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FOREWORD

Globally, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) violations have been identified to have significant impacts on health, social, psychological and economic well-being of individuals. In Nigeria, stigma and discrimination, lack of access to services amongst other SRHR and human rights violations affect people living with or affected by HIV, key and vulnerable populations including sex workers, persons who use/inject drugs, men who have sex with men, transgender people and other LGBTI community members. While these violations occur and is acknowledged, local and community/grassroots data can be a challenge. This can potentially impede advocacy that is evidence-based.

The efforts of Lawyers Alert (LA) in responding to legal support for these vulnerable population is highly commendable. Documenting and generating data for learning at the State and community levels in the last five (5) years as done by LA and as contained in this report is a progressive step in gender and human rights response in the country. The use of data cannot be overestimated especially for programming, resource allocation, policy & law reforms, and other interventions.

It is stimulating that the period covered in this report is inclusive of the COVID-19 period. COVID-19 witnessed a situation of lockdowns where perpetrators and victims were locked in the same space. This provided no access for help and services as might be required. A picture of types of violations during this period will not only provide opportunity for learning but also furnish all with insights into remedial measures, best practices for replication and programme expansion.

The National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) as the coordinating mechanism for interventions that pertain to HIV in Nigeria works closely with Lawyers Alert and several other partners. Most of the violations captured in this documentation were brought to notice of NACA while legal support was jointly provided to victims/survivors by Lawyers Alert and other partners with the coordination and leadership of NACA.

We are happy with this work and will continue to support Lawyers Alert and other organizations that are adding value to the fight to end HIV in Nigeria.

Dr. Yinka Falola Anoemuah

*Deputy Director and Lead Gender, Human Rights and Care Services
National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA).*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2017 Lawyers Alert has spearheaded the collation and compilation of reports on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights violations in Nigeria. Data is gathered from victims across various parts of the country using a tool unique to the organization, LADOCT. This online tool is filled in by victims themselves as a result of which the data gathered can be viewed as the most accurate representation of the situation in Nigeria.

Four reports down the line, it is only fitting that Lawyers Alert presents a comprehensive document to reveal its findings to partners and the general public.

This report therefore, is a compendium of SRHR violations in Nigeria from 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021. It is presented in three parts. The first part gives a summary of states with the highest violation rates. The second part shows violation analysis based on the group. The final part of the report summarises violation rates based on LGAs, age & groups.

The analysis presented in this compendium shows an overall picture of SRHR violations as suffered by the following groups: Female Sex Workers (FSW), Persons Who Use/Inject Drugs (PWID), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Persons Living with HIV (PLWH), Violence Against Women and Girls (VWG), Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), and the LGBTI Community.

FCT reported the highest violations of key populations, in 2017 and 2019 while Lagos did in 2020 and 2021. Benue recorded the second highest reported violations in 2017, 2020 and 2021. Across the different groups, emotional and verbal Abuse topped the list of violations, ranging between 19-40% with Female Sex Workers aged between 25 - 40 most emotionally and verbally abused at 73%.

Lawyers Alert acknowledges The National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), AmplifyChange, Frontline AIDS, UNAIDS, for supporting this work across the years and our partners, especially at the grassroots who reported these violations.

CHAPTER 1

BRIEF ON LAWYERS ALERT

Lawyers Alert is a non-partisan and non-profit Civil Society Organization committed to the realization of Reproductive Justice in Nigeria among other issues.

Lawyers Alert's vision is a world where women and vulnerable groups are free from injustice, while its mission is to empower women and vulnerable groups through knowledge of their rights and accessible means of enforcing them.

Our strategies are:

Sensitization and Awareness Creation on issues we work on with emphasis on the law governing these issues; Monitoring and documenting rights violations associated with these issues; provision of free legal services within this realm; crafting advocacy interventions on the issues based on data obtained from documenting rights violations associated with them.

The organization has four thematic areas within which it executes its mandate.

- Gender And Human Rights
- Elections, Democracy And Good Governance
- Campaigns And Movement Building
- Security And Access To Justice

This booklet emanates from our strategy of documenting rights violations in our areas of work, and for these purposes this book focuses on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

LAWYERS ALERT'S WORK ON SRHR

LAWYERS ALERT'S INTERVENTIONS IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)

Lawyers Alert, under its Gender and Human Rights thematic focus area has, in the last few years, implemented Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) - centered projects that have contributed to expanding access to reproductive rights for women, influenced the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive policies, and provided free legal services to victims and non-victims.

These have been achieved through advocacies, sensitization campaigns, provision of free legal services, Strategic Impact Litigation (SIL), etc.

The most significant approach used by Lawyers Alert toward impact has been movement building. The organization has successfully established partnerships, collaborations, and a network of over 72 organizations working in various aspects of SRHR - SGBV interventions, ranging from maternal death, mobility, abortion rights, female genital mutilation, assault, battery etc.

These organizations are facilitating and motivating over 360,000 persons to work towards a collective vision or cause as per SRHR in a manner that benefits their communities.

These have resulted in significant outcomes, especially in policy formulation, implementation, reviews, and provision of free legal services .

One such network is the Legal Support Network, comprising lawyers, CSO members, the NPF, and the media - a network of experts who provide free legal services in matters relating to or bearing on reproductive rights.

Another is the Coalition of Lawyers for Human Rights (COLaHR), created in 2015 to enhance access to Justice and health services for persons living with HIV, women, people living with disabilities, and sexual minorities. In partnership with the Family Planning Advocacy Group, Lawyers Alert advocated for and achieved increased budgetary allocation on family planning and sexual and reproductive health rights in Benue State.

By establishing mechanisms for gathering data and documenting SRHR violations, Lawyers Alert has continued to generate relevant data that has not only informed project direction and highlighted various community needs but has increased visibility of SRHR issues, government involvement, and ownership, especially in the organizations' focal states.

CHAPTER 2

A BRIEF ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS – (SRHR)

SRHR rights are a comprehensive human rights framework encompassing individuals' rights to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and to access the necessary information, services, and resources to exercise these rights. SRHR emphasizes the importance of bodily autonomy, dignity, equality, and non-discrimination in matters related to Sexuality and reproduction.

The first component, Sexual Health, involves the right to a safe, fulfilling, and satisfying sexual life, free from coercion, discrimination, and violence. It encompasses the prevention and treatment of sexual health issues, access to sexual education, and making informed choices about sexual practices.

The second component, Reproductive Health, involves the right to accessible and affordable reproductive healthcare services, including family planning, contraception, maternal health care, and safe and legal abortion. It focuses on ensuring healthy pregnancies, safe childbirth, and postpartum care.

The third component, Reproductive Rights, are the legal rights and entitlements related to reproductive health. They include the right to make informed decisions about family planning, access to information and services, and the right to have control over one's own body and reproductive choices.

Closely related to gender equality, SRHR also deals with the elimination of gender-based discrimination. It emphasizes the importance of addressing societal norms, attitudes, and practices that contribute to unequal power dynamics and rights violations based on gender.

SRHR is recognized as a fundamental human right by international agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and various other conventions. Ensuring access to comprehensive SRHR services and education is critical for individuals' well-being and contributes to social development and gender equality.

A BRIEF ON SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE- SGBV

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is any form of violence, Abuse, or harmful behaviour primarily directed at an individual or a group based on gender or sex. SGBV is a broad term encompassing various types of violence, all rooted in power imbalances, discrimination, and societal norms that perpetuate inequality between genders.

SGBV has several categories, these include:

1. Sexual Violence: This involves any non-consensual sexual act or activity that is forced upon someone. This can include rape, sexual assault, sexual Harassment, and other forms of unwanted sexual contact.
2. Physical Violence: This includes using physical force to harm or control someone based on gender. It can involve beating, slapping, punching, kicking, and other physical harm.

