidan Wanka, Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa State, alleging that Y (husband) of same address abandoned his responsibilities towards her and the and child from 10th September, 2022 till date.

C/2022/WC/247/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th September, 2022 from X of Rimin Kira, Kano State alleging that her ex-husband of Babura Kofar Arewa, Jigawa State, abandoned his responsibilities towards their child in her custody since 15th September, 2021.

C/2022/WC/260/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th November, 2022 from Y of Brigade Nassarawa Local Government Area, Kano State against X (ex-wife) of same address, alleging that she denied him access to their 9-year-old daughter since 15th September, 2013 till date. He further

stated that several efforts made to ensure that he has access to the child were futile.

C/2022/WC/257/JG

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November, 2022 from X of Shagari Quarters, Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa State against Y (ex-husband) of Kofar Yamma Birnin Kudu Local Government Jigawa State, for alleged denial of access to their two sons from 13th November, 2019 till date.

C/2022/WC/2874-2896/HQ, (C/2022/WC/285/ENUGU)

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from X who alleged that Y, her husband subjected her to all manner of domestic violence. This she said made her to lock him up with the Police following which she returned to her parents' house with her two children. According to her, he came and collected the children and relocated with them to his village in Obollo Eke, Udenu LGA, Enugu State, thereby denying her access to them.

C/2022/WC/271/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint on 14th September, 2022 from X alleging that Y (her husband's younger brother) abducted her daughter whom she sent on an errand to her mother's house in Independence Layout, Enugu. X also alleged that when she reported to the police, nothing was done. X appeals to the Commission to intervene.

C/2022/WC/300/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint on 14th October 2022 from X alleging that her husband abandoned her and their five children at their residence in Achara Layout, Enugu and moved in with his girlfriend who is pregnant for him and has refused to provide for their children. X seeks the Commission's intervention.

C/2022/WC/301/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint on 14th October 2022 from Y alleging that X (his wife) took their five children from their residence at 9th Mile, Enugu and relocated to her mother's house in Agbani Road, Enugu, thereby denying the children their rights to survival and development, education, etc. Y seeks the intervention of the Commission.

C/2022/WC/317/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint on 1st November, 2022 from Y alleging that his parents in-law, initiated three of his four children into

cultism when they went to spend some time with them at their residence in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. Y seeks the intervention of the Commission.

C/2022/WC/292/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th October, 2022 from X of No. 2 Nnamani Street, off Onu-Asata Obiagu, Enugu State. She alleged that Y, (her ex-husband) failed at providing upkeep for the child of their union and on 6th October, 2022, threatened to forcefully take the child away from her. She sought the intervention of the Commission to make him provide for their son.

C/2022/WC/353/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2022 from X alleging that her boyfriend whom she had a child with, refused to provide for the care of their child from ante-natal stage up till birth at Nkomoro Onogba Nike, Enugu East LGA, and has refused to take care of their responsibilities till date.

C/2022/CPR/347/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November 2022 from X. She complained that Y (her husband), who married her traditionally has been denying her access to their under aged child. X alleged that Y took the child to his sister and gave a strict warning that they should not allow her to have access to the child. She came to the Commission to help her recover her child.

C/2022/WC/331/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th November, 2022 from X who resides at 9th Mile, Ngwo, Enugu, against her husband. She alleged that he abandoned their children with her after she left the house for her safety, health and life because of his incessant promiscuous life and lack of care.

C/2022/WC/346/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022 from X who resides at Corridor Layout, Enugu, against Y (her husband) alleging neglect and abandonment of their children, especially their daughter who is Autistic and also refused to enroll her in the school for special children, leaving X to cater for her alone.

C/2022/WC/316/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st November 2022 from X alleging that Y (her husband), denies her access to their children at No. 7 Eketeoke Street, Abakpa Nike, Enugu.

C/2022/WC/362/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th December 2022 from X who resides at No. 10 Nwagene Street Ogwuagor, Abakpa Nike, Enugu alleging that Y (her husband), refuses to provide for the family. All effort to ensure that he performs his fatherly responsibilities towards their children have failed..

C/2022/WC/363/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th December 2022 from X residing at No. 3 Oraukwu Street, Abakpa Nike, Enugu, alleging that Y (her husband) has never provided food or school fees for their children.

C/2022/WC/330/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th November 2022 from X who resides at Obeleagu Umana, Eziagu LGA Enugu State against Y (her husband), alleging that he abandoned their children thereby denying them all forms of parental care. X sought for the Commission's intervention.

C/2022/WC/278/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September, 2022 from X. She alleged that Y (the father of her son) is threatening to take him away from her. She further added that Y does not provide for the upkeep of the child. She pleads with the Commission to ensure that Y starts providing for the child's upkeep.

C/2022/WC/280/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband, took her and their children to their village at Ogwurute-Ulo, Igbo-Eze North LGA and returned back to Enugu metropolis without providing for them nor caring about their wellbeing.

C/2022/WC/304/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband, abandoned her with their three (3) daughters in her father's house at Umuekuma, Ugwuokpa, Emudo Nenwe in Aninir LGA, Enugu State. She urged the Commission to advise Y so that he will start providing for the children's welfare.

C/2022/WC/305/ENUGU

The Commission received a viral video dated 20th October, 2022 from XY stating that X, the elder sister of a 5-year-old child, brutalized the little child in a video that went viral. The incident took place at H133 Gof

Estate Okata Crescent GRA, Enugu. XY pleads for justice for the little girl.

C/2022/CPR/321/ENUGU

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd November, 2022 from XY who alleged that Y, a master to a little child serving him as a maid, is in the habit of torturing and harassing the little child sexually. They live at No. 13 Odudukoko Street Gariki. He pleads justice for this little girl.

C/2022/152/NG

The commission received a complaint dated 14th of December 2022 from X of Shanu village Niger State against Y (her husband). X alleged that Y who is working as a bricklayer has not been taking up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/109/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September, 2022 from X, who alleged that her ex-husband, with whom she has two (2) children, has neglected to cater for the welfare of the children who are still minors and live with X in Minna.

C/2022/WC/110/NG

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 7th September 2022 from X alleging that Y, her ex-husband, with whom she had two (2) children in Minna, Niger State but divorced in July 2020 has neglected his responsibility to provide for the welfare of his children who are in her custody.

C/2022/WC/112/NG

The Commission received a Complaint dated 13th September 2022 from X alleging that Y (the father of her children) with whom she resides in Minna, has neglected his responsibility to provide and cater for their children.

C/2022/WC/113/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th September 2022 from Y of Minna who alleged that X (his girlfriend), with whom he has an 18-month-old child, lives with the child in her parent's house in Minna. Y claims that X and her parents have refused him access to the child.

C/2022/WC/122/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September, 2022 from XY of Minna, Niger State alleging that Y (her husband), was fond of beating X, their eldest child who is 17 years old at the slightest

opportunity. XY alleged that the beating is usually so severe that it leads to injuries and bleeding most times.

C/2022/WC/129/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th October, 2022 bordering on child access. Y alleged that He had an 8-month-old child outside wedlock in 2021 in Minna with X. Y further alleged that XY, the mother of X, came and took the child from him and since then, has refused him access to the child.

C/2022/WC/130/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October, 2022 from X against Y, her ex-husband whom she divorced in 2017 after having 3 children with him in Minna. X alleged that Y has abandoned his responsibility of catering for their 3 children in her custody.

C/2022/WC/144/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th November 2022 from Y, a 16-year-old of Kafin koro area of Niger state. Y alleged that XY (his father), who works at General Hospital Minna, has not been taking up his responsibility as a father. He alleged that his father has never been involved in his life and has not been taking up his fatherly responsibility since he was born.

C/22/WC/180/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 7th September, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her partner forcefully took their daughter to his parents' house in Lagos at Ige Estate Phase 2. X alleged that she was denied custody of the child who is still a minor.

C/2022/WC/231/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st October, 2022 from XY alleging that she witnessed a child being abused for days by persons suspected to be her parents along Lafenwa Ayobo Abeokuta.

C/2022/WC/411/OG

The Commission received a complaint on 25th November, 2022 from XY alleging that a girl child of a nursery school in Ogun was beaten with a mopping stick by X, a woman who was not her mother.

C/2022/WC/1293/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November, 2022 from X of Nassarawa LGA of Kano State against Y for denial of custody of children.

C/2022/WC/1092-1097/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from X of Gyadi-Gyadi, Tarauni LGA, Kano State. X alleged that her husband abandoned all the responsibilities of their four (4) children.

C/2022/WC/1151/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from X of Farawa, Tarauni LGA, Kano State. She alleged that her husband does not sleep at home. She further alleged that he is in the habit of beating her without any reason.

C/2022/WC/1196/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from X of Sabuwar Gandu, Kumbotso LGA, Kano State. She alleged that her husband shows preferential bias among their two daughters, she further alleged that he has abandoned his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/1260-1267/KAN

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th November, 2022 from X of Durumin Zungura, Kano Municipal LGA, Kano State. She alleged that her husband abandoned all his responsibilities towards their 7 children.

C/2022/WCR/97/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September, 2022 from Y of Ilorin, Kwara State. He alleged that X (his wife) is denying him access to his 7-year-old son.

C/2022/WCR/135/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November, 2022 from X of Owode Ede Osun State, alleging that X her husband's junior brother forcefully took custody of her two children.

C/2022/ESCR/824/KW

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th November, 2022 from X of Adavi Local Government Area, Kogi State. She alleged that the father of her child has refused to send their child to school.

C/ANS/SEZ/2022/34

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March, 2022 from X alleging that Y (her husband) is denying her access to her children (2) boys. X further stated that since she separated from him, all efforts to

see the children at Awada Onitsha proved abortive since 2020. X wants the Commission to assist her have access to her children.

C/ANS/SEZ /2022/4

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th January, 2022 from X who stays in Lugbe, Abuja. She stated that she got married to Y in 2006 and got divorced in 2009. She alleged that their two children ages twelve and fourteen years respectively, expressed displeasure after staying with Y during their holiday visit at Nnewi in 2021. She is requesting custody of the children.

C/ANS/ SEZ/2022/07

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st January, 2022 from X alleging that Y (her husband) from Nsugbe denies her access to their child. X stated that Y threatens he will use the child for money ritual if she is seen around the child.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/408

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging Y (her husband) of neglecting to provide for the maintenance and needs of herself and 6 children in their home at Dala Yajiya, Maiduguri.

C/2022/WC/372/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th August, 2022 from X alleging Y (her husband) for the past 16 years of abandoning his fatherly responsibilities to their four children since moving to Lagos.

C/2022/W-GR/549-550/NSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th June, 2022 from X alleging Y her husband who resides at Angwan Mada, Lafia, Nasarawa State of neglecting his parental responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/RC/178/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September, 2022 from X of Federal Housing Estate, Shagari village, Akure, Ondo State alleging that Y her husband has abandoned his parental responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/WC/188/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September, 2022 from X who lives at Ijoka road, Akure, Ondo State alleging Y the father of her child of denying her access and custody to their five (5) years old girl child.

C/2022/WC/194/AKR

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 30th September, 2022 from X of Segadot, Oba-Ile, Akure, Ondo State, alleging Y the father of her child, of physically assaulting and abandoning his parental responsibilities to their three (3) children. X sought the intervention of the Commission to ensure that Y starts taking responsibility of the children's welfare.

C/2022/WC/208/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th October, 2022 from X of Ifelere Street, Oba-Ile, Akure, Ondo State, alleging Y (her husband) of domestic violence. X further alleged that Y is in the habit of drinking alcohol, smoking and womanizing without taking care of his responsibilities toward his family. X wants the intervention of the Commission to ensure that Y takes care of the family responsibilities.

C/2022/RC/216/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th October, 2022 from X of Freeman House, Off Fiwasaye School, Alagbaka, Akure, Ondo State alleging Y the father of her child of abandoning his parental responsibilities to their 10 years old child.

C/2022/WC/223-224/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st of November, 2022 from X of Iwalewa, Oshinle, Akure, Ondo State alleging Y of child abduction and threat to her life. X stated that she has been cohabiting with Y since 2014 and that they have a child together. X also alleged that Y sent her and their child out of the house because she asked for the child's school fees. X also stated that on 18th November, 2022, Y came to pick their daughter and since then he has refused to return the girl to her. X further alleged that Y threatened to kill her if she ever came for the child.

C/2022/WC/228/AKR

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 28th November, 2022 from X of Afeez Ogunleye Street, Ogombo, Ajah, Lagos, alleging Y the father of her child of neglecting his fatherly responsibilities to their child, as he has failed to provide the school fees and upkeep for their son. X further alleged that Y owed her some amount of money which he has refused to pay.

C/2022/WC/236/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th December, 2022 from Y of Weliweli 2, Akure, Ondo State alleging X (his wife) of denying him access to their Four (4) children. Y stated that X relocated to Ibadan with the children without his consent because of the necessity of her work. Y stated that they later reconciled and that he goes to visit them in Ibadan, but recently, X blocked his phone number and he has since been unable to have access to communicate with the children. Y also claimed that X told him never to visit them again.

C/2022/WC/39-40/EK

The Commission received a complaint referred from the Ekiti State office, dated 12th December, 2022 from X of Jayeola Street, Igbara Odo Ekiti, Ekiti State. She alleged that Y the father of her two children has abandoned his parental responsibilities to their two (2) children. X has therefore sought the Commission's intervention to ensure that Y starts paying his children's school fees henceforth.

C/2022/WC/182/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September, 2022 from X who lives in Osogbo, Osun State alleging Y her husband of neglecting their children.

C/2022/WC/210/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th October, 2022, from X who resides at Alekuwodo Street Osogbo, Osun State alleging Y her husband of abandoning his parental responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/WC/225/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November, 2022, from X who resides at Odonburo Oloba Community, Owode-Ede Osun State alleging Y her husband of beating her, locking her out of their house and abandoning herself and their children.

C/2022/WC/247/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November, 2022 from X who resides at Obileye Estate Ayekale, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that on 26th February, 2022, Y (her husband) beat her and that he has since abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/WC/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September, 2022, from X who resides at Oke-Baba Alajo Ede Osun State, alleging Y of denying her access to their children.

C/2022/WC/257/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th November, 2022 from X who resides at Ejiwumi Street, Ogo-oluwa Osogbo, Osun State alleging Y the father of her children of abandoning his parental responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/177/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September, 2022 from X who resides at Awesome Hale Opposite Grace cooking Gas, Ayo Olorun Estate, Iwo Road, Ofatedo, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y the father of her child abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to their child.

C/2022/WC/181/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September 2022, from X who resides at Fagbewesa Area, Osogbo Osun State, alleging that Y has failed to fulfil his parental responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/WC/199/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th October 2022, from X who resides at offa-prime, Osun State, alleging Y the father of her children of not performing his fatherly responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/WC/176/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September 2022 from X who resides at Kunle Thompson Street, Dada Estate, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that Y, the father of their children absconded from home since February 2021 and that he has stopped his fatherly responsibilities towards the children ever since he absconded.

C/2022/WC/194/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October 2022, from X who resides at Irewolede Street, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging Y of denying their daughter care and welfare.

C/2022/WC/216/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th October 2022, from X who resides at Kobo Area, Osogbo Osun State alleging Y of abandoning, maltreating and starving the three children and failure to fulfill his parental responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/241/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November, 2022 from X who resides at Oroki Estate, Osogbo, Osun state alleging that Y (her

husband) abandoned their children 7 years ago and has since refused to perform his parental responsibilities to them.

C/2022/WC/248/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November 2022, from X who resides at Kola Balogun Area, Osogbo Osun State alleging Y the father of her children of abandoning his parental responsibilities to them.

C/2022/WC/239/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th November 2022, from X who resides at Ijetu Olademeji Street, olowokere, Osogbo Osun State, alleging Y of not taking up his parental responsibilities towards their children.

C/2022/WC/252/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November, 2022 from X who resides in state hospital area, Ilesa, Osun State, alleging that Y sexually defiled a minor (11- year- old girl) who was brought to the general hospital for treatment.

C/2022/WC/253/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November, 2022 from X who resides in state hospital area, Ilesa, Osun State, alleging that Y forced a minor into child labor, constantly beat her up, got her pregnant and drove her out of the house.

C/2022/WC/231/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th November, 2022 from X who resides at Ilesa-garage Ago ayo street, Osogbo, alleging Y of abandoning his fatherly responsibilities to their child.

C/2022/WC/244/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st November, 2022 from X who resides at ring road Osogbo, alleging Y of abandoning and denying their child of the right to fatherly care, provision of basic needs and school fees.

C/2022/WC/276/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th December, 2022 from X who resides at Oke-Dio, Ayepe, Behind Civil Defense headquarter Osogbo Osun State alleging Y of abandoning his responsibilities to the children.

C/TSO/C/2022/124

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th April, 2022 from X alleging that her boyfriend Y living at water board area Magami, with whom she has a child, beat her to the point that she fainted on 1st April, 2022 in his house, she stressed that all effort to make him pay for her medical bills and the child's feeding has failed.

C/TSO/C/2022/43

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st February, 2022, from X alleging that Y her boyfriend, living in Mopol Based in Sabon gari, got her pregnant, after promising to marry her, but latter changed his mind. X further alleged that Y has since 2009 abandoned her with the child and all effort for her to secure the child's welfare was futile. X sought Commission's intervention on the matter.

C/TSO/C/2022/157

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st April, 2022 from XY, alleging that X has been facing persistent rape attempt from Y her father of Sabon-Layi, Jalingo. XY further stated that all effort to restrain him has proved abortive.

C/TSO/C/2022/210

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st May, 2022 from X of Board office Jalingo, alleging that Y her boyfriend abandoned her with a 6 months pregnancy and has since failed to provide for any financial upkeep for herself and the pregnancy.

C/TSO/C/2022/191

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th May, 2022, from X alleging that Y (her ex-husband) divorced her with 2 children, and has since abandoned his fatherly responsibility of their children at Mayo-Gwoi Area of Jalingo. That all effort made for him to take up his responsibility failed.

C/TSO/C/2022/66-70

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th March, 2022, from X of Nasarawa calvet, Jalingo alleging that Y (her husband) has abandoned her with four children without catering for their needs and never enrolled his children in school. That all effort for him to carry out his responsibility of his children has proved abortive.

C/TSO/C/2022/111-

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th March, 2022 from X alleging that Y (her Ex-fiance) who lives at Tau-Ardo Kola L.G.A,

impregnated her which resulted in the Birth of their child in March 2014. X further alleged that Y has abandoned his fatherly responsibility and all efforts to ensure that he provides for their child's education, feeding and clothing has been futile.

C/KB/C/2022/001

The Commission received a complaint on the 5th of January 2022 from Y of GRA Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, claiming that his daughter was severely beaten by her form master. Y claimed that on 18th November, 2021, he complained about the incident to both the administrative officer and the principal, who assured him that it would not happen again. However, on the 1st of December 2021, the same class teacher slapped her several times for not writing quickly, and as a result, she despises school.

C/KB/C/2022/004

The Commission received a complaint from Y of Ruggar Alhaji Hussaini Ambursa dated 10th January, 2022 alleging that on 28th December, 2021, at approximately 3:00 a.m. Y entered the bedroom of X (his elder sister) in an attempt to rape her, but that she immediately turned on a torchlight and recognized the respondent holding a knife. That Y then attacked her, leaving her with numerous injuries, resulting in the termination of her seven-month pregnancy.

C/KB/C/2022/008

The Commission received a complaint on 27th January, 2022 from XY of No. 1 Rafin Atiku roundabout, Birnin Kebbi alleging that X, (his 7-year-old daughter), was raped by Y, who is 18 years old. XY alleged that on Friday, 21st January, 2022 at 12:30 p.m., after she returned home from school, and there was no one at home. Y then entered the house and took her to a bedroom where he assaulted and raped X. One of her brothers suddenly entered, catching Y in the act and immediately informed XY. All investigations by the NSCDC and Sir Yahaya Memorial Hospital confirmed that she had been raped.

C/KB/C/2022/013

The Commission received a complaint on 22nd February, 2022 from X of Shiyar Zabarmawa area, Birnin Kebbi claiming that her grandmother has refused to reveal where her parents are. X claims she is unable to meet her basic needs and wants to know the whereabouts of her parents, who she believes will take better care of her.

C/KB/C/2022/020

The National Human Rights Commission received a complaint on 4th April, 2022 from Y and his siblings of Gesse phase1 area. They claimed that Y (their father) whom they have not seen since 2013 (eight years) abandoned them, stopped sending food, and as a result, they now go out to beg to survive. Y also claimed that he left them without shelter, educational support and medical care.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/040

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th March, 2022 from X of Pawari Ward, Damaturu, alleging that Y (her ex-husband) abandoned his responsibilities (school fees, feeding, clothes, and health needs) towards their 2 children and left them to her. X further alleged that Y refused to refund the sum of ₦225,000 he owes her.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/050

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th April, 2022 from Y, a resident of Waziri Ibrahim Housing Estate, Maiduguri Road, Damaturu alleging that X, his girlfriend, got pregnant during their relationship and he handled all the financial responsibilities concerning her and the baby. However, X abandoned the child for him while the baby was still breastfeeding.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/036

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March, 2022 from X of Fawari Ward Damaturu, who alleged that Y (her husband) neglected and failed to provide for food, clothing, health needs, and education for the family. She also alleged that he often assaulted her over mundane issues.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/059

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th April, 2022 from X of Dapchi town, Bursari LGA, who alleged that Y (her ex-husband) left her with the responsibilities of providing food, clothing, education and health needs for their 10 children and other basic family needs. She stated that she was incapable of taking up all those responsibilities alone.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/049

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th April, 2022 from X of Ganye Kura Gujba Road Damaturu, Yobe State, alleging that Y (her ex-husband) was failing to make an input in addressing the health challenges of their sick child. X stated that the child had a wound on his leg for years but Y refused to pay for his treatment. She further stated

that she once took the child to the Teaching Hospital for treatment but Y snatched him away and is currently at home without treatment.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/001

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th January, 2022 from XY, who alleged that Y of Bayamari District, Bursari Local Government Area, was sexually abusing X, his 17-year-old daughter which resulted to pregnancy. XY further alleged that Y had sexually abused many other victims. The case was reported to the SCID, Damaturu but Y's lawyer is demanding that the perpetrator be granted bail without taking him to court.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/005

The Commission received a complaint on 25th January, 2022 from X of Babbangida Bayan Asibiti, Tarmuwa LGA, who claimed she has been married to Y for 13 years and they are blessed with 2 children. X alleged that Y, has the habit of not providing for the feeding and education of the children and other basic needs of the family. Y has now started threatening to beat her.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/031

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th February, 2022 from X of Fawari Shagari Ward, Damaturu, alleging that Y (her husband) abandoned her and their children without providing food, health and education. That Y also refused to refund the sum of ₦21,000 he borrowed from her. X sought the Commission's intervention.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/032

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th March, 2022 from X of Bukka Bakwai Nayinawa, Damaturu, alleging that Y (her husband) divorced her 3 times and denied her access their children and the custody of their 2 years old Child. X sought the Commission's intervention.

C/YSO/DTR/C/2022/055 B

The Commission received a complaint from X dated 6th April, 2022 from X of Nayinawa Damaturu, alleging that Y (her husband) abandoned her at her parents' house during her pregnancy and after delivery, he failed to provide anything for the naming ceremony and for the care of the baby and herself. X stated she had reported the matter to her elder brother, who contacted Y. After he was contacted, Y issued her with a divorce letter. X sought the Commission's intervention for the provision of adequate upkeep of the child

C/2022/16/RC/AKR

The Commission received a complaint on 15th February, 2022 from Y, of Zone 4A, Federal Housing Estate, Off Ilesha Road, Owode, Osogbo, Osun State alleging denial of access to his three (3) children and lack of care for them by his estranged wife. Y sought the Commission's intervention to gain custody of the children in order to care for them.

C/2022/20/RC/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th February, 2022 from X of Godogbo community, Oke-Eri Estate, Oba-Ile, Akure, Ondo State alleging that Y abandoned their two children (male and female) and also has not been taking responsibility for their upkeep. X wants the Commission to intervene to ensure Y takes up his responsibilities for the children, including payment of their school fees and feeding.

C/2022/RC /47-48/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th March, 2022 from X of FUTA North Gate, Opposite Rich Hostel, Akure, Ondo State on alleged domestic violence and threat to life by Y (her husband). X is no longer interested in the marriage and wants the Commission to intervene in securing the custody of the children for her since Y has allegedly continued to demonstrate bad examples to them.

C/2022/61/RC/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th April, 2022 from XY, of 5, Aratunsi Layout, Oke Aro Titun, Akure, Ondo State, alleging child abuse. XY alleged that the manner in which his son-in-law beats the children is extreme.

C/2022/RC/66/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th April, 2022 from X of 102, Okengele Street, Palace Road, Oba-Ile, Akure, Ondo State alleging abandonment by Y her husband and father of their two (2) children. X wants the Commission to intervene and help her locate Y in order to compel him to commit to taking up his fatherly responsibility for the children.

C/2022/73/RC/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th April, 2022 from X of 6, Ifelere, Oba-Ile, Akure, Ondo State, alleging abandonment of her and their four (4) children by Y (her husband). She alleged that he left the responsibility of the children solely to her.

C/2022/RC/74/AKR

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th April, 2022 from Y, of 59, Fatuase Layout, Oba-Ile, Akure, Ondo State, over the nonchalant attitude of his son towards his Education. He stated that after securing admission for his son at a private University, he discovered the child's unserious attitude towards his education.

C/WC/485-486/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th January, 2022 from X, of Bawala House along Shagari Road, Boluwji Area, Ibadan, against Y. X alleged that Y was not taking up his responsibilities towards their two children.

C/WC/503-506/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st March, 2022 from X, of Gbopa Eleyele Ibadan, alleging that Y (her husband) and his new wife sent her out of their matrimonial home with her four children without providing an alternative for them.

C/2022/WC/476/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th February, 2022 from X, of Aba Akinyele, Ile-Iya Apata, Ibadan, against Y alleging public harassment and abandonment of his fatherly responsibilities towards their daughter.

C/2022/WC/494-497/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th February, 2022 from X, of Zone 10, No. 51 Agbamu Road, Sango Ibadan, against Y. X stated that she got married to Y and they are blessed with three children but since they got married, she has been the only one taking up the children's responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/477 - 478/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th February, 2022 from X, of No. 6 Surulere Street Sango, Ibadan. X alleged Y abandoned their two children since 2017. X claimed that ever since then, she has been solely responsible for the upkeep of their two children.

C/2022/WC/482/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th February, 2022 from X, of No. 57, Adeniji layout Ogbene Idi-Osan, Ibadan, accusing Y of abandonment of his fatherly responsibilities towards their 8-year-old daughter.

C/2022/WC/510/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th March, 2022 from X, of Ori-Ade, Apete Ibadan, alleging that Y was denying her access to her child, who was forcefully taken away from her by Y's mother.

C/2022/WC/511/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th March, 2022 from Y, of Ibadan, alleging that X has been denying him access to their child ever since they separated and she also denied him the opportunity to provide for his child.

C/2022/WC/480-481/OYO

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st February, 2022 from X on behalf of her children alleging that Y, their father, of Bestway Area Iwo-Road, was not paying the children's school fees.

