

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PROTECTIVE LAWS IN NIGERIA

AGUENE, IGNATIUS NNAMDI P.hD.

Department of Sociology/Psychology
Godfrey Okoye University
Thinkers Corner | Emene | Enugu State | Nigeria

Corresponding Author Email: igantiusaguene@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Any behavior that degrades, humiliates, or diminishes the value of another person is considered emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse. Domestic abuse can cause anxiety, depression, emotional anguish, and disturbance in its victims. The study's objective is to ascertain whether Nigerian protection laws against domestic abuse are being implemented. In Nigeria, there are legal redress for domestic abuse. Newspapers, radio and television shows, United Nations documents, documents on protective laws, interviews, library services, and internet resources provided the study's data. The study discovered that 27,689 instances were reported in six states—Adamawa, Lagos, Sokoto, Cross River, Ebonyi, and the Federal Capital Territory—between 2020 and 2023. Weak enforcement and discriminatory societal norms continue to be the key issues in 1,145 fatal GBU instances, with just 393 perpetrators found guilty in 9,636 open cases, 3,432 new cases, 1,741 closed cases, and 1,895 follow-up cases. There isn't much dedication to getting things done. Economic reliance frequently keeps survivors in violent partnerships. Many victims of domestic abuse encounter obstacles in their pursuit of justice due to stigma, religion, and culture. The researcher suggested that we empower women economically so they can leave abusive environments and build secure futures for themselves and their children by offering vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and opportunities. After all, it's better to leave a violent marriage than to perish in one. In Nigeria, the media has a significant impact on increasing public awareness of domestic abuse. Protective legislation should be implemented by the state government, not just domesticated.

Key words

Domestic violence, Protective laws, Gender Inequality, Empowerment and Implementation.

Introduction

A patriarchal social structure is one in which men predominately hold positions of privilege and dominance. Patriarchy has historically taken on various forms in the social, legal, political, religious, and economic spheres of various societies.

Violence against women and girls is a violation of their human rights, and it can have fatal short- and long-term effects on their bodily, sexual, and mental health. Negative violence affects women's general health and prevents them from fully engaging in society. It then spreads to families, communities, and the entire nation. Legal costs and productivity losses are involved.

According to the World Bank (2020), at least 155 nations have laws against domestic abuse and 140 have rules against sexual harassment at work. However, there are still issues with executing these laws, which prevents women and girls from accessing protection and justice. Violence is not sufficiently prevented, and when it does happen, it is frequently unpunished. Domestic violence frequently happens when the abuser acts in a way that is justifiable, acceptable, or that makes it unlikely that anyone would report them. Children and other family members may experience an intergenerational cycle of violence as a result, believing that such behavior is acceptable or even encouraged.

The advancement of women is essential to the prosperity and development of every country and the entire planet. Since they are homemakers, guardians of social, cultural, and basic values, and make up half of the world's population, women are frequently the most effective agents of long-term change. It is difficult to achieve full community development without their comprehension, collaboration, and active involvement. Women deserve respect, recognition, and better treatment because of their importance as mothers, teachers, guardians, and occasionally breadwinners; nevertheless, in certain regions and families, the contrary is typically true (Mbohor Udoh 2016).

A person can be abused emotionally, verbally, or psychologically if they are made to feel worthless, embarrassed, angry, or sad. The use of physical force to harm, injure, or kill someone or something is known as violence. Domestic violence is characterized as aggressive or violent behavior that takes place inside the home, usually involving a severely abused spouse or partner (Hulber J. 1990). Domestic violence includes abuse such as battering, sexual abuse of female children in the family, violence related to dowries, rape in marriage, female genital mutilation, and other damaging traditional practices, as well as violence associated with exploitation.

Domestic violence, which is defined as the deliberate application of physical force to another person or animal with the aim to cause them pain or distress, need not always be physical (Bolwes and Klein, 1983).

Coercive control and gaslighting: these behaviors give the offender authority over their partners, making it impossible for them to leave. They also establish an unequal power dynamic in relationships.

The incidence of women physically abusing their husbands is significantly lower than that of men abusing their wives. Feminists that cite statistics to support their positions contend that the most prevalent way that men control women is through domestic violence. Studies show that women are usually more protective than violent when they are angry with their male partners; they only resort to violence when they are attacked repeatedly over an extended period of time (Rawstrone, 2002). Men are much more likely than women to physically abuse kids on a regular basis, which can cause long-term harm. They aimed to illustrate how certain

family members gain more than others when there is an imbalance of power within the family.

Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, according to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993). This has led to men dominating and discriminating against women, preventing women from advancing to their full potential, and violence against women is one of the key social mechanisms that forces women to be in subordinate positions to men.

Despite being illegal, violence against women is typically not reported enough. For example, the offenders, the victims, or the judicial system do not consider family disagreements and various forms of physical abuse to be crimes. Some women behave as though their husbands abuse them on a regular basis, but they seldom report these incidents because security personnel often humiliate them further by acting as though it's just a small infraction involving two individuals fighting or that it's a "family matter."

Whatever sexual act, attempt at sexual activity, or other act directed against an individual's sexuality by coercion, by any person, regardless of relationship to the victim, in any environment, is considered sexual violence. It encompasses rape, which is defined as the penetration of the vulva or anus by a penis, other body part, or object under physical force or other coercion." (UN, 2021)

Violence can happen to any woman, anywhere in the world, regardless of her culture, religion, or socioeconomic standing, yet some women are more vulnerable than others. One of the main causes of violence against women is gender inequality, which includes negative gender norms.