3. Emotional and Psychological Abuse: This type of violence involves manipulating, controlling, or demeaning someone emotionally or psychologically. It can include verbal Abuse, threats, humiliation, and isolation.
4. Harmful Traditional Practices: Certain harmful practices, often deeply rooted in cultural or traditional beliefs, can target individuals based on gender. These practices include female genital mutilation, child marriage, and honour killings.
5. Forced Marriage: This refers to marrying someone without their full and free consent, often involving coercion or threats.
6. Human Trafficking involves recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving individuals through force, coercion, or deception for exploitation, including sexual exploitation.
7. Stalking: This involves repeated unwanted attention or Harassment, which can be done physically and through various forms of technology.
8. Online Gender-Based Violence: With the rise of the internet, gender-based violence can also manifest in online spaces through cyberbullying, doxing, online Harassment, and revenge porn.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) violations and Sex and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) are prevalent in Nigeria, particularly among vulnerable populations such as women, adolescents, Female Sex Workers (FSW), and LGBTQ+ individuals.

These violations include limited or restricted access to contraception, high maternal mortality rates, child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), healthcare access, discrimination, and violence against LGBTQ+ individuals.

A BRIEF ON LAWYERS ALERT DOCUMENTATION TOOL (LaDocT)

LaDocT is Lawyers Alert web-based tool for monitoring SRHR violations.

The web-based tool monitors and documents SRHR violations in the country, especially among marginalized communities. The tool, which is domiciled on the Lawyers Alert website, was developed collaboratively by representatives of key beneficiary organisations – Vulnerable groups (PWDs, PLHIVs, PWIDs, FSWs, MSMs, LGBTQI, Women, etc), human rights experts such as UNAIDS, Lawyers, NBA, NHRC, Heartland Alliance, CSOs, etc.

The objective was to develop a tool through which real-time violation data can be collated, analyzed, and used to develop tailored SRHR interventions for a better SRHR regime in Nigeria.

LaDocT analysis violations according to age, sex, location, type and provides trends of these violations. It covers the entire 774 LGAs of Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY – HOW DATA IS COLLATED

LA partners across the different networks created and located within communities is primarily where our data is harvested. In serving and relating with their target groups in the communities, complaints made to them are forwarded to lawyers Alert and inputted on LaDocT after verifications. Most complaints are sent in by our trained

monitors within these organizations. Additionally, the gender unit of the Nigeria Police Force, the Legal Aid Council provides us with data.

Our pool of lawyers who offer free legal assistance to marginalized communities, focusing on issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) legal protection across the country also serve as primary responders and data collectors

Besides, data is acquired from individuals and communities that we serve.

The collated data is inputted on a continuous basis into LaDocT . The analysis is conducted to discern prevalent patterns, geographical locations, key indicators, age and gender demographics, violation types, and other relevant aspects of these incidents.

LaDockT, the analytical platform, comprehensively processes data spanning all 36 states and 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Nigeria.

This five-year SRHR violations report analyzed by LaDocT is a huge resource for vulnerable groups, state and non-state actors, CSOs, and the media, not only as an informative document but also as a strong tool for advocacy and intervention designs.

The summary of data analyzed - in the next chapter has shown the necessity to scrutinize the factors that serve as SRHR violation enablers in the regions and states with the highest violations and the factors that make for the reduced SRHR violation in those with low SRHR cases, for replicating efforts.

While factors such as COVID-19 played a significant role in the trends and scale of the violations recorded, it is noteworthy that other economic and cultural factors also determine the prevalence, frequency, and extent of SRHR violations in the country.

It is the role of intervening partners to research factors that accounts for these trends, and device strategies for root cause prevention.

Internally, Lawyers Alert has used the findings of LadockT to identify key locations and SRHR areas of interest as a guide for developing strategies for targeted interventions and advocacies around SRHR issues.

This report was launched online on 22nd December 2022 where stakeholders attended.



Roseline Oghenebrume, Director, Lawyers Alert who worked intensively on LaDocT reports the violations from the UK.

CHAPTER 3

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS OF VIOLATIONS (KEY FINDINGS)

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST VIOLATION RATES

This section summarises the states with the highest violation rates across the four reports (2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021). FCT had the highest violations twice, in 2017 and 2019, respectively, while Lagos also topped twice in 2020 and 2021. Benue had the second-highest violations in 2017, 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Lagos also ranked third in the top violations ranking in 2019 and 2020. While Anambra had the few violations in 2017 Rivers, Ebony, Kogi and Katsina had the few in 2019. Abia, Kogi, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Ekiti, Katsina, Yobe, Sokoto have the least number of violations with less than 1% in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Table 1 and diagram 1 shows the comparison across the four years.

VIOLATION ANALYSIS BASED ON GROUP

- In 2017, Persons Living with HIV, (**PLWH**), reported the highest number of violations (**38%**), followed by Female Sex Workers, (**FSW**) (**30%**). The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (**LGBTI**) group, which includes Men who have sex with Men, (**MSM**) accounts for **21%**. Violence against women and girls (**VWG**), remains at 11%.
- 2019 VWG has the highest number of reported violations (**46%**). Followed closely by **MSM (43%)**. **PLWH** and **FSW** both come third with **4%** respectively while the **LGBTI** group had **3%**.
- In 2020, FSW has 17%, PLWH (15%), VWG (37%), MSM (23%), and the LGBTI Community, 7%. Persons Who Use/Inject Drugs (PWID) comes in at 1% and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) at 0% was the lowest respectively.
- The 2021 report shows that VWG ranks highest with 41%, closely followed by MSM at 21%. FSW ranks third at 14%, PLWH ranks fourth at 13%. The LGBTI Community (9%), PWID (2%), while PWDs have an insignificant reportage of less than 1% respectively.