C/2022/WC/474/OYO

The Commission received a complaint on 2nd January, 2022 from X of C.A.C Church, Agbaja Opeolu Street, Oki, Bank Olodo against Y (her husband) alleging abandonment of his fatherly responsibilities towards their two children.

C/2022/WC/518/OYO

The Commission received a complaint from XY on 18th January, 2022 the Oyo State Sexual Gender Based Response Team on behalf of X alleging genital mutilation by her mother-in-law, who resides in Lagos. That her mother-in-law came to her matrimonial home while she was away and took her 2-year-old daughter to Oyo town in Oyo State and circumcised her after X severally refused her previous attempts.

C/2022/017/KD

The Commission received a complaint from Y dated 3rd February, 2022 alleging that he had been denied access to his daughter by X (his girlfriend) and her family at No 71 River Road Down quarter, Kaduna. Y alleged that X gave birth to a baby girl on 6th December 2021 and he had not seen the baby since then, and he has not been allowed to provide for his daughter

C/2022/066/KD

The Commission received a complaint from X dated 30th March, 2022 alleging denial of access to her 3 daughters by Y (her ex-husband) of No 5 Lamido Rickson Street, Kamazo G.R.A, Kaduna, since their separation 2 years ago.

C/2022/033/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd February, 2022 from X alleging that Y (her ex-husband) who resides at Hayin Rigasa, Kaduna State had abandoned his children.

C/2022/027/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th February, 2022 from X of No. 10 PTF Road, Hayin Banki, Kaduna alleging that Y, her husband had abandoned his responsibilities to the family.

C/2022/050/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th March, 2022 from XY alleging inhuman and degrading treatment of X by her Madam at Flat 7. Old kamazou, Doctors' Quarters, opp. Ahmed Musa Centre, Kaduna. XY alleged that she is in the habit of beating her and pulling off her hair.

C/2022/006/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th January, 2022 from X of AH 21 Mijin Yawa road Kabala Doki, Kaduna alleging lack of care by Y (her husband) who has been in the habit of denying her and the children feeding at any slight misunderstanding

C/2022/011/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th January, 2022 from X against Y, (her husband). X alleged that Y abandoned his responsibilities of catering for the upkeep and maintenance of their three children for over one year in karji Anchau, Ikara Local Government Area, when life became difficult, she moved to her father's home. She further stated that he is still not providing for the family.

C/2022/087/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th April, 2022 from X alleging abandonment and denial of feeding and lack of care by Y (her ex-husband) at Bus stop Badarawa, Kaduna State. She also alleged that Y is not taking care of the child.

C/2022/004/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January, 2022 from X of Gidan MKR, Makera Kakuri, Kaduna, against Y (her ex -husband), alleging abandonment of her and their two children.

C/2022/042/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th March, 2022 from X of Hayin Fulani Danbusuiya Kaduna, alleging abandonment of their children by her husband.

C/2022/063/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th March, 2022 from X, alleging denial of access to her child by Y, who resides at deeper life Street Trikania, Kaduna State.

C/2022/014/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st February, 2022 from X of Anguwan Kanawa No. 67 Saminaka road, Kaduna State, alleging abandonment of their children by her ex-husband.

C/KNSO/2022/403

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th April, 2022, from X of African Lane U/Uku Tarauni L.G.A, Kano State alleging that Y (her brother in-law) an Accountant at ATBU Teaching Hospital, Bauchi State, withheld her children's inheritance after the death their father.

C/KNSO/2022/068 - 075

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February, 2022 from X of Sheka, Kumbotso L.G.A, Kano State against Y (her husband). X alleged that he abandoned his responsibilities of maintaining her and their eight children, thereby making life difficult.

C/2022/376/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th April, 2022 from Y of Na'ibawa, Kumbotso LGA alleging that X (his mother) sent him to stay in her sister's custody and he is not comfortable staying there.

C/2022/393/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th April, 2022 from X of Modire Yoldepate, Yola South LGA of Adamawa State. X alleged that Y (her ex-husband) threatened to take their children away from her. Also, he gives her ₦10,000 as upkeep instead of the agreed sum of ₦15,000.

C/2022/216/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st March, 2022 from X of Gaida, Kumbotso LGA, against Y (her ex-husband). X alleged that he abandoned his responsibilities towards the family (X and their five children).

C/2022/029/KN

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th January, 2022 from Y alleging that X, (his ex-wife) failed to vacate his house after he divorced her and that all effort to send her out of his house prove abortive. Y said he had reported the matter to Shahuji Upper Shari'ah Court where justice was delayed. Y declared that justice delayed is denied.

C/LSO/22/634-635 -C/2022/WC/2412/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th July, 2022 from Y, who alleged that X (his 3-year-old daughter) was sexually abused in a Lagos private school on the 13th day of July 2022. Y also attached a picture of the private part of his 3-year-old daughter.

C/LSO/22/655-657

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th July, 2022 from X alleging that Y, the father of her children abducted their children and took them to Akure without her knowledge.

C/LSO/22/686-687

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd August, 2022 from Y of Ikeja Lagos, alleging that X has denied him access to see his 6 years old boy for over 9 months.

C/LSO/22/860-861

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th September, 2022 from X of No. 4, Lawal Street, Ikorodu, Lagos state, alleging child abandonment by the respondent.

C/BSO/MDR/236/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th May, 2022 from X against Y (her husband) alleging that since their 15 years of marriage he has been maltreating her and failing to provide for the family (herself and their 8 children).

BSO/MDRC//232/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y, her son-in-law, denied her access to her grandchildren under Y's custody at Kwanan Yobe Maiduguri. On this note, X sought the intervention of the Commission to allow her access to her grandchildren.

C/BSO/MDR/241/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y, her husband, is maltreating her and had failed to provide for the upkeep of X and her 3 children in their home at Shuwari Ward, Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/220/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y, her husband, had been neglecting to provide for the maintenance and support of she and their children in their home at Damboa Road Maiduguri. On this note.

C/BSO/MDR/218/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y, her husband, neglected to cater for the upkeep and well-being of herself and that of their 5 children at their home in Simari Ward Maiduguri leaving her to shoulder all of the responsibilities by herself

C/BSO/MDR/214/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y, her husband, has failed to provide for her upkeep and maintenance of their children and has also abandoned them in their home at Shetimari Ward Maiduguri. On this note, X sought the intervention of the Commission on the matter.

C/BSO/MDR/215/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he has since they got divorced one year ago, neglected to provide for the maintenance of their child in her custody at Njimtilo Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/224/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y with whom they were blessed with 7 children, has been incessantly beating her and maltreating X and their children. Y has abandoned X without provision for her upkeep and adequate maintenance of their children in their house in Bayan Quarters Maiduguri. On this note,

C/BSO/MDR/234/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y who resides with her at Simari Maiduguri has,

in the past year, has not been providing for her and their 7 years old daughter's basic needs and general maintenance.

C/BSO/MDR/247/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y has since 2021, has not been providing for the upkeep and maintenance of her and their 2 children in their home at Tudun Wada Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/251/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th May, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y, her ex-husband, had abandoned her with pregnancy after their divorce without provision for her healthcare and general maintenance in her place of residence at Gwange Area Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/296/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st June, 2022 from Y alleging that his son in-law, has refused to take up his responsibilities as husband to his daughter X thereby abandoning her in his house and neglecting to provide for the maintenance and support of his children, at Galtimari Giwa Barracks Maiduguri.

BSO/MDR/271/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June 2022 from X against Y alleging that he got her pregnant at Bama Town and has refused to accept responsibility for the pregnancy.

C/BSO/MDR/306/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he abandoned her and has neglected to provide for the maintenance and needs of her and their child, who reside at Kaleri Ward Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/298/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he has been neglecting to provide for the maintenance and needs of her and their child in their home at Old Maiduguri..

C/BSO/MDR/273/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he has been neglecting to provide for the medical

care of their 18-years-old daughter in her custody, who is sick at Gwange Sabon Line, Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/269/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that since their divorce he has failed to provide for the basic necessities of their 15-years-old child in her custody at London Ciki Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/309/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he has not been providing adequate maintenance for her and their two children in their home at Ngomari Costin Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/308/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he had for many years abandoned her with two children in their home at Kushari, Maiduguri without providing for basic needs.

C/BSO/MDR/279/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he has since their divorce 10 months ago, been neglecting to provide for the maintenance and child support of their 2 children in her custody at Kaleri Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/268/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he has since their divorce in February 2022, been neglecting to provide for the maintenance and child support of their child and her 8 months old pregnancy even after her delivery in Gwange Sabon Layi Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/263/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd June, 2022 from X against Y alleging that Y he, has neglected to cater for the basic needs and maintenance of her and their child at Kaleri.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/342

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th July, 2022 from X of Musari Ward Baga Road against Y alleging that he abandoned her with two children without provision for their upkeep.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/348

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th July, 2022 from X of State low-cost area, Old Maiduguri, against Y alleging he abandoned her with a child born out of wedlock without provision for the child's upkeep.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/319

The Commission received a complaint on the 1st of July, 2022 from X of Zambamari ward, against Y alleging that he abandoned their 9 children in her custody at their home in Zabarmari, Maiduguri without provision for their maintenance.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/323

The Commission received a complaint on the 4th of July, 2022 from X of Adamari jere LGA, against Y, her husband, on a matter of maltreatment and lack of maintenance of herself and their children.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/326

The Commission received a complaint on the 5th of July, 2022 from X who live in Gwange layin Bori against Y alleging that they have been married for over 13 years now and they are blessed with 4 children but later got separated where the husband abandoned his 4 children with her without providing for their feeding, education, medical care and other basic necessities.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/324

The Commission received a complaint on the 4th of July, 2022 from X of Mafoni Ward, Maiduguri, against Y on a matter of maltreatment and lack of maintenance of wife and children by him.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/344

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th July, 2022 from X against Y alleging that he has throughout their marriage of 10 years, been maltreating her by failing to provide for her basic necessities in their home at Kofa Biyu, Maiduguri and that of their 6 children.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/754

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th July 2022 from X against Y alleging that he had abandoned their child and had been failing to provide for the basic necessities of the child he left in her custody at Madunagari, Maiduguri.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/327

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July, 2022 from X against Y alleging that for the nine-year duration of their marriage, he

had been neglecting to provide for the maintenance and support of their 3 children in their home at Mafa LGA

C/BSO/MDR/2022/338

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th July, 2022 from X of Gwange area, Maiduguri, against Y alleging that he, abandoned her and the children for about 4 years with no care.

C/BSO/MDR/022/339

The Commission received a complaint on the 19th of July 2022 from X of Mari area, Maiduguri, against Y alleging that for the 8 months that she and Y have been divorced, Y has never visited or provided for the upkeep and maintenance of their 3 children, who are in her custody.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/365

The Commission received a complaint on the 8th of August, 2022 from X against Y alleging he had neglected their 6 children in her custody since they got divorced one year ago without providing for the maintenance and needs of their children.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/355

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd August, 2022 from X and one other against Y alleging that he forcefully ejected and sent them out of his house without any justification. They further alleged that they are currently staying in their aunt's house.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/362

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th August, 2022 from X of Ngomari Ward, Maiduguri against Y alleging that he had abandoned her with their child in her custody without any provision for upkeep and maintenance of the child.

C/BSO/MDR/2022/382

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August, 2022 from X of Ngomari Costin, Maiduguri against Y alleging that he had abandoned her and has been neglecting to provide for the maintenance and needs of her and their child.

C/2022/WC/1271-1278/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th December, 2022 from Y of Sacred flame Drive NTA Mgbuoba, Port Harcourt, alleging his father of domestic violence against their mother and abandonment of children. Y alleged that his father abuses all of them and has failed in his obligation as a father and husband.

C/2022/WC/1137/RSO

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from Y a minor aged 17 years alleging that his father denied him the right to tertiary education, also threatens and abuses him. Y further alleged that his father came to where he resides with his uncle at Ukachukwu Eke Street, Woji, Port-Harcourt to threaten him with arrest.

C/KB/2022/59

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November, 2022, from XY of the Shiyar fada, Birnin-Kebbi Local Government Area. He alleged that Y forced his child to have homosexual affairs with him, causing the child to develop a stomach disorder.

C/KB/2022/46

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th September, 2022, from Y of Gesse Bayaro Birnin Kebbi, alleged that a group of individuals in his area were threatening to take his daughter's life and rape her. They had obtained her phone number and sent her obscene messages, leaving her feeling scared and vulnerable as his daughter is underage.

C/2022/WC/141/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th October, 2022 from X of Ajari Ward Damaturu metropolis alleging that Y is not taking care of the family and had refused to enroll their children into school. She also alleged to have given birth last week and Y only bought her a bottle of maltina.

C/2022/WC/ 134/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th October, 2022 from X alleging that since 2016, Y neglected her and their three children's maintenance and upkeep at their residence in Estate Circle Bekaji housing estate Jimeta Yola.

C/KB/2022/45

The Commission received a complaint dated 26 September, 2022, from X of Argungu Local Government Area, alleging that Y had been ignoring her since she gave birth to a baby boy for him. X further alleged that he had not been taken care of her or the newborn, and had neglected her while she was at her parent's house.

C/KB/2022/49

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th October, 2022, from X of Sultan Abubakar Road, Birnin Kebbi, who alleged that Y had refused to take full responsibility for their three children and had been threatening

to take them away from her custody. X expressed her fear that he would use the children as a means of control and manipulation.

C/KB/2022/51

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from XY of the Bayan Filin Sukuwa area alleged that X (his daughter) was impregnated and had given birth to a baby girl, by Y who had refused to take care of the child.

C/2022/WC/129/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from X alleged that ever since their separation in 2015 as a result of Y her husband's nonchalant attitude at Gombi LGA, he abandoned the responsibility of their 10 years old child.

C/2022/ESCR/139/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th October, 2022 X alleged that Y the father of her 13-year-old son abandoned the responsibilities of their child's school and upkeep in the past four years back at Faan Quarters, Airport Yola North LGA Adamawa State

C/2022/WC/166/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November, 2022 from X of Simsimma village along Waziri Ibrahim bye pass Maiduguri Road Damaturu, alleged that Y has failed to take up his fatherly responsibilities of their children, having been separated for a year. X further alleged that Y refused to donate blood at the hospital to one for one their daughter after she felt sick, and had also failed to provide food, education and medication for their children.

C/2022/WC/108,563/ABS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th November, 2022 from X alleging that Y has abandoned her and her children and refused to take up his responsibilities of providing for her children and has also been threatening her life at Okwoyi, Umuahia, Abia State.

C/KB/2022/60

The Commission received a complaint from X of the Badariya, Birnin-Kebbi Local Government Area, on December 22nd, 2022. X alleged that Y had been abdicating his fatherly responsibilities by failing to provide basic necessities for the family such as food, clothing, and school fees.

C/KB/2022/55

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th December, 2022 from X at Badariya area of Birnin-Kebbi, alleged that Y had left her for seven months without sleeping in his house or taking up any fatherly responsibilities.

C/ABS/2022/108,348

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th July, 2022 from X alleging that she got pregnant by the respondent and he beats her on regularly basis. X further alleged that due to the constant beating she had to flee to her grandmother's house to give birth to the child in Umugbalu Ikwuano L.G.A. in Abia State. X stated that the child was born in December, 2021 and since then, the respondent, who is a successful businessman, has bluntly refused to provide for the upkeep of the baby.

C/ABS/2022/108,192

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th May, 2022 from X who reside at 24 Njikonye Ring Road Umuwaya Amuzukwu, Abia State, alleging that her husband who is a sailor has abandoned her and their four children since 9th March, 2019.

C/ABS/2022/108,171

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th May, 2022 from X alleging that her 10 years old son was knocked down by the respondent on 17th September, 2021 at Avodim Ubakala. X further alleged that the respondent has refused to foot the bill of Five million she has expended on series of surgeries carried out on the child.

C/ABS/2022/108,354

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th July, 2022 from Y on behalf of his 16 years old daughter. Y alleged that on 7th May 2022 at Obohia Okile Ikwuano, Abia State, a nearby shop owner who is 44 years old and married with 4 children lured his daughter into his shop grabbed her, flung her on the floor, ripped off her panties and dipped his finger into her vagina and thereafter defiled her. Y further alleged that it took the intervention of passer-by to rescue the teenage girl from him.

C/ABS/2022/103,306

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th July, 2022 from Y alleging that his niece, a 16 years old girl on 13th of July 2022 was defiled by a neighbour in the village who was a regular visitor to the girl's house at Mgbedeala Amorji Isiala Ngwa North L.G.A, Abia State. Y further alleged that the neighbour lured her into the room to assist him check for his missing key and thereafter he followed and overpowered her. Y also

stated that it was the screaming of the girl that people heard and when they came to her rescue, they saw that the respondent had defiled her and he ran off immediately to prevent being attacked.

C/ABS/2022/108,169

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th May, 2022 from XY, alleging that a 15 years old pupil was beaten by three female teachers from her school, located at Dikenafai Road, Off Ngwa Road Aba. XY further alleged that the teachers flogged her mercilessly, thereby inflicting injuries on her body and further took her to the back of the school fence, shaved off her pubic hair, complaining that it was overgrown and unkempt.

C/2022/076/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X alleging that in October, 2021 two months after her delivery her ex-boyfriend denied the paternity of the baby at his place of residence in Jambutu, Jimeta-Yola Adamawa State.

C/2022/094/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August, 2022 from X alleging that in 2021 she was impregnated by Y the father of her two months old child at Luggere Bishop Street Jimeta-Yola, Adamawa State and all efforts to see that he owns up to his responsibility proved abortive.

C/2022/096/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th August, 2022 from XY alleging that in the year 2021 her 17 years old daughter was impregnated by her boyfriend at Jambutu adjacent Jambutu Primary School Jimeta-Yola and all efforts to make him accept responsibility of the eleven months old baby was futile.

C/2022/063/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from X alleging that Y has abandoned his responsibility of catering for the upkeep and maintenance of their 10 years old child in Nyakore, Jambutu Jimeta, Yola, Adamawa State.

C/2022/090/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th August, 2022 from X alleging that after the separation from Y four months ago, she stayed with their 2 children at Lumo-Kopi Nassarawo Jimeta Yola Adamawa State and he has neglected their children's upkeep and maintenance.

C/2022/100/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd August, 2022 from X alleging that Y, the father of her 5 years old child residing at Wanka Lamurde LGA, abandoned the responsibilities of taking care of their child's upkeep and maintenance since October 2017.

C/2022/063/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from X alleging that their 11 years old child was abandoned by Y when he was four years in Jambutu, Yola North LGA. X further alleged that she has been the one taking care of their child's responsibility.

C/2022/068/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd June, 2022 from X alleging that she travelled to Kaduna State in December, 2021 and came back to her matrimonial home in April, 2022 and met another lady in her house at Anguwan Yungur Girei LGA, Adamawa State. X further alleged that Y sent her and their son out of the house saying he had already divorced her and all efforts to make him own up to his responsibilities proved abortive.

C/2022/055/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th May, 2022 from X residing at Wayam Numan LGA, Adamawa State, alleging that Y the father of her 2 years and 3 months old son abandoned his responsibilities towards them. X further alleged that on 15th April, 2022 their son was hospitalized and all efforts to make him accept his responsibility was futile.

C/2022/083/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th July, 2022 from X alleging that after her father got separated from their mother in 2022, he got remarried to their step mother and abandoned her and four of her siblings at Hayin Gada Vunoklang Girei LGA, Adamawa State. X further stated that in June, 2022 she was diagnosed with kidney infection but her father refused to pay for the surgery.

C/2022/062/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May, 2022 from X alleging that since she got married to Y who is a military officer on 1st January, 1999, they have been having series of misunderstandings and later got separated around 2010 in Ilorin, Kwara State. X further alleged that the marriage is blessed with 6 children and Y has abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to their children.

C/2022/065/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June, 2022 from X alleging that 3 years ago she got married to Y and had a 2 years old daughter and after a misunderstanding with him at their residence in Sangere Futy Girei LGA, Adamawa State, he sent her out of the house and has neglected their child's responsibility.

C/2022/094/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August, 2022 from X alleging that the father of her 2 months old baby neglected his responsibilities during and after she gave birth to their child at Luggere Bishop Street Jimeta-Yola Adamawa State.

C/2022/075/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022 from XY alleging that the Y who was her son in-law, divorced her daughter 2 years back and neglected the responsibilities of his three children living with her. XY further alleged that in July, 2022, the respondent came to her residence behind Central Primary School Adjacent Mafias quarters Jimeta-Yola, Adamawa State, and took away the children without her knowledge.

C/2022/084/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th July, 2022 from X alleging that in 2018 Y left her and the children in Ekiti State with no means of sustenance and went on transfer to Adamawa State. X further stated that in 2019 they had to leave Ekiti State and move to Adamawa State to live with him and that since 2018 he has abandoned his responsibilities to his family and is in the habit of beating her.

C/2022/102/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th August, 2022 from X against her husband alleging that in December, 2021 her husband sent her out of their house with the children in MOPOL Barracks, Akure in Ondo State. X also claimed that she has been the one taking care of their children and has incurred a lot of debt in order to take care of the responsibilities of the children.

C/2022/198/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd June, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband threw her things out of the house at Eman Ikot Ebo in Uruan L.G.A of Akwa Ibom State on 17th June, 2022 and collected their child from her who is barely a year old.

C/2022/219/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th July, 2022 from Y of Nung Uyo Idoro, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State alleging denial of access to his child by his ex-wife. Y further alleged that she always threatened him and his new wife since he got separated from her and she has never allowed him access to his child.

C/2022/192/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th June, 2022 from X alleging abandonment and neglect of parental responsibilities by the respondent. X further claimed that the respondent denied the paternity of their four children due to the issues she is having with him. X stated further that he sent her and the children out of their home at Ikot Akpan Abia, Ibesikpo L.G.A. Akwa Ibom State.

C/2022/147/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th May, 2022 from X alleging denial of pregnancy by Y. X further alleged that she started working as a sale girl with him in March, 2021 and stopped working in September 2021 when she found out that she was pregnant for him. X also alleged that when she told him, he threatened her with a machete at his office situated at Ndiya Street, Akpan Andem, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and told her never come back to his office.

C/2022/276/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th August, 2022, alleging that Y on regular basis abuses X, accusing her of cheating on him and has refused to provide for feeding and other responsibilities of his child since 16th June, 2022 at Ema Itam, Itu L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.

C/2022/256/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th August, 2022 from X alleging that she got married to Y and they are blessed with 4 (four) kids, (two males and two females). X further stated that he works with a 5 Star Hotel in Ifia-ayong, Uruan L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State, and has neglected his parental responsibilities.

C/2022/152/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th May, 2022 from X against Y (her husband). X alleged that he forcefully evicted her from his residence at Idekwe Akpannya in Mkpato Enin L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State, and abandoned his responsibilities of caring for the upkeep and maintenance of their children.

C/2022/253/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th August, 2022 from Y who is from Okpob Ikot Obio Odoho in Ibesikpo Asuatn L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State. Y alleged denial of access to his children by the ex-wife.

C/2022/278/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X alleging that the respondent has refused to take parental responsibilities of their child since they both got separated in September, 2022 at Ibiono Ibiom L.G.A. Akwa Ibom State.

C/2022/213/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th July, 2022 from XY who lives at No. 19 Akpan Essien Lane, Uyo, Akwai Ibom State alleging that Y who is 40 years old defiled a minor who is 14 years old. XY further alleged that the respondent has impregnated the minor and denied being responsible and further threatened to lockup or deal seriously with anyone who involve him in the matter.

C/2022/194/AKS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd June, 2022 from Y alleging that he divorced X in 2013 in the High Court of Akwa Ibom State and she was given custody of the children. Y further alleged that he has been carrying out his parental responsibilities towards the children by adequately providing for their upkeep and schooling however, the ex-wife has denied him access to the children.

C/2022/WC/147/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 from X alleged that since 2016, Y has abandoned his 3 children's upkeep and maintenance at GMMC Jimeta Yola, Adamawa State.

C/2022/WC/127/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th October, 2022 from X alleged that in the year 2020, Y abandoned her with pregnancy and their three-year-old daughter without a trace in Akwa-Ibom State. He later showed up on 5th October, 2022 threatening to abduct them at Kofare behind Jokems Teleview Hotel Jimeta, Yola.

C/2022/WC/124/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October, 2022 from X alleging that around 2020 Y the father of her 2 years old child neglected his responsibilities after she conceived at Hausari ward Michika LGA, Adamawa State.

C/2022/WC/136/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from X alleged that around October, 2022 she went to Y's house at Jambutu Nile City Jimeta Yola to check on her 6 years old son but when she got there to her dismay, she met her son and another 9 years old minor in a very terrible condition, they were both covered with injuries due to the floggings he inflicted on them and were not well-fed or taken care of properly.

C/2022/WC/113/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st September, 2022 from X who alleged that around December, 2021 at Anguwan Fulani Hayin gada Girei LGA, Adamawa State, Y abandoned his responsibilities towards the entire family.

C/2022/WC/158/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th December, 2022 from X alleged that Y and 2 of their children were living in their paternal family house situated at Wuro-Chekke Yola South LGA, Adamawa State, but after the sudden death of her father in-law around 2022, they were treated badly and neglected by her husband and his family.

C/2022/WC/128/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th October, 2022 from X alleged that around 2019 at his residence in Damare Ahmed Song Community Yola South LGA, she was raped by Y who later accepted the pregnancy and that she gave birth but all efforts for him to take full responsibility of their child's maintenance and upkeep proved abortive.

C/2022/WC/162/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th December, 2022 from X alleged that Y her ex-husband abandoned the responsibilities towards their 2 children since their separation around 2015 at Jauro Buba area Jimeta Yola. She wants the Commission's intervention.

C/2022/WC/111/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th September, 2022 from X who resides at Damilu behind PZ Industries layout Yola North LGA, Adamawa State with Y alleged that he abandoned both her and their three children's upkeep and maintenance three years ago.

C/2022/WC/135/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th October, 2022 from X who resides at Ibrahim Dama Street behind Road Safety office Jimeta

Yola, alleged that since she got divorced from Y on 4th April, 2022, he abandoned their 2-year-old son's responsibility until two months back. Her ex-husband's mother requested to spend a few days with her grandson but all efforts to have the child returned to her proved abortive.

C/2022/WC/154/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th November, 2022 from X who last week alleged that at their place of residence in Yola town Yola South LGA, she had a misunderstanding with Y because of his refusal to attend to the critical health condition of their child. She also alleged that Y had refused to provide for their child's other needs.

C/2022/WC/090/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th August, 2022 from X alleged that after their separation from Y, four months ago, she stayed with their 2 children at Lumo-Kopi Nassarawo Jimeta Yola but Y has refused to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of their children.

C/2022/WC/117/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from X who alleged that Y, the father of their 2 children, abandoned his responsibility two years back at Yola town Yola South LGA Adamawa State.

C/2022/WC/148/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th November, 2022 from X who alleged that after their divorce from Y on 10th April, 2020, he abandoned his 3 children's maintenance and upkeep. X also alleged that the children in his custody are being maltreated by their step-mother living close to Government House Jimeta Yola..