In Nigeria, there are several deeply ingrained elements that contribute to domestic violence, such as gender inequality, detrimental cultural norms, poverty, and low levels of education. The perpetuation of violence against women is greatly aided by the steadfast adherence to patriarchal norms and ideas, which view women as inferior to males and dismiss their needs and opinions. In addition, harmful traditions like female genital mutilation, teenage marriage, and the dowry system all support the persistence of violence in marriages.

To elucidate further, Legislative Measures is one of the issues that needs to be addressed. Strong law is a necessary first step in any effort to combat domestic abuse. With the passage of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act in 2015, Nigeria's government took action to address this problem by making a number of violent acts illegal and giving survivors access to resources and justice. Nonetheless, in order to prevent domestic abuse, these rules must be implemented and enforced effectively. (Efefairoro 2023)

1.1 Statement of Problem

Certain traditional beliefs largely perpetuate discrimination against women. Women are kept at a disadvantage and consistently disadvantaged as a result of these gender norms. Women in Africa are expected to behave and be viewed as the property of men, as this is the prevailing belief. For example, some traditions maintain that women should not own land or other property or labor outside the home; instead, their true place is in the home. To put it plainly, some traditions demand that women be seen rather than heard.

This discrepancy is well known to women; it refers to a scenario in which women are expected to perform nearly all domestic tasks, including cooking, cleaning, bathing children,

sweeping, and obtaining wood and water, with little to no help from their male counterparts. It's commonly believed that a woman belongs in the kitchen, regardless of her level of education! More appropriately, women are expected to utilize all of their hands expertly. Stress and its implications are a likely risk to one's mental health.

Gender bias is a phenomenon that affects many African nations, including Nigeria, where men are favored over women due to structural and cultural norms. In actuality, sex-based discrimination occurs in all communities and begins at a young age. A woman's status and worth are viewed as inferior to a man's, which devalues girl children.

According to a Canadian study on domestic violence, 1 in 4 (25%) women reported experiencing violence from their partner or ex-partner; 1 in 3 (34%) women feared for their lives at some point; 2 out of 3 (63%) reported repeated assault; 1 in 2 (48%) separated women reported violent from their partner or ex-partner; 1 in 5 (19%) of this group reported being abused as a result of separation, with more severe abuse occurring in 34% of these cases; 1 in 6 (15%) married women currently report experiencing violence from their partners. According to Heise's (1994–50) World Bank research, one in five of the healthy years that women in affluent nations lose to rape and domestic abuse.

According to Davies (1999), women experience exploitation, discrimination, and enslavement inside a cycle of poverty. Their male peers likewise subject them to other sorts of assault. According to some historians, the history of violence against women might be linked to the idea that women are property and that their gender requires them to be obedient to both men and other women (Mbobor Udoh 2016).

Despite being illegal, violence against women is typically not reported enough. For example, the offenders, the victims, or the judicial system do not consider family disagreements and various forms of physical abuse to be crimes. Some women experience regular abuse from their husbands, but they seldom report these incidents because security personnel frequently humiliate them further by acting as though it's just a "family matter" or that it's a petty infraction involving two persons fighting.

Domestic violence was accepted as a typical means of controlling women and children in traditional African society. When it comes to disciplining their own offspring, traditional folks do not distinguish between wives and children. The majority of legal systems saw wife beating as a legitimate manifestation of a husband's power over his spouse before the middle of the 1800s.

Women who experience gender oppression begin to believe that they are less valuable than men, which is demonstrated by the fact that women are not allowed to inherit family and communal property. Our ancestors' preference for male over female children suggested domestic violence. The issue is that this still exists, and gender inequality is the main factor contributing to domestic violence in modern nations. After getting married, a lot of men cut down on their household duties to less than half of what they were doing alone. They believe that they are doing household chores for their wives, and they want their wives to appreciate this and, hopefully, compensate them for their work so that they will be motivated to do more in the future. When women fail to recognize this, men are likely to completely stop performing household duties.

In most African communities, women have been culturally subjugated and persecuted since they are traditionally seen as the weaker vessel. The oppression of women and inequality are what characterize the culture. Rape, domestic abuse, and other forms of sexual abuse are

examples of gender-based violence that has taken on major global dimensions. Rape incidents in Nigeria are becoming more frequent and dangerous, necessitating immediate action. Rape is an assault on women's rights, privacy, self-preservation, and dignity, just like other forms of violence against women.

Stories concerning how simple it is for husbands to murder and maim their spouses have been publicized in the media. Some disturbing facts were included in the 2011 booklet *This Day*. The majority of women say that they have experienced abuse from their partners. Surprisingly, women with greater levels of education (65%) are in this terrible situation compared to their colleagues with lower earnings (55%). Most people put up with it because they believe they have nowhere else to turn and that the law will not protect them, which is understandable. Surprisingly, 97.2% of them are not ready to surrender to the Nigeria Police. stated Oluremi (2015).

According to Amnesty International (2021), the federal or state governments bear some of the blame for these alarming numbers. Because neither the federal government nor the state governments were doing anything to stop this violence—and in some cases, they were even promoting it—millions of women across the nation were put in risk.

In a research by Agbo & Choji (2014), a single mother from Abuja, Nigeria, talked about her husband's violent behavior, which included punching and striking her repeatedly while intoxicated and resulting in her losing two pregnancies. Furthermore, Agbo & Choji published a story in July 2014 about the 34-year-old housewife Mrs. Fatima Bankole, who had 26 facial sutures put in after being abused by her husband Alhaji Kamoiu Bemkole for stealing a piece of fish from the pot to break her fast. One in three respondents to the 2013 CLEEN Foundation National Crime Victimization Survey said they had been the victim of domestic abuse. The poll also showed that, from 11% in 2011, domestic violence has increased by 30% nationally over the preceding three years. Stated Oluremi (2015).