VIOLATION ANALYSIS BASED ON LGAS, AGE & GROUPS

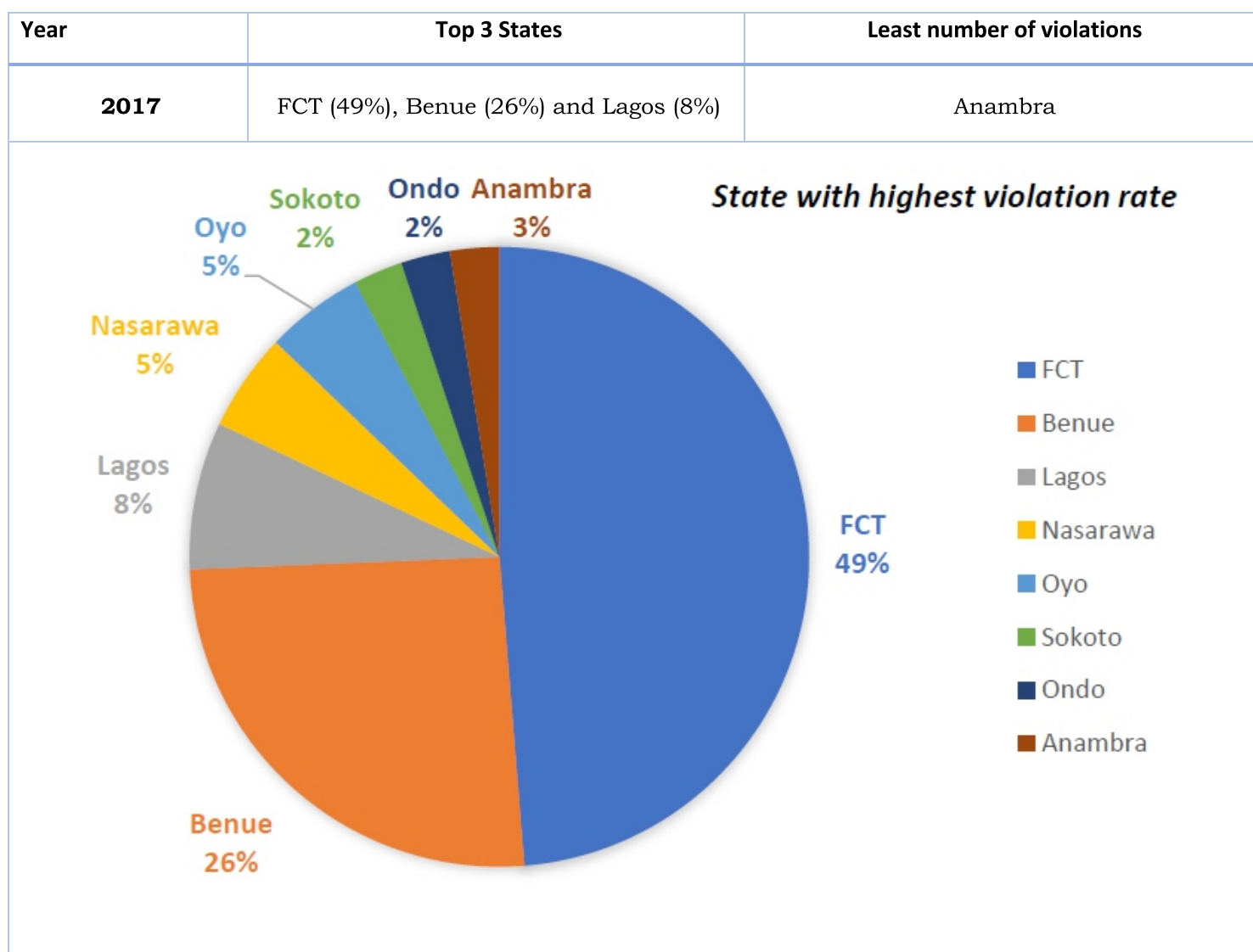
The analysis below presents an overall picture of SRHR violations as suffered by the following groups: Female Sex Workers (FSW), Persons Who Use/Inject Drugs (PWID), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Persons Living with HIV (PLWH), Violence Against Women and Girls (VWG), Men who have Sex with Men MSM), and the LGBTI

Community. The report presented denotes the total number of violations for 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

To guarantee a vivid picture of the SRHR violations, Table 2 to Table 5 summarise violations based on LGAs with the highest and lowest incidents, the age groups with the highest violations and violations by groups.

Across the different groups, emotional and verbal abuse top the list of violations in 2017, ranging between 19-40% across the different groups. In 2019, emotional Abuse and physical Abuse present the highest violations (12-18%). However, in 2020, verbal Abuse and blackmail were the main violations. The 2021 report indicates that verbal and physical Abuse ranked highest, followed by emotional Abuse and blackmail. The details are presented in table 2 to table 5.

Table 1 Comparing States with the Highest Violation Rates

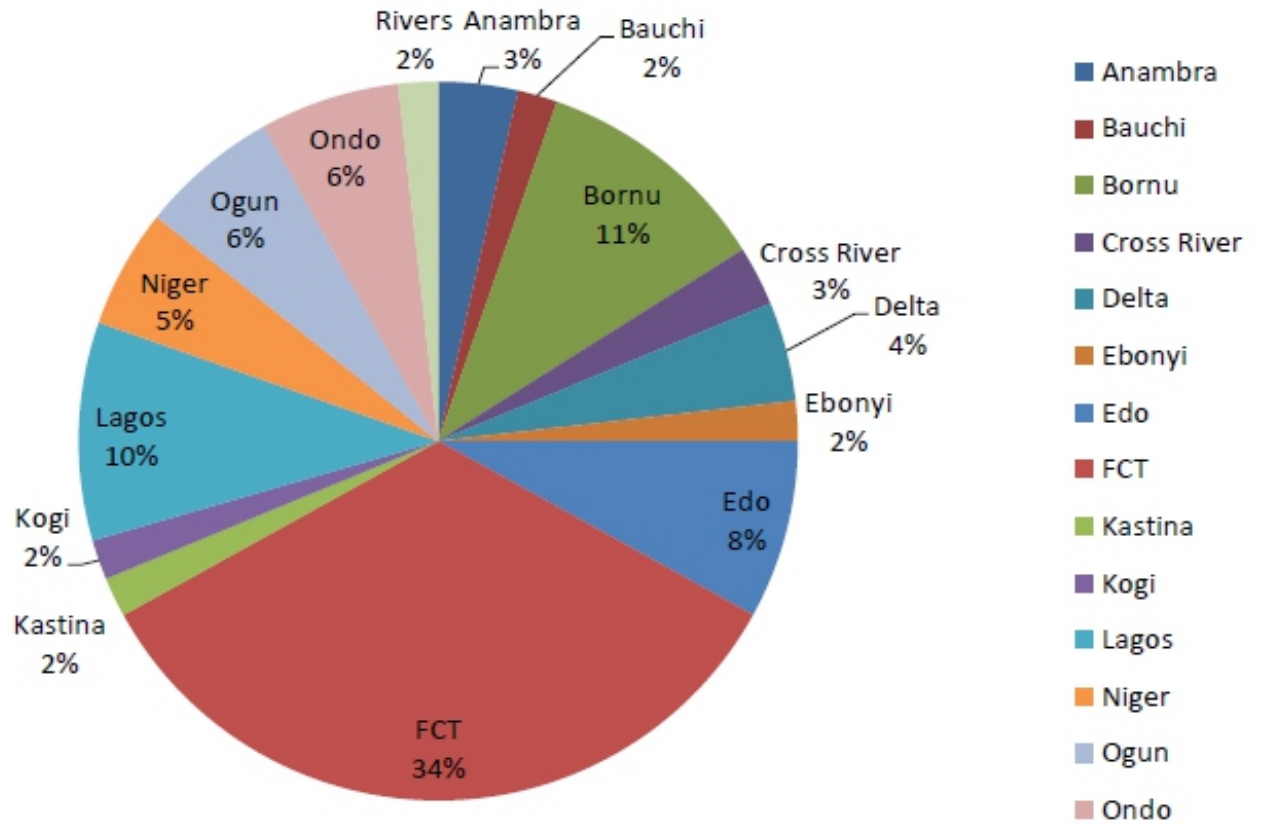


2019

FCT (34%), Borno (11%) and Lagos (10%)