C/2022/WC/142/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November, 2022 from X alleging that around 2013 at their residence in Runde Baru Jambutu Jimeta, Yola, Y abandoned the responsibilities towards their five children

C/2022/WC/104/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd September, 2022 from X who alleged that Y the father of her 3 months old child denied the paternity of the child and has refused to take up his responsibilities towards the child. Y resides at Wuro-Jabbe, Lakare, Yola South LGA.

C/2022/WC/120/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from X

who alleged that Y the father of their 13 years old son abandoned his upkeep and maintenance for twelve years. Y resides at Wayam Numan LGA.

C/2022/WC/123/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th October, 2022 from X who alleged that on 4th February, 2018 after being invited by Y an acquaintance to his place of residence at Girei LGA, he drugged her and she later found out she was pregnant. X further alleged that he accepted the pregnancy but later abandoned her after the birth of the child who is now 4 years old.

C/2022/WC/115/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th September, 2022 from X who alleged that her husband, a Police officer neglected the upkeep and maintenance of their 4 children since around February, 2022. Y resides at Ganye Street close to shopping complex Jimeta-Yola.

C/2022/WC/140/YB

The Commission received a complaint from X of Bundigari ward Damaturu metropolis on 25th October, 2022 who alleged Y her husband of abandoning her and their children. She further alleged that she is living under her parent custody.

C/2022/WC/172/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th December 2022 from X of Nayinawa Tsallake bye-pass Damaturu who alleged Y of refusing to take up his fatherly responsibilities towards their only child. The matter was taken to the Court, and he was ordered to be paying the sum of N5,000 monthly and he only paid once and declined to continue the payment. X further alleged that after getting a proposed husband to marry her, she took the child to his paternal grandfather who sometimes locks the house gate leading to the child to sleep outside.

C/2022/WC/137/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October, 2022 from X of Nayinawa ward Damaturu alleging that Y divorced her 10 months ago and is failing to take up his fatherly responsibilities towards their child.

C/2022/WC/167/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th November, 2022 from X of Alhajiri area Bindigari ward Damaturu, who alleged that Y the father to their 4 children abandoned them and has failed to provide food, medication and lack of good parental upbringing to them.

C/2022/WC/168/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th November, 2022 from X of Nayinawa Ward Damaturu who alleged that Y is discrimination among his wives. X further alleged that, Y provided money for antenatal to his other wife, but failed to give her transport fare to the hospital for the antenatal, which made her to relocate to her parent's house. That since the incident Y had not asked of her welfare and that of their unborn child.

C/2022/WC/160/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th November, 2022 from X of Nayinawa Bye-pass Damaturu alleging that Y divorced her 4 months ago and denied her access to their 2 years old daughter.

C/2022/WC/136/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October 2022 from X who resides at 3-Bedroom Housing Estate Gashua road, Damaturu. X alleged that Y has denied her access to their children since their separation. X also alleged to have received the information that the youngest child is seriously sick, but Y refused her request to take the child to the hospital for medication.

C/2022/WC/159/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th November, 2022 from X of Dogon Zare Layin Saba, Opp LGA Secretariat, Potiskum town, Yobe State, alleging that Y has denied her access to their 2 children after their divorce.

C/2022/WC/163/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November 2022 from X of Dabala village adjacent to Gujba town of Gujba LGA alleing that Y who is the father to their 3 has refused to provide food and often gets drunk. X further alleged that Y had bluntly refused to look after his family welfare.

C/2022/WC/162/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th November 2022 from X of 1 Million road Damaturu Metropolis alleging that Y who she has been married to for 6 year accused her of causing problem in their home after he got married to another woman. X further alleged that after a misunderstanding recently she relocated to her parents' house leaving their 8 months old child with Y, and that he had denied her access to their child.

C/2022/WC/129/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September, 2022 from X of Malari bypass Damaturu. X alleged that Y abandoned her with a pregnancy, and only resurfaced after 2 years. That, Y asked her to sell her house and give him the money to manage for her, without caring about her welfare and that of the child.

C/2022/CPR/142/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th October, 2022 from X of Nayinawa ward Damaturu who alleged that Y and the co-wife assaulted her while she was 7 months pregnant. She was forced to relocate to her parent's house and Y has refused to take care of her and the unborn child.

C/2022/WC/125/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September, 2022 from X of Gwange Layin Bulama Damaturu alleging that Y has refused to provide for their family and often beats her for minor misunderstanding.

C/2022/WC/131/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September 2022 of Maisandari Ward Maiduguri Road Damaturu. X alleged that Y has 3 spouses with 14 children and his mother, and all of them are managing in 2 rooms. She further alleged that Y gives them N1,000 for their daily feeding.

C/2022/WC/124/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th September, 2022 from X of State Police Command Damaturu alleged that Y neglects her with their 2 children without food and clothing. X further claimed that she recently delivered a baby yet he failed to take care of them despite his superior officer's instruction.

C/2022/WC/132/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th September, 2022 from X of Nayinawa Ward Damaturu alleging that Y has refused to provide for her and their 4 children. She further alleged that, the last time she requested, he gave them only N1,000.00 for 3 days.

C/2022/WC/123/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th September, 2022 from X of Shago Tara Nayinawa Ward Damaturu who alleged that Y has refused to provide for her and their child. X further alleged that, they are living in isolation far from people and Y often abuses and molesting her.

C/2022/WC/118/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th September, 2022 from X of Nayinawa Ward, Damaturu, but now living with her children in Garkida, Borno state. She alleged that Y who works in Edo State has refused to provide food, medications and education provision for their family. She further alleged that anytime she makes demands he threatens to issue her a divorce letter.

C/2022/WC/130/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th September, 2022 from X of Jerusalem Ward, Damaturu, alleged that Y has abandoned her and their 3 children without providing for food, medication and education.

C/2022/WC/119/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th September, 2022 from XY of Nasarawa Tsangayar Bututu in Damaturu metropolis who alleged that Y (their uncle) has been subjecting his nieces (who lost their father 1 year 6 months ago) to hawking and hard domestic chores at late hours, while under his custody as guardian. XY further alleged that, the orphans are denied access to education and refuses them to settle with a guardian of their choice.

C/2022/WC/134/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from XY of Nayinawa Primary school who alleged that Y married their sister and has abandoned her for almost 2 years without taking good care of her and their child. X wants the Commission to intervene in the matter

C/2022/WC/145/YB

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th October, 2022 from X of Nayinawa Ward Damaturu alleged that Y has abandoned her and their 3 children.

C/2022/WC/998-999/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September, 2022 from X alleging physical and emotional abuse from Y (her boyfriend) who lives at Accra Street by Lagos bus stop, Port Harcourt Township. She further alleged that they have a son whom he wants to take from her and he beats her.

C/2022/WC/1107-1108/RSO

The Commission is in received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from Y alleging that he had a relationship and cohabited with X three years ago in Port Harcourt which led to the birth of a child of 3 years old

but X took the child and went to Ezzamgbo Ebonyi State where her family stay. He further alleged that her family informed him that since he did not marry X, the child will not be his.

C/2022/1129-1131/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from X alleging that she was in a relationship with Y who stays at Odani road Elenwo Port Harcourt, and they had two children 14 and 8 years old respectively. She further alleged that he was in the habit of physically abusing her and caused her life-threatening situations which led her to leave him. That her children later joined her and Y has refused to carter for them till they return to him.

C/2022/CPR/1007/RSO

The Commission received a complaint on the 6th October, 2022 from X who alleged that her husband had refused to provide for the children's welfare and maintenance and also failed to establish a business for her in other to run the home. She alleged that on 15th September, 2022 at their residence in Bonny Street, Port-Harcourt, Y insisted that he would not provide for the family and asked her to park out of their home.

C/2022/WC/1239-1240/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th December, 2022 from X who alleged that her 14 years old daughter came to Port Harcourt to visit her step mother X who has been maltreating her.

C/2022/1260-1262/ RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th December, 2022 from X of Okporo Road by turning point Rumudara Port Harcourt Rivers State, who alleged that Y has denied her access to their children and she wants custody of the children.

C/2022/WC/1100-1101/ RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd October, 2022 from X, of Emma Estate compound off Dr Peter Odili Road Azuabie Town, Port Harcourt, Rivers State alleged that Y abandoned her and their child. She further alleged that he wants custody of the child.

C/2022/1017-1019/RSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September, 2022 from Y who alleged that due to some marital issues beyond his control he put his children ages 3 years and 1 year old in the care of XY orphanage home in 2014. Y further alleged that when he decided to collect his

children, he was denied access to them and also not allowed to pick them unless he pays two million Naira.

Conclusion and Recommendation

1. Ensure that laws and policies impacting children are inclusive and are enacted from a child's perspective, taking into cognizance their fast-evolving competence in today's society, and thereby promoting their human dignity. This will bring to full realisation the provision of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which grounds all other child rights.
2. Training and substantive collaboration of human rights defenders with social welfare officers in tracking of trends in child rights violation and strengthening of child protection measures.
3. Mainstream and step-up advocacy on less publicised subsets of child rights violations like forced and/or exploitative labour, sexual trafficking, tattooing (tribal marking) etc in order to force cultural shift and societal awareness.

Chapter 15

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

By

Atusue Winifred Elizabeth*

Introduction

Access to justice is a fundamental right that every individual should have. It is based on the idea of equal justice and fairness, and is essential for the proper functioning of any society. In order for justice to be served, it is crucial that the judiciary system remains independent and impartial.¹ Access to justice ensures people can have their rights and interests protected and respected, while an independent judiciary ensures that justice is applied impartially and without fear or favour. Without these, individuals and communities are vulnerable to being unfairly treated or ignored. In the absence of an independent judiciary therefore, justice can be influenced by external factors, such as politics or money, which undermines fairness and trust in the system. Access to justice and an independent judiciary are therefore critical to ensuring every citizen is treated fairly and that the law is respected and upheld.

Access to justice is a basic principle of rule of law which encapsulates the substantive and procedural mechanisms existing in any particular society designed to ensure that citizens have the opportunity of seeking redress for the violation of their legal rights within the legal system.² It entails not just the right of people to access justice but the accessibility and quality of justice available, it has been said that access to justice is not limited to the procedural mechanism for the resolution of disputes but includes other variables such as the physical conditions of the premises where justice is dispensed, the quality of the human and material resources available in the justice delivery process, the quality of justice delivered, the time it takes for justice delivery, the moral quality of the dispenser of justice, the observance of the general

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1 Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the 67th Session of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels <<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/478/66/PDF/N1247866.pdf?OpenElement>> accessed on 20th February 2023

2 N. S. Okogbule, 'Access to Justice and Human Rights Protection in Nigeria: Problems and Prospect' (2005) Vol 9 , International Journal on Human Rights PL 183

principles of the rule of law, the affordability of the cost of seeking justice, the quality of the legal advisers assisting litigants, the incorruptibility and impartiality of operators of the system.³

The United Nations Declaration of the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law emphasizes the right of equal access to justice for all, including members of vulnerable groups, and reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to taking all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all.

The importance of access to justice and independence of the judiciary are essential instruments for the protection of human rights and demonstrates that it is only when an individual has access to courts and other appropriate channels of remedy that his fundamental rights can be enjoyed and enforced.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Justice

Justice is defined as a legal structure or system that is designed to evaluate in a general sense who should be accorded a benefit or burden when the law is applied to a person's factual circumstances.⁴ It can loosely be said to imply equity and fairness; and for there to be meaningful access to justice, there must be some element of fairness and equity in a system to guarantee the realization of basic fundamental rights

Access to Justice

Access to justice is anchored on rules and procedures to be used by citizens to approach the courts for the determination of their civil rights and obligations.⁵ It may also be considered as the ability of people from disadvantaged groups to prevent and overcome human poverty by seeking and obtaining a remedy, through the justice system, for grievances in accordance with human rights principles and standards⁶.

3 M. I. Gwangudi, "Problems Militating against Women's Access to Justice in Nigeria" (2002) n 5 University of Maiduguri Law Journal n. 5, PL. 13.

4 Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute Wex Dictionary
<<https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/justice#:~:text=Justice%20is%20a%20legal%20structure,the%20state%20courts%20of%20appeal>> accessed 20 March 2023

5 Ani Comfort Chinyere, 'Access to Justice in Nigerian Criminal and Civil Justice Systems' <<https://legalpediaonline.com/access-to-justice-in-nigerian-criminal-and-civil-justice-systems/>> accessed 20 March 2023

6 See UNDP definition of access to justice Available at:
<<http://www.undp.or.id/factsheets/2008/GOV%20Legal%20Empowerment>> accessed on 8 March 2023

Judicial Independence

Independence is defined by Black's Law Dictionary⁷ as the state or quality of being independent, especially a country's freedom to manage all its affairs, whether external or internal, without control by other countries. The word "Judiciary" has been defined⁸ as the system of court of justice in a country; it is the arm of Government charged with the administration of justice. The Judiciary is charged with the duty of interpreting the laws made by the legislature for the purpose of enforcement by the executive. The judiciary ensures that justice and fair play prevail and that individual rights as provided by applicable laws are protected.

In order to be able to perform this function, the judiciary must be independent and impartial; otherwise, justice will be relegated to the background. It is therefore pertinent that to achieve judicial independence, the judiciary and indeed all agents of government tasked with the responsibility of enforcing justice must be free from pressures and inducements.

International and Regional Legal Framework

Access to justice is an important human right that is upheld by various international and national laws. The requirement of an independent judiciary as well as an impartial court or tribunal is stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁹, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹⁰ as well as in regional treaties and conventions including the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights¹¹.

Furthermore, the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary¹² sets out the elements of the independence of the judiciary which must be guaranteed by the State and enshrined in the Constitution or the law of any country. These elements recognize that the judiciary must decide matters impartially based on facts and the application of the law, without any restrictions or improper influence, inducement, pressure, threats, or interference. The courts themselves shall decide whether they have jurisdiction to hear a matter. There must be no unwarranted interference with the judicial

7 Garner A. B, Black's Law Dictionary, 8th Edition, West Publishing Co. 2004, p. 785.

8 Bouvier's Law Dictionary 3rd Edition at p. 1756.

9 See Article 10

10 See Article 14

11 See Article 14

12 This was adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held at Milan in 1985) and endorsed by General Assembly Resolutions 40/32 and 40/146 of (13 December 1985) <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/independencejudiciary.aspx>> accessed 14 March 2023

process, including the assignment of Judges by the other branches of government.

Domestic Legal Framework

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) guarantees that the independence, impartiality and integrity of the courts of law and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained in all circumstances.¹³

The Administration of Criminal Justice Act

The Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) was enacted in 2015 with the purpose of ensuring that the system of administration of criminal justice in Nigeria promotes efficient management of criminal justice institutions, speedy dispensation of justice, protection of the society from crime and protection of the rights and interests of the suspect, the defendant, and the victim.¹⁴ The Act has also put in place measures to ensure a rapid trial, including the elimination of stay of proceedings, the implementation of day-to-day trials, and short deadlines for the assignment of information and issuance of trial notices. These provisions have helped to reduce delays caused by interlocutory applications and other such applications which slow down trial.

Notable Reforms

It is standard that states have to address all legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of its citizenry, including the right to access justice. In Nigeria, the case is not different as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) stipulates, under section, that ... The following notable reforms have been carried out in implementation of this provision.

Over the years, the National Human Rights Commission has authorized and held inquiries to investigate allegations of systematic violations of human rights against Federal Government Agencies and Security Forces in parts of Nigeria. This was conducted with the full support of the government and security agencies. These panels of inquiries have addressed cases of human rights violations and brutality by the Police and afforded many citizens an opportunity at accessing justice for wrongdoing suffered in relation to violations of human rights. One of such panels was The Independent Investigative Panel on Alleged Human Rights Violations by SARS and other Units of the Nigeria Police

13 Section 17(2) (e) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

14 Section 1, Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015

Force from 2020 to 2022. Based on the recommendations of the Panel, the Commission paid a total of ₦438, 884,094 (Four Hundred and Thirty-eight Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty-four Thousand, Ninety four naira) as compensation to 100 petitioners who suffered various human rights violations. The Panel also recommended a number of police personnel for prosecution; dismissal; disciplinary actions and demotion.

Challenges Impeding Access to Justice in Nigeria

Despite the existence of these laws and reforms, many Nigerians are unable to acquire access due to a variety of obstacles, including g: appointment and removal of Judicial Officers and Judicial Staff - To establish a vibrant judiciary, care must be made in the selection or appointment process from the start. Only highly qualified, competent, ethical, and clever men and women should be hired. Individual and institutional freedom from interference with judicial authorities – justice must not only be done, but it must also be seen to be done. Other branches of government use intimidation and lawlessness. To remain just, the courts must not be swayed or appear to be influenced by outside forces.

Despite the availability of these laws and reforms, many individuals in Nigeria are unable to gain access due to various barriers including Corruption.

Some of the Complaints Received by the Commission in relation to Access to Justice and Independence of the Judiciary

C/ANS/SEZ /2022/28

The Commission received a complaint from Y dated 4th March, 2022 alleging that a co-tenant at his residence in Umuota Obosi hit him with plank because their landlord tried to evict him from his house after giving him six months quit notice with text while he is a yearly tenant. Y alleged that the co-tenant and landlord bribed senior Police officers and they turned the case against him. That the matter was charged to court but the Police failed to appear in court and the case was struck out. This and series of actions ensued including arson, intimidation, threat to life, and battery.

C/ANS/SEZ/22/20

The Commission received a complaint from Y on 9th February, 2022, alleging that on 8th February, 2021 after paying his Keke dues to operate at Zik's Avenue Awka, Anambra State with the Tricycle Owners Association Parkers Junction, off Zik's Ave, two young men blocked him, collected his money, destroyed his foot mat and one of them went away with it.

Conclusion and Recommendation

All things being equal, the Judiciary is the mighty fortress against tyrannous and oppressive laws and institutions.¹⁵ Its importance therefore cannot be over emphasized as the Nigerian Constitution rightly provides that the independence, impartiality and integrity of the courts of law and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained.¹⁶ Given the Nigerian context, this chapter believes the independence of the judiciary is almost a facade for most of the citizenry.

In conclusion, access to justice and an independent judiciary are essential components of a fair and just democratic society. It is important to ensure that the people have access to appropriate mechanisms of justice for the protection of their rights and freedoms and that justice is delivered in an impartial manner. This is because without access to justice, people cannot seek redress for a wrong or resolve a dispute. Without an independent judiciary, people cannot trust that their cases will be decided fairly and impartially. To ensure that these principles are upheld, the following recommendations are put forward for consideration:

- The implementation of mechanisms that advocate for greater transparency and accountability in the judicial system and strict sanctions for derogation of duty;
- Increase public awareness of the importance of access to justice and the independence of the judiciary;
- The government should support the development of legal aid programs and dispute resolution services offered by Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON) to ensure equitable access to justice;
- Strengthening the capacity of the judiciary through training and the provision of adequate resources;
- Government should be encouraged to implement policies that protect the independence of the judiciary and uphold the fundamental right of access to justice;
- The use of technology should be promoted in the judicial system to improve access to justice by expediting proceedings;
- Heavy investment in research and data collection to better understand the challenges related to access to justice and the independence of the judiciary. This will lead to informed interventions in this area.

15 Ibrahim Abdullahi, *Independence Of The Judiciary In Nigeria: A Myth Or Reality?* *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research* (IJPAMR), (Vol. 2, No 3, August, 2014 (Print) Ibrahim Abdullahi 2014, 2(3):55-66)

16 Section 17(2) (e) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Chapter 16

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By

Jennifer Suoyo Aga

Introduction

In Nigeria, human trafficking is a crime that infringes on a person's freedom of movement and involves the exploitation of persons, including children, young people, women and the elderly.

Human trafficking is regarded as a form of modern-day slavery, involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain and is a \$150 billion global industry.¹ Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. The traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.²

Conceptual and Clarification of Terms

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, in Article 3, gave a widely accepted definition of human trafficking as follows:

“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of

1 Pathfinders Justice initiatives. 'Nigeria: Human Trafficking factsheet' <https://pathfindersji.org/nigeria-human-trafficking-factsheet/> accessed 15 April 2023

2 UNODC 'Human Trafficking' <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html> accessed 12 April 2023

*others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs*³;

According to the above definition of the UN Convention against Transnational and Organized Crime, trafficking in persons has three elements: the Act of acquisition or movement (international or internal), the Means (coercion, whether by force, the abuse of power, or deception) and the Purpose (exploitation)⁴.

Trafficking is often understood primarily in relation to sex work but can also occur for a range of other exploitative activities including domestic servitude, forced labor, forced begging, or criminal activities such as pick-pocketing and the exploitation of children for benefit or fraud.⁵

In most developing nations of Africa, and Nigeria in particular, human trafficking has become one of the major concerns as youths comprising of girls, women and young men are used as commercial sex hawkers, domestic servants and mining laborers, in the case of young men for little or no pay and against their will in most cases. Despite Nigeria's abundance in natural resources, there are still a number of problems, including a lack of employment possibilities, social inequities, exclusion, and discrimination which has as result, made many people vulnerable to human trafficking⁶.

Human Trafficking is a major violation of human rights as it affects, among other things, the right to life, the dignity of the human person, the right to personal liberty, and the freedom to mobility. The victims of human trafficking are persons, having been moved from one place to another for exploitative benefits are not an exception to the general rule which states that all people, regardless of color, status, sex, tribe, or creed, are entitled to certain fundamental rights and as such need to be

3 Adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational and Organized Crime, and It entered into force on 25 December 2003

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx> accessed 13 April 2023

4 United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 'What is Human Trafficking?' <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html> accessed 12 April 2023

5 Akor, L., 'Trafficking of women in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and the Way Forward' (2011) 2(2) CORVINUS Journal of Sociology and Social Policy 89-110.

6 Jennifer Suoyo Aga (Deputy Director Legal National Human Rights Commission Nigeria) 2023

protected and their rights respected. It is important to note that the victims are not a criminal and should not be treated as such⁷.

Legal Framework

International instruments

Nigeria has ratified and signed several international treaties, associated with trafficking either directly or indirectly. These international human rights instruments prohibit human trafficking, some of which include:

1. United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁸
2. Convention on the Rights of the Child⁹
3. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)¹⁰

Regional instruments:

1. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)¹¹
2. The Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (1981)¹²
3. The Declaration and Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2001) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)¹³

Domestic Instruments:

Nigeria is said to be the leading nation in the fight against human trafficking in the African continent. This is in relation to the fact that Nigeria is one of the countries with a high number of citizens trafficked out of its shores. Nigeria was the first African country to enact anti-trafficking legislation in 2003 and to establish a dedicated anti-trafficking agency. This was a result of efforts by the Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) to expose the crime in Nigeria and engineer the passing of an Act of parliament that established the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other

7 Jennifer Suoyo Aga(Deputy Director Legal National Human Rights Commission Nigeria)2023

8 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted 10 December 1948) UNGA Res. 217 A (III) (UDHR)

9 Convention on the Right of the Child (adopted 20 November 1989, entered into force 2 September 1990) 1577 UNTS 3 (CRC).

10 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (adopted 18th December 1979, entered into force 3rd September 1981)

11 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)

12 Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (1981)

13 Declaration and Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (2001)

Related Matters (NAPTIP)¹⁴. The Agency is the Federal Government of Nigeria's response to addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons. It is a fulfillment of the country's international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC)¹⁵. The National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic Persons and other related matters has the highest number of successful prosecutions in Africa in this regard.¹⁶

The essence of enacting municipal and domestic instruments is to prevent trafficking in persons, punish traffickers and to protect the rights of victims of trafficking. These instruments include:

1. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria¹⁷
2. Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administrative Act 2003¹⁸
3. Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015¹⁹
4. Child's Rights Act 2003 and Laws in the states²⁰

There are a number of agencies in Nigeria with mandates relating to human trafficking. These agencies work in collaboration with the lead Agency, NAPTIP, towards curbing the crime of human trafficking and also ensuring the protection of victims of this crime mostly through the referral system. Some such agencies are the National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Civil Defense Corps, Nigeria Police Force, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigerian in Diaspora Commission, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs²¹.

14 Angela Aleakhue Agboyekhai *THE MIRACLE: A Gut Wrenching Experience of a Trafficked Girl* (3rd edn Topaz Publishing House 2016)

15 Jennifer Suoyo Aga (Deputy Director Legal Vulnerable Groups Department NHRC) 19th April 2023

16 T Thipanyane, 'Human Trafficking: African Perspective' Jurist Legal News and Research (22 March 2015) <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2015/03/tseliso-thipanyane-trafficking-africa/> accessed 9 May 2023

17 The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended)

18 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administrative Act 2003
19

20 Child's rights Act 2003 and Laws in the states

21 Jennifer Suoyo Aga (Deputy Director Legal Vulnerable Groups Department NHRC) 19th April 2023

Some of the Complainants received by the Commission in relation to Human Trafficking are as follows:

C/2022/CPR/6473-6484/BAU

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th December 2022 from X alleging abduction of her husband by Y.

C/2022/019/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February 2022 from X alleging that on August 2016 around 10:00 am, her husband, who is a Police officer left for Gombe State to visit his sick father and since then, his whereabouts have remained unknown. X further claimed that it had been alleged that her husband had been abducted.

C/DSO/2021/27

The commission received a complaint dated 14th February 2022 from XY on behalf of X, his daughter, alleging that X's uncle had connived with a police officer to traffick X from Asaba to Kano on 2nd February 2022. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

C/EBO/214

The commission received a complaint dated 5th January 2022 from XY alleging that X was murdered on the 19th November 2021, the same night her husband was unlawfully arrested and detained for three days by officers of central Police station CPS Abakaliki on 19th November 2021.

Conclusion

Human trafficking exists both inside and outside Nigeria's borders, and has serious ramifications for both the present and future of the country, particularly for women and children. Nigeria serves as a country of origin, transit, and destination for victims of human trafficking. This harsh, inhumane, and demeaning act burdens its victims with physical and psychological damage from which they may never fully recover. To put an end to the problem, all parties involved must work together in the fight against this crime and for the protection of victims of human trafficking.

Recommendations

The Following Recommendations are made as follows:

The government of Nigeria has done a lot in the area of preventing trafficking in persons and also in prosecuting traffickers. This has been done through collaborations between Nigeria and other countries. The NATIP has made a name and is recognized for its commendable efforts and achievements in this area. However, a lot still has to be done in the

arrest and prosecution of traffickers, not minding their status in society, creation of awareness of the signs of trafficking and protecting victims of trafficking, bearing in mind that they are victims and not criminals. It is important for the sake of social inclusion to carry out massive enlightenment against discrimination and stigmatization of the victims and survivors as these are some of the reasons that make them want to migrate to a society where they feel more accepted. Reintegration of victims of trafficking into society after proper psycho-social support must be carried out and should be ensured by the government because a victim who has been properly reintegrated is not likely to fall victim again. In achieving this, a human rights-based approach should be used at all levels of any anti-trafficking strategy, including the treatment of the victims and saviours.

Furthermore, the government of Nigeria should ensure that its citizens have and enjoy the basic amenities, a safe and secure environment and fundamental rights without discrimination. These are all attributes of good governance and are reasons given by the victims of TIP for migrating in search of "Greener Pastures". The Nigerian government should take intentional steps to eradicate poverty and unemployment, as this will ultimately reduce brain drain and citizens wanting to leave the country at all costs. The government should do more to implement the laws that they have acceded to, especially human rights laws. The complaint was admitted for investigation and intervention.