Although there is a federal legislation called VAPPA that forbids violence in general, there are no national laws in Nigeria that expressly target domestic abuse. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) report is the source of this data. However, as mentioned below, this is only applicable to the Federal Capital Territory and will only be enforceable by states if they choose to do so. It is crucial to keep in mind that just 13 of the 36 states—Oyo, Ogun, Lagos, Osun, Ekiti, Edo, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Benue, Cross River, Kaduna, and Plateau—have passed this legislation.

Additional laws that support violence are in place in Northern Nigeria. For example, Section 55(1)(d) of the Penal Code allows for domestic (wife) beatings as a form of discipline.

The Act states the following:

"A man's assault on a married woman is not illegal under Section 55 (1) (d) of the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria if the woman's culture or native law accepts the "correction" as legal and there is no serious injury."

Domestic violence increased during the COVID-19 epidemic on a global scale. According to a 2020 study from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 47,000 out of the nearly 81,000 fatalities of women and girls globally were attributed to family members or intimate partners. More information revealed that more than 47 Nigerian women had died at the hands of their husbands since the year's start. Before they passed away, they had talked about their sins. But out of fear, those who were spared the abuse said nothing.

A violent marriage claimed the life of well-known Nigerian gospel singer Osinachi Nwachukwu in April 2022. Her 2017 song "Ekwueme" garnered 77 million views on YouTube. Aminu Abubakar, 56, has been taken into custody in the Yola South Local Government Area in northeastern Nigeria on suspicion of fatally beating his 38-year-old wife Fadinatu. Furthermore, it was stated that a man by the name of Inuaghata killed Osaretin, his 23-year-old pregnant wife, by slitting her throat with a knife (Mercy Kelani, 2024)

Attorney Isaiah Ode said that spouse killings would never stop as long as society forced people to remain in abusive marriages. As a result, he advised everyone—including parents and religious leaders—to cease pushing couples to continue in abusive marriages. The executive director of the non-governmental group Women's Rights and Health Project (WRAHP), Bose Ironsi, asserted that the lack of success in discouraging future acts of domestic abuse was a sign that the law prohibiting it was too lenient.

1.2 Aim of the Study

The main goal is to determine whether protective legislation against domestic abuse are implemented.

1.3 Objective

The specific objectives include:

1. To ascertain whether protective laws on domestic violence help to reduce domestic violence in Nigeria
2. To ascertain whether gender Inequality causes domestic violence
3. To ascertain whether empowerment of women reduces the acceptance of domestic violence
4. To ascertain whether awareness campaign about laws against domestic violence reduces the acceptance of domestic violence.
5. To ascertain whether leaving abusing marriage reduce the number of domestic violence.

1.4 Research Question

The following research questions were raised for the research

1. Do protective laws on domestic violence reduce the incidence of domestic violence?
2. Does gender inequality cause domestic violence?
3. Does empowerment of women reduce the acceptance of domestic violence?
4. Can awareness campaign about existing laws against domestic violence reduce it acceptance?
5. Can leaving abusive marriage reduce the incidence of domestic?

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Study Design

With anecdotal data drawn from qualitative and historical literature on the culture and traditions of over 250 language groups in Nigeria from pre-colonial times to the current day, the study is primarily descriptive and analytical.

2.2 Data Collection

The data for the study were from Newspapers, Journals, text books and internet materials, television and radio programmes, united national documents, protective's laws documents, library service, online service interviewed method in-dept interview with some people facing domestic violence, survivals with their relations

3.0 Findings/Discussion

3.1 Findings/Results

Nigeria has enacted laws to prevent domestic abuse, but the primary issues still lie in the discriminatory social norms and the laws' lax implementation. The economy and social well-being of families, communities, and Nigeria as a whole are negatively impacted by violence against women. One of the main causes of violence against women is gender inequity as well as detrimental gender norms. Children who are raised in violent homes may encounter a variety of behavioral and emotional disorders that could ultimately cause mental health issues, developmental delays, or even physical aggression. When seeking help, victims of domestic violence can face a variety of challenges, including social shame, fear of retaliation, and mistrust of the legal system. Because women are frequently viewed as inferior to males and their needs and opinions ignored, the continuation of patriarchal practices and beliefs has a crucial role in the violence against women. A deterrent against domestic violence can only be created by these protective laws' efficient implementation and enforcement.

Awareness campaigns that combat toxic masculinity and advance equalitarian, healthy relationships have the power to change public perceptions, deterring violence and promoting compassion and respect.

Due to their financial dependence on their violent husbands, many women who were victims of domestic abuse were unable to escape their abusive relationships. Their children are the reason they remain in the marriage; if they leave, they risk suffering at the hands of their stepmothers. If your parents are still living, you cannot return your children to them in order to feed the whole family. A mother can petition a court to be granted custody of her children if she is able to care for herself. Economic empowerment is therefore essential in the battle against domestic abuse.

Why do women stay with abusive partners?

Research findings shows that a good number of women who undergo abuses are not helpless victims; rather, they frequently take action to increase their own and their children's safety.

Heise et al. (1999) contend that a woman's apparent passivity could actually be the outcome of a deliberate decision to save her children and herself (1). They go on to provide evidence of other reasons why women might continue in violent relationships, such as: stigma or fear of losing custody of children associated with divorce; love and the expectation that the

partner will change; fear of reprisal; lack of alternative sources of financial support; concern for their children; lack of support from family and friends.