Rivers, Ebonyi, Kogi and Katsina

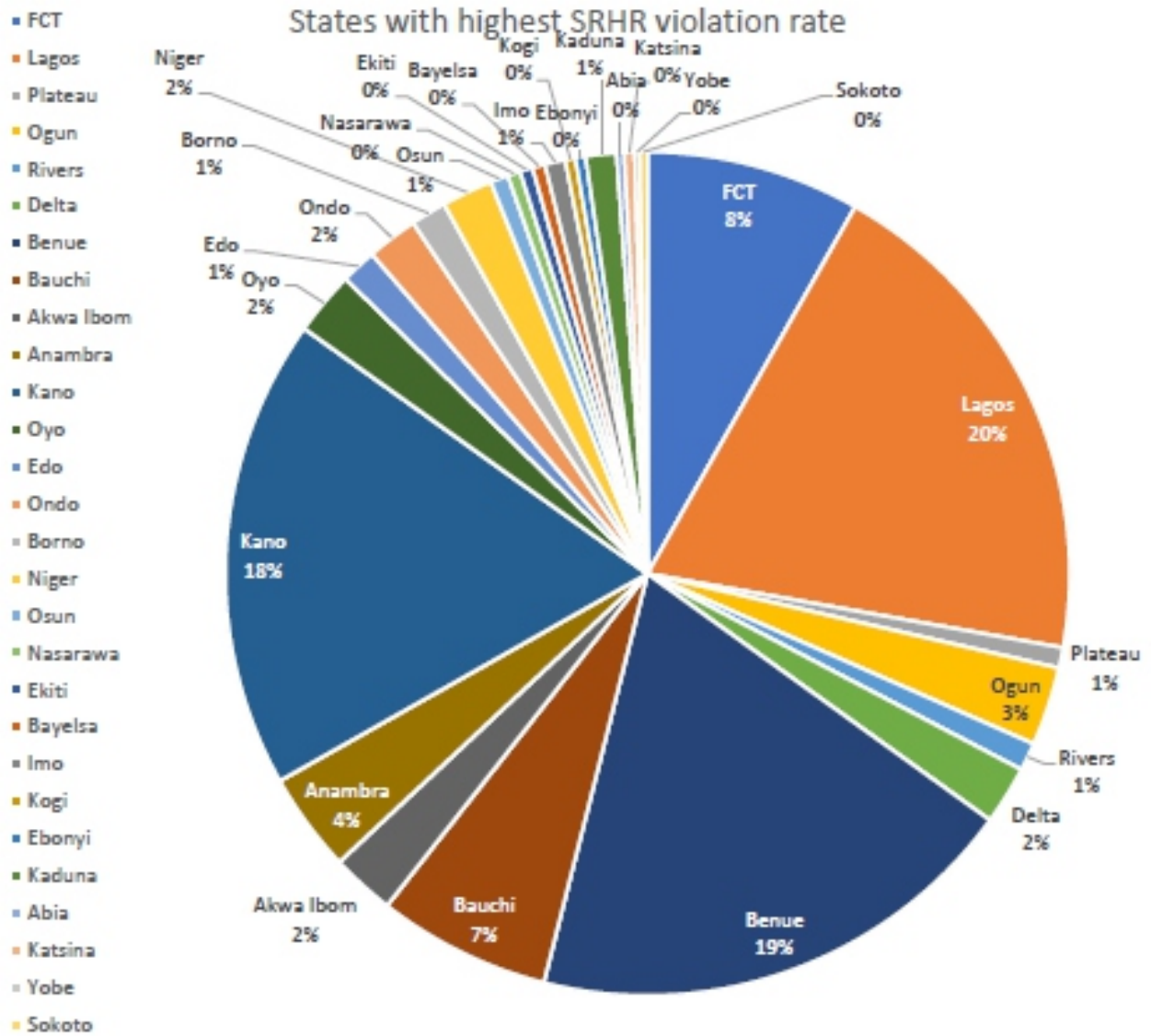
States with highest violation rate



2020

Lagos (20%), Benue (19%) and Kano (18%)

Abia, Kogi, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Ekiti, Katsina, Yobe, Sokoto have less than 1%.



2021

Lagos, Benue (19%) and Kano (18%)

Abia, Kogi, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Ekiti, Katsina, Yobe, Sokoto have less than 1%

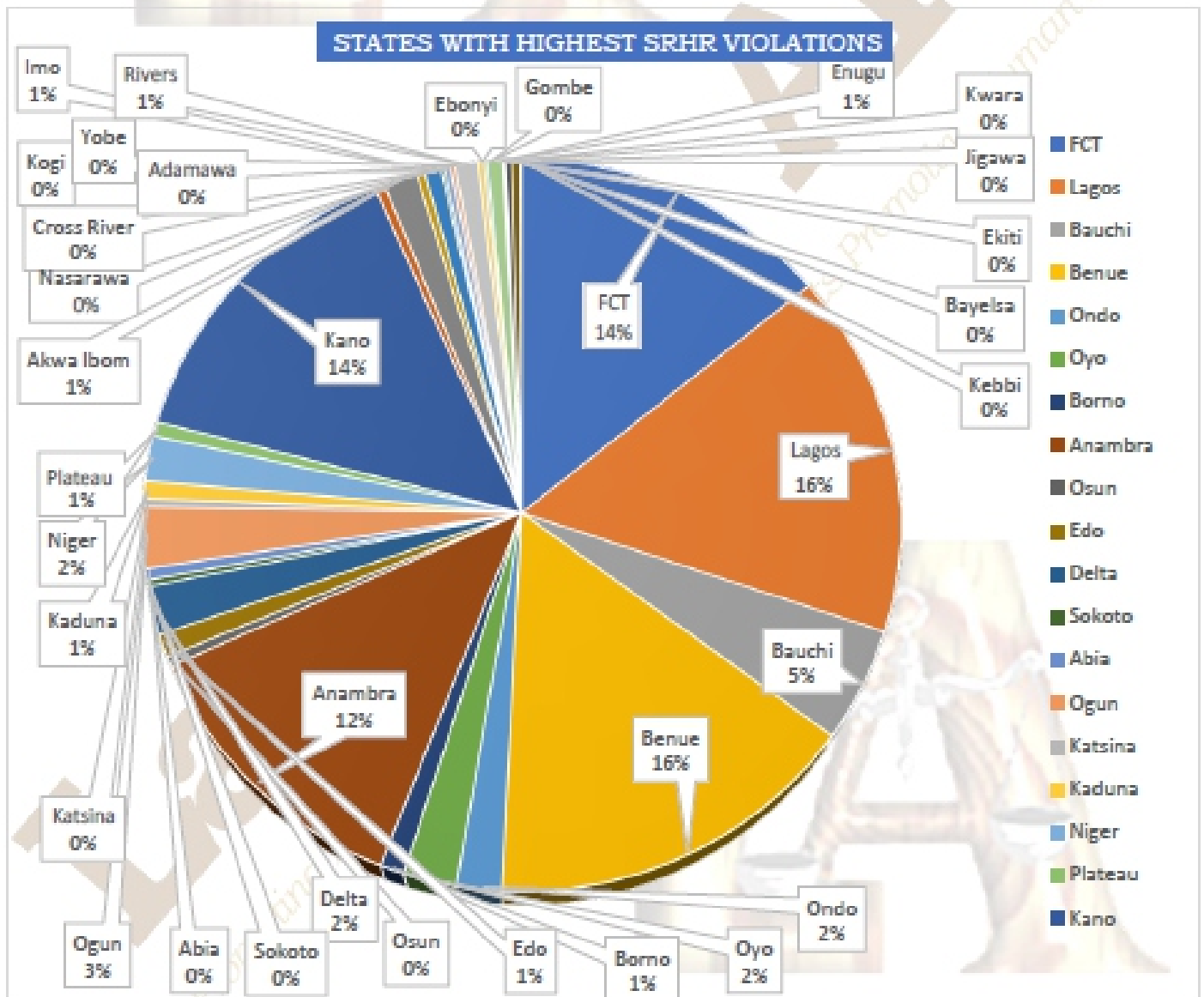


TABLE 2: 2017 SUMMARY OF VIOLATION BASED ON LGAS, AGE AND GROUPS

2017	LGAs	AGE GROUP	FSW VIOLATIONS
Female Sex Workers (FSW)	FCT	25 □ 40 year group has the highest violation rate with 73% . 20 - 24 years represent 27% .	Verbal and Emotional violations indicate the highest rates with 20% , followed by those reporting cases of Physical Abuse, 15% ; Privacy violations, 11% ; Forced Detention and Personal Security show 9% each; while Harassment represents 7% of the reports and Sexual Exploitation; 5% Blackmail and Freedom of movement have 2% each respectively