Chapter 17

SELECTION OR ELECTION: THE NIGERIAN QUESTION

By

Thomas Ateda A^{*1}.

Introduction

Nigeria experienced the rebirth of civilian government and resumed leadership with President Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999 after an extensive military rule. Till date, Nigeria has had the longest era of successive democratic rule, ever experienced in the Country. Democracy is touted to be, the will of the people, for the people but this collective will by the people, is habitually seen to be subverted and abused, with the resultant effect, that the idealistic dividend of democracy falls below the expectations of citizens, who have insistently kept faith in the democratic process. It can safely be assumed that Nigeria has never held a transparent and accountable election, since the rebirth of the 1999 democratic process in the Country. Elections are now characterized by systematic vote buying/selling, violence, intimidation and corruption at all levels. This act is perpetuated by both the electoral umpires and the electorates, thereby instituting an obnoxious method of governance through the years. As the election approaches, the onus is on the Federal Government (FG) and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to safeguard established electoral mechanisms, put in place to actualize the aspirations of citizens, that their vote remains sacrosanct and will be upheld in the electoral process.

The nontolerance to radical standards needs to be emphatically checkmated by the authorities because of the persistent actions of political heads, who have openly intimidated their electorate and others, to vote for their preferred candidate or face harassment by their political thugs. Federal Government needs to without bias, investigate, prosecute and hold accountable, sponsors of political violence in elections. The basic foundation of an election is to be free, transparent and accountable. INEC on its part, needs to ensure that the issuance of the permanent voters card, should be made stress-free and obtained by interested electorates. In addition, relevant stakeholders should embarked on massive advocacy and campaign, for people to be reenlightened and advocated on the advantage of coming out to perform

1 Thomas Ateda A., National Human Rights Commission

their civic responsibility that will count, given the established parameters outlined by FG and INEC. Most importantly, the enlightenment process should be inclusive.

This collective action will convince the electorate that the era of selecting or assigning candidates forcefully approved against their choice, by political leaders will not be tolerated. This will ultimately put pay to the Nigeria social construct, that voting is no longer by election but rather by selection. The subject matter, Election or Selection is coined by social observers in the unfolding political drama in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms

Election involves voting into office, aspirants that are vying for substantive positions in publicized seats or vacancy. This selection process is normally carried out by registered electorates of political parties, which require the use of voter's cards, as a tool to express their franchise in the electoral process. Election is majorly viewed as the legitimate means, by which the authentic choice of the people is upheld.

The word "Selection" was coined from social expression in recent state of affairs in Nigeria whereby, against the people choice, a favorable candidate by self-acclaimed kingmaker in a political party, with his vast human and capital resources, manouver their anointed candidate, to occupy a certain position, bypassing and subverting all required processes against the actual wish of voters. Selection methodology is always gravitated towards inducement of the electorate to sway their mindset from their preferred choice. Monetary gains or assigning of political appointments are some of the methods used to achieve this untoward menace.

The Nigeria political ecosystem has been plagued with mixtures of selective tendencies to favor some aspirants against others. Selection as against election is characterized by greed, corruption and feeding of egotists urge by self-acclaimed political godfathers. This selection is forcibly impressed on the masses despite large outcry of protest and criticism. Selections have political dissidents, who are not after the general wellbeing of the democratic process but rather the dominance and establishment of their political party in the country. This act is counterproductive.

The difference between the two subjective matters, is that, with regards to *Selection*, the electorate will vote for their personal gains, while in *Election*, the electorates will vote for their conscience. It is a constant fight between subjection and competency. It can be seen that the characteristic of *Selection* tendencies, are focused on voting for party, pride, and religion as against that of *Election*, which focuses on voting for personalities, dignity, integrity, good governance, competence and capacity which are idealistic criterias desirable for progressive

change and development of any country. Nigeria is made up of diverse groups, with its attendant culture, tradition and religion, so all aspects of inclusion should be the ultimate aspiration of the political contenders rather than the selective selfish tendencies habitually perpetuated in Nigeria's successive democratic dispensations.

Legal Framework

²Election in Nigeria is governed by international, regional and national legal instruments to which it is signatory to including covenants, charters and treaties amongst which are:

International

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966

Article 25 states: "Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions: a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives; b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors; c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country".

Regional

At the regional level Nigeria is a party to the following:

1. African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, 2007
Article 17 says "*State Parties re-affirm their commitment to regularly hold transparent, free and fair elections in accordance with the Union's Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa*"
2. ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Governance

National

On the domestic front, the most vital laws which govern elections in Nigeria are:

1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999

2 Thomas Ateda A, 'Election and Political Participation' in Tony Ojukwu and Okay Benedict Agu (eds), 2021 Human Rights Situation Assessment in Nigeria State of Human Rights in Nigeria (2022) 281

2. The Electoral Amendment Act 2022
3. The INEC Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections 2019

The Electoral Amendment Act 2022 was recently signed on 25th February 2022 by President Muhammadu Buhari. The Amended Act has the sole mandate to regulate the conduct of Federal, State and Area Council elections. The Act makes available a better electoral process for Nigerians if implemented accurately. It promises amongst other new provisions, to transmit results electronically, which will help curtail doubt about the credibility of election results. Other notable provisions in the new laws are:

1. Section 3(3): Early Release of Funds To INEC
2. Section 29(1): Early Conduct of Party Primaries And Submission of Candidates' List
3. Section 29(5): Candidates To Seek Judicial Review of False Information
4. Sections 47 & 50(2): Legitimization of E-Voting/Transmission of Result
5. Section 84(12): Political Appointee Not Eligible As Voting Delegate or Aspirant
6. Section 65: Review of Election Results Declared Under Duress

It is worthy of note that, citizens have shown that they lack trust in elections and hence refuse participation in major political activities in Nigeria. There has been a steady decline in people carrying out their election duties as a result of numerous abnormalities inherent in the democratic process. The National Population Commission estimates that Nigerians are over 215,000,000 (Two hundred and fifteen million) and only a total of ³73,528,040 voters were registered in the 2011 Presidential Election, which represents only 36% of the population. INEC is checkmating this lack of interest by ⁴Section 10 of the Nigeria Electoral Act 2022 in:

(2) Each applicant for registration under the continuous registration system shall appear in person at the registration venue with any of the following documents:-

- (a) birth certificate;
- (b) national passport, identity card or driver's license; or

3 NBS Index of pdf uploads <<https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/>> accessed 22 August 2022

4 Hub AL, 'Section 9-15 Nigeria Electoral Act 2022' (LawGlobal Hub, 20 March 2022) <<https://www.lawglobalhub.com/section-9-15-nigeria-electoral-act-2022/>> accessed 22 August 2022

- (c) any other document that will prove the identity, age and nationality of the applicant.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Electorates as a point of duty, refuse to be enticed with immediate gratification by political bigot, because the adverse and subsequent effects will amount to choosing the wrong person for the job and suffering the consequence of that singular, blinded action for the duration of the enforced political appointment. Electorates should endeavor not to sell their vote for pittance because this action of theirs keeps them under the leash of political strategist.

Politicians on their part should refrain from causing apathy, violence and gratuitously subverting the legal method of the political process. They should ensure the rule of law is adhered to for transparency and integrity purposes. The credibility of the electoral processes should be strictly adhered to as well. Erring members of political parties who do not conform to these tenets should be appropriately dealt as outlined in the legal instruments, which will be as an example for others to detest from such untoward activities.

The Federal Government and the INEC should as a matter of urgency, put into effect their laws so that anyone contravening the set standards, should be adequately dealt with publicly, without fear or favor, to demonstrate as a deterrent, for anyone who engages in such activities that the collective will of the people remains sacrosanct. In addition, voter's registration and issuance of cards should be made more accessible. When eventually the elections are held, the results from each polling units should be publicly announced and same figures transmitted and maintained for onward collation in the approved centers for accountability and confidence building purposes.

Chapter 18

THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

By

Oluchi Y. Adieze¹

Introduction

Persons with disabilities have over the years been viewed differently, particularly in the developing countries where series of human rights abuses and violations are meted out on them. The maxim 'different but equal' clearly simplifies the definition of human rights as disability issues in Nigeria are speedily gaining attention of the government as well as individuals and cooperate bodies. It is also slowly trickling into government polices and legislations, for example, the passage of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 also known as Disability Rights Act, the establishment of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities among others corroborate the above statement and have brought respite for persons with disabilities from years of discrimination and stigmatization.

Consequently, the Disability Rights Act has provisions for full integration of persons with disabilities into the society². Although, Nigeria is yet to have an accurate data on population of persons with disabilities which is approximately 29 million as of 2018³, the forthcoming 2023 population census is expected to present a near accurate data of persons with disabilities in Nigeria. According to National Population Commission, there have been introductions and modifications in the Census questionnaire on disability. For instance, the title 'persons living with disabilities' was replaced with persons having difficulties in performing certain tasks as it was done in line with the Washington DC recommendation⁴. Also introduced into the questionnaires are albinism and speech. While reviewing the state of human rights of persons with disabilities for year 2022, not much had been reported in the area of

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- 1 Oluchi Y. Adieze, Focal Person on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the National Human Rights Commission, Abuja, Nigeria
 - 2 Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018
 - 3 World Bank Group, Open Knowledge Repository '*Report, Disability Inclusion in Nigeria: A Rapid*' Assessment<<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34073>> accessed 14 August 2022
 - 4 National Population Commission, *2023 Census* <<https://www.nationalpopulation.gov.ng/2023-census.html>> accessed 12 October 2022

disability inclusion and implementation of Disability Rights Act, however, mainstreaming disability in some policy documents of government and cooperate entities such as clause 54 in the Electoral Act, 2022 is a huge feat for the disability community. Nevertheless, the National Human Rights Commission received complaints on human rights violations of persons with disabilities which bordered mainly on discrimination in the year under review. This chapter seeks to examine the state of human rights of persons with disabilities in Nigeria for year 2022.

Conceptual Clarification of Terms/Definition

Disability is defined as a condition or function judged to be significantly impaired, relative to the usual standard of an individual or group⁵. Persons with disabilities-include those who have mental, physical, psycho-social, intellectual, neurological, developmental or other sensory impairments which in interaction with environmental, attitudinal or other barriers hinder their full and effective participation in the society on an equal basis with others.⁶ Accessibility refers to the ability to access on equal basis with others, physical facilities and services.

Disability Inclusion refers to the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all their diversity, the promotion of their rights and the consideration of disability-related perspectives, in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁷

Disability Mainstreaming is understood as a process of assessing and addressing the possible impact of any planned action on persons with disabilities⁸. It is a way to promote inclusion and to address the barriers that exclude persons with disabilities from the equal enjoyment of their human rights⁹.

The human rights model of disability is based on the human rights principles which views disability as part of human diversity that must be respected and supported in all its forms.

Discrimination on the basis of disability refers to distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of

5 Disabilities: *Types and Models*<<https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/types/><accessed on 14 July 2021

6 African Union ,African Charter on Human and People's Rights <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36440-treaty-protocol_to_the_achpr_on_the_rights_of_persons_with_disabilities_in_africa_e.pdf>accessed on 19 July 2021

7 United Nations, *United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy* https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/assets/documentation/UN_Disability_Inclusion_Strategy_english.pdf accessed 19 July 2021

8 UNRWA, *Promoting the Rights of persons with disabilities* https://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/disability/3_disability_mainstreaming.pdf accessed 19 July 2021

9 *Ibid.*

impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation¹⁰.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Human Rights are interdependent, interrelated, indivisible among others. Therefore, the enjoyment of one right depends on the other. The human rights model which focuses on the human rights principles, advocates inclusion and mainstreaming of disability in policies and legislation ensuring it is respected and supported in all its forms. In the year under review, the state of human rights with respect to disability inclusion and mainstreaming were fairly all right compared to the previous year.

However, implementation has remained a huge challenge; considering that year 2024 will be the 5th year of the passage of the Disability Rights Act and the end of the moratorium for the full compliance with the Act. However, so far, there are still 17 States left to domesticate the Disability Rights Act. Below are some of the areas to be considered in this chapter for the period under review.

Right to Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities

The year 2022 was a defining moment for the disability community in Nigeria with respect to their right to political participation. Persons with disabilities had long been excluded in the electoral and voting processes in Nigeria.

The Electoral Act under Section 54 (1)(2) provide as follows

- (1) *A Voter with visual impairment or other form of disability who is otherwise unable to distinguish symbol or who suffers from any other physical disability may be accompanied into the polling unit by a person chosen by him or her and that person shall, after informing the Presiding officer of the disability, be permitted to accompany the voter into the voting compartment and assist the voter to make his or her mark in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Commission.*
- (2) *The Commission shall take reasonable steps to ensure that persons with disabilities, special needs and vulnerable persons are assisted at the polling place by the provision of*

10 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol <<https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>> accessed 20 July 2021

suitable means of communication, such as Braille, large embossed print, electronic devices, sign language interpretation, or offsite voting in appropriate cases¹¹.

Although the Disability Rights Act and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) have provided for political participation of persons with disabilities under Part VI, Section 30 (1) *stipulates that persons with disabilities shall be encouraged to fully participate in politics and public life¹²*, and Article 29 '(a) *Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected...¹³*, respectively. However, the Electoral Act has further provided an enabling environment for persons with disabilities full participation in electoral and voting processes.

Right to Work

No significant increase in the employment of persons with disabilities by both government and private sector has been recorded in the year under review. The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 under Part VI, Section 28 provides that:

A person with disability has the right to work on an equal basis with others and this includes right to equal opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment open¹.

Moreover, S .29 provides that “*all employers of labour in public organizations shall, as much as possible, have persons with disabilities constituting at least 5% of employment*”. Sadly, persons with disabilities do not constitute 5% of employees in most organizations as they continue to experience frequent denial of job opportunities. For instance, the Commission is handling a complaint received in December 2022 from a person with disability, whose employment in a private sector was terminated without any cogent reason, termination letter or compensation¹⁴. Although there are no precise data on the employment of PWDs, there is however, under-employment and underrepresentation of PWDs in the labour market. To further buttress this statement, the

11 Electoral Act 2022

12 Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018

13 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 29 (a) < [http; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | OHCHR](http://Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | OHCHR)>accessed 20 June 2021

14 C/2022/VG/3986/HQ/V1 National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria

Commission also received a complaint from the Association of Technology Inclined Visually Impaired Persons in Nigeria (ATVIPN) against the Ministries, Departments and Agencies over alleged non-compliance with 5% employment as provided in the Disability Rights Act¹⁵.

Rights to Education of Persons with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are entitled to right to education as other children without disabilities. The perception of families and teachers not foreseeing the necessity in educating children with disabilities still persists in the year under review which is a violation of the rights of the children to education as stipulated in Part I Section 2 of the Compulsory ,Free Universal Basic Education Act 2004 ‘ (2) *Every parent shall ensure that his child or ward attends and completes his – (a) primary school education; and (b) junior secondary school education, by endeavouring to send the child to primary and junior secondary schools*¹⁶.’, Child’s Right Act 2003, ‘ 15.-(1) *Every child has the right to free, compulsory and universal basic education and it shall be the duty of the Government in Nigeria to provide such education. (2) Every parent or guardian shall ensure that his child or ward attends and completes his- (a) primary school education; and (b) junior secondary education*¹⁷ and Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 28. Up until the time of this review, many Nigerian schools including institutions of higher learning are not yet accessible to persons and children with disabilities for inclusive education while others are still unwilling to accept children. A survey by Disability Rights Advocacy Centre shows that only about 8 schools in FCT have modified their schools so far¹⁸.

Right to Health

In the health sector, unavailability of sign language interpreters is a major challenge for the Deaf. Majority of the health facilities do not have sign language interpreters as the Deaf have narrated series of ordeal in the hands of health personnel. For instance, during one of the Vulnerable Groups Department’s outreaches in the year under review to the Disability Colony, Karamajiji, Federal Capital Territory, the women expressed dissatisfaction with the deplorable state of the health centre, the dilapidated structure that was not accessible to persons with physical

15 ATVIPN C/2022/VG/3066/HQ, National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria

16 Compulsory ,Free Universal Basic Education Act 2004

17 Child’s Right Act 2003

18 DRAC, *Facts and*

Figures<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://drac-ng.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Facts-and-Figures.pdf> accessed 20 November 2021

disability, unavailability of sign language interpreters, insufficient drugs and inadequate health personnel for pre and post natal care.

However, through the National Human Rights Commission's intervention, relevant stakeholders were alerted and the Health Centre was renovated and made accessible to persons with disabilities and was commissioned in the year under review. For persons with albinism who are prone to skin cancer and other health challenges, the exorbitant prices of the (Sun protection factor) SPF sunscreen creams and treatment of skin cancer remain a challenge and pose a great danger to health of persons with albinism.

Barriers Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria

With less than 24 months to the expiration of the moratorium in compliance with the Disability Rights Act, there still exist barriers such as inaccessible physical facilities, transportation, healthcare, education, unavailability of assistive devices, lack of means of communication, discrimination, prejudice and stigma. Other barriers include the misconception about disability and the narrative of persons with disabilities as not possessing intellectual capabilities. In the year under review persons with disabilities expressed sadness during one of the Vulnerable Groups Department of the Commission's outreach over being underrated, neglected and relegated.

Structural limitations are huge challenge for persons with physical disabilities in accessing public buildings and vehicles due to unavailability of ramps and lifts. For instance, since the passage of the Disability Rights Act, findings from Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) 2022 research reveal that the major challenge for persons with disabilities in accessing public institutions and buildings bordered on unavailability of assistive devices, poor access to building and rude staff¹⁹. Other challenges highlighted particularly in accessing transportation include denial of access, denial of sitting opportunities, outright victimization and communication issues, challenges related to transporters' brazen disregard of the law, refusal to onboard wheelchairs, and imposition of separate luggage-type payment for wheelchairs²⁰. Nevertheless, an enormous effort by Centre for Ability Rehabilitation and Empowerment (CARE) to remove all barriers in

19 Centre for Citizens with Disabilities, *Our Nigeria: Our Disability Report 2022, An Assessment of the implementation and compliance with the National Disability Law*,

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B1AFAZuyQ-kwu5CIJSNDov7PAq7AGN8_/view
accessed 12 December July 2021

20 *Ibid.*

accessing air transportation and other means transportation for persons with disabilities in Nigeria is laudable²¹.

Further, the unavailability of signs, sign language interpreters, brails and tactile at various public and private organizations create huge barriers for persons with disabilities to have access to communication, thereby depriving them opportunities and services for their full participation in the society. In addition the unavailability of bolder imprints for persons with albinism is another barrier to access communication. All these barriers need to be eliminated for the full enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities.

Legal Framework

International

In addition to other instruments that Nigeria is signatory to, Nigeria signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol on 30th March, 2007 and 24th September, 2010 respectively.

Regional

In the year under review, the National Human Rights Commission in partnership with the SightSavers and other relevant stakeholders pushed for the signing of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Nigeria. As earlier discussed in previous years, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the year under review is yet to be adopted by Nigeria and other major Member States. The Protocol will provide protection of persons with disabilities including women and children from harmful traditional practices such as witchcraft, abandonment, concealment, ritual killings or the association of disability with omens in this region. This report reiterates the importance of signing and ratification of the Protocol by Nigeria and other African countries.

Domestic

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) guarantees the enjoyment of rights in Chapter II and IV to citizens inclusive of persons with disabilities. The Constitution though not specific on the protection of rights of persons with disabilities, however, under Section 42 (2) provides '*No citizen of Nigeria shall be subjected to any disability or deprivation merely by reason of the circumstances of his birth*'.

21 CARE Nigeria<<https://carenigeria.org.ng/>> accessed 8 November 2022

Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018

This signing of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 into Law, by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019 was a milestone for the disability community. However, the compliance and implementation have been a major challenge to the full enjoyment of the provisions in the Act. Various barriers still exist in the year under review in accessing healthcare, transportation, education, employment, information amongst others.

Human Rights Violations of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In the year under review, there were significant shift in human rights violations of persons with disabilities compared to year 2021. Notwithstanding, human rights violations were also reported. Beside the aforementioned human rights violations in this report, other human rights violations received by the National Human Rights Commission include alleged discrimination on grounds of disability whereby a complainant alleged that a State government in the northwest of Nigeria stopped his allowance when he became blind due to retinal detachment²².

Notably, through the Commission's intervention, the complainant was reinstated. Other complaints include alleged denial of access to sim registration by network providers to a Blind man²³ and alleged violation and denial to rights to inheritance of a person with disability²⁴

Sexual and Gender Based violence and Gender Discrimination

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and gender discrimination are issues that this part of the region is contending with particularly, against women and girls with disabilities as it is often underreported due to stigmatization.

It will be recalled that the National Human Rights Commission set up an SGBV Panel in 2019 that ended with series of awards and compensation for survivors and families of victims. In the year under review some of the complaints and cases of gender discrimination and violations against women with disabilities were reported.

SGBV cases recorded were quite high in the first quarter of the year under review as revealed by the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, Chief Tony Ojukwu (SAN, OFR) *“that in January alone the Commission has received so many complaints of heinous acts of human rights abuse meted on women and children*

22 C/2022/VG/3232/HQ National Human Rights Commission

23 C/2022/VG/2498/HQ/V1 National Human Rights Commission

24 C/2022/VG/3070/HQ National Human Rights Commission

across the country, “and we are just in the first month of the year, this is alarming”²⁵.

However, only a few was reported for women and girls with disabilities. To this end, the Commission in the period under review is working towards developing a short code in April 2023 that will serve as easy access to the Commission and other relevant stakeholders on complaints on human rights violations, particularly for SGBV complaints. Towards the tail end of the year under review, the Chief of Defence, General Luky Irabor during his visit to the Commission, expressed the Nigerian Armed Forces’ readiness for any probe into Sexual and Gender Based Violence allegations of abortion of pregnancies, infanticide and other forms of SGBV while fighting insurgency in the North east by Reuters²⁶. According to the Executive Secretary, Chief Tony Ojukwu (SAN, OFR), the Commission, in an effort to unravel the truth will constitute a Special Independent Investigative Panel on Human Rights Violations in the Implementation of Counter Insurgency Operations in the North East (SIIP-North East) in 2023 to probe the allegations.

Conclusion

The state of human rights of persons with disabilities in the year under review is adjudged relatively fair in the area of protection while much is needed in the promotion and awareness creation on the rights of persons with disabilities. Therefore, the National Human Rights Commission being an institution saddled with the mandate to promote, protect and enforce human rights including rights of persons with disabilities and pursuant to Article 33 of the CRPD is enjoined to create awareness on disability inclusion and rights protection while reaffirming that the rights of persons with disabilities are human rights.

Recommendation

The Following Recommendations are made as follows:

Awareness creation on the rights of persons with disabilities at the State level is highly recommended.

25 Tony Ojukwu SAN ‘ Stop Killing Women and Children, They need the Most Protection’(National Human Rights Commission)
<<https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng/nhrc-media/news-and-events/258-stop-killing-women-and-children-they-need-the-most-protection-ujukwu-san.html>> accessed 26 January 2022

26 Tony Ojukwu SAN ‘ NHRC will probe alleged abortion of pregnancies by millitary’(National Human Rights Commission)
<<https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng/nhrc-media/news-and-events/403-nhrc-will-probe-alleged-abortion-of-pregnancies-by-miitary-ujukwu.html>> accessed 30 December 2022

Establishment of a Protection Task force with relevant stakeholders is of paramount importance considering the fact that 2024 ends the 5 years moratorium for compliance with the Act.

Intensified efforts are also needed for the enactment of the Disability Rights laws at the State level considering that 17 States are yet to domesticate the Act.

Chapter 19

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

By

Onyinye Sandra Onyia ^{*1}

Introduction

Business and Human Rights is a critical issue in today's globalized world, where companies are often multinational and have far-reaching impacts on their local communities. Nigeria as one of the largest economies in Africa has, over the years, witnessed significant growth in the business sector. However, this growth has not been without its challenges, considering that there have been reports² of businesses engaging in practices that infringe on human rights. This has prompted the need for a framework that clarifies the legal obligations and responsibilities of businesses in relation to human rights.

This chapter aims to provide a conceptual and legal framework for understanding Business and Human Rights in Nigeria. The chapter will assess the legal frameworks that presently operate at the international level such as the United Nations Guiding Principles and other such guidelines that have been drafted by organisations such as the International Labour Organisation's Tripartite Declaration, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, etc. and, at the regional level, the the Business and Human Rights (BHR) Africa Project established by the African Union with the assistance of the UN.

For the domestic/municipal legal framework, this chapter will analyse existing policies and regulations in Nigeria that support the protection of human rights by businesses as well as case studies of specific businesses that have been accused of infringing on human rights in Nigeria. In the same vein, this chapter will also examine the non-justiciability of Chapter II of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended which provides for basic rights such as the right to a healthy environment.

Also, in view of the alarming trend of modern slavery and human rights violations by security personnel, Lebanese, as well as Chinese nationals in residential and commercial settings around the country, this

1 Corp Member serving with National Human Rights Commission, Batch 2023/2024

2 ICJ, 'Nigeria: human rights abuses involving corporations' (*International Commission of Jurists*, 20 February 2012) <<https://www.icj.org/access-to-justice-human-rights-abuses-involving-corporations/>> accessed 7 May 2023

chapter will further emphasize the significance of respecting human rights in business operations by all parties concerned.

Finally, this chapter will provide much-needed recommendations for local/foreign companies and state/federal governments to ensure that human rights are protected in the context of business activities in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarifications

Business and Human Rights is a complex and multidisciplinary field that requires a clear understanding of the terms used in the discourse. In this section, a conceptual clarification of key terms, drawing definitions from existing literature will be provided. By defining these key terms, we can better understand the complex relationship between business operations and the protection and promotion of human rights, and the legal and policy frameworks required to guarantee accountability.

Business

The term "business" refers to any organization engaged in economic activity. This includes corporations, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trade unions, or any other entity that participates in the production of goods and services. Business activities can include a wide range of activities, from marketing and advertising to production and distribution, to research and development. Small and medium-sized businesses, state-owned businesses, and transnational corporations are all considered business enterprises under the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.³

Human Rights

The term "human rights" refers to those rights that are inherent to all human beings, regardless of their nationality, race, gender, religion, or any other status. These include civil and political rights, such as the right to freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, such as the right to education and the right to adequate housing. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights defines human rights as universal and inalienable, indivisible and interdependent.⁴

3 United Nations, 'Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework' (2011) A/HRC/17/31
<https://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinessshr_en.pdf> accessed 16 February 2023.

4 United Nations, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' (1948)
<<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>> accessed 16 February 2023.

Business and Human Rights

Business and Human Rights refers to the relationship between business operations and protecting and promoting human rights. This concept is based on the notion that businesses should be held accountable for their actions and that they have a responsibility to respect and protect human rights, not just in their operations but also in their global supply chain. The United Nations Guiding Principles define Business and Human Rights as the responsibilities of business enterprises to respect human rights, and the duty of States to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business enterprises.⁵ This means that businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, including the rights of their workers, customers, and the communities in which they operate. It also means that businesses can have an impact on human rights, either positively or negatively, and that they should take steps to avoid causing harm and address any negative impacts that may occur.