Research indicates that women's acceptance of domestic abuse is primarily due to their economic dependence and affection for their children. Domestic violence rose as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic, particularly during the lockdown. Due to their low socioeconomic status and ignorance of their rights, many women are victimized by domestic abuse and are unable to stop it. Divorce is frowned upon in our society, and women are expected to persevere for the benefit of their offspring. This is primarily due to the likelihood that the ex-husband will wed a new bride following their divorce. Her children will endure unimaginable suffering at the hands of their father and, occasionally, stepmother.

According to a UNICEF research titled "16 Facts about Violence against Women and Girls in Nigeria," nearly half of women and girls who have experienced domestic abuse and are between the ages of 15 and 45 do not disclose their experiences to others. Underreporting, stigmatization, and a lack of knowledge of rights and laws as a result of social norms that legitimize abuse all make matters worse.

In 2023, Betsy Obaseki, the First Lady of South-South Edo State, encouraged women to put their safety and well-being first and leave violent marriages before they endanger their lives in them. Numerous victims of domestic abuse encounter obstacles in their pursuit of justice, such as limited availability of legal assistance and protracted court proceedings. Survivors can more easily traverse the legal system and seek justice for their concerns by creating legal support programs, hiring more qualified staff, and supporting functional court systems.

Leaving abusive marriage can be a solution to domestic violence. For instance, in 2023 a popular Nollywood actor Yul Edochie announced to the world that he was expecting a new baby from his baby mama named Judy Austin. That he hope to marry her even though his family is against his second marriage. His wife May Edochie popularly called Queen May suffered emotional abuse and she cried out to the world that the emotional abuse has caused her depression. She continued to say that depression is real and is pulling her down. Because she cried out, many notable Nigerians started advising her and luckily she is economically and educationally empowered as a computer engineer, she left the marriage. She went to court to secure the custody of her children and even her property since she was the bread winner of her emotionally abused marriage.

She is a better person today because she left the marriage without dying at it, she has made her mark with her Queen May brand in both entertainment industry, marketing and public relations. The United Nations has even awarded her a Peace Ambassador in 2023 and her name rings bell here in Nigeria and beyond because she did not allow herself to suffer depression. They are many others like that.

3.2 Discussion

3.2.1 Different forms of abuse a woman may be subjected to in the home include:

The use of force against someone in a way that harms them or puts them in risk is known as **physical abuse**. It includes shackling, beatings, knocks, punches, and choking. Female genital mutilation is physical abuse.

Physical abuse is among the most common forms of abuse. Obi & Ozumba found that 83% of participants in their 2007 study had been the victims of physical abuse.

Sexual abuse includes all forms of assault, exploitation, and harassment. It involves forcing someone to engage in sexual activity and abusing minors for sexual purposes, such as child prostitution and the production of pornography. Marital rape falls under this category as well.

Neglect occurs when family members are not given access to food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, safety from harm, and a sense of love and value. Dependents may be adults or children.

When someone is denied the opportunity to practice their spirituality or religion, or when their beliefs are exploited to oppress, dominate, or control them, this is known as **spiritual abuse**.

Threatening someone or their belongings or destroying their self-worth by putting them in danger of serious behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental disorders is known as **emotional abuse**. Shouting at a partner is one example of this, which Obi and Ozumba (2007) found to be the most common type of abuse. Emotional abuse includes name-calling, criticism, social isolation, intimidation or exploitation based on dominance, making unreasonable requests repeatedly, frightening someone physically or verbally, and exposing a child to violence.

Acid attack-is extreme form of violence in which acid is thrown at the victim usually their face resulting in extreme damage including long-term blinding and permanent scarring. There are mainly when women resist marriage proposal on sexual advance.

Honor Killing: in the Middle East and other parts of the world honor killing is allowed carried out due to the belief that the victim had brought dishonor to the family for refusing to enter into arranged marriage or committed adultery (Human Right Watch 2023).

Psychological Abuse: This involves a recurring pattern of degrading or humiliating behavior towards a victim. It is the intentional infliction of emotional anguish, distress, or intimidation through verbal or non-verbal actions, as well as the denial of basic civil rights. This can include repeated insults, ridicule, name-calling, or threats aimed at causing emotional pain.

Economic Abuse: Also known as financial abuse, this refers to the unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources that a victim is entitled to under the law or requires for basic needs. It occurs when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources, thereby diminishing their ability to support themselves and forcing them to depend on the perpetrator financially.

3.2.2 Causes of Domestic Violence against Women

- i. jealousy: Domestic violence against women is frequently the result of jealousy toward a partner who is allegedly unfaithful or who is getting ready to abandon the relationship.
- ii. Social Stress: Poor couples may be more likely to resort to domestic violence as a result of increased stress and arguments over money and other matters (Jewkes, 2002).
- iii. Social Learning: Individuals are more likely to imitate violent acts they observe. If the victim also gives in to the attack and there are no negative consequences, the conduct is likely to continue. According to Crowell and Sugarman (1996), violence is often transmitted cyclically from one generation to the next.
- iv. Power and Power: Abusers utilize their partners' maltreatment to obtain and maintain power over them.

3.2.3 Effect Of Domestic Violence Injury and physical health

IPV can cause bruising and welts, lacerations and abrasions, abdominal or thoracic injuries, fractures and broken teeth, damage to sight and hearing, hand injuries, attempted strangulation, and back and neck injuries, among other bodily harm. But in addition to

injuries, and perhaps even more frequently, are illnesses that are hard to detect or frequently have no known medical etiology. These include fibromyalgia, a variety of chronic pain syndromes, exacerbations of asthma, gastrointestinal symptoms associated with irritable bowel syndrome, and other ailments commonly referred to as "functional disorders" or stress-related conditions. The prevalence of injury among women who had ever experienced physical abuse at the hands of their partner varied from 19% in Ethiopia to 55% in Peru in the WHO multi-country survey. Even in cases when the violence took place years prior, women who had experienced abuse were twice as likely to report having poor health and mental and physical health issues.