Persons Living With HIV (PLWH)	Abuja Municipal Area Council in the FCT reports the highest number of incidents, followed by Karu LGA in Nasarawa State. Akure East in Ondo State; Awka North in Anambra State; Ibadan South East in Oyo State; Kebbi in Kebbi State; Kwande in Benue State and Lagos Mainland in Lagos State all show the same violation rate.	The 6-9 year group has the lowest violation rate for PLWH (7%), followed by ages 10-19 years with 21% and ages 20-24 years with 29% while ages 25-40 years report the highest violation rate in PLWH.	Emotional Abuse had the highest rate (20%) followed by Verbal Abuse (16%), Housing (8%); Freedom of Association; Institution of Learning and Confidentiality Breach present 6% each. Medical Tests, Child Custody, Employment, Blackmail and Harassment come in at 4% each. Privacy, Forced Marriage, Personal Security, Forced Detention, Physical Abuse, Rape and Sexual Exploitation are shown as 2% respectively.
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Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI)	Benue represents the highest with three LGAs (Gboko, Makurdi and Otukpo LGA). Surulere in Lagos State had under 1%.	Ages 20-24 years have highest violation rates with 63% , followed by 25-40 years - 25% and ages 10-19 years show the lowest in violation rate at 12% .	Emotional Abuse has 22% which is the highest rate, while Verbal Abuse shows 19% followed by Sexual Expression and Blackmail showing 17% each; Physical Abuse and Freedom to Associate are 8% each. Economic Abuse, Privacy, Personal Security are the lowest with 3% each.
Violence against Women and Girls (VWG)	Bwari and Gwagwalada in FCT and Kwande and Makurdi in Benue State all had equal violation rate	An equal number of violations have been reported at 25% each for all	Rape, Verbal Abuse and Emotional Abuse represent the highest rates at 20% each; while Freedom of Movement, Forced Detention, Harassment, and Sexual Exploitation show 7% each. Reports for Economic Abuse and Personal Security stand at 6% each.

TABLE 3: 2019 SUMMARY OF VIOLATION BASED ON LGAS, AGE AND GROUPS

2019	HIGHEST LGAS	AGE GROUP	FSW VIOLATIONS
Female Sex Workers (FSW)	FCT	20 □ 24 years group had the highest violation rate with 65% . Followed by 25 □ 40 years	Verbal Abuse and Physical Abuse indicate the highest rates with 19% , followed by those reporting cases of Emotional Abuse with 17% . Harassment,

while **Borno** and **Lagos** have the least violation rate. **6%**.
 having **29%** while **10** - **19** years has the least violation rate of **6%**.

Emotional Abuse shows the highest rate of violation with **20%** followed by Verbal Abuse with **17%**, Economic Abuse, Freedom to Associate and Housing have **8%** each. While Employment and Physical Abuse have **6%**. Confidentiality Breach, Blackmailing and Institute of Learning have **4%** each followed by the least rate of violations which are Personal Security, Forced Detention, Harassment, Medical Test and Child Custody having **3%** each.

the **6-9** years group has the lowest violation rate for PLWH as shown below with a total of **7%**, followed by ages **10-19** years with **17%** and ages **20-24** years with **22%** while ages **25-40** years report the highest violation rate in PLWH

Abuja Municipal Area Council in the FCT reports the highest number of incidents, followed by Karu local government area in Nasarawa state. Akure East in Ondo State, Awka North in Anambra State, Ibadan South East in Oyo State, Kebbi in Kebbi State, Kwande in Benue State and Lagos Mainland in Lagos State all show the same violation rate.

Persons Living With HIV (PLWH)

Emotional Abuse has **20%** which is the highest violation rate with regard to LGBTI group, followed by Verbal Abuse and Sexual Expression having **18%** respectively. While Blackmailing and Freedom to associate both comes third with **12%** violation rate. Physical Abuse with **10%**, Privacy with **6%** and lastly Rape with **4%**.

20-24 years have the highest violation rate with **58%**, followed by **25-40** years with **25%** and Ages **10-19** years show the lowest violation rate which is **17%**.

Benue State - Gboko and Makurdi in Benue State showed the highest reported violations. Surulere in Lagos State followed. Lastly Abuja Municipal in FCT, Odogbolu in Ogun and Otukpo in Benue State show the least

Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI)

Physical Abuse has the highest violation rate of **41%**. Followed by Rape with **26%**, while Verbal Abuse ranks third with **11%**. Harassment comes forth with 7% violation rate, Emotional Abuse has **6%**, Freedom to Associate with **5%**, Economic Abuse with **3%** and lastly Sexual Exploitation having **1%**.

25-40 years has the highest rate of violation with **31%**. Followed closely by **10-19** years having **29%**, while **20-24** years has **22%** and lastly **6-9** years ranks the least with **18%** violation rate **25-40** years and **20-24** years both have the highest violation rate with **38%** while **10-19** years with **24%**.

Abuja Municipal in FCT has the highest violation While Central in Edo State ranks second position and lastly Chanchaga in Niger State ranks the least of them all.

Violence against Women and Girls (VWG)

Verbal Abuse has the highest (**13%**). Followed closely by Emotional Abuse (**12%**), and Blackmailing and Sexual Expression both rank third (**11%**). Personal Security and Freedom to Associate both

Ikeja in Lagos State has the highest reported violation rate. Followed by Kosofe in Lagos State, while Gboko in Benue

Ikeja in Lagos State has the highest reported violation rate. Followed by Kosofe in Lagos State, while Gboko in Benue

Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

State ranks third. Damban (Bauchi) and Gwagwalada (FCT) rank fourth. Biu (Borno) State ranks the least

rank fourth **(10%)**. Forced Detention **(7%)**, Freedom of Movement and Economic Abuse both have **6%** each. Quality Healthcare has **4%**, Harassment and Physical Abuse have **3%** each. Privacy having **2%**, Sexual Exploitation and Rape both have the least amount with **1%** each

TABLE 4: 2020 SUMMARY OF VIOLATION BASED ON LGAS, AGE AND GROUPS

2020	HIGHEST LGAS	AGE GROUP	FSW VIOLATIONS
Female Sex Workers (FSW)	Bichi had the highest with 57% , closely followed by Kwande at 11% and Gboko at 8% . Abuja Municipal and Makurdi had 6% respectively, with Ikot Ekpene and Bauchi at 2% . Ikeja, Idemili-North, Jos-East, Kaduna-North, Katsina-Ala, Maiduguri, Mushin, Nkwerre, Ojo, Adavi and Akure-North all had 1% respectively.	25 - 40 years group has the highest violation rate with 73% . Followed by 20 - 24 years having 19% and age bracket 10 - 19 years had the least violation rate of 8% .	Verbal Abuse ranked highest at 18% , closely followed by Blackmailing at 14% . Failure to Protect Personal Safety & Security and Forced Detention came third at 12% each. Denial of Freedom of Movement came fourth with 11% , while Emotional Abuse had 8% . Physical Abuse had 6% , with Harassment 5% . Sexual Exploitation and Forced Economic Dependence/ Economic Abuse had 4% respectively. Rape had 2% , leaving Invasion of Bodily Integrity & Privacy, Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality, and Denial of Freedom to Associate at 1% . Others like Denial of Housing/Eviction, Harmful Traditional Practices, Denial of SRHR Commodities, etc. had less than 1% respectively.
Persons Living With HIV (PLWH)	Makurdi (15%) , Abuja Municipal (12%) , with Ikot Ekpene (6%) and Bauchi (4%) topped the charts. Gboko and Akure-North had 2% each, while Ibadan-South, Awka-North, Kaduna-North, Mushin, Kebbe, Kwande, Karu, Ikeja, Aniocha, Katsina, Akure-East	25 - 40 years had the highest violation rate at 68% , closely followed by 20 - 24 years at 23% . Age bracket 10 - 19 years had 8% , with the least reporting at 1% for age 6 - 9 years	Verbal Abuse ranked highest, followed by Blackmailing, Failure to Protect Personal Security & Safety, Denial of Freedom of Movement, Forced Detention, Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse, Harassment, Denial of Freedom to Associate, Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality, Invasion of Bodily Integrity & Privacy, Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse and Rape. Other violations as captured include Unlawful Denial of