The concept of Business and Human Rights has gained significant attention in recent years as the global economy has become increasingly interconnected. This has led to a growing awareness of the role that businesses can play in promoting human rights and the need for a legal and policy framework to ensure that businesses are held accountable for any violations of human rights that may occur in the course of business-related activities.

Legal Framework of Business and Human Rights

International Framework

Over time, several international organizations have developed principles, norms and guidelines to govern compliance with human rights in business settings. The first of these series of instruments was established by the United Nations (UN) to regulate the human rights obligations and functions of business enterprises.

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights is the first international norm for both governments and corporations that regulates the prohibition, interrogation, and resolution of infringements on human rights in commercial enterprises. It was formulated by the UN Human Rights Council led by the late John Ruggie. The UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights was also created under the same resolution.

The UN Guiding Principles are built on three tenets – Protect, Respect, and Remedy. It is the duty of the state to protect, whereas corporate enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights and avenues to remedy infringements of human rights in business-related circumstances. It is as a result of these principles that governments, businesses, and other stakeholders are equipped with the tools to

5 *Ibid* (n 1)

appreciate the legal frameworks in business that enhance the observance and safeguarding of human rights in corporate settings.

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework is the cornerstone of the UN’s initiatives in business and human rights. This provides the groundwork for the UN to ensure the implementation of these principles.

Several legal frameworks on business and human rights have been established by other international organisations in addition to those developed by the UN such as the Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, first adopted in 1977, sets out principles and guidelines for multinational enterprises (MNEs), governments, and employers' and workers' organizations to promote social progress and improve the working conditions of workers in the context of global economic integration. These principles advocate for non-discrimination, that MNEs should provide opportunities for employment, not use forced labor and child labor, freedom of association and collective bargaining, employment security, training and education, occupational health and safety, compensation, and social dialogue. MNEs should not discriminate against workers on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, provide opportunities for employment, training, and career advancement for all workers, and not employ children in any work that deprives them of education, health, and safety.

Other guidelines in this regard include the UN Global Compact, the ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW), ISO 26000, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the EU CSR Communication (2011), all of which incorporate corporate social responsibility and the fundamental human rights that businesses should respect and uphold, including the right to freedom of association, the right to just and favourable working conditions, and the right to health and safety.

Regional Framework of Business and Human Rights

On the regional front, the African Union (AU) has developed a policy document which, though still in draft form, is sufficient to serve as the regional legal guidelines for the observation of human rights and preservation of the environment by business enterprises in Africa.⁶ It is

⁶ R Adeola, 'Why the African Union must press ahead with a business and human rights policy' (*The Conversation*, 8 May 2017) <<https://theconversation.com/why-333>>

expected to be formally adopted very soon. Nevertheless, the policies espoused in this document have gained notoriety and are gradually becoming norms in countries that adopted the UNGPs.

The adoption of the UNGPs and the formulation of these principles in Africa was a call for redemption necessitated by the presence of multinational extractive and manufacturing corporations and the effects of their business activities in Africa, where most of the world depends on for minerals such as crude oil and gold like in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, and South Africa.⁷

The AU developed the Business and Human Rights (BHR) Africa Project with the aim of initiating deliberate and operative BHR engagement, promoting the adoption of BHR standards, and ensuring transparency in the restriction of human rights infringements of business enterprises in Africa.⁸ To this end, the African Business and Human Rights Forum was hosted in Ghana where stakeholders addressed the key issues that affect human rights enforcement in Africa, per the third pillar of the UNGPs, which is Remedy.

African nations have embarked on implementation initiatives subsequent to the adoption of the UNGPs and the further formulation of a national action plan in accordance with the universal principles espoused in the UNGPs. East African countries like Uganda, Mozambique, and Liberia have advanced these initiatives through the support of the East African Regional Office by hosting sub-regional NAP debates.

Domestic Framework of Business and Human Rights in Nigeria

The governing document on human rights in Nigeria is the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended. Chapters II and IV of the Constitution provide for the protection of fundamental rights, in compliance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which serves as a global guide. Businesses are obligated to actively and effectively support the advancement of human rights in order to advance the ecosystem of

the-african-union-must-press-ahead-with-a-business-and-human-rights-policy-75712> accessed 13 March 2023.

7 O. Abe, *Implementing Business and Human Rights Norms in Africa* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group 2022) 20.

8 *Ibid* (n 4)

Nigerian society.⁹ Thus, businesses are naturally obligated to abide by human rights standards when conducting their business activities.¹⁰

In Nigeria, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with civil society organisations, has supported efforts to develop and approve a National Action Plan (NAP), in line with the laid-down requirement of the UNGPs. This process was largely spearheaded in collaboration with civil society organisations such as the African Centre for Corporate Responsibility.¹¹

It should be noted that, at the moment, the NAP is a policy document and is not necessarily binding, a situation encouraged by the government's lukewarm attitude to give it a binding status. Regardless, corporations and government agencies have been enlightened by the NHRC on the pros of abiding by the guidelines in the NAP.¹² Again, civil society organizations and other stakeholders continue to advocate for the implementation of the NAP and for stronger legal frameworks to hold businesses accountable for human rights abuses.¹³ It is important for all actors to work together towards a more just and equitable business environment that respects and upholds human rights.

The killing of the Ogoni Nine in 1995, drew worldwide condemnation of the attitude of the extractive industry especially in developing countries. This heralded the formation of the Voluntary Principles Association in 2000; as of 2014, Nigeria became an observer in the Annual Plenary meetings of the Voluntary Principles (VP) initiative.

The extractive industry is arguably the most thriving sector in Nigeria. Unfortunately, human rights violations continue as unabated as the profits in this industry. Initially, most of these companies believed they could not be held accountable by either their home or host states either because there were no laws to regulate their activities as subsidiaries or as a result of complicity and reluctance by the

9 ORh Odjighoro, 'The Legal Framework for Business and Human Rights in Nigeria' (*UN Global Compact Network Nigeria*) <<https://unglobalcompactng.org/the-legal-framework-for-business-and-human-rights-in-nigeria/>> accessed 13 March 2023

10 *Ibid*

11 Nigerian Human Rights Commission, 'National Action Plan for the Promotion of Human Rights 2022-2026' (*Nigerian Human Rights Commission*, 13 August 2021) <<https://www.nigerianrights.gov.ng/activities/nap.html>> accessed 13 March 2023

12 News Agency of Nigeria, 'Protecting human rights prevent companies from making blood money: NHRC' (*Peoples Gazette*, 1 September 2022) <<https://gazettengr.com/protecting-human-rights-prevent-companies-from-making-blood-money-nhrc/>> accessed 19 March 2023

13 *Ibid*

governments of the host states.¹⁴ This was until suits were instituted in their home states to directly hold their parent companies accountable.¹⁵

In the case of *Gbemre v Shell*,¹⁶ the court set a tough precedent for transnational corporations. The importance of that court's judgement cannot be overemphasized. It is indeed driven home to multinationals that latitude will no longer be tolerated and that host states and their people must be treated with the utmost respect and accorded basic human rights.

Also, in the case of the Four Nigerian Farmers and Stichting Milieudefensie against Shell,¹⁷ the Dutch court held the defendants liable on appeal. Although the issue of enforcing these judgements and achieving real justice for the victims is still unclear, scholars have continued to explore the necessary means to bring this to fruition. Regardless, it goes to show that the only reason why these companies get away with unwholesome business practices in Nigeria is because the country enables it.

Nigerian legislation on the subject,¹⁸ as can be seen from the reasoning of the court in contemplation of the common law precedents as laid down in *Chandler v. Cape*¹⁹ and *Vedanta v. Lungowe*²⁰ are enough to hold these corporations accountable.²¹

From a constitutional perspective, a discourse on the above must include amongst the other human rights enshrined in the constitution – the right to a healthy environment. The right to life is tied to the right to a healthy

14 Human Rights Watch, *The Price of Oil: Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights Violations in Nigeria's Oil Producing Communities* (Human Rights Watch 1999) <<https://www.hrw.org/en/reports/1999/02/23/price-oil>> accessed 18 March 2023

15 L. Roorda and D. Leader, "Okpabi v Shell and Four Nigerian Farmers v Shell: Parent Company Liability Back in Court" (2021) 6 *Business and Human Rights Journal* 368 <<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/business-and-human-rights-journal/article/okpabi-v-shell-and-four-nigerian-farmers-v-shell-parent-company-liability-back-in-court/1C70BB759342BA69A723E86AF209906E>> accessed 19 March 2023

16 *Gbemre v Shell Petroleum Dev. Corp. & The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation* (2005) 6 AHRLR 152

17 *Four Nigerian Farmers and Stichting Milieudefensie v Royal Dutch Shell plc and another* [2015] ECLI:NL: GHDHA: 2015:3588

18 Oil and Gas Pipeline Regulations

19 *Chandler v Cape plc* [2012] EWCA Civ 525.

20 *Vedanta Resources Plc v Lungowe* [2019] UKSC 20

21 Wubeshet Tiruneh, 'Holding the Parent Company Liable for Human Rights Abuses Committed Abroad: The Case of the *Four Nigerian Farmers and Milieudefensie v Shell*' (Blog of the European Journal of International Law, 19 February) <<https://www.ejiltalk.org/holding-the-parent-company-liable-for-human-rights-abuses-committed-abroad-the-case-of-the-four-nigerian-farmers-and-milieudefensie-v-shell/>> accessed 19 March 2023

environment.²² However, the enforcement of human rights in Nigeria has always been a bumpy ride from time immemorial.²³

This situation is made worse by the non-justiciability of Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) as amended. A chapter that has been described as the mainframe provisions of the constitution, as far as the welfare of Nigerians is concerned, to hold the government responsible for social good and good governance in the said Constitution²⁴ but has been rendered inoperable as a result of a mischievous insertion of Section 6 (6) (c), a section that gives room to passivity and impunity.

The non-justiciability of chapter II of our constitution is, in the opinion of many scholars, nothing short of telling a child to fly but not too high. In the words of Nwabueze, 'public welfare as the object of government should be given constitutional force...'.²⁵ Until this defect was made away with, average Nigerians continued to bear the brunt of a weak system that was set up to have the semblance of something that it is not.

Although the issue of limitation of time to institute actions on fundamental rights violations has been eliminated, the enforcement of human rights in Nigeria has been met with several challenges, chief of which is the issue of illiteracy. The illiteracy rate in Nigeria was as high as 31% in 2022. People cannot pursue the enforcement of rights that they are unaware that they possess.²⁶ Other issues include religious fanaticism, the anarchist attitude of political officeholders, the willingness of security forces to be used as pawns by politicians to hunt their opponents, etc.²⁷

It is worthy of note that the power given to the African Charter of Human Rights in the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure)

22 Emejuru Emenike and others, 'Right to a Healthy Environment in Nigeria and Other Jurisdictions: A Legal Assessment' [2020] 8(3) Global Journal of Politics and Law Research <<https://www.eajournals.org/wp-content/uploads/Right-to-a-Healthy-Environment-in-Nigeria-and-Other-Jurisdictions.pdf>> accessed 19 March 2023

23 Human Rights Watch, 'Current Violations of Human Rights in Nigeria: Appendix to a Letter to the Pope' <<https://www.hrw.org/news/1998/03/13/current-violations-human-rights-nigeria>> accessed 19 March 2023

24 F. Falana, 'Justiciability of Chapter Two Of The 1999 Constitution (As Amended): The Need For The Nigerian Judicial System To Be More Proactive' (*The Nigeria Lawyers*, 1 March 2022) <<https://thenigerialawyer.com/justiciability-of-chapter-two-of-the-1999-constitution-as-amended-the-need-for-the-nigerian-judicial-system-to-be-more-proactive/>> accessed 19 March 2023

25 B. O. Nwabueze, *Constitutional Democracy in Africa: The return of Africa to constitutional democracy* (Spectrum Books Limited 2003)

26 M. G. Chiroma, 'Challenges of Enforcement of Fundamental Human Rights Under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999' (Long essay, Nigerian Institute of Advance Legal Studies, University of Lagos, 2010) 70.

27 *Ibid*

Rules (2009) has changed the trajectory of human rights enforcement in Nigeria.²⁸ Under the third preamble to the Rules, it is stated that:

3. The overriding objectives of these Rules are as follows:

...(b) For the purpose of advancing but never for the purpose of restricting the applicant's rights and freedoms, the Court shall respect municipal, regional and international bills of rights cited to it or brought to its attention or of which the Court is aware, whether these bills constitute instruments in themselves or form parts of larger documents like constitutions. Such bills include;

- (i) The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other instruments (including protocols) in the African regional human rights system,
- (ii) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments (including protocols) in the United Nations human rights system...²⁹

This is an (indirect) affirmation of the binding nature of the provisions of the Chapter II of the 1999 Constitution because these same provisions are available in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Finally, it is worthy of note that, according to the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria, the adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) under CAP 10 LFN 1990 which espouses the provisions of the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy under Chapter II of the Constitution makes these rights 'justiciable and enforceable in Nigeria'.³⁰ This remains the position of human rights advocates as well as other renowned scholars on the subject.³¹

28 O. Kalu, E. O. Otojahi, P. Edokpayi and C. Ene, 'Nigeria: Challenges in Enforcement of Fundamental Rights in Nigeria' (*Mondaq*, 21 September 2020) <<https://www.mondaq.com/nigeria/human-rights/986460/challenges-in-enforcement-of-fundamental-rights-in-nigeria>> accessed 18 March 2023

29 Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rules (2009)

30 National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria (2006)

31 D. O. N. Agwor, 'The Non-Justiciability Of The Fundamental Objectives And Directive Principles Of State Policy Under The Constitution Of The Federal Republic Of Nigeria, 1999 (As Amended) Vis-À-Vis, Its Justiciability In The Spirit Of The Law' [2022] 10(1) *International Journal of Innovative Legal & Political Studies* <<https://seahipaj.org/journals-ci/mar-2022/IJILPS/full/IJILPS-M-11-2022.pdf>> accessed 22 March 2023

Modern Slavery and other Violating Conducts in Workplaces

According to the International Labour Organisation, 'fifty million people were living in modern slavery in 2021. The number of people in modern slavery has risen significantly in the last five years. 10 million more people were in modern slavery ... compared to 2016 global estimates.'³²

The protection and promotion of human rights is the foremost duty of the government. By virtue of the Nigerian Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Nigerian government owes every Nigerian the duty to protect and preserve these rights. On paper, Nigeria is a signatory to about 40 labour conventions including the Forced Labour Convention of 1930, and our national legislations on the subject boast of a robust compendium of laws that should ordinarily be enough to hinder the existence of forced labour in the country. Nevertheless, out of the 6.4 million individuals living in modern slavery in Africa, 15% are from Nigeria.³³

In the context of modern slavery, as it pertains to business and human rights, there have been reports of foreign-owned business enterprises in Nigeria engaging in modern slavery activities that are contrary to the international and municipal labour laws in the country.³⁴ In particular, news reports revealed an upward trend in the attitude of Chinese employers towards their Nigerian workers which bordered on extreme forms of modern slavery and human rights abuse.³⁵ It is even more absurd when one considers that the practice of this concept is not new to state governments. In several states, civil servants are owed for months and sometimes for years.³⁶ This is in contravention of the Labour Act and the principles guiding the protection of individuals from modern slavery. The idea of being a victim of modern slavery in one's own country, in the hands of both foreigners and one's own countrymen, must be shunned.

32 Press release, 'Fifty million people were living in modern slavery in 2021' (*International Labour Organisation*, 12 September 2022) <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_855019/lang-en/index.htm> accessed 27 March 2023

33 The Globalist, '9 Facts on Modern Slavery in Nigeria' (*Global Justice*, 19 February 2015) <<https://www.theglobalist.com/9-facts-on-modern-slavery-in-nigeria-2/>> accessed 23 March 2023

34 'T. Ayeni, 'China-Africa: Spotlight turned on abuse of Nigerian workers' (*The Africa Report*, 3 September 2020) <<https://www.theafricareport.com/39952/nigeria-spotlight-on-abuse-of-local-workers-after-public-allegations/>> accessed 25 March 2023.

35 *Ibid*

36 O. Akinpelu, 'Unpaid wages: An abuse of labour rights' (*The Guardian*, 11 August 2015) <<https://guardian.ng/features/law/unpaid-wages-an-abuse-of-labour-rights/>> accessed 25 March 2023

Human Rights Violations by Foreign Employers

In 2021, news reports surfaced of a corps member who was burned to death alongside three other employees of Chinese employers in Isheri, Ogun State.³⁷ This is one of many cases of negligence by these Chinese employers who have also been accused of racism, forced labour, bribery and corruption.³⁸

The Nigerian Labour Congress, in 2022, picketed a Lebanese firm in Lagos state which was accused of abusing their workers and forcing them to work under inhumane conditions.³⁹

The Nigerian government ignores these incidents which no longer appear to be one-off or isolated in nature. It has, in fact, become an epidemic. The protection of the rights of citizens ultimately lies in the hands of the government. It is also well known that the Nigerian government often tramples upon the rights of its people,⁴⁰ more so foreigners on whose country the government depends for loans.

The Role of Security Personnel in the Protection of Human Rights in Business

This is a key component of the broader discourse on business and human rights because of the primary role that security personnel play in the protection of properties and assets of businesses. However, the actions of these security personnel can have significant impacts on human rights.

The Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to advance human rights for people living in places where commercial operations, particularly those related to the extractive industries, have an impact. The initiative gives businesses guidelines on how to safeguard fundamental rights in their security mechanisms and make sure that their security guards are not violating human rights.

Certain activities of security personnel at business enterprises have been constituting a nuisance in Nigeria. There have been reports of

37 N. Egbunike, 'Chinese firms in Nigeria face widespread labour abuse allegations, tainting bilateral relationship' (Global Voices, 22 September 2021) <<https://globalvoices.org/2021/09/22/chinese-firms-in-nigeria-face-widespread-labour-abuse-allegations-tainting-bilateral-relationship/>> accessed 25 March 2023

38 *Ibid* (n 38)

39 S. Nwokoro, 'NLC pickets Lebanese firm over alleged maltreatment of workers' (The Guardian, 21 November 2022) <<https://guardian.ng/news/nlc-pickets-lebanese-firm-over-alleged-maltreatment-of-workers/>> accessed 25 March 2023

40 F. Falana, 'Why Abuse of Human Rights Has Continued Unabated In Nigeria' Press Release (*Sahara Reporters*, 10 December 2021) <<https://saharareporters.com/2021/12/10/why-abuse-human-rights-has-continued-unabated-nigeria> > accessed 19 March 2023

major human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced evictions committed by security personnel in the country.

This is a problem that has been encountered in both residential and corporate settings. Security personnel in corporate settings have been known to extort and mislead unsuspecting individuals. In certain instances, within private settings, persons who are employed to secure the property of others end up committing heinous crimes against their employers.⁴¹ The government has faced criticisms due to its failure to ensure accountability for human rights abuses by local, foreign and multinational business enterprises.

Conclusion

Overall, this chapter examined the creation of standards, norms, and policies to control human rights compliance in businesses. The Protect, Respect, and Remedy pillars serve as the foundation for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which were created by the UN. Other international organizations have created a number of legal frameworks, including the UN Global Compact, the ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ISO 26000, the GRI, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the EU CSR Communication (2011).

The AU developed a draft policy document that serves as the regional legal guidelines for the observation of human rights and preservation of the environment by business enterprises in Africa.

The importance of these policies cannot be overemphasized. Africa remains the major supplier of most of the world's liquid and solid minerals such as crude oil, gold, diamond, lithium, etc., given the lack of political will in most African countries, these resources are not processed in Africa. The multinational corporations involved in the extraction of these resources, engage in modern slavery and unethical practices. These foreign companies also take advantage of the political terrain and end up contributing to the environmental degradation of these communities, thereby hastening the effects of climate change in the continent.

The CFRN (1999) as amended serves as Nigeria's core statute pertaining to human rights, and the NHRC has taken the lead in promoting the development of the NAP to guide businesses in the protection of human rights in accordance with the UN's established standards.

41 R. Ogbonnaiye, 'Gateman Rapes 5-Year-Old Pupil In Ekiti' (*Daily Trust*, 14 April 2022) <<https://dailytrust.com/gateman-rapes-5-year-old-pupil-in-ekiti/>> accessed 28 March 2023

Nigerians should be concerned about modern slavery due to its devastating effects. There have been strong allegations of foreign-owned companies engaging in practices that violate both national and local labour regulations, such as modern slavery. Extreme instances of modern slavery and violations of human rights involving Nigerians have been specifically linked to Chinese and Lebanese employers.

The government must play a significant part in defending the rights of its people. Nonetheless, there have been instances where security professionals, who are crucial to safeguarding the assets and properties of corporations, have perpetrated serious human rights violations, including as extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced evictions.

One of the most important aspects of the larger conversation about business and human rights is the function of security professionals in defending human rights in business. It is crucial to make sure that security personnel are properly trained in human rights standards, are subject to oversight and accountability procedures, and are obligated to respect human rights while performing their duties. Human rights abuses will be less likely to occur as a result, and victims will have recourse to powerful remedies.

Recommendations

Bearing in mind that the solutions to most of the issues laid down in this chapter are majorly such that can be resolved by a willing government and a cooperative business industry, these recommendations are made as follows:

Regulation and Transparency: There is an inherent need to regulate the extractive industry in Nigeria. It is pertinent to understand that these corporations are only as powerful as their host states permit. If the activities of these companies are regulated in accordance with existing laws, the host communities will be better for it.

The biggest hindrance to achieving transparency in the country is corruption and lack of political will on the part of political officeholders. A change in the system of governance is urgent and extremely necessary if any headway will be made. This is applicable in every facet of our existence as a country. The promotion of accountability on the part of the government will cause a major transformation to the entire industry.

The people who will benefit the most would be the host communities of these corporations who are never compensated enough for the exploitation that occurs in their lands, leading to the loss of ancestral homes, and livelihoods, and decreasing their lifespan. A milestone that will be reached in this respect would be the adequate acknowledgement of the host communities and ensuring that justice is seen to be done.

Enlightenment of Major Players in the Industry: The security aspect of business and human rights is an important issue that must be addressed by businesses, civil society organizations, and government agencies in Nigeria. The VPI provides valuable guidance on how to ensure that human rights are respected in the context of business activities, but more needs to be done to ensure that these guidelines are implemented effectively and that the human rights of individuals are protected.

Businesses operating in Nigeria must take steps to ensure that their security arrangements are in line with international human rights standards and that their security personnel are properly trained on human rights issues. The Nigerian government must also take steps to hold businesses accountable for human rights abuses committed by their security personnel and to provide effective remedies for those affected by such abuses.

The VPI has been active in Nigeria since 2013, working with businesses, civil society organizations, and government agencies to promote respect for human rights in the context of business activities. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that the human rights of individuals in areas affected by business activities are respected and protected.

Community Outreach: As earlier mentioned, a person cannot fight for a right if they are unaware that they have those rights in the first place. This is why it is very important to improve access to education, especially in rural communities. State governments must invest in education as a matter of urgency. Quality governance can only be appreciated if the citizens are well-catered to. Putting the citizens first is one way to achieve this. State governments must work towards promoting and achieving sustainability. This is the only way to ensure that the labours of our heroes past do not go to waste.

It is also worthy of note, that many seemingly educated people do not entirely know what rights the constitution provides for, nor what obligations the state owes them. There is a general apathetic attitude towards governance especially among young people. This can be transformed by civil society organisations, public institutions like universities, and government agencies such as the NHRC by conducting regular outreaches in public places like schools, marketplaces, etc. The media is a great source of disseminating information and social media will be a great tool in this aspect.

ANNEXTURE

SELECTED RESOLVED COMPLAINTS BY THE COMMISSION UNDER DIFFERENT HUMAN THEMATIC AREAS IN 2022

RIGHT TO LIFE

C/2022/045/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th March 2022 from XY of Kaduna state on behalf of Y alleging that his son was killed by the Nigerian Army. The Commission referred the matter to the Police while the Commission is following up on the matter to ensure fair justice.

C/2022/CPR/1693/BSO

The Commission received a complaint via phone call dated 28th September 2022 from XY, a concerned citizen, alleging that a man was gruesomely murdered by a group of young men on 28th September, 2022 at Mbaaku, Mbasombo Gwer-East Local Government Area. The Commission and the parties, after investigations and mediation, resolved that all the victims would be paid hospital bills and that the men of Livestock Guards stop harassing people.

C/2022/CPR/1632/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th August, 2022 from X of opp Gyado Vill, Km 3 Gboko Road Makurdi, alleging that Y her son has been in the habit of threatening her life and destroying her properties at any slightest provocation. After investigations, the Commission and the parties agreed on a peaceful resolution.

C/2022/WC/1627/BSO

The office received a complaint dated 3 August 2022 from Y of Judges Quarters Makurdi alleging threat to his life and intimidation by his landlord at Judges, Quarters Gboko Road Makurdi since November 2021 to date. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved that Y's landlord would stop threatening and intimidating Y and uphold peace in any future dealings.

C/2022/WC/1642/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 22 August 2022 from X of No. 9 Shintaku Lane behind Lobi Quarters, Makurdi alleging a threat to her life over a disagreement on school partnership business. X alleged that the instance took place in 2015 in Makurdi. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved via mediation to settle their disagreement and live in peace.

C/2022/WC/1638/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August 2022 from X of 8th Avenue Iyorkyaako Street High level Makurdi who alleged threat to her life by a person whose daughter X's younger brother impregnated and the man is threatening X's life and that of her other family members, an incidence X alleged has been taking place in Makurdi since July, 2022. The Commission advise the parties to embrace peace because of the unborn child.

**RIGHT TO DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
NHRC/OS/22/090**

The Commission received a complaint dated 27 May 2022 from Y of Esupofo, kobo Area, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that X assaulted and battered him at Osun mall on the 26th May 2022. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the matter would be transferred to the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) for further criminal investigations and prosecution.

C/2022/CPR/1386/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th May, 2022 from Y of Wurukum Makurdi alleging that he and 2 others on the 30th of April, 2022 were tortured severely by men of the vigilant group. Y stated that a car owner brought his car for repairs and a misunderstanding ensued about a missing hard drive between Y and a car owner who brought his car for repair. The matter was resolved amicably between the parties and the Commission and the men of the vigilante group treated the victims and asked to desist from such act.

C/2022/089/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th April 2022 from XY of Kaduna state on behalf of his daughter alleging cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the respondent. XY further alleged that the respondent accused his daughter of stealing his phone and has been threatening her life constantly. The Commission invited the parties concerned as well as involved the Police in the matter. The matter has been resolved amicably.

C/2022/CPR/1678/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September, 2022 from Y of RCM Primary School Nyiakaa, Ashina I Aliade, Benue State alleging that he was seriously beaten, manhandled and maltreated by men of Benue State Community Volunteer Guard on 25th June, 2022 at Aliade. The Commission and the parties resolved that the men of community

Volunteer Guards would pay for any costs arising from his treatment and desist from such an act.