Mental health and Suicide

Research indicates that women who experience abuse from their spouses have greater rates of anxiety, despair, and phobias than women who do not experience abuse. In the WHO multi-country study, women who had ever suffered physical or sexual violence reported far greater levels of emotional distress, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and thoughts of suicide.

Moreover, there is evidence connecting:

- alcohol and drug misuse
- eating and sleep disorders
- physical inactivity
- low self-esteem
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- smoking,
- self-harm,
- And unsafe sexual behavior to domestic violence.

Sexual and reproductive health

Numerous detrimental effects on a woman's reproductive health, including unwanted and unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, HIV and other STDs, pregnancy complications, pelvic inflammatory disease, urinary tract infections, and sexual dysfunction, can result from domestic violence. Domestic violence can affect women's sexual and reproductive health directly through things like forced sexual relations within marriage that result in STDs, or indirectly through things like making it harder for women to talk to their partner about using condoms or contraceptives.

Violence during pregnancy

Research has revealed significant prevalence of physical abuse by partners during pregnancy in many global contexts. Physical IPV during pregnancy was shown to be prevalent in most locations, ranging from 4-12% in most cases, in the WHO multi-country study. Prevalences ranged from 1% in urban Japan to 28% in regional Peru (3). Comparably, an analysis of research from several nations revealed that prevalence varied from 2% in places like Australia, Denmark, and Cambodia to 13.5% in Uganda, with most studies falling between 4% and 9% (19). Even higher prevalence has been reported by a few facility-based studies in certain settings, such as one from Egypt with an estimated incidence of 32% (20) and a review of studies from Africa that reported a prevalence in some settings as high as 40%.

Violence during pregnancy has been associated with:

- Miscarriage;
- Late entry into prenatal care;
- Stillbirth;

- Premature labour and birth;
- Fetal injury; and
- Low birth-weight or small-for-gestational-age infants

Maternal mortality may also be partially caused by domestic violence, however policymakers frequently fail to acknowledge this link. Research conducted across many nations has revealed that between 40 and 70 percent of female homicide victims were murdered by their spouse or partner, frequently within the framework of an abusive partnership. Furthermore, research indicates that raises a woman's chance of suicide and may also raise her risk of HIV infection and, consequently, AIDS-related mortality.

Effects on children

Numerous studies have linked children's bad social and physical outcomes, such as anxiety and depression, to domestic violence against mothers. low academic achievement and unfavorable health consequences Numerous studies show that one of the most frequent risk factors for male perpetration and female victims of domestic abuse later in life is exposure to domestic abuse against the mother. Numerous studies have discovered a link between child abuse and spousal violence in the same household. Furthermore, research conducted in a few low-income nations, such as Bangladesh and Nicaragua, have discovered that children whose mothers suffered maltreatment.

- Have higher rates of diarrheal illness; • Have a lower likelihood of receiving vaccinations; and/or • Have a higher chance of passing away before turning five.

- Physical Effect: Some of the acute consequences of a domestic violence episode that call for medical attention and hospitalization include bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations, and internal bleeding (Jones, 1997).

- Psychological Effect: Excessive levels of tension, worry, and anxiety are frequently reported by victims who are still living with their offenders. Because victims are usually treated to harsh criticism and made to feel guilty for "provoking" the abuse, depression is also common. According to reports, 60% of victims have a much higher risk of suicidality and satisfy the diagnostic criteria for depression, either during or after the relationship ends.

- Financial Impact: When victims realize how much of their liberty has been taken from them after leaving their abuser, they could be surprised. Because of their isolation and economic exploitation, the victims usually have very little money of their own and few friends they can turn to for help when they need it. Research has shown that one of the main obstacles that victims of domestic abuse must overcome is this, which may also discourage them from fleeing their abusers.

- Long-term Effect: While receiving professional assistance, victims of domestic abuse may react in a number of ways, all of which should be taken into account. Among the most significant consequences of experiencing domestic abuse are long-term physical health issues and psychological/mental health conditions. Homelessness and poverty may arise from a victim's significant lack of resources.

- The victim of domestic abuse may experience physical symptoms including headaches and stomach aches, as well as emotional suffering, anxiety, depression, trouble eating and sleeping, and other symptoms. It may lead to suicide or the passing of a close companion.

3.2.4 National Gender Policy 2021-2026

The National Gender Policy is connected to pertinent international and regional agreements and conventions. The Nigerian Constitution, the education, health, and reproductive policies, the agriculture, environmental, and national youth policies, are only a few of the national policies and instruments with which the policy has close ties.

Justification for the Policy

Through the reform of the National Gender Policy (2021–2026), Nigeria has committed to a bolder and more ambitious vision for gender equality and the empowerment of all children, adolescents, and women. Nigeria's shared goal of promoting shared values and achieving social inclusion regardless of sex, ethnicity, or other differences is centered around practical and strategic gender needs in the 2021–2026 revised National Gender Policy, as opposed to the 2006 National Gender Policy, which was conceived on institutional engagement. These have become the guiding ideals of national life and pro-poor development goals, together with equity and empowerment.

The revised National Gender Policy was also motivated by the affirmation that gender equality is vital for socioeconomic development and the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Agenda 2063, as well as for the reduction of poverty and improvement of living standards, sustainable economic growth, and effective and accountable governance.