	and Lagos Mainland all had 1% respectively.	Child Custody, Denial of Housing/Eviction, Sexual Exploitation, etc.
Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI)	Makurdi LGA had the highest violation rate of 38% . Bauchi LGA ranked second with 25% , with Gboko coming third at 8% . Ikeja LGA and Abuja Municipal had a tie with each having 4% . Warri-North, Surulere and Kaduna-North followed closely with 3% . Odogbolu, Bwari, Shagamu, Osogbo, Idemili-North, Otukpo, Akwa-North, Toro and Pankshin LGAs had a percentage of 1% respectively	Verbal and Emotional Abuse ranked highest at 12% each, closely followed by Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality at 11% . Physical Abuse came third at 10% , with Denial of Freedom to Associate had 9% . Blackmailing and Failure to Protect Personal Security and Denial of Freedom to Associate had 9% while Harassment had 8% . Denial of Freedom of Movement had 7% , with Invasion of Bodily Integrity and Privacy having 6% . Sexual Exploitation, Rape and Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse had 1% , with Denial of Family Life at less than 1% .
Violence against Women and Girls (VWG)	Abuja Municipal ranked highest, closely followed by Ikeja LGA. This is followed by Akwa-North, Kwande, Gboko, Makurdi, Lagos Island Ikorodu, Central, Ibadan Central, Ojo, Lagos Mainland, Port-harcourt, Mushin, Shagamu, Yenogoa, Chanchaga, Bosso, Akure North, Agege, etc. all in descending order	Physical Abuse ranked highest, closely followed by Verbal Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Rape, Harassment and Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse. Other violations as captured include Sexual Exploitation, Forced Detention, Blackmailing,
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	Ikeja ranked highest with 27% , closely followed by Gboko at 13% . Bauchi came third at 8% , with Gwagwalada and Alimosho coming fourth at 7% . The next LGA with the highest violations are Biu and Damban	Verbal Abuse ranked highest at 13% , closely followed by Emotional Abuse at 12% , with Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality at 11% . Blackmailing & Failure to Protect Personal Security and Safety had 10% , while Denial of Freedom to Associate had 9% . Forced Detention & Denial of Freedom of Movement had 7% , Forced Financial

at **6%**. Kosofe had a percentage of **5%**, with Abuja Municipal in the FCT at **4%**. The following LGAs each had **2%**; Warri Central, Ohafia, Ifedore, Irepo and Orepo. Batagarawa, Ibadan-North, Ibadan-South West, Kaura, Bogoro, Ethioppe-East and Makurdi had **1%** respectively.

Dependence/Economic Abuse had **5%**, Harassment & Physical Abuse had **4%**, Denial of Quality Healthcare & Invasion of Bodily Integrity and Privacy had **3%**.

Bichi and Makurdi had a tie of **50%** each.

Verbal Abuse had **29%**, with Emotional Abuse coming second at **15%**. Forced Detention, Blackmailing, Failure to Protect Personal Security & Safety and Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse all had **14%** respectively.

Persons With Disabilities (PWDs)

10 - 19 years and **25 - 40** years had the same number of violation reportage at **50%** each. This is also to state that majority of the cases reported under age **10** □ **19** years had to do with Verbal Abuses and Stigmatization by close relatives.

Gboko had the highest with **30%**, closely followed by Ikot Ekpene at **20%**. Kaduna-North, Bauchi, Nguru, Potiskum, Atiba and Lagos Island all had **10%** respectively.

Verbal Abuse ranked highest at **14%**, followed by Emotional Abuse and Blackmailing at **13%**. Harassment and Physical Abuse came third at **10%**, with Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality and Failure to Protect Personal Safety & Security at **8%** each. Denial of Freedom to Associate had **6%**, Sexual Exploitation, Invasion of Bodily Integrity & Privacy and Forced Economic Dependence/Economic had **3%**, **2%** and **1%** respectively

Persons Who Use/Inject Drugs (PWID)

10 □ **19** years had the highest at **55%**, closely followed by **20 - 24** years with **27%**. Age bracket **25 - 40** years and **40** years+ had the least at **9%** respectively.

TABLE 5: 2021 SUMMARY OF VIOLATION BASED ON LGAS, AGE AND GROUPS

2020	HIGHEST LGAS	AGE GROUP	FSW VIOLATIONS
Female Sex Workers (FSW)	Bichi had the highest with 53% , closely followed by Kwande and Makurdi at 10% . Gboko ranked third at 8% ,	25 □ 40 years group has the highest violation rate with 71% . Followed by 20 □ 24 years and the age bracket	In the above analysis, Verbal Abuse ranked highest at 19% , closely followed by Blackmailing at 14% . Failure to Protect Personal Safety & Security and Forced Detention came third at 12% each. Denial of

with Abuja Municipal at **6%**. **10** - **19** years had the least violation rate of **7%**. Freedom of Movement came fourth with **11%**, while Emotional Abuse had **8%**. Physical Abuse had **6%**, with Harassment **5%**. Sexual Exploitation and Forced Economic Dependence/ Economic Abuse had **4%**

Ikot Ekpene, Oshodi-Isolo, Akure North, Dunukofia and Bauchi had **2%** respectively. Ikeja, Idemili-North, Jos-East, Kaduna-North, Katsina-Ala, Maiduguri, Mushin, Nkwerre, Ojo and Adavi all had **1%** respectively.

Verbal Abuse ranked highest at **16%**, followed by Blackmailing at **14%**. Failure to Protect Personal Security & Safety ranked third at **13%**, with Denial of Freedom of Movement and Forced Detention at **11%** respectively. Emotional Abuse ranked fifth at **7%**, with Physical Abuse and Harassment at **5%** respectively

25 - 40 years had the highest violation rate at **63%**, closely followed by **20 - 24** years at **29%**. Age bracket **10 - 19** years had **7%**, with the least reporting at **1%** for age **6 - 9** years

Bichi had the highest with **52%**, closely followed by Makurdi at **14%**. Dunukofia had **10%**, with Abuja Municipal coming fourth at **4%**. Bwari and Bauchi ranked fifth at **3%**, with Ikot Ekpene, Gboko and Akure-North at **2%** each. Awka-North, Kaduna-North, Mushin, Kebbe, Kwande, Karu, Ikeja, Anaocha, Katsina, Akure-East, Lagos Mainland and Ibadan East all had **1%** respectively.

Persons Living With HIV (PLWH)

Verbal and Emotional Abuse ranked highest at **12%** each, closely followed by Blackmailing at **10%**. Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality, Failure to Protect Personal Security and Safety and Physical Abuse came third at **9%**. Denial of Freedom to Associate, Harassment and Forced Detention were captured at **8%**. Denial of Freedom of Movement had **7%**, with Invasion of Bodily Integrity and Privacy having **5%**. The rest are **1%**.

20 - 24 years group has the highest violation rate with **61%**, followed by **25** - **40** years having **23%**, with **10 - 19** years at **13%**. Age **6** - **9** years had **2%**, with age bracket **0** - **5** years recorded at **1%**.