C/2022/CPR/1762/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th November, 2022 from XY of Church Iorsar Logoll Nyorgungu, Benue State alleging that her son was seriously beaten to a comma on the 9th of November, 2022 by men of Benue State Livestock Guard. The Commission and the parties, after investigations and mediation, resolved that all the victims would be paid hospital bills and men of Livestock Guards would stop harassing people.

C/2022/CPR/262/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th December 2022, from X of Rinsayo Estate, Osogbo, Osun State alleging inhuman and degrading treatment by a Lawyer and officers of the Nigeria Police Force. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission was able to resolve the matter between the parties.

C/2022/050/KD

The Commission received a Complaint dated 18th March 2022 from XY alleging inhuman and degrading treatment against the respondent by her employer. XY further claimed that the employer is in the habit of beating and pulling off her hair at any slightest provocation. The Commission intervened in the matter by inviting both parties and after mediation, the employer apologized for the ill-treatment.

C/2022/053/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st March 2022 from Y, alleging that he went to see the respondent who is a co-tenant to assist him with a gas cylinder. Y further alleged that the co-tenant assaulted him, and inflicted grievous bodily harm to his person after which they both exchanged abusive words. The matter was resolved amicably between both parties after mediation by the Commission.

C/2022/15/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th February 2022 from X of No 7, Blessed Land, Ajebamidele Community, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. X alleged that her female colleague in her workplace located at A.U.D Comprehensive High School, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State assaulted her. She further alleged that she violated her right to the dignity of the human person. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the female colleague would

not assault X anymore and the Ministry of Education, Ekiti State eventually transferred the female colleague out of the school.

C/2022/CPR/1273/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 21 January 2022 from Y of Km 18 Makurdi Naka alleging abuse of rights of its citizens by men of Operation Whirl Stroke stationed to the community; an instance Y alleged took place on 19th and 20th January 2022 at the above address. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that the men of Operation Whirle Stroke would stop unnecessary harassment of the community.

C/2022/CPR/1275/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24 January 2022 from Y of Km 4 Makurdi-Naka Road by Mobile Barrack Junction alleging negligence by a man whom Y was involved in an accident with, along Ejifa Park Wururkum Makurdi on 17 January 2022. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved after mediation that Y would be treated with his medical costs borne by the respondent.

C/2022/CPR/1321/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 23 March 2022 from X of opposite General Hospital Road Adikpo, Kwande Local Government alleging illegal detention at Kwande Police Station, Adikpo as well as inhuman/degrading treatment from Nigeria Police of the above station when X had a misunderstanding with her tenant at the above address since 21st March 2022. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that the victims be released.

C/2022/CPR/1373/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 22 April 2022 from Y of Ukpam in Daudu, Guma Local Government Area alleging inhuman/degrading treatment from an Army Officer of Nigeria Army NASMEN Barracks, Makurdi since 14 April 2022 at NASMEN Barrack Road when Y was about to handover a motorcycle repaired for one of the Army's colleagues. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that the Army issue an apology to the victim and uphold peace in their interactions.

C/2022/CPR/1374/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 22 April 2022 from Y of Yelewata, Guma Local Government Area alleging men of Operation Whirle Stroke from Giza in Keana Local Government Area of Nassarawa came in large numbers and beat up his wife on 14 April 2022 at the

above address. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that the men of Operation Whirl Stroke shall desist from further harassment.

C/2022/CPR/1385/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 29 April 2022 from X of 33 old Otukpo Road High-level Makurdi alleging men of Nigeria Hunters and forest guard in Makurdi on 26 April 2022 beat, harassed and shaved the hair of XY's client at High-level Makurdi. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that the men of Hunters and Forest Guards would stop harassing people and the victim was treated.

C/2022/CPR/1407/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12 May 2022 from Y of behind Top Choice Kitchen off Akpehe Road Makurdi alleging cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment/threat to life on him and some others. Y also alleged that his case was compromised by men of the Nigeria Police Force, Benue State Command Since May 2022 at Wurukum and NPF headquarters in Makurdi. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that the men of Nigeria Police Force Benue State were to desist from further occurrence.

C/2022/CPR/1591/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14 July 2022 from Y of lorzua Ayatse Street, Ahule Makurdi alleging degrading treatment on him by beating and damaging his tricycle Machine on 11 July 2022 at Udei Street North Bank Makurdi. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that Y would be treated and his tricycle be returned in good shape.

C/2022/CPR/1630/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd August 2022 from X of No. 12 Commodore Hingya Street off George Akume Road, Makurdi alleging that she and her son were beaten and humiliated by a man on 28th July 2022 along George Akume Way, Makurdi. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved via mediation that X and her son would be treated by the alleged violator and the action not be repeated.

C/2022/ESCR/274/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd December 2022, from Y of Kobo Area, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that staff of one Excellent

Empowerment Foundation instigated Officers of the Nigeria Police Force to harass and arrest. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission was able to resolve the matter.

C/2022/18/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th March 2022 from X of 132 KVA Omisanjana, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, alleging that her uncle denied her shelter at the grandparent's residence and humiliated her. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the respondent would not threaten her any further and he would allow the complainant to live wherever she deemed fit.

RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

NHRC/OG/22/033

The Ogun State office of the Commission received a complaint dated 7th March 2022 from "X" alleging that Y her husband called her on Monday 28th February 2022 to inform her that he was detained by the Nigeria Police Force Adigbe Division by his employer. The matter was admitted for investigation and intervention. The Commission immediately took action on the matter and ensured that he was released. The Complainant Wrote a letter of appreciation dated 9th of March, 2022 to thank the commission and its staff for the prompt intervention.

ESO/2022/96

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st March, 2022 from Y of Enugu, alleging XY the Agbani Police Division of unlawful arrest, detention and discrimination of Y and that all efforts made to release him has failed.

C/2022/CPR/1347/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th April 2022 from XY of Gboko Local Government Area alleging illegal arrest and detention of 3 persons at Gboko since April, 2022. After the Commission conducted its investigation and mediation, the parties resolved to release the victims.

C/2022/CPR/1322/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 23 March 2022 from XY of opposite General Hospital Road Adikpo, Kwande Local Government Area alleging illegal detention at Kwande Police Station, Adikpo as well as inhuman/degrading treatment from Nigeria Police at the above Station when X had a misunderstanding with her tenant at the above address since 21st March 2022. The Commission conducted its

investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that the victim be released.

NHRC/OS/22/099

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June 2022 from Y, of Osun state, alleging that the Osun State Command of the Nigerian Police Force detained him unlawfully. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the respondents were disciplined by the NPF and were made to apologize to the complainant and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/CPR/222/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24 May 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State. X alleged that her daughter, who is a minor, had been detained unlawfully for days and as a result has been denied the opportunity to commence sitting for her WAEC examination. After the investigation of the complaint, the Commission approached the court for an order of Court for X to be released unconditionally, to enable her to sit for her examination and the same was granted.

C/2022/CPR/223/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd November 2022, from Y of Osogbo Osun State alleging NPF of unlawful arrest and detention of X without any reason. The Commission made several phone calls to the IPO which led to the mother and child being timeously released.

C/2022/CPR/ 156/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th August 2022 from Y of Okefia Osogbo Osun-State alleging that X loaned him some amount of money. He further stated that because of his inability to repay the loan, X used some Police officers to arrest and detain him for 7 days, and his Korope bus was seized. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the respondents were disciplined by the NPF and made to apologize to the complainant while his property was released to him.

NHRC/OS/22/139

The Commission received a Complaint dated 9th August 2022 from X, of Osun State, alleging that Y instigated officers of the Nigeria Police Force in Osun State to unlawfully detain him. in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the respondents were cautioned by the NPF and made to apologize to the complainant and the matter was resolved.

RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

C/2022/040/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th March 2022 from Y of Kaduna state, alleging that the respondent threatened to seize a landed property that was given as an inheritance to his mother by her elder brother on the basis that female children in the family do not inherit properties. The Commission contacted the respondent and he pleaded and promised to honour the Commission's invitation for the matter to be resolved after his mother has been discharged from the hospital.

RIGHT TO PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE

C/2022/VG/26/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th February 2022 from Y of Anambra state alleged that Y, his son has been threatening and maltreating him in a degrading manner. He further stated that his son smokes through his window which affects his health and the private life of his tenants, who ended up moving out of the rental property where he collects rent for survival. After investigation, the Commission and the parties resolved that the family would consult the President-general of their town to rally around the vigilante group to caution or discipline his son.

C/2022/CPR/1627/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd August 2023 from Y of Judges Quarters Makurdi, alleging intimidation by his Landlord since November 2021 to date. The Commission and parties resolved that the landlord would allow his tenant have peace till he moves out.

C/2022/CESCR1739/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from X of Makurdi, alleging that her neighbour violated her right to private and family life by disclosing her HIV/AIDs status to the public on the 22nd of October, 2022. The Commission and parties resolved their difference and X's neighbour was cautioned against such act.

C/2022/CPR/1649/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd September 2022 from Y of Benue State Polytechnic Ogbokolo. He alleged that his landlord obstructed the access Road to his compound gate for the new buyer of the house without giving him proper time and prior information to relocate. The Commission and parties resolved that Y would be allowed access to his compound.

C/2022/WC/1627/BSO

The office received a complaint of threat to life and intimidation from Y on 3rd August 2022. Y of Judges Quarters Makurdi alleged disturbance of his peace and intimidation by his landlord at Judges, Quarters Gboko Road Makurdi since November, 2021 to date. The Commission and parties resolved that Y's landlord would stop threatening and intimidating him so that they can live in peace.

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION**C/2022/CPR/003/NG**

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th May 2022 from X of Kagara, Niger state, who stated that she converted to Christianity from being a Muslim two (2) years ago on her own volition and conviction. She however alleged that her biological father has been against it, and vowed to withhold his consent to her proposed marriage unless she converts back to being a Muslim. She further stated that this is despite her having two children for the man she wants to marry and already lives in Kagara, Niger state. After investigation and mediation between parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the Respondent shall not interfere with the religious right or inclination of his daughter nor interfere with the complainant's right of choice of husband.

RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION**C/2022/CPR/1320/BSO**

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th March, 2022 from Y of Gboko Road Makurdi alleging that the Benue State Community Volunteer Guards (BSCVG) illegally took over their association's office at the above address on 3rd March, 2022, thereby encroaching on their right to peaceful association. After mediation, the Commission and parties resolved to hand over the office to the association.

RIGHT TO OWN AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY**C/2022/11/EK**

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd February 2022 from X of Falegan Area, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, alleging that her cousin's brothers were denied their personal liberty over a dispute over their inheritance. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the Police officers would desist from every kind of threat over the land issue between them and the family head and that they would share the land between both parties.

C/2022/CPR/1323/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 24 March 2022 from Y of Wurukum Market Makurdi alleging constant unlawful seizure of his

properties by BENSESA at Wurukum since 23rd March 2022. The Commission conducted its investigations and parties resolved through mediation that the victim would be given access to retrieve his properties.

C/2022/CPR/1271/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20 January 2022 from X behind our Lady of Perpetual Church, Makurdi alleging that her properties were unlawfully seized and X was also locked up in the room by a man she borrowed from in August 2021 at the address above. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation for the victim to have access to her properties.

ANS/SEZ/2022/072

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th May 2022 from X of Umuchu, Aguata L.G.A, Anambra State X alleged that her brother-in-laws sold her late husband's plots of land, used the proceeds for themselves and equally denied her access to his apartment. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that she would be granted access to the apartment and also hold on to further sales of any property belonging to the immediate family of the deceased since he left behind a wife and children.

C/2022/CPR/31/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th March 2022 from Y alleging that his uncle of Anambra state colonized the piece of land that belongs to his late father by inheritance. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the said piece of land would be divided equally amongst the four relatives who presented evidence to collectively own the piece of land they all inherited from their grandfather. The matter was resolved and all were happy.

C/2022/CPR/008/NG

The Commission received a Complaint dated 17th January 2022 from Y alleging that he bought land at Maitumbi, Minna with his money in 2014. He stated that after building a part of it, his biological father suddenly started laying claim to the house, asking him to vacate the house and even issuing threats to Him. Upon investigation and mediation by the Commission, the Parties agreed that the Land belongs to the Complainant but that the Complainant would permit his biological father to live thereon with him whilst he is in Minna.

C/2022/CPR/1733/BSO

The National Human Rights Commission received a complaint dated 26th October 2022 from Y of Zone 4 Quarters, Makurdi. Y alleged that the DPO E Division illegally seized his car upon a visit to the police station to secure his cousin's bail on the 21st of October, 2022. The matter was resolved after investigation and mediation by the Commission with the parties and Y's car was released to him.

C\2022\7941\PSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th of April 2022 from X of Fobur, Jos East, Plateau State. She alleged that her husband is deceased and his brothers, the Respondents, have refused to allow her farm on the family land to be able to feed her young children thereby making life difficult for them. The Commission admitted the complaint for investigation and intervention after which a mediation was arranged. The outcome of the mediation was that X would be given a portion of land to farm. This was followed by a term of settlement signed by both parties.

C/2022/ESCR//1789/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 29th November, 2022 from Y of High-Level Makurdi, alleging that his room in a family house located at High Level which is an inheritance has been seized by some Relations since November, 2022. The Commission resolved the matter with the parties and Y has been given back his inheritance.

RIGHT TO HEALTH**C/2023/ESCR/2898/HQ**

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th April 2023 from Y of Kubwa, Abuja against YY alleging medical negligence by XY. The Commission investigated the matter and through mediation, the issues were resolved.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION**C/2022/CPR/033/NG**

The Commission received a Complaint dated 15th Marc, 2022 from Y alleging that the Federal Polytechnic, Bida, Niger state was infringing on his right to education. Y stated that he finished as a Computer Scientist on July, 219 and passed all his courses. He however alleged that the school has since refused to release his result even after a Court has exonerated him of an offence he was wrongly accused of. Upon investigation, the Commission took further steps of intervention and investigated the matter, after which the Federal Polytechnic released the Complainant's result and certified him.

CHILD RIGHTS

C/22/WC/041/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd March 2022, from X alleging that she and her children were beaten by Y her husband. The matter was admitted for investigation. During the investigation, the Commission was informed that the matter was already reported to the Police in Ogun state. After a week the complainant called the Commission's office to state that the matter had been resolved.

C/2022/CPR/1596/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 20 July 2022 from XY of all Saint, Anglican Primary School Makurdi alleging that a pupil of the school was humiliated and beaten on the hand and the eye by her uncle whom she is staying with in Makurdi. This allegedly took place in various instances and lastly on 20 July 2022. The Commission conducted its investigations and the Parties resolved through mediation that the respondent foot the bill for the treatment of the child, after which the child be reunited with her biological parents.

NHRC/S/22/105

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June 2022 from X, of Osun state, alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility to their children. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/67-70/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th November, 2022 from Y of No 12, Olorunsogo, Zone 3, Adebayo, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. Y alleged that his in-laws took unlawful custody and denied him access to his grandson. Y alleged that without his consent, the grandfather snuck into his residence to take the child. The Commission, after conducting its investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the grandson would remain at his paternal grandparents' residence because that was where he chose to reside, which was in his best interest.

C/2022/WCR/001/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 8th January, 2022 from X of As-salam Community, Harmony Estate Ilorin Kwara State, alleging that her husband wanted to take unlawful custody of their three children aged Ten years, Five years and Eight months respectively. The matter was resolved amicably with the intervention of the commission through investigation and conciliation in the best interest of the children.

C/2022/WCR/82/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 10th August 2022 from X of No 21 Araromi Street, opposite Kulende Area, Ilorin, Kwara State, alleged that Y her husband abandoned his fatherly responsibilities towards their only child aged four. After the intervention of the Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved amicably.

C/2022/WCR/84/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 10th August, 2022 from X of Bala Junction Budo Oke, Eyenkorin, Ilorin, Kwara state, alleging that the father of her child (9yrs) was failing to shoulder his responsibilities as a father. After the intervention of the Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved amicably.

C/2022/WCR/092/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 6th of September, 2022 from X of Alade Adura area, Gbagba, Ilorin, Kwara state, alleging that her husband was failing to perform his fatherly roles towards their two children aged Seven years old and 4 months old respectively. The Commission intervened through investigation and mediation. The matter was resolved.

C/2022/WCR/093/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 6th September 2022 from X of No 22 Obamama Road, Adabata, Ilorin, Kwara State, alleging that the father of her child was not performing his fatherly duties to their two-year-old daughter. After the intervention of the Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WCR/95/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 6th September, 2022 from X of Tanke Along Nasfat, Ilorin, Kwara State alleging that Y, the father of their children, failed to perform his fatherly responsibilities to their two Children aged Eight and Four years respectively. After the intervention of the Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved amicably.

C/2022/WCR/099/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 13th September, 2022 from X of No 43 Alfa Yahaya Aromaradan Street, Ilorin, Kwara state, alleging that Y the father of her children failed to perform his fatherly responsibilities toward their four children aged Nine, Seven, Five and Four years respectively. After investigation and mediation between the

parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would take up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WCR/100/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 14th September 2022 from X of Opposite Khadijat Memorial Hospital, Lao Airport Road, Ilorin, Kwara State. X alleged that Y her husband was not performing his fatherly responsibilities to their only Child for the last two years. After the intervention of the Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved amicably.

C/2022/WC/1516/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th May 2022 from X of New Rice Mill Wurukum Makurdi alleging abandonment of their 3 children by Y, her husband, since May, 2022 at Wurukum Makurdi. The Commission investigated the matter and it was resolved.

C/2023/ESCR/162/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th March, 2023 from X of Kano State. X alleged verbal abuse by Y, her father. The Commission intervened in the matter and through investigation and conciliation, the issue was resolved amicably.

C/2022/WC/208-210/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th July 2022 from X in Edo State alleging that she was in a relationship with Y which produced 2 children. She further alleged that she moved out of the house in March 2020 and she has been the one taking care of the children alone. After investigation and mediation between both parties, the Commission and the parties resolved the matter, and it was agreed that Y would be providing for their children.

C/2020/WC/831-835/HQ

The Commission received this complaint dated 18th June, 2020 from X against her Y against her estranged husband, the complainant alleged that the marriage was blessed with four (4) children. She further alleged that Y brought another woman in their home and told her to leave his house. She also alleged that their members' intervention was to no avail and she feared maltreatment of her children by the new woman since she left. The Commission investigated the matter after mediation the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WC/352-354/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th February, 2022 from X against Y her ex-husband. She alleged that their marriage produced two male children, Victor and Vincent, ages 13 and 10. She further alleged mistreatment of children by their father. The Commission intervened in the matter after investigation and mediation it was resolved between them.

NHRC/OG/22/010

The Commission received the complaints dated 28th January 2022, from X in Ogun State, alleging that Y, her husband, was failing in fulfilling his fatherly responsibilities to their children. The Commission intervened and after investigation and mediation between the parties, it was agreed that the husband would take up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/194-195/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th June, 2022 from X alleging that she has an 11-year-old with Y who impregnated her while she was serving in Abuja. She alleged that Y the father of the child has never taken parental responsibility for their child but rather left the whole burden on her. After investigation and mediation between both parties, the Commission and the parties resolved the matter, and Y agreed to take responsibility for the child.

NHRC/OG/22/042

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd March 2022 from X in Ogun State, alleging that Y her husband has refused to take up his responsibility since she gave birth to their child. She wants the Commission to help her to ensure her husband takes care of their child. The Commission intervened and after investigation and mediation, the parties resolved Y would perform his responsibility as a father to their child.

C/22/WC/063/OG

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th April 2022, from Y in Ogun State, alleging that X, the mother of their daughter, took the child away from him. He alleged that she said she was not capable of taking care of their daughter, but he got information that their child was kept with X's sister. He wants the custody of their daughter. The Commission intervened after investigation and mediation and the Commission was able to help them reach an agreement on how to take care of their child.

NHRC/OG/22/049 – 053

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th March 2022 from X in Ogun State alleging that Y, her husband beats her and has abandoned his responsibility of providing for their 3 children. The matter was admitted, and after investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y would be providing upkeep for their children. Y also signed an undertaking never to beat X again.

C/2022/WC/67/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th May 2022 from X alleging that Y her husband returned from China, took away their 6-year-old daughter to live with another person and sent her away at the request of his mother. They have denied her access to her daughter for one year. After investigation, the Commission resolved the matter between X and Y.

C/2022/WC/358-360/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th November, 2022 from X in Edo State, alleging that she packed out of Y her boyfriend's house out of abuse and for this reason, he has refused to take up his responsibility over their children. After investigation and mediation between both parties, the Commission and the parties resolve the matter.

NHRC/NGSO/002/2022

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th May, 2022 from XY of Kpakungu Minna, Niger State on behalf of X his daughter the alleged victim. XY stated that X had been married and divorced twice by Y her husband, whom she is now married to for the 3rd time. He further stated that X has two children for Y, one of whom is eight (8) months old. XY alleged that Y has abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to his children and has sent X out of the house along with the two minors. After investigation and mediation between the parties the Commission and the parties agreed on the 13th May 2022 that Y would take full responsibility for providing the needs of his children and an undertaken was signed thereto.

C/2022/WC/152/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December 2022 from X of Shanu village Niger State against Y her husband, alleging that her husband who is working as a bricklayer has not been taking up his responsibilities. She further alleged that her husband has completely neglected his responsibilities towards her and their children by not

providing their basic needs. The Commission intervened in the matter, and it was resolved after investigation and mediation.

C/2022/WC/252/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November 2022 from X of State Hospital area, Ilesa, Osun State alleging that Y sexually defiled a minor, an 11-year-old girl, who was brought to the general hospital for treatment. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the matter would be transferred to the NPF for further criminal investigations and prosecution while the Commission monitors the matter.

ANS/SEZ/2022/33/ANS:

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th March, 2022 from XY of Ichida Idemmili North LGA, Anambra State. XY alleged that his 13-year-old daughter was defiled and impregnated by their neighbour. After investigation and reporting the matter to the Nigerian Police Force Neni, the culprit was arrested and charged to court. The case was closed.

ANS/SEZ/2022/41

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd March, 2023 from XY of Awka Anambra State. XY alleged that she received a report that a man who lives in Enugwu Ukwu, Anambra State, defiled his three daughters and was abusing them sexually. After investigation, the matter was charged to court with the collaboration of the Nigerian Civil Defence Corps that made the arrest. The man was jailed for seven years. The matter was closed.

C/2022/WC/054/NG

The Commission received a Complaint dated 12th May, 2022 from X of Niger State alleging that she has been married to Y her husband of Tudun Wada, Minna for 8 years and that the marriage is blessed with three (3) children. She further alleged that between April 2022 and the date of this complaint, her husband has neglected his responsibilities towards her and their children who are minors. She further alleged that he occasionally gave her ₦1,000.00 (One thousand naira) and would travel for days and sometimes weeks without her knowledge. She also alleged that Y had failed to enrol the children in school. Upon investigation, mediation was had with the parties by the Commission and parties agreed that the Respondent shall henceforth bring the school fees of His children to the Commission for onward transmission to the school and shall also monthly, make available to His wife, through the Commission, the sum of ₦35,000.00 (thirty-five thousand Naira) as stipend.

C/2022/WC/116/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th September 2022 from XY of Niger State, who alleged that X, a 14-year-old girl was raped by Y, a 54-year-old man, in Katcha, Niger state who had also been bragging about the act. Upon investigation, the Commission referred same to the Police from where the Respondent was subsequently arraigned in court on a charge of sexual assault and convicted thereof.

C/2022/WC/130/NG

The Commission received a Complaint dated 11th October 2022 from X against Y her ex-husband whom she divorced in 2017 and has 3 children with. X alleged that Y has abandoned his responsibilities of catering for their 3 children in her custody. Upon the Commission's intervention, the parties entered into a written agreement for the former husband to provide the necessary things for his children's upkeep and the sum of ₦30,000.00 (thirty thousand naira) as a monthly stipend.

NHRC/OS/22/078

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th January 2022 from X of Salako Area, Osogbo, alleging that Y has not been performing his fatherly responsibilities to the children and is still threatening to stop the little he has been doing because he wants X to abort the new pregnancy on the premise that he does not want another child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission counselled both parties on how to live together peacefully.

NHRC/OS/22/136

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022 from XY of Ile-Aje area, beside Oja lfe, Ile-lfe, Osun-State, alleging that X, her teenage daughter got pregnant for Y, a fellow apprentice in a tailoring school, who denied having fathered the pregnancy. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that both parties would have to wait till the complainant delivers the child and afterwards a DNA test can be conducted to determine the paternity of the child.

NHRC/OS/22/136

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022 from XY of Ile- Aje area, beside Oja lfe, Ile-lfe, Osun-State, alleging that X, her teenage daughter got pregnant for Y, a fellow apprentice in a tailoring school, who denied having fathered the pregnancy. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that both parties would have to wait till the complainant delivers the child and

afterwards a DNA test can be conducted to determine the paternity of the child.

C/2022/WC/167/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th March, 2022 from X of Ede, Osun State, alleging that Y constantly threatened to withdraw the custody of her children from her. After investigation and mediation, the Commission with both parties resolved that X would have custody of the children while Y would have access to the children with her consent.

C/2022/WC/210/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th October 2022, from X of Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to their children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y would take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/211/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th October 2022 from X of Oke-Ijetu, Ilesa-garage Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to their children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y would take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/087

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th May, 2022 from X of Ota-Efun, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y was abandoning and denying their child care and provision of basic needs. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/088

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th May, 2022 from X of Oke-Osun, Garage Ilesa, Osogbo Osun State, alleging that Y was abandoning his fatherly responsibilities to their children. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/096

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th May, 2022 from X, of Ile-ife, Osun State, alleging child abandonment by Y. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the

respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHC/OS/22/091

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th May, 2022 from X alleging that Y refused to take responsibility and cater for the upkeep of his child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/109

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X, of Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that Y had abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to their children. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/112

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th July, 2022 from X, of Osun state, alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility to their daughter, in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/114

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th July, 2022 from X, of Osun state, alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility to their children, in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/116

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th July, 2022 from X, of Osun state, alleging that Y had been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibility to their child, in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the child.

NHRC/OS/22/121

The Commission received a complaint dated 19th June, 2022 from X of Oshodi, Lagos State, alleging that her husband took away their four (4) children down to Osun State without her knowledge. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent does not have the right to forcefully take custody of the children and also deny the complainant access thus they agreed that he would return the children and have access to them with X's consent.

NHRC/OS/22/123

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022, from Y of Ifetedo, Osun State, alleging X of not taking adequate care of their child and demanded for custody. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up her motherly responsibilities for the child.

NHRC/OS/22/129

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th July, 2022 from X of Osun State, alleging Y of refusing to perform his fatherly responsibilities to their child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the child.

NHRC/OS/22/133

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd August, 2022, from X of Osun State alleging that Y abandoned his responsibilities to their three (3) Children. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/22/WC/142/OS

The Commission received a Complaint dated 16th August, 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that Y was denying their children care and provision of their basic needs. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/S/22/143

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd August, 2022, from X of Osogbo, Osun State, alleging child abandonment by Y. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that a certain amount of money would be paid monthly to Y.