- i. Close the disparities in gender and social inclusion and attain parity in all areas of life.
- ii. With suitable buffers and associated services, safeguard women's human rights and lessen gender-based and sexual violence.
- iii. Through women's economic empowerment, fully explore and utilize the human capital assets of women as a growth driver for the country's development.
- iii. Promote the involvement and representation of women in governance and leadership roles.
- v. Encourage the education, survival, and sustainable development of women and girls throughout their lives.
- vi. Ensure that social protection, complicated humanitarian initiatives, laws, and regulations incorporate gender equity considerations.
- vii. Guarantee the mainstreaming of socially marginalized groups in development practices, such as the elderly, the impoverished, and people with disabilities?

3.2.5 Protective Laws on Domestic Violence

- **Seeking a protection order as provided in The protection against domestic violence law of Lagos State 2007(PADVL):**

Any person who is or has been in a domestic relationship with a respondent and who has either witnessed or is claiming to have witnessed an act of domestic violence, including any child in the complainant's custody, is entitled to request a protection order under Section 2(1) of the PADVL. In addition, Nigerian courts are inherently empowered to provide protection orders in compliance with the legislation that establishes them. For example, Chapter 2 of the High Court of Lagos State Law gives the Lagos State High Courts the authority to issue protective orders in both civil and criminal proceedings.

The law offers a thorough framework for guaranteeing the security and welfare of people who might be the victims of domestic violence. The law attempts to handle circumstances

where there is a possible threat of violence within domestic settings by creating a system of protection orders that are granted by the court. By enabling victims to seek immediate relief and protection from their abusers through legal means, these protection orders ensure that the required steps are taken to stop further suffering.

Section 18(g) of the law also defines domestic violence as depriving someone of their fundamental education; physical abuse; sexual abuse; exploitation, including but not limited to rape, incest, and sexual assault; starvation; emotional, verbal, and psychological abuse; economic abuse and exploitation; and so on. In addition to shielding victims from harm and offering support, the legislation permits victims to sue their abusers. Giving victims the option to report a crime allows them to seek redress and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. The law makes it plain that domestic abuse is a serious offense that will not be tolerated by allowing victims to pursue legal retaliation.

To obtain a protection order, the complainant needs to present an application for the order along with an affidavit to the relevant court. It is crucial to realize that in order to file an application for a protection order on behalf of a complainant, someone must obtain written consent from the complainant, unless the complainant is a minor, mentally disabled, unconscious, or the complainant has been found to be incapable of providing the required consent.

The overall goal of Lagos State's protection against domestic violence law is to provide a thorough system that takes into account all of the different facets of domestic abuse. It acknowledges the significance of providing victims with long-term support and empowerment in addition to emphasizing their immediate protection through court-issued directives. This law attempts to successfully address domestic violence and provide a safer environment for all citizens in Lagos State by combining legal remedies, support services, and the ability to seek justice.

- **Support Services:**

Seek support from local organizations that specialize in assisting victims of domestic violence. They can offer counseling, shelter, and other resources that may be of help.

The Lagos state government has set up a specific agency that protects domestic violence victims, it is called the Lagos state domestic sexual and violence response team.

Victims of domestic violence are advised to contact the Agency directly. The Agency should be able to provide guidance and support for domestic violence victims. The agency may also instruct on further steps to take, such as filing a police report or seeking a restraining order. It is advisable to follow their guidance to ensure your safety and protect your legal rights.

- **Application for a restraining order as provided for in The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law 2015; *applicable in Abuja.***

This extensive legal system is designed to treat different types of domestic abuse. A complainant may seek for a protection order under Section 28(1) of the Act, and if approved, the order would be effective throughout Nigeria. Those who are victims of domestic abuse have recourse and protection under this statute.

It encompasses a wide range of abusive behaviors, including but not limited to:

1. **Deprivation of liberty:** This refers to the unlawful confinement or restriction of a person's freedom against their will.
2. **Property damage with the intention to cause distress:** This involves intentionally causing harm to someone's property as a means to inflict emotional distress.

3. **Forced financial and economic abuse:** This includes actions taken to control or exploit an individual's financial resources, denying them access to money or forcing them into financial dependency.
4. **Forced isolation or separation from family and friends:** This refers to intentionally separating or isolating an individual from their loved ones, social support networks, and communities.
5. **Verbal and psychological abuse:** This covers various forms of non-physical harm, such as insults, threats, intimidation, humiliation, or any behavior that undermines a person's self-worth and mental well-being.
6. **Abandonment of spouse, children, and dependents without sustenance:** This addresses situations where a person neglects their responsibilities to provide the necessary support, including financial support, to their spouse, children, or other dependents.

The Violence against Persons Prohibition Law is designed to promote the rights and safety of individuals, especially victims of domestic violence. By criminalizing and providing legal recourse for these abusive behaviors, the law aims to create a safer and more equitable society. In conclusion, Nigeria's legal remedies for domestic violence reflect a commitment to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable. By continually strengthening these measures and addressing the underlying causes of domestic violence, Nigeria can foster a society where every individual can live free from fear, abuse, and oppression.

Nevertheless, to enhance the effectiveness of these legal remedies, it is essential to focus on awareness campaigns, education, and training programs aimed at eradicating domestic violence at its roots. Collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies, legal professionals, social workers, and civil society organizations are crucial in ensuring that victims receive the necessary support and that perpetrators face appropriate consequences.

- **Civil and Criminal Actions:** Victims can pursue both civil and criminal actions against their abusers. Civil actions may involve seeking compensation for damages, while criminal actions may result in the abuser facing prosecution and potential imprisonment.
- **Dissolution of marriage:** Spouses who have experienced domestic violence can choose to seek a divorce to terminate their marriage because of the abusive circumstances. According to Nigerian law, domestic violence constitutes a significant legal basis for pursuing a divorce. One of the grounds for divorce as stipulated in The Matrimonial Causes Act is when the respondent's behavior has been such that it becomes unreasonable for the petitioner to continue living with the respondent since the time of their marriage.