Dunukofia LGA had the highest violation rate of **38%**. Makurdi LGA ranked second with **21%**, with Bauchi coming third at **15%**. Bwari LGA had **6%**, with Gboko recorded at **5%**. Ikeja, Warri North, Kaduna North, Ibadan North and Surulere had a tie with each having **2%**. Odogbolu, Shagamu, Osogbo, Idemili-

Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI)

North, Otukpo, Akwa-North, Toro Pankshin and Abuja Municipal LGAs had a percentage of **1%**

Violence against Women and Girls (VWG)
 Abuja Municipal (**26%**), Makurdi (**7%**) and Akwa-North (**6%**). Kwande, Ikeja, Abeokuta South, Okpe, Lagos Island and Lagos Mainland ranked fourth at **4%**. Ibadan North, Gboko, Port-Harcourt, Akure North and Central all had a percentage of **3%**.

Physical Abuse ranked highest, closely followed by Verbal Abuse, Harassment, Rape, Forced Detention, Blackmailing, Emotional Abuse, Denial of Freedom of Movement, Failure to Protect Personal Security, Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse, Sexual Exploitation, Denial of Freedom to Associate, Denial of SRHR Information, Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality, Invasion of Privacy and Denial of Child Custody. Other violations as captured include Denial of Family Life, Denial of Housing/Eviction, Denial of right to childbirth/spacing, Denial of Comprehensive Sexuality Education, etc

Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

Ikeja ranked highest with **20%**, closely followed by Dunukofia at **17%**. Kosofe came third at **13%**, Bauchi came fourth at **6%**, with Gwagwalada, Ohafia and Damban coming fifth at **5%**. The next LGA with the highest violations is Biu at **4%**. Bwari had a percentage of **3%**, with Alimosho and Warri Central at **2%** respectively. The following LGAs Ifedore, Irepo, Ibadan-North, Ogbadibo, Abuja Municipal, Ethiopie-East and Makurdi had **1%** respectively.

Verbal Abuse ranked highest at **13%**, closely followed by Emotional Abuse at **12%**, with Blackmailing at **11%**. Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality & Failure to Protect Personal Security and Safety had **10%**, while Forced Detention and Denial of Freedom to Associate had **8%**. Denial of Freedom of Movement had **7%**, with Physical Abuse and Harassment at **5%**. Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse had **4%**, Invasion of Bodily Integrity and Privacy had **3%** and Denial of Quality Healthcare at **2%**. Rape and Sexuality were captured at **1%**

Abuja Municipal in the FCT ranked highest at **20-24** years with **27%**, with Emotional Abuse and ranked highest at **50%**, with age bracket **10 - 19** Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse

<p>Persons With Disabilities (PWDs)</p>	<p>Bichi and Makurdi having a tie of 25% each</p>	<p>years and 25 - 40 years having a tie at 25% each</p>	<p>coming second at 20%. Rape ranked fourth at 13%, closely followed by Forced Detention and Failure to Protect Personal Security & Safety at 7%. Blackmailing had the least at 6%.</p>
<p>Persons Who Use/Inject Drugs (PWID)</p>	<p>Dunukofia had the highest with 56%, closely followed by Gboko at 12%. Ikot Ekpene and Bauchi Had a tie at 8%, with Kaduna-North, Nguru Potiskum, Atiba and Lagos Island all at 4% respectively.</p>	<p>20 - 24 years had the highest at 56%, closely followed by 10 - 19 years with 24%. Age bracket 25 - 40 years had 16% and 40 years+ had the least at 4%.</p>	<p>Verbal Abuse ranked highest at 14%, followed by Emotional Abuse and Blackmailing at 12%. Harassment, Physical Abuse and Failure to Protect Personal Safety & Security came third at 9%, with Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality and Forced Detention at 8% each. Denial of Freedom to Associate and Denial of Freedom of Movement had 6% respectively, closely followed by Invasion of Bodily Integrity & Privacy at 4%. Sexual Exploitation, Rape and Forced Economic Dependence/Economic Abuse were captured at 1% respectively.</p>

LAWYERS ALERT: USING LAW AND DATA TO IMPACT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

Background

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, SRHR, in Nigeria is an area which, owing to culture and religion, is neither making as much progress nor being given as much space for expression in comparative terms with more "acceptable" rights. Violence against Women and Girls, Abortion, Same Sex Relationships, Female Sex Work, Rights of Persons Living with HIV, Female Genital Mutilation etc. are all issues that citizens regularly confront yet fail to attract the commensurate attention in the positive from authorities. Particularly affected are Persons Living With, Affected by or Most at Risk of HIV.

Lack of reliable data in critical areas makes intervention difficult as it is hardly tailored to meet challenges. HIV is perhaps the only exception with regard to data, yet paucity is still evident within the context of rights and its abuse thereof. The consequence of this is Nigeria's inability to win the battle against HIV; flagrant rights abuses; an upswing of Men being killed by women protecting themselves against violence, and a society where prisons, hospitals, police cells, etc. are rife with all kinds of challenges owing to lack of awareness or sometimes outright interventions that do not adequately speak to the issues.

The above situation persists due to ignorance on the part of these key populations who even when aware, sometimes lack the resources to seek legal remedies. Furthermore, besides unfavorable laws, even where the laws are favorable, they are not activated towards transformational change. Fear of discrimination on the part of the victims also limits them. In all of these however, lack of data has been identified as the primary challenge as policies, laws and interventions are hardly ever data-based.

In spite of the above challenges, Lawyers Alert is gradually changing the face of SRHR in Nigeria by the creation of effective SRHR movements, operational networks and collaborations at the grassroots, judicial activism, legal literacy (rights awareness creation) and provision of scientific data on violations. These steps are contributing in no small measure to the changing narrative and positive push for Reproductive Health Rights in Nigeria.

Creating an Effective Grassroots SRHR Movement

Recognizing the fact that a healthy percentage of these violations happen at the grassroots, Lawyers Alert has identified 35 groups working at this level that are driven by passion but lack

sufficient capacity and pulled them into a basket of similar organizations. Based on a skills gap analysis, we building their capacity using a carefully developed capacity building plan. These organizations are now delivering better on their objectives, creating networks with similar organizations working on SRHR.

These organizations are now creating soft but critical impact in their locations. These ponds of successes are gradually translating into a sea of change, galvanized by successful community interventions. These organizations and networks are now on the cusp of becoming virile and robust community groups to push the frontiers of SRHR in Nigeria.

Legal Literacy

Lawyers Alert is implementing intensive legal literacy on SRHR at the grassroots. Community women groups, market women, churches and mosques are all fertile grounds for building grassroots change. At the last count over 35 markets across 8 states are beneficiaries, 10 churches including several community groups within SRHR networks who are also replicating the same modus in their environs. Women and Key Populations are special targets.



Fig. 1 Legal literacy sessions held for women in Niger, Plateau and Ondo States

Our legal literacy campaign is hinged on a well-researched, robust and all-inclusive Legal Literacy manual which can be found online at <https://goo.gl/nou3f9>. Building on this, Lawyers Alert has also trained over 215 paralegals within the communities to serve as a first line of legal aid/assistance. Additionally, we have created a directory of organizations offering different SRHR services for each state for the purposes of referrals. The one for Nigeria's capital the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja can be found at <https://goo.gl/yTV5Ma> .



Fig 2. Sensitization for market women and Dunamis church both in Kabusa, in the FCT

Provision of scientific data on violations

Our efforts have yielded an upsurge of violations reports by Key Populations that were before now not reported owing to lack of knowledge and absence of remedial mechanism. Lawyers Alert and its partners are presently inundated with reports of violations ranging from emotional abuse, blackmail etc. Other issues like discrimination, stigmatization and denial of opportunities to earn a living are also being reported.