C/2022/WC/146/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th August, 2022 from X of Owo-Ede, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that the father of her child wants to forcefully take custody of their daughter. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that (Y) the father would allow (X) the mother to take custody of their daughter.

C/2022/WC/148/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th August, 2022 from X of Osun State, alleging that Y has been refusing to perform his fatherly responsibilities to their child, in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/161/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X of Ayetoro Area Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y was denying their children of care and provision of their basic needs. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/177/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th September 2022 from X who resided at Ofatedo, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y the father of her child has abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to the child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/199/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th October 2022, from X of Osun State, alleging that Y was not performing his duties as a father to their children. The Commission intervened and investigated the complaint and it was settled with the rights of their children established and the father took up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/194/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October 2022, from X of Irewolede Street, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that Y was denying their daughter of care and welfare. The alleged violator and the complainant were invited to the Commission and after investigations and

mediation, the matter was settled and it was agreed that the alleged violator would commit to take up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/216/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th October, 2022 from X of Kobo Area, Osogbo Osun State alleging that Y had neglected and was maltreating and starving the three children produced in the union. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would undertake in writing to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/241/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November 2022 from X of Oroki Estate, Osogbo, Osun state alleging that Y her husband abandoned their children 7 years ago and has hence refused to cater for their responsibilities. After investigation and mediation with the parties, it was resolved that the respondent would undertake in writing to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/261/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th December, 2022 from X of Temidire Capital Area Osogbo, stating that she wants the Commission to assist her in recovering custody of her children. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the complainant would regain custody of the children in their best interest.

C/2022/WC/231/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th November 2022 from X of Ilesa-garage Osogbo, alleging that Y had abandoned and refused to fulfil his fatherly responsibilities to their child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would undertake in writing to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/267/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th December, 2022 from X of Dagbolu Osogbo, alleging that Y had abandoned his parental responsibilities to their children. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/245/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st of November 2022, from X of Ondo Road, Ile-Ife Osun State alleging that Y was abandoning his parental responsibilities to their child. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would take the responsibilities and care of the children of which he signed the memorandum of understanding.

ANS/SEZ/2022/05

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th January, 2022 from XY of Lagos and X her niece resides at Awada Onitsha. XY alleged that her niece's stepfather has been abusing her and her biological mother could not do anything concerning it. The matter was resolved during the preliminary investigation. The victim was taken away from the custody of the alleged violator by XY.

ANS/SEZ/2022/33/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th March, 2022 from XY of Ichida Idemmili North LGA, Anambra State. XY alleged that his 13-year-old daughter was defiled and impregnated by their neighbour. After investigation and reporting the matter to the Nigerian Police Force Neni, the culprit was arrested and charged to court. The case was closed.

C/2023/WC/138/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th November, 2022 from XY of Ezimezu Village, Amawbia, Anambra State. XY alleged that a 9-year-old girl was frequently beaten and inflicted with physical bodily injuries, starved and denied access to education by her guardian. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the child be returned to her parents with immediate effect.

C/2022/020/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th January, 2022, from X alleging abandonment of their only child by the father since 2020. The Commission invited both parties and during mediation, the husband signed an undertaking in writing that he would be responsible for the survival and development of the child.

C/2022/064/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th March, 2022, from X alleging domestic violence and threat to life by her husband. X further alleged that the husband forcefully took wrongful custody of their 11-month-old daughter from her and denied her access to the child. The

Commission investigated the matter and the best interest of the child was considered. It was resolved that the child would be taken back to the mother while the husband agreed to send a monthly stipend for the upkeep of the child.

C/2022/060/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th March, 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging abandonment of their children by her husband. X further alleged that the husband had neglected his responsibilities towards their children and she has been single-handedly responsible for the children's wellbeing. The Commission through mediation between both parties was able to resolve the matter and the husband promised to take up his responsibilities towards his family.

C/2022/012/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st January, 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging lack of care and neglect of fatherly responsibilities by her ex-husband. The Commission was able to resolve the matter through mediation and her ex-husband agreed to send a monthly stipend for the wellbeing of their child.

C/2022/087/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th April, 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging neglect of their children by her ex-husband. X further claimed that the ex-husband abandoned his fatherly responsibilities towards their children and left the burden for her alone by refusing to provide for the upkeep and education of their children. The Commission mediated on the matter and it was amicably resolved and the husband agreed to take up his fatherly responsibilities towards their children.

C/2022/004/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th January, 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging abandonment of their two children by her ex-husband at Gidan MKR, Makera, Kakuri, Kaduna State. The Commission mediated on the matter and the ex-husband has agreed to take up his responsibilities towards their two children by sending an agreed stipend monthly to the ex-wife to take care of their children.

C/2022/092/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th May, 2022 from X alleging abandonment and lack of care of their children by her husband at No 10 Saminaka Street, Mashi, Kurmin Mashi Kaduna State. Both parties were invited for mediation and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/032/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd February 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging abandonment, and lack of feeding by her husband in Kaduna State. The matter was resolved by the Commission through mediation between both parties.

C/2022/027/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th February 2022 from X alleging that her husband had abandoned his responsibility as a father and husband. The Commission held mediation between both parties and the husband promised to take up his responsibilities towards his family.

C/2022/074/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th April, 2022 from X alleging that the husband abandoned her and the children and relocated to Kakuri within Kaduna state and started living with another woman. The Commission investigated and mediated on the matter and the husband agreed to send a monthly stipend for the upkeep of the children.

C/2022/066/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th March, 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging that since her separation 2 years ago from her ex-husband, he stopped catering and visiting their children who are staying with her. After investigation and mediation between the parties by the Commission, the ex-husband promised and agreed to cater for their three daughters by sending a monthly stipend to them.

C/2022/033/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd February, 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging that her ex-husband of Hayin Rigasa, Kaduna State had abandoned their children without any means of sustenance. After investigation and mediation between the parties by the Commission, her ex-husband agreed henceforth to cater for his family.

C/2022/ 022/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th February, 2022 from X of Kaduna alleging a lack of support by the respondent from the inception of her pregnancy till the child turned five years old. After investigation and mediation by the Commission, the respondent agreed to henceforth, take up all responsibilities of the child.

C/2022/WC/1286/BSO

The Commission received a dated 22 February 2022 from XY of David Mark by Pass, Makurdi Benue State alleging bullying and maltreatment

of a minor (13yrs) by the uncle and children of the minor`s uncle at Katsina-Ala Street Makurdi since February 2022. Parties and Commission resolved that the child be handed over to the biological parents of the child.

LABOUR RIGHTS

ANS/SEZ/2022/090

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st July 2022 from XY alleging that his 17-year-old son has been held hostage at his Master's house where he is an apprentice. His master took him to a shrine to swear an oath that he would never leave his house and work. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the victim would be released to reunite with his family members.

C/2022/034/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th February 2022 from Y who worked as a security guard at Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company from 2017 to 2021. He alleged that his appointment was unlawfully terminated and all efforts to give him a hearing proved abortive. The Commission investigated the matter and both parties agreed to come together and the matter was resolved amicably.

C/2022/005/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 10 January 2022 from Y against his employer. Y alleged that he was appointed as the Secretary to Igabi Local Government from 2018 to 2021 and thereafter his appointment was terminated without the payment of his accommodation and gratuity allowance for 19 months as specified in the agreement signed. The Commission investigated the matter and the employer has agreed to revisit the case for an amicable resolution.

C/2022/024/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 10 February, 202 from Y against his employer. He stated that he was working as a guard man in the respondent's house located at No.5 beside Access Bank Kwatu Road, Kaduna State. He alleged that his bike was seized by his employer and his employer terminated his appointment and refused to pay him for the days he worked before his termination. The Commission investigated the matter by contacting the employer and after mediation, he promised to settle the complainant the days he worked before his appointment was terminated.

C/2022/04/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th January 2022 from Y of No. 29, Olorunsogo, Basiri, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State alleging that his contractor denied him his machine, which was his means of livelihood in October, 2022. The matter was resolved through mediation and the alleged violator wrote an undertaking to return the machine to the complainant.

C/2022/ESCR/040/ADSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th March 2022 from Y of Numan LGA. Y alleged that his employer a branch manager of CGC Nig. Ltd Numan location Adamawa State in March 2022 terminated his appointment due to some irregularities. Y also alleged that the sum of One hundred thousand Naira was deducted from his salary by his employer and he was denied his insurance benefits. The case was withdrawn by the complainant as he stated that the matter had been resolved.

C/2022/ESCR/193/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October 2022, from Y of Ile-Ife Osun State alleging that the Nigeria Police Service Commission did not pay all his entitlements. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission wrote a petition on behalf of the complainant to the Commissioner of Police to look into the matter and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/ESCR/224/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd November 2022 from Y, of Osogbo, Osun state, alleging that X denied him his entitlements. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission was able to make X pay Y all the entitlements.

C/2022/ESCR/230/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th November 2022 from X, of Osogbo, Osun state, alleging that Y denied him his entitlement. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission was able to make Y pay X all the entitlements.

C/2022/ESCR/1307/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th March, 2022 from Y of Mbakuha Ushongo Local Government, alleging LGEA Primary School Ge-mbagwa, Lessel in Ushongo of non-payment of his salary and entitlement since December, 202. After investigation and mediation, the

complainant was advised to exercise patience with the Area Education Board as the matter would be sorted in due time.

C/2022/ESCR/1311/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th March, 2022 from Y, alleging XY the principal of the Community Secondary School Makurdi of non-payment of his salary since 2019. The matter was investigated and resolved by the Commission with the parties and resolution was made to pay Y all his entitlements and wages.

C/2022/ESCR/1408/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March, 2022 from Y of Yarkyor village Welfare Quarters Makurdi, alleged XY NORAD Security Limited of non-payment of his 24 months entitlement since April, 2017 to June, 2019. The matter was investigated and resolved by the Commission with the parties to pay Y all his outstanding salary.

C/2022/ESCR/1543/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th June, 2022 from X of Akpehe Makurdi, alleged Thomcy Model Academy Akpehe Makurdi of non-payment of his 2 months entitlement after tendering her resignation since the 3rd of May, 2022. The Commission and the parties agreed that the alleged violator pay X her (2) months entitlement.

C/2022/ESCR/1722/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th November, 2022 from Y of behind General Hospital North Bank Makurdi, alleging the non-payment of the entitlements owed to him by a man he worked for since 18th November, 2022. The matter was resolved by the Commission, Y was paid his entitlements.

C/2022/ESCR//1740/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th October, 2022 from Y of Lobi Quarters Makurdi, alleging Brand Revelation USL Company of non-payment of entitlements, since his contract was terminated in August, 2022 at Victoria Atorogh Tyough Complex without any benefit. After thorough investigation the Commission invited the parties and resolved that Y be paid his outstanding wages.

C/2022/ESCR/1742/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from Y of beside Methodist Church North Bank Makurdi, alleging the non-payment of his April salary by the management of Divine destiny

Secondary School North Bank. The Commission and parties resolved the differences and Y's salary has been paid.

C/2022/ESCR/4532/HQ

The Commission received a complaint from Y of Kubwa, Bwari Area Council FCT Abuja against XY. Y alleged that XY refused to pay his remuneration/salary. The Commission intervened on the matter and after several mediations, the complaint was resolved accordingly.

C/2021/ESCR/1107/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April 2021 from X of Unguwan Maiwuro Gumau, Toro local government area of Bauchi State who alleged denial of death benefits of Y. After investigation and mediation by the Commission, the accrued benefits were paid to X.

C/2021/ESCR/2822/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th August 2021 from X of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State alleging refusal of payment plan policy by XY. After Investigation and mediation by the Commission, the parties resolved the issue and payment was made to X.

C/2021/ESCR/3814/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st December 2021 from X of Kubwa, FCT Abuja alleging non-payment of salary and benefits by XY. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the matter was resolved amicably.

C/20222/ESCR/2123/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June 2022 from Y of Nyanya Gwandara of Nasarawa State who alleged non-payment of salary by XY. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the matter was amicably resolved.

C/2023/ESCR/347/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th June 2023 from Y of Durumi, Abuja. Y alleged that he was denied payment of two months' salary. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would be paid and this was fulfilled.

C/2022/ESCR/2863/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th September 2022 from Y of Nyanya, Abuja. Y alleged that his employer denied him payment of

his salary. After investigation and mediation between the parties by the Commission, Y was paid.

C/2021/ESCR/146/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th January 2023 from X of Kubwa, Abuja who alleged that her employer had refused to pay her salary for three months. Upon the Commission's intervention through investigation and mediation, her salary was paid.

C/2022/ESCR/2570/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st November 2022 from Y of Karu, Abuja alleging non-payment of outstanding salary by X of Haruna Crescent Utako, Abuja. The Commission intervened and the complaint was resolved amicably

C/2022/ESCR/3423/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August 2022 from X of Face 7 Nyaya, Abuja. X alleged non-payment of two months' salary by her employer of Ikeja Lagos. The Commission intervened in way of mediation and the matter was resolved

C/2022/ESCR/734/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated the 11th day of April 2022 from Y of High Beam Estate Karudu, Abuja. Y alleged non-payment of accumulated salary of seven (7) months by his employer of Utako District, Abuja the Commission intervened and the outstanding was paid.

C/2022/ESCR/1085/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd June 2022 from Y of Adokasa Road New Karu Nassarawa State. Y alleged non-payment of entitlement after his appointment was terminated by X of Wuse II Abuja. The Commission intervened and his entitlements were paid.

C/20222/ESCR/2123/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June 2022 from Y of Nyanya Gwandara of Nasarawa State who alleged non-payment of salary by XY. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the matter was amicably resolved.

C/2023/ESCR/347/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th June 2023 from Y of Durumi, Abuja. Y alleged that he was denied payment of two months' salary. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would be paid.

C/2022/ESCR/2863/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th September 2022 from Y of Nyanya, Abuja. Y alleged that he was denied payment of his salary by his former employer. After investigation and mediation between the parties by the Commission, Y was paid.

C/2021/ESCR/146/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th January 2023 from X of Kubwa, Abuja who alleged that her employer had refused to pay her salary for three months. Upon the Commission's intervention through investigation and mediation, her salary was paid.

C/2022/7967/PSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th May, 2022 from Y of Opposite May Hospital, Shendam, Plateau State alleging that his work as a Driver was terminated by his employer on the allegation that he was drunk while driving. Even though he informed his employer that he was not drunk, his work was still terminated. The complaint was referred to the Public Complaints Commission and the Complainant was informed.

CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**C/2022/ESCR/166/OS**

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st June 2022 from X of Ilesa, Osun State, alleging that one Civil Defense Officer Obtained the sum of ₦153,500 (One Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand Naira Only) by false pretence from her to offer her employment into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission transferred the matter to the State Commandant of Nigeria Civil Defense.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**NHRC/OG/22/054**

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th March 2022 from X of Ogun state, alleging that the paternal Uncle of XY a 15-year-old girl had carnal knowledge of her. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission referred the matter to court for further prosecution.

NHRC/OS/22/100

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th June 2022 from X of Aro Compound Ijana Imesi-Ile, Osun State, alleging that Y assaulted and battered her in his house on 29th May 2022. She further stated that he occasionally comes home drunk and broke. After investigation and

mediation with the parties, the Commission was able to resolve the matter amicably.

C/2022/WC/1406/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th May 2022 from X of No 8 Okene Street North Bank Makurdi alleging that her husband had abandoned her with pregnancy without any provision since March, 2022 at the above address. The Commission and parties resolved via investigation and mediation that, X's husband would provide and take good care of X in the interest of the unborn child.

C/2022/WC/1502/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 18 May 2022. X of Akpehe Road Opposite Oxnet Water alleging denial of fatherly responsibility by her husband, who abandoned her with their children since 2016 at Akpehe, Makurdi. The Commission and parties resolved through investigation and mediation that X's husband would provide for his family.

C/2022/WC/1531/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6 June 2022 from X of Km 3 Makurdi Gboko Road alleging threat to life and abandonment of wife/family since June, 2022 after a misunderstanding in the family. The Commission and parties resolved that X's husband would stop threatening his wife and provide for his family.

C/2022/WC/1546/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 27 June 2022 from X of High level Makurdi alleging abandonment on her and her 8 months old baby by the father for eight months at savanna roundabout. The Commission and parties resolved through investigation and mediation that X's husband would take up his responsibilities and reunite with his family.

C/2022/WC/1556/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28 June 2022 from X of opposite court 5 North Bank alleging abandonment of her and their 3 children by her husband at the above address. The Commission through investigation and mediation reunited the parties and resolved that X's husband would start providing for his family and avoid abusing his wife.

C/2022/WC/1570/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th July 2022 from X of Apir, Makurdi Local Government Area alleging abandonment of her and 2

children by her husband after a misunderstanding in September 2021 at Apir, Makurdi Local Government. The Commission and parties through investigation and mediation resolved that X's husband would reunite with his family and take up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/1573/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th July 2022 from X of No 24 Kaduna Street Wadata, Makurdi alleging that her husband abandoned her without any care, medication, shelter, or food, amongst other things at the above address since November 2020. The Parties, after the Commission's intervention via investigation and mediation, agreed to reunite and the husband agreed to provide for his family.

C/2022/WC/1574/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7 July 2022 from X of Km4 Gboko Road, at Tordege close, Jonathan House Makurdi alleging abandonment of wife and family by her husband since July, 2022, among other issues at the above address. The Parties, after the Commission's intervention through investigation and mediation, agreed to reunite and the husband agreed to provide for his family.

C/2022/WC/1590/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 13 July 2022 from X of behind Community Secondary School Wadata Makurdi alleging abandonment of her and their child (male) by the father since July, 2022 at the above address. She claimed that all efforts to resolve the matter failed. The Commission with the parties resolved through investigation and mediation that X's husband would reunite with his family and he would take up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/1628/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8 August 2022 from X of behind correctional Centre Yaikyo Makurdi alleging abandonment of her and her 2-year-old baby boy by the husband, amongst other rights violation, since August 2022 at the above address. The Commission after conducting its investigations, reunited the parties through conciliation. X's husband agreed to take up his responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/1633/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 15 August 2022 from X of Welfare Quarters Makurdi alleging lack of care and infliction of beatings from her husband since 2011 at the above address. X claimed that all efforts to resolve their issues proved abortive. After the Commission

conducted its investigations, the parties resolved that X's husband would desist from beating X and take up his responsibilities in the home.

C/2022/WC/1643/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 19 August 2022 from Y of No. 21 Lucy Aluor Street, Logol, Makurdi alleging abandonment of her daughter by her husband and that all efforts to persuade him to take up his responsibilities proved abortive. The matter allegedly took place at Adikpo in Kwande Local Government. After the Commission conducted its investigations, and parties resolved via conciliation to reunite with a charge on X's husband to provide for his family.

C/2022/WC/1389/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 5 May 2022 from X of opposite Akpabu, Secondary School Obudu Local Government alleging denial of access to her 3 children by the husband and mother-in-law after they got separated due to domestic violence. X alleged this has been happening since 29th April 2022 at the above address. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that X would be with the children since they are minors and X's husband would have access to the children and provide for their well-being.

C/2022/WC/1399/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 10 May 2022 from X of North Bank Makurdi alleging that her husband took her four (4) year-old child away from her after a little misunderstanding in May, 2022 at the above address. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved that X would be with the child and X's husband would take care of the child's welfare and have access to see the child.

C/2022/WC/1401/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11 May 2022 from X of Opposite Guarantee Trust Bank Makurdi alleging that her late husband's brothers took her child and denied her access to the child since January 2022 at the above address. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that X would be with X until he attains the age of majority and X's husband's family would have access to see the child.

C/2022/WC/1500/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 17 May 2022 from X of 78 JS. Tarkaa Road Makurdi alleging that her son was taken away from her and she was denied access by the father and family relations after a misunderstanding in January 2022 at the above address. The

Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that X would be with the child pending when the child grows up.

C/2022/WC/1544/BSO

The office received a complaint dated 20 June 2022 from Y of behind Customary Court of Appeal, Makurdi alleging the seizure of his child by his wife thereby denying Y access/custody of the child since 24th June 2022 at Akpehe. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation that X's husband would be allowed to have access to the child and provide for his well-being.

C/2022/WC/1566/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 30 June 2022 from Y of Akpehe Makurdi alleging denial of access to see his children by the mother since June 2022 at Akpehe Logo I, Makurdi. The Parties at the Commission after investigations, concluded that custody of the children be given to the mother while Y would be allowed access to visit with the mother's consent.

C/2022/WC/1583/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8 July 2022 from X of 47 Ideme Road Okpoga Okpokwu Local Government Area alleging denial of custody of her children by the husband, among other rights violations. X alleged that this took place since 28th May 2022 at the above address. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved that X's husband desist from violence and reunite with his family.

C/2022/WC/1586/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 8 July 2022 from X of Wadata river side, Makurdi alleging that she had 2 children for a man to whom she was not legally married and because of a misunderstanding, her children had been seized by the man since July 2022 at the above address. The Commission conducted its investigation and the parties resolved that X would be with the children and the husband be allowed access to the children and provide for their well-being.

C/2022/WC/1622/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd August 2022 from X of Manor Quarters Makurdi alleging denial of parental care of her children by her husband, whom she was separated from, since July 2022 in Makurdi. The Commission conducted its investigation and the parties resolved that the child would be with X and X's husband would have access to the children and would be responsible for their well-being.

ANS/SEZ/2022/29:

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th March 2022 from X of Amawbia Awka Anambra State. X alleged that her guardian was forcing her to marry a man who was as old as her father. She stated that her guardian has been beating and harassing her in public because of her refusal. X further stated that she does not want to stay with her guardian again. After investigation and mediation, the Commission and parties resolved that: X would be allowed to marry a man of her choice, X would go back to her people and that both parties shall not entertain any action that would cause public embarrassment to one another. Terms of the settlement were drafted and signed by both parties.

C/2022/WC/1384/BSO

The Commission received a complaint of threat to life from X on 29th April, 2022. X of old GRA Makurdi alleged a threat to her life by her husband whom X claimed is an alcoholic addict; an instance X alleged has been happening since 6th April 2022 at the above address. The Commission and parties resolved that X's husband would stop beating and maltreating his wife.

C/2022/WC/1505/BSO

The Commission received a complaint of threat to life from family relations on 18th May 2022. X of behind NKST Church Achusa Makurdi alleged a threat to life by family relations after a misunderstanding in May 2022 at the above address. The Commission and parties resolved that X's family relations would stop joining issues with X and avoid threatening her.

C/2022/WC/1515/BSO

The office received a complaint of threat to life/physical abuse from X on 20th May, 2022. X alleged a threat to her life and assault from a person she had been cohabiting with since 2022 at no 23 Kano Street Wadata Makurdi, Benue state. After investigation and conciliation, the Parties and the Commission resolved that X's boyfriend would stop threatening her.

C/2022/WC/1578/BSO

The Commission received a complaint of threat to life from X on 13th of July, 2022. X of Gwer-East Local Government, Benue State alleged a threat to her life by her husband after a misunderstanding, which X alleged has been happening since 2016 to date at Henge village Tswedue in Gwer-East Local Government. The Parties and the

Commission resolved that her husband would desist from threatening his wife and respect his family and provide for them.

C/2022/WC/1520/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 26 May 2022 from X of No. 36 off Wukari Street Wurukum Makurdi alleging that she was raped by a neighbour at Railway Market area on 22nd May 2022. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved through mediation to settle their disagreement and now they are living in peace.

C/2022/WC/1383/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 4 May 2022 from XY of 62, Old Otukpo Road High-level, Makurdi alleging abandonment of their client and constant maltreatment after marriage, which allegedly took place in November 2021 in Makurdi.

The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties, through mediation, resolved to settle their disagreement and live in peace.

C/2022/WC/1394/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9 May 2022 from X of 53 Awe Street Angwan Jukum Makurdi alleging that her husband abandoned her with 4 children since his transfer to another place of work, which allegedly took place since May 2022 at the above address. The Commission conducted its investigations and the parties resolved that X's husband would stop maltreating his wife and reunite with his family and provide for them.

C/2022/WC/1403/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 10 May 2022 from X of No. 10 Kaduna Street Wadata Makurdi alleging that her husband abandoned her and their 2 children and got married to another woman in May 2022. The Commission conducted its investigations and through conciliation, the parties agreed that X's husband would provide for his family and the well-being of the children.

C/2022/077/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th April, 2022, from X alleging that her husband had been beating and threatening her life daily. X further alleged that the husband took away all her belongings to an unknown destination and has refused to cater for the family. The Commission investigated and mediated on the matter and the husband agreed to take care of his family and stop beating his wife.

C/2022/038/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd March, 2022 from X against her husband alleging that the husband is in the habit of beating her and insulting her before her parents and the public. X further alleged that the husband seized her mobile phone thereby denying her access to communication with her parents, damaged her clothing and would drive her out of the house whenever they had the slightest misunderstanding. The Commission, after conducting investigations, mediated on the matter and the husband promised that he would stop beating the wife and driving her out of their matrimonial home whenever they had a misunderstanding. The matter was resolved amicably.

C/2022/009/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 17th January, 2022 from X alleging that her husband had been very abusive and he beat her frequently, causing injuries on her physical body. X also alleged that he threatened to kill her. The Commission investigated the matter and referred the case to the Gender and Family Support Unit of the Police.

C/2022/051/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th March, 2022 from X, alleging that her husband is in the habit of beating her at the slight misunderstanding. X further stated that her husband is a drunkard and does not care for their six children. The Commission investigated and mediated between the parties. Both parties mutually agreed to live peacefully together while the husband promised to stop beating his wife and start catering for his family with a monthly stipend.

C/2022/080/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th April 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband, at No 8 Dutse Road, Abakwa, Kaduna State normally beats her and leaves her with so many bruises on her face and other parts of her body. After investigation and mediation between both parties by the Commission, Y agreed to stop beating her and refund the medical bills incurred as a result of the beating.

C/2022/046/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March 2022 from X alleging domestic violence and lack of care against her husband, of Kwanan Maishayi, Tuduwada Kaduna State. After investigation and mediation between the parties by the Commission, the respondent agreed to take care of his wife and family.

C/2022/035/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th February, 2022 from XY on behalf of his daughter on an allegation of domestic violence against the daughter's husband. XY further alleged that the respondent beats his daughter regularly at the slightest provocation. The Commission investigated and mediated on the matter and the husband promised to desist from beating his wife.

ANS/SEZ/2022/87

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd June 2022 from X of Awada, Onitsha North LGA. X alleged that Y her husband beats her at any slightest provocation and has failed in his fatherly responsibilities to their children. X stated that she left the house and went back to her father's house. After investigation and mediation, the Commission and parties resolved that: X would return to her house and her husband would desist from beating her. Terms of settlement were signed and the matter was closed.

C/2022/WC/2022/HQ -ANS/SEZ/2022/91

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st July, 2022 from XY of Abuja. XY alleged that X his sister was undergoing cruel Inhuman and Degrading treatment from Y her husband and she is heavily pregnant. During the investigation, the victim told the Commission to withdraw from the matter because she wanted her husband to stay with her during delivery. She said she would contact the Commission if she needed the services. The matter was closed for lack of diligent pursuit.