3.2.6 UN 2022 Norms and Standard for Ending Violence

This page enumerates some of the most notable internationally recognized norms and standards related to reducing violence against women.

- Although violence against women and girls is not specifically mentioned in the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, General Recommendations 12, 19, and 35 make it clear that the Convention covers violence against women in accordance with Article 2 on non-discrimination and offer specific recommendations to States on how to address this issue.
- In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights demanded the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women and acknowledged this issue as a violation of human rights.

- The first international document to specifically address violence against women was the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which established a framework for both domestic and global action.
- The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development established connections between women's violence and the rights and health of reproduction.
- The Beijing Platform for Action, published in 1995, lays out concrete steps that countries must take to stop and address violence against women and girls. One of the twelve areas for priority action is ending violence. According to a major UN Women stock-taking report from 2020, 87 percent of countries reported introducing or strengthening services for survivors of violence, and over 80% of the 166 countries reported that action to implement and enforce laws against women had been accomplished in the preceding five years.
- The first thorough study on the subject, the Secretary-General's In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence Against Women, was published in 2006.
- The UN General Assembly passes resolutions on the subject of violence against women every two years;
- The 2011 Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence became the second legally obligatory regional instrument on violence against women and girls. First enacted in 2012, the resolutions call for stepping up worldwide efforts to end female genital mutilations as well as stepping up efforts to end all types of violence against women and girls trafficking. The most current reports on these resolutions were presented during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. These resolutions are renegotiated every two years.
- In 2012, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution calling for a swifter elimination of all forms of violence against women.
- Leaders committed to intensifying efforts to completely execute the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020 during the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. This included putting an end to all forms of violence and harmful behaviors against women and girls.

3.2.7 Protective Law on Domestic Violence and Implementation

According to a UNICEF 2023 study, some incidences of violence against women and girls are covered up by the victims' families, while other cases are settled in court. In order to prevent embarrassing the nation, Nigerian government officials have had to intensify their response to the concerning increase in wife beating incidents. 2,543 cases of abuse were reported to the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) between January and September 2022.

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that affects communities globally, including Nigerian society. The social fabric of Nigeria is still being destroyed by this invisible pandemic, which is also hindering progress and causing immense suffering and agony to countless people—women and children most of all. According to a 2019 research by the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics, 68% of Nigerian women between the ages of 15 and 49 reported having experienced financial, emotional, or sexual abuse, whereas only 30% reported having been physically abused. These figures are undoubtedly underreported because survivors usually face a variety of barriers to receiving support, such as cultural stigmas, fear of reprisals, and a lack of trust in the legal system. (EFEFAIRORO 2023).

On November 24, 2023, News Agency of Nigeria reported that Uju Kennedy-Ohanenye, the minister of women's affairs, had reported 27,698 occurrences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in six states between 2020 and 2023. At a press conference held in Abuja on Friday to mark the global 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV) this year, Mrs. Kennedy-Ohanenye revealed this information.

An important global occasion to demand an end to violence against women and girls is the annual commemoration, which takes place from Nov. 25 (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to Dec. 10 (Human Rights Day). The theme for the celebration in 2023 is "UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls."

As a result, the minister advocated for the Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act to be implemented nationally, claiming that this would aid in the decline in SGBV instances.

"Among the documented cases, during the review period, there were 1,145 fatal GBV cases, 393 convictions for the perpetrators, 9,636 open cases, 3,432 new cases, 1,741 closed cases, and 1,895 follow-up cases." Although it is admirable that the states have passed the VAPP Act, full implementation of the Act is required by the government to safeguard women and children from all types of abuse.

The UN resident humanitarian coordinator, Matthias Schmale, advocated for higher funding, protection under the VAPP Act, and greater empowerment of women and girls. He noted that in order to demand an end to violence against women, the UN Unite Campaign stands in solidarity with pertinent governments, development partners, women's organizations, women's organizations, the commercial sector, and the media. He stated, "We estimate that one in three women worldwide, or 736 million women worldwide, have experienced intimate partner violence—either sexual or physical—or non-partner sexual violence—at least once in their lives.

"Violence has a negative impact on national development as well as the physical, mental, and overall well-being of women at all stages of their lives." Numerous nations have enacted legislation to prevent violence against women and girls, according to Mr. Schmale, "but discriminatory social norms and weak enforcement remain the problems."

The embattled traditional ruler, Oluwadare Adesina Adepoju, brutalized Lori Bolanle Adepoju Adesina, his estranged second wife, when he paid her an unexpected visit. The oba, which was removed by kingmakers, arrived at his wife's home on 141 Hospital Road in Akure in a two-car convoy. Sahara Reporters, New York, May 31, 2010 noted this. The ousted oba gave his guards the order to lash her after smearing her flesh with an unidentified material. The woman, who has two children for the Oba, is said to have been flogged viciously while writhing in agony and had blisters on her skin from the sticky substance. Her cries drew the attention of nearby families and neighbors, who responded to save her, but not before the evil oba had caused irreversible harm and attempted to flee.

Several eyewitnesses told Sahara reporters that while some brave young people stopped the oba from escaping, Nigerian police officers rushed to save him as the enraged youth set fire to one of his cars. The police contingent said that the Oba's horrific attack on his wife was a matter between a husband and wife, and they took him to safety. A few meters away, the cops led him into the security of his well-guarded palace.