For a year and half now, we have been monitoring and documenting reported violations. Lawyers Alert has also developed a web-based tool where such reports are duly documented. This tool has the advantage of not only capturing the violations but also analyzing same according to location, age, type of violations, sex, etc. The analysis of these violations provides a scientific and accurate picture of the SRHR situation in Nigeria. The tool is situated at <https://goo.gl/2Yaeax>. Two reports have so far been released: one on the general state of SRHR in Nigeria and another on MSM. They can both be found at <https://goo.gl/LMxKkz>. The third report will zero in on violence against women and girls and is due for release in July 2018.

These violations reports are being shared with organizations working on SRHR in Nigeria, both local and international including state actors like the National Human Rights Commission and the National Parliament. Reports of interventions are being put together to get state actors to operate based on the submitted data.



Fig. 3 Press conference in Jos, Plateau State on Violence against Women and Girls

Judicial Activism

Knowledge of SRHR by Key Populations in Nigeria and the new-found desire to report same is deliberate, not mere happenstance. In recognition of the link between suffering violations and getting remedies, Lawyers Alert links reportage of these violations with accessing legal remedies for the victims.

Lawyers Alert links these grassroots Organizations with Human Rights Lawyers in their localities who offer them free legal services as required. This is done in close collaboration with Coalition of Lawyers for Human Rights, COLaHR, which has a massive spread of lawyers across Nigeria. Free legal representation ranges from letter writing, mediation and court representation, to representation at police stations and other security agencies as and when required.

To date, of the over 500 violations reported, 85% have accessed free legal services. This has motivated more victims to come forward and also served as a deterrent to violators of these rights. Government agencies have also taken note of this and are sending in referrals to Lawyers Alert to assist where needed.

Lawyers Alert has made impressive strides in resolving, for instance, the issue of stigma when victims approach the court. For every case of likely victimization with regards to especially HIV positive clients, the courts now issue an anonymity order to protect the identity of clients. Persons Living With HIV are now approaching us in droves knowing their identities will be kept confidential.

Effective efforts are being made in court to challenge the use of HIV status as a reason to deny mothers custody of their children in the event of divorce. Denial of hostel accommodation to university students because of their HIV

status has been resolved. Women suffering emotional trauma owing to lack of care by their husbands have been provided a platform for mediation. Lawyers Alert has also obtained a restraining order via detention of spouses (husbands), where the woman is in danger of being mortally attacked. In one case, a husband who was bent on causing fatal harm to his wife was detained for 3 months by the police (on a court order) until the woman had relocated and resumed her normal life.



Fig 4. Community members/stakeholders attending court and post- briefing by Lawyers

The recurring approach to court by Female Sex workers has also reduced the Government's crackdown on Female Sex Workers. For the LGBTI community, since passing the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act in 2014, there has only been one proceeding under this law as 99% of the cases are either resolved in police stations or victims are sued under a different law.



Fig. 5. Brainstorming: Lawyers in action

Advocacy

Undoubtedly there has been a shift in the state of SRHR in Nigeria owing to robust interventions by Lawyers Alert especially from the citizens' angle (awareness creation, capacity building, legal support and collation and dissemination of data). There remains to be a corresponding impact on the State however, and this is probably a reflection of culture and religion with politicians wanting to appear to be compliant to culture and sensitive to religious dogma. Intensive and sustained advocacy in this regard is vital for behavior change.

Lawyers Alert is engaging with especially state and non-state actor towards a reversal. We are in partnership with National Agency for the Control of AIDS, NACA, and also in close working relationship with the Committee on HIV, TB and Other Communicable Diseases in the Federal Parliament. Lawyers Alert at the last Public Hearing on the 2018 budget made presentations and advocated for improved allocations to HIV and related interventions. Our reports are shared with the Parliament. We have engaged Parliamentarians in the sub-region toward a sub- regional shift in laws and policies.

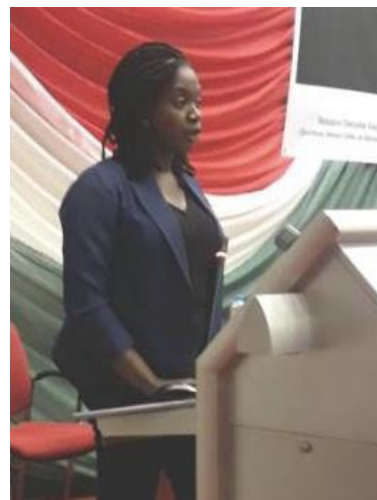


Fig. 6 Engaging sub-regional parliamentarians in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire (left) advocacy for improved resource allocation for HIV and related interventions at a Public Hearing before the Nigerian Parliament (right).

Lawyers Alert has also towards the Universal Periodic Review submitted presentation to the Human Rights Council of the UN in partnership with Southern African Litigation Centre, SALC. The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, is an ally in our advocacy interventions.

Locally, Religious leaders, faith-based organizations, opinion leaders and traditional rulers' understanding of SRHR, and appreciation of the rights of persons over their own bodies is key. Appreciation and acceptance of these

by this segment of the society will make advocacy to the authorities much more effective and result in policy changes, resource allocation, repeal of oppressive laws and the passage of pro SRHR legislation in Nigeria.



Fig 7. LA staff meet ahead of a technical session for Nigerian Workers on HIV & workplace policy (left) legal environment assessment team for TB in Nigeria. President LA in grey suit (right).



Fig. 8 Lawyers Alert team share a happy moment after a meeting on creating an effective SRHR movement in Nigeria

It is in realization of the above, that faith-based organizations, the clergy and traditional rulers are now being engaged. Result is the gradual opening up of places of worship by the Clergy for Lawyers Alert to carry out sessions with the faithful on SRHR using GBV as an entry point.

CONCLUSION

Overall, these trends highlight two significant points:

1. SRHR violations, especially of key populations, are prevalent in the country and deeply rooted in communities.
2. The need for greater investment in SRHR in Nigeria, including improving access to healthcare services, promoting CSE, and addressing the social and cultural factors contributing to SRHR violations.
3. The need for relevant stakeholders to urgently push for interventions to effectively address and curb this issue.

Perhaps the role of CSOs in promoting and protecting SRHR in Nigeria can be broken down to include but not be limited to the under-listed.

1. **Advocacy:** CSOs can advocate for implementing policies that promote SRHR and work to ensure these policies are fully enforced. They can engage with lawmakers, government agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure that SRHR issues are given the attention they deserve.
2. **Education and awareness-raising:** CSOs can educate communities on SRHR issues, including the importance of family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and gender-based violence prevention. They can also provide information on available SRHR services and where to access them.
3. **Service provision:** Some CSOs provide SRHR services to marginalized and underserved communities. This includes the provision of contraceptives, maternal health services, and STI testing and treatment.
4. **Monitoring and reporting:** CSOs can monitor and report on SRHR violations, including cases of gender-based violence, discrimination, and denial of healthcare services, and advocate for Justice for survivors of these violations, as evidenced in Lawyers Alert's work.

Consequently, CSOs have a critical role to play in reducing SRHR violations in Nigeria. Through advocating for a review of restrictive policies, raising awareness, providing services, and monitoring violations, CSOs can help improve the health and well-being of communities in Nigeria and beyond.

While this report is not exhaustive, Lawyers Alert will keep working to encourage more victims to report violations. The organization aims to ensure that the data captured is as comprehensive and reliable as possible. We desire to be the one-stop hub for accurate data presentation of the picture of SRHR violations in Nigeria.