C/2022/WC/144/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st October, 2022 from X of Fegge Onitsha Anambra State. X alleged that Y her husband frequently beat her even during pregnancy. She further alleged that he took better care of her stepson than their own three children. X alleged that her husband does not provide for the family and does not allow her to cook and he prefers the apprentice living with them to do the cooking. X said she was not interested in the marriage again and had gone back to her father's house. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and parties resolved that the respondent would provide the school fees and hospital bills of the children, and provide a monthly allowance of ₦20000 which can be increased. Terms of settlement were signed and the matter was closed.

C/2022/WC/165/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November 2022 from X of Abuja Estate in Awka, Anambra State. X alleged that Y, her husband

beats her frequently and does not shoulder his responsibilities as a father to his two children and as husband to her. X said she lives in fear because of his constant threats to her life. She was no longer interested in the marriage. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and parties resolved that: X would take custody of the children and live separately; her husband would have access to his children; her husband would provide a monthly allowance of ₦10000 out of the salary he received every month as a security man. X agreed to collect the ₦ 10000 and manage it because all she needed was to get out of his house to save her life. Terms of settlement were signed and the matter was closed.

ANS/SEZ/2022/19

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th February, 2022 from X of Fegge Onitsha Anambra State. X alleged that Y, her husband, beat her frequently and threatened to kill her. He chased her away from the house and collected their three-year-old son from her. After investigation and mediation, the Commission reconciled the parties and they mutually accepted that: On no account would Y beat her again; X would bridle her tongue to avoid provoking or inciting Y and fulfil her duty as a wife. The terms of settlement were drafted and signed by both parties.

C/2022/WC/007/NG

The Commission received a Complaint dated 17th January, 2021 from X of Minna, Niger State alleging that since her marriage to Y, her husband, 7 years ago, he has been in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation. X stated that she has been patient believing he would change, but on the 17th of January 2022, he beat her up and even denied her food afterwards at their residence in Minna, Niger state. Upon investigation and mediation, the parties and the Commission agreed that the Respondent shall henceforth desist from assaulting the wife and shall make provision of food in the house for the wife.

C/2022/WC/028/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th March 2022 from X of Minna, Niger state alleging that Y, her husband, beats her up in the presence of the children and has neglected to cater for their 4 children. Upon investigation and subsequent mediation conducted by the Commission, the parties agreed that Y shall perform His fatherly responsibility towards His children and also totally desist from beating His wife, whether or not in the presence of His children.

C/2022/WC/147/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th of November, 2022 from XY alleging that X his sister of Bosso Niger state, who is married to Y, a Lawyer, has been going through maltreatment and non-provision of food and basic necessities in the hands of Y, her husband of 5-years. Upon investigation, mediation was held between both parties and it was agreed that the Respondent would take full responsibility for providing food and other necessities for his wife. An undertaken was signed thereto.

C/2022/WC/044/NG

The Commission received a Complaint dated 21st March 2022 from X of Minna, Niger state who alleged wife battery against Y, her husband. X further alleged that the months of February and March 2022 were like hellfire in the hands of her husband. Upon investigation, mediation was had and brokered by the Commission and the parties agreed that the Respondent shall henceforth cease from any form of assault on the Complainant as the Respondent also entered into an undertaking before the Commission in that regard.

C/2022/CPR/140/NG

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November 2022 from X of Bosso Minna alleging that Y, her husband of 15 years, constantly battered her and was negligent of his fatherly responsibilities. She alleged that he refused to cater for her and their three (3) children with respect to the provision of food and other basic needs. After the Commission conducted its investigations, Mediation was held between both parties and the father of the 3 children agreed to desist henceforth from physical abuse of his wife and take full responsibility for the welfare of His children, as per their feeding, school fees and other necessities. He signed an undertaken to this regard.

NHRC/OS/22/071

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th January, 2022 from X of Kasimo Area, Oke Baale, Osogbo, Osun state, alleging that she was raped by Y on 2nd May, 2022 at Atoke Hospital in Osogbo Osun State. After investigation and mediation, the Commission swung into action by involving the NPF to arrest the alleged violator, who was charged to court.

NHRC/OS/22/079

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st March, 2022 from X of Osun state, alleging that Y was in the habit of beating and maltreating

her in Osun State. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Parties resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to desist from violating the rights of his wife.

NHRC/OS/22/080

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th May, 2022 from X of Ayekale Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y was in the habit of constantly beating her, and he also sent her packing from the house. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Parties resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife and the complainant agreed to move back into the house.

NHRC/OS/22/092

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th May, 2022 from X of Ire Akari Street, Ilobu Osun State alleging that her boss Y assaulted and harassed her on 26th May, 2022. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking to stop harassing the complainant.

NHRC/OS/22/093

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th May, 2022 from X, of Oke Ayepe, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that Y constantly threatened her and her family. X further alleged domestic violence against Y. After the Commission conducted its investigation and mediation with the parties, the parties resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate or abuse the rights of his wife.

NHRC/OS/22/103

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022 from X, of Osun state, alleging that Y, her husband, had been maltreating her. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife and abuse her again.

NHRC/OS/22/108

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X, of Osun state, alleging that Y had been maltreating her in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife.

NHRC/OS/22/111

The Commission received a complaint dated 30th June, 2022 from X of Osun state, alleging that Y had been maltreating her in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife.

NHRC/OS/22/117

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th June, 2022 from XY, alleging that Y has been harassing and assaulting X and her mother, who reside in Alekuwodo, Osogbo, Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent and complainant would write and sign an undertaking to conduct themselves civilly. The parties were counselled afterwards.

NHRC/OS/22/118

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th June 2022, from X of Osogbo, Osun State alleging Y of constant domestic violence. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife or threaten her again.

NHRC/S/22/119

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th July, 2022 from X of Osun state, alleging that Y had been maltreating her in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife.

NHRC/OS/22/122

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th July, 2022 from X of Ayetoro area, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging domestic violence against Y. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife.

NHRC/OS/22/129

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th July, 2022 from X, of prime Area, Opposite Kadi, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging domestic violence against Y. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife again.

NHRC/OS/22/138

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022 from X of Catholic Bishop's Court, Osogbo, Osun-State, alleging that Y, her husband, had been beating her since they got married. X further stated that he has been irresponsible in fulfilling his duties as a father to their children and also denied her of her conjugal rights. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife and henceforth take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children and also not to deprive the complainant of her marital rights.

NHRC/OS/22/101

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th August, 2022 from X of Ile-Ife, Osun-State, alleging that Y, her husband, had been beating her constantly since the inception of their marriage. X further stated that Y finally abandoned her and the children produced in the union. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife again and to also take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/140

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th June, 2022 from X of Badmos Petrol Station, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y, her husband, was in the habit of beating her. X further alleged that Y abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to his child. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife and also take up his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/144/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th August, 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun-State alleging that Y, her husband, and his family members jointly maltreated her and physically abused her. X further stated that Y's sister and the women of their village subjected her to harmful traditional practices during their mother's burial by accusing her of killing her and asking her to pay a fine. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife again and both parties were counselled on the negative effect of harmful traditional practices.

C/2022/WC/147/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th August, 2022, from X of Colobana, Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y, her husband, was fond of beating her at the slightest provocation. X further stated that she wanted to move out of the house but Y prevented her from doing so. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to violate the rights of his wife.

C/2022/WC/151/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th August, 2022 from XY alleging that a case of domestic violence against Y of Osogbo, Osun State, meted on X. XY referred to a particular incident of domestic violence meted on X by Y on 21st August, 2022, where Y assaulted X and bullied her to the extent that she fell sick. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would undertake in writing not to violate the rights of his wife again.

C/2022/WC/153/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th August, 2022 from X, of Osogbo, Osun State alleging a case of domestic violence and abandonment of children against Y. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would undertake in writing not to violate the rights of his wife again and also to take up his fatherly responsibilities to the children.

C/2022/WC/162/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X of Modomo Area, Ile-Ife, Osun-State, alleging that she was beaten by Y, her husband, when she discovered that he had fathered two children during his trip to Europe. She further stated that after beating her up in front of a visitor, she almost committed suicide but was rescued by her daughters. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would undertake in writing not to violate the rights of his wife again or threaten her in any manner. The complainant was counselled.

C/2022/WC/163/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X of Osun State Campus Osogbo, alleging a case of constant domestic violence against Y. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably.

C/2022/WC/170/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th September, 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun state, alleging that Y raped and defiled her. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the matter be transferred to the NPF for further criminal investigations and prosecution while the Commission monitors the matter.

C/2022/WC/185/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd September 2022, from Y of Ifon-Osun, Osun State alleging that X was psychologically and verbally assaulting him because of his inability to sufficiently provide for the family even though X was earning more than Y at the time. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably and both parties were counselled.

C/2022/WC/187/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 24th September 2022 from X of Osu Area, near Anglican Grammar School, Osu, Osun State alleging that she was beaten up by Y continuously for over a year. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably between the parties.

C/2022/WC/225/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd November 2022 from X of Owode-Ede, Osun State alleging that Y her husband had been beating her, locked her out of their house and abandoned her and her children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably.

C/2022/WC/251/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th November, 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State, alleging a case of domestic violence against Y. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y would undertake in writing not to violate the rights of X again.

C/2022/WC/258/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th December, 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that her late husband's family subjected her to inhuman and degrading treatment. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably.

C/2022/WC/247/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y, her husband, beat her on the 26th February 2022, and had since abandoned his fatherly responsibilities to their children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y would undertake in writing to stop violating the rights of X and that Y would take up his fatherly responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/246/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State, alleging that her husband had been beating her which prompted her to leave the house. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably.

C/2022/WC/273/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd November 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State alleging that Y, her husband, threatened her life saying that he would kill her anytime. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter and Y signed an undertaking to desist from threatening X again.

C/2022/WC/192/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th October 2022 from X of Capital Osogbo, alleging that Y was in the habit of beating and maltreating her to the extent of her moving out of the house. After investigation and conciliation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably.

C/2022/WC/203/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th October 2022 from X of Osogbo alleging that Y had been maltreating and beating her. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y undertake in writing to stop violating the rights of X.

C/2022/WC/217/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th October 2022 from X of Osogbo alleging that Y had been beating her at the slightest provocation. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y undertake in writing to stop violating the rights of X.

C/ 2022/WC/270/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th December 2022 from X of Osogbo, alleging that Y sent her packing out of the house after

beating her. After investigation and conciliation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter amicably.

C/2022/WC/251/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th November, 2022 from X, of Osogbo, Osun State, alleging a case of domestic violence against Y. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent undertake in writing not to violate the rights of his wife.

C/2022/WC/202/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th October 2022, from X of Osogbo alleging that Y was beating and maltreating her. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would undertake in writing not to violate the rights of his wife.

C/2022/WC/272/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 20th of December 2022 from X of Ile-Ife alleging domestic violence against Y. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the respondent would undertake not to violate the rights of his wife.

C/2022/01/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th January, 2022 from X of No 54, Abekoko, Falegan, Ado-Ekiti. X alleged that her brothers-in-law denied her access to her children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that X would have unrestricted access to her children during holidays since X was married to another man after the demise of the father of her children.

C/2022/21/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st March 2022 from X of Deeper Life Church area, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State on alleged denial of access to children and threat to life. The matter was resolved through investigation and conciliation and the parties signed an agreement to live together peacefully and to take care of the children together.

C/2022/32/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 10th May 2022 from X of 132 KVA Ayeyemi Street Ado Ekiti alleging domestic and gender-based violence against her husband. After investigation and conciliation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that they would work on their weaknesses and live peacefully together.

C/2022/39/EK

The Commission received a complaint from Y dated 29 June 2022 alleging that X (the mother of his child) withdrew their child from his lawful custody and denied him access to their child. The matter was resolved through mediation and the prayers of the complainant were addressed upon the intervention of the Commission.

C/2022/47/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 4th August 2022 from X of Ekiti State alleging that her husband battered her and forcefully withdrew their child from her custody on 4th August 2022 while resident at No.5, Ekute Quarters, Opposite Deyem, Ekute, Ado-Ekiti. The Commission conducted its investigations and successfully mediated in the matter as they both agreed to live together peacefully.

C/2022/WC/4-5/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd August, 2022 from Y of Q34, Ilaro Quarters, Ifaki, Ekiti State. Y alleged that the uncle of his child withdrew the child from his custody. The Commission, after conducting its investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that the child would remain in the custody of the respondent in his best interests.

C/2022/WC/81-84/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 13th November, 2022 from X of Ogo-Oluwa Street, Oye-Igbo, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State alleging that her husband subjected her to domestic violence and wife battery. The Commission, after investigation, mediated between the parties and they resolved that they would live peacefully and the respondent would desist from battering the complainant.

C/2022/WC/24-26/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th September, 2022 from X of Adjacent Our Saviour's, Irona Street, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. X alleged that her husband subjected her to domestic violence. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that they would start living separately.

C/2022/WCR/83/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 10th August, 2022 from X of IBEDC Offa, Kwara State, alleging that her husband was in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation. After the intervention of the

Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WCR/85/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 11th August 2022 from X of NAPTIP Kwara State Branch, alleging that her husband had been subjecting her to all forms of domestic abuse since they got married. After the intervention of the Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WCR/086/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 17th August 2022 from X of No. 10 Popo Giwa Street, off Ajikobi Road, Ilorin, Kwara State, alleging that she had been facing a series of domestic abuse from her husband since they got married. The Commission investigated the matter and mediated between the parties, and the matter was resolved amicably.

C/2022/WCR/090/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 29th of August, 2022 from X of Kanbi Ilorin Kwara State, alleging that her husband was in the habit of beating her at the slightest provocation. After the intervention of the Commission through investigation and mediation, the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WCR/094/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 6th September 2022 from X of No. 1 Ojo Close Agric Estate Area Ilorin Kwara State, alleging that Y her husband was fond of beating her and spoiling her personal belongings whenever they had issues. The matter was resolved through investigation and mediation.

C/2022/WCR/101/KW

The Commission received a Complaint dated 14th September, 2022 from Y of No 5 Dr Segun Agboola Street Irewolede Ilorin Kwara state alleging that Y the mother of their daughter denied him access to their daughter aged thirteen years old. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would take up responsibilities.

C/2022/WC/1409/BSO

The Commission is in receipt of a complaint dated 13th May 2022 from X of No 3 Kanji Street, North Bank, Makurdi alleged that Y her husband had been in the habit of threatening her life and beating her severely

since 2016. The Commission investigated the matter and mediated between the parties, and the matter was resolved peacefully.

C/2022/WC/1521/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st May 2022 from X of Federal Housing North Bank Makurdi alleging a series of physical abuse by Y her husband. The matter was admitted for investigation. The Commission advised Y to deviate from beating X through investigation and mediation and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WC/1538/BSO

The Commission received a complaint 7th June 2022 from XY of OCV table water Makurdi who alleged a threat to X's life and domestic violence by Y, her husband. The complainant further alleged that due to some disagreement between them since June 2022. The Commission investigated the matter and mediated between the parties and told Y to stop threatening the life of X, the matter was resolved peacefully.

C/2022/WC/1539/BSO

The Commission received a complaint of domestic violence and threat to life from XY dated 7th June 2022, in Makurdi alleged threat to life on X their sister and domestic violence by Y her husband. The Commission investigated the matter and mediated between both parties, and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WC/1551/BSO

The Commission received a complaint of domestic violence, dated 28th June 2022 from X of Jato-Aka, Kwande Local Government alleged serious beatings on her by Y her husband after marriage with 4 children. She further alleged that all efforts to address the issue yielded negative results. The Commission intervened in the matter through investigation and conciliation and it was resolved that Y would stop beating X.

C/2022/WC/1606/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th 2022 from X of Federal Medical Centre Makurdi alleging she has suffered a series of domestic violence from Y, her husband. She further alleged that since 2005, he had been beating her at any slightest mistake. The Commission intervened through investigation and mediation and the alleged violator signed an undertaking never to beat her again and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WC/164/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November, 2022 from Y of Abia Village, Udi L.G.A, Enugu State, alleging that X, his wife, ran away with their 1-year-old son to Onitsha, Anambra State without his consent and has been denying him access to their son. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would be granted access to their son since both parents have equal access and that he would also be providing the upkeep of the child.

C/2022/WC/251/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 6th September, 2022 from Y alleging that she and Y her husband are blessed with 4 Children. She alleged that 6 months ago, they had issues which led to domestic violence. She further alleged that she was served divorce papers and asked to leave their matrimonial home which they both occupied before the misunderstanding. She also alleged that ever since she left the house, she has been denied access to their children. The Commission intervened in the matter after investigation and mediation between them and the Commission the matter was resolved.

NHRC/OG/22/025 – 029

The Commission received a complaint dated 2nd March 2022 from Y alleging that X, his wife, and her family denied him access to their children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that X would grant Y access to their children and he would be performing his fatherly responsibilities.

NHRC/OG/22/002

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th January 2022 from X in Ogun State, alleging that Y her husband abused and humiliated her several times and also denied her access to their children after separation. The Commission intervened after investigation and mediation between the parties, the matter was resolved that the custody of the children would be given to their mother and Y would be providing upkeep and welfare for their children.

C/2022/WC/36/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th 2022 from X alleging that Y her husband has refused to take care of his family, abandoned them and travelled to another state without asking how their children are faring for 2 years and counting. The Commission intervened and

investigated the matter and resolved it between them and both parties are living happily.

C/2022/WC/148/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th October, 2022 from X alleging that Y, her husband, beats her and their children and that he does not frequently provide for the family. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the husband would stop beating her, and agreed that he would take up his responsibility as a father to their children. The matter was resolved.

C/2022/WC/76/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th March, 2023 from X alleging that she started dating Y in October 2021 until she got pregnant for him in January 2022. She alleged that quarrels started after she refused to abort the pregnancy. She further alleged that Y started cheating and assaulting her and even stripped her naked right in front of his brother. After intervention, investigation and mediation by the Commission between both parties, the matter was resolved and they agreed that Y would take responsibility for the Child.

C/2022/WC/62/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 27th May 2022 from X alleging that her husband chased her out of her matrimonial home in 2013 whilst she was still pregnant with their last child and she has since not set her eyes on their other 2 children for 9 years. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that she would have unlimited access to their children, visit them at their school and also allow her husband to have access to their last son whom he had never seen since birth. The matter was resolved and they were all happy with the outcome.

C/2022/WC/142-146/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th April, 2022 from Y alleging that X his wife whom he legally got married to packed out of his house while he was at work and took the sum of N200,000 (two hundred thousand naira) that was ought to be for house rent and also his 4 kids. He further alleged that on the 13th April, 2022 she got him arrested by the police on false allegations levelled against him and broke the padlock he used in locking up his shop. After the intervention of the Commission, the complainant came with a written request to officially close the complaint.

NHRC/OG/22/043 – 48

The Commission received a complaint dated 25th March 2022 from X alleging that Y the father of three 3 children always beat her up and has refused to make provision for the Children. The Commission intervened, and after investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved the matter. Y signed an undertaking never to beat X again and agreed to be responsible for the upkeep of their children.

C/2022/WC/79/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 8th June 2022 from Y alleging that X, his wife, took their 2 children and relocated to Anambra without his knowledge and has since denied him access to his children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the children's father would have access to his children whenever he is in Anambra state and would also see to their upkeep, health and education of the children.

C/2022/WC/113/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th August 2022 from Y alleging that X, his wife, abandoned their 3 sons and returned after a while to abduct them on their way to school. He further alleged she took them to her father's house and threatened to kill him if he dared come to pick up his children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would have access to their children and the children would spend long holidays with him while he also caters to their basic needs.

C/2022/WC/356/EDO

The Commission received a complaint dated 16th November, 2022 from Y in Edo State alleging that he was arrested alongside X, his wife, at home on the grounds that the child he had with another woman was not properly taken care of. He alleged that while he was at the Police station, he was made to sign an undertaking, allegedly under duress, to hand over his son to his mother who did not take care of him when he was a baby. The Commission intervened after an investigation and mediation between them and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WC/119/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 18th August 2022 from X alleging that Y her husband cunningly took their two daughters away from her and sent them to his sister in Sango, Ogun State and has refused to bring them back. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that her husband

would arrange for the immediate return of their 2 girls within 2 weeks and the matter was resolved.

C/2022/WC/35/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March 2022 from X alleging that her husband drove her away along with their two children on the basis that she confronted him over his affair with a lady. Since then, he has not been providing for their children. After the intervention of the Commission, the complainant called the investigation officer to inform the Commission that her husband's kindreds had scheduled 31st April 2022 to look into the matter and on the 14th March 2022, she came to The Commission to submit a letter of withdrawal as one of the conditions given by the kindred. On 19th March 2022, she called via telephone to inform the Commission that she had moved back with the children to her matrimonial home and that peace was restored in the family.

C/2022/WC/40/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd March 2023 from Y alleging that X his ex-wife was depriving him access to their five-year-old son. After investigation and mediation, a consensus was reached by both parties and terms of settlement were signed by both parties. The matter was resolved.

NHRC/OS/22/094

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st June, 2022 from X of Ada Boripe Local Government, Osun State, alleging that Y denied her access to their children. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent does not have the right to deny the complainant access to their children and that they would both take up their parental responsibilities to the children and not deny each other access to the children.

C/2022/WC/214/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th October, 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun state, alleging that Y was denying her access to their child. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission resolved that Y does not have the right to deny X access to the children thus he would desist from doing that.

C/2022/WC/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th September 2022, from X of Ede Osun State, alleging that Y was denying her access to their children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the

Commission resolved that X would have custody of the children and that X should not deny Y access to the Children.

NHRC/OS/22/084

The Commission received a complaint dated 12th May, 2022, from Y of Ijebu ode, Ogun State, alleging that X had been denying him access to his daughter. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent does not have the right to deny the complainant access to the children, therefore, she would desist from doing so.

NHRC/OS/22/089

The Commission received a complaint dated 26th May, 2022 from Y of Osun state, alleging that X had been denying him access to their children in Osun State. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent does not have the right to deny the complainant access to the children.

NHRC/OS/22/102

The Commission received a complaint dated 14th June, 2022 from X, of Osun state, alleging that Y had been denying her access to their children in Osun State. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would allow her to have access to their children.

NHRC/OS/22/124

The Commission received a complaint dated 21st July, 2022, from X of Isale-Aro, Osogbo, Osun State, alleging Y of denying her access to their child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking that she would not deny the respondent access to their child.

NHRC/OS/22/132

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th July, 2022 from X of Ayelabowo Street, Osogbo Osun State alleging Y of denying her access to their child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent does not have the right to deny the complainant access to their child.

C/2022/WC/160/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st August, 2022 from X who lives in Ile-Ife, Osun State, alleging that Y her husband has denied her access to her children since she ran away for her dear life after decades of being maltreated and physically abused by him. After

investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Y would allow her access to her children.

C/2022/WC/249/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd November, 2022 from X of Osogbo, Osun State alleging that the father of her child denied her access to their child. She also stated that the father of her child forcefully evicted her from the house and he is always fond of beating her at any slightest provocation. After investigation and mediation between both parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that the child would be in the custody of the respondent both parties would take up their parental responsibilities to the child and they both signed an undertaking to conduct themselves in a civil manner.

C/2022/WC/262/OS

The Commission received a complaint dated 9th of December 2022 from X residing at Alekuwodo Osogbo Osun State alleging that Y was denying her access to their child. After investigation and mediation with the parties, the Commission resolved that the respondent would write and sign an undertaking not to deny X access to their child.

ANS/SEZ/2022/34

The Commission received a complaint dated 15th March, 2022 from X of Lagos but her children live with their father in Onitsha, Anambra State. X alleged that her husband Y was denying her access to her children after their separation. After investigation and mediation, the Commission and parties resolved that X would be allowed to visit her children once every second Sunday of the month and that X would speak with her children every Sunday of every week.

ANS/SEZ/2022/64

The Commission received a complaint dated 28th April 2022 from Y of Lagos, alleging that X his wife was denying him access to his three children after their separation. He stated that X relocated to the East. After investigation and mediation, the Commission and parties resolved that X would find a conducive accommodation in the interest of their children and Y would pay for it. It was also resolved that Y would pay the children's school fees and medical bills while his wife sees to the feeding of the children and Y would support with provision of food items. The terms of settlement were signed and the matter was closed.

C/2022/WC/170/ANS

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st December, 2022 from X of Amikwo Awka Anambra State. X alleged that her marriage was

blessed with five children however, she suffered from depression and had gone to a Rehabilitation centre twice as a result of the trauma she underwent in her husband's house. X stated that her mother-in-law consistently interfered in her marriage and controlled her husband, which made her life and that of their kids miserable. X left her husband's house to her father's house leaving the kids behind. X alleged that she had been denied access to her children. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and parties resolved that X would always have access to her children, X would be free to cook and wash for her children, X's mother-in-law would stop interfering in her son's marriage and her husband would continue to provide for the upkeep of his children. Terms of settlement were signed and the matter was closed.

C/2022/017/KD

The Commission received a complaint dated 3rd February, 2022 from Y of Kaduna alleging that he has been denied access to his daughter by his girlfriend and her family at No 71 River Road Down Quarter, Kaduna State. Y further alleged that the respondent gave birth to a baby girl on 6th December, 2021 which he had not seen since then neither was he allowed to provide for his daughter. After thorough investigation and mediation between both parties by the Commission, unfettered access to the child has been scheduled for the respondent as agreed by both parents.

C/2022/ 7859-7860/PSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th March, 2020 from Y alleging that the Respondent denied him access to their child when she left his house in Jos to Bauchi. The matter was admitted for investigation and mediation. Both parties were invited for mediation and terms of settlement were signed by both parties.

C/2022/WC/1353/BSO

The Commission received a complaint dated 7 April 2022 from X of Wadata Makurdi alleging that her ex-husband from whom she was divorced had denied her access to their children who have been in his care since April, 2022. Parties, at the Commission, agreed that the wife would be allowed to visit her children with the consent of the father.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

C/2023/ESCR/3055/HQ

The Commission received a complaint dated 22nd May 2023 from X of Zone A, Apo Resettlement Abuja alleging constant noise pollution by his neighbour of Zone A Apo Resettlement, Abuja. The Commission intervened through mediation and the complaint was resolved amicably.

C/2022/07/EK

The Commission received a complaint dated 24 January, 202 from Y of Onala Quarters, Off Afao Road, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. Y alleged that Benin Electricity Distribution Company, Adebayo Office, Ado-Ekiti purposefully denied him of a peaceful existence in his environment on account of an unlawful abrupt disconnection of their power source for a couple of months. After investigation and mediation between the parties, the Commission and the parties resolved that Benin Electricity would reconnect the power source of the entire community and later only disconnect houses that defaulted in paying their electricity bills.

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**NHRC/NGSO/2022/051**

The Commission received a complaint on 11th May 2022 from XY a law firm in Minna Niger State, on behalf of Y a man living with disabilities. The complaint alleged that Y was detained unlawfully on the 27th of April 2022 by officers of the Nigerian Police Maitumbi Division, Minna for 32 hours over a car-related civil transaction and without consideration of his disability. Upon intervention by the Commission, the victim was immediately released from detention and following further intervention by the Commission and with the consent of the victim, a written apology was made to the victim by the Nigerian Police Force, Maitumbi Division, Niger State.