Days after being admitted to the State Specialist Hospital in Akure, which is located across from her home, the abused woman passed away from a cardiac attack. A nurse caring for the Oba's estranged wife commented, "I find it difficult to believe that a man who called himself a traditional ruler would inflict this kind of bodily harm on another person."

According to one account, after getting a statement from the abused woman, law enforcement officers informed her that they were unable to assist her or bring charges against her abuser. The ousted Deji requested reinstatement in a letter to the governor of Ondo State, stating that he had learned his lessons, but the request was denied before to his passing in 2024. The reality is that he would have been incarcerated and would not have applied for re-instatement if he had been charged with killing his wife. These kinds of cases are common. His dethronement was mostly caused by the state's youngsters' persistent protests demanding his overthrow.

3.2.8 Solutions towards Gender Equality

Women Empowerment

The five elements of women's empowerment are: their belief in their own worth, which allows them to make decisions; their entitlement to opportunities and resources; their control over their lives, both inside and outside the home; and finally, their capacity to shape the course of social change. It balances the proportion of men and women.

Empowered women are more capable of taking proper care of their health, getting help when needed, and making choices that will enhance their quality of life. Discrimination and violence. Women must be empowered to end violence and discrimination against them. Encouraging women's economic empowerment paves the way for gender parity, the end of poverty, and inclusive economic development. An extremely significant goal in and of itself is the advancement of women's political, social, economic, and health status as well as their empowerment and autonomy. Prioritize women's empowerment and gender equality in order to fulfill the sustainable development goal. Objective 5 Realize gender parity and give all women and girls more power.

Women Education

Women's education is for making women to become economically independent and self-reliant (Bhasm 1992) women as mothers are educators within their families, what they learn they pass on to their children and their future generation (Osuata 1987). Girl child education reduces inequality. Illiteracy is one of the biggest causes of poverty. Primary education is a lifter for girls, ethnic minorities, orphans, disable people, rural families and those who are likely to be poor. By providing them education, they become relevant to the nature and its growth.

The benefit of women education

- Economic growth
- Better understanding of the world
- Better understanding of their right
- Better understanding of themselves
- Better mother
- Better home
- Having better leaders
- Inspire compassionate value

Women's Rights Awareness

These include the freedom from discrimination and violence, the right to the best possible physical and mental health, the right to an education, the right to own property, the right to vote, and the right to a salary that is equitable for all workers. However, discrimination against women and girls on the basis of their gender and sex occurs everywhere in the world.

The goal of promoting gender awareness is to encourage and promote a general understanding of issues relating to gender, such as the gender wage gap and violence against women. Additionally, it seeks to demonstrate how love, norms, and values shape our reality, support the systems that give rise to injustice, and promote stereotypes.

Educational initiatives play a critical role in dismantling detrimental cultural practices, questioning gender stereotypes, and increasing public awareness of the frequency and effects of domestic violence. Deeply rooted beliefs that support violence can be challenged by promoting a culture that honors women's rights and gender equality. (EFEFAI RORO 2023)

In order to increase public awareness of domestic abuse in Nigeria, the media can be quite helpful. Using social media, radio, television, and other platforms to question societal attitudes, share survivor tales, and spread knowledge might help shatter the taboo around the subject and promote public conversation. (EFEFAI RORO 2023)

Gender Equality

An international group called Equality Now was established with the goal of utilizing legal advocacy to defend and advance women's and girls' human rights. It makes use of the law to give women and girls an equal and just world. In addition to being a basic human right, gender equality is also a precondition for a world that is affluent, peaceful, and sustainable. Empowering women has been demonstrated to boost economic growth and productivity. When individuals of all genders have equal rights, obligations, and opportunities, this is known as gender equality. Gender disparity impacts all groups, including families, children, and men as well as women.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

The dowry system, female genital mutilation, and teenage marriage are examples of vulnerable customs that contribute to the persistence of violence in marriages. Many traditional men see the bride's money as a debt that needs to be settled. Nigeria as a whole must recognize that domestic violence is a violation of human rights that affects everyone and that collective action is necessary in order to establish a culture of respect, equality, and safety for everyone. Women's physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health can all be adversely affected by violence. Increased risk of injuries, melancholy, psychological disorders, unintended pregnancies, STDs, HIV, and numerous other health issues are linked to it.

Domestic violence and abuse occurrences are common in Nigeria; it is rare for a week to go by without new reports of such cases. Unfortunately, not every state in Nigeria has laws that expressly deal with domestic abuse. Law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, demonstrated a little willingness to actively pursue domestic abuse cases, prioritizing offenses that were considered more serious, such as robbery.

Nigeria still has a serious problem with domestic violence, but with coordinated efforts, things can change and a violent-free society can be established. Nigeria can lead the way in promoting gender equality and enabling survivors to halt the cycle of violence by tackling the underlying causes, enacting laws, spreading awareness, creating support systems, and encouraging economic development. It is the responsibility of individuals, communities, and the government to collaborate in order to build a more secure and welcoming Nigeria for all. (Efefairoro 2023)

As is customary in many African nations, including Nigeria, beating spouses and children is accepted as a form of discipline. The Northern Nigerian Penal Code, Section 55(1)(d), states that as long as native law and custom recognize "correction" as legitimate and there is no

serious harm, it is permitted. Additionally, the VAPPA federal law, which prohibits violence in general, is only applicable within the federal capital territory and is only legally binding in states that are close to adopting it. Out of 36 states, only 13 have ratified this law.

Summons often face various barriers in seeking help including cultural stigma, fear of retribution and a lack of trust in the legal system. Matrimonial Causes Act: according to Nigerian Law domestic violence is enough evidence to pursue divorce. However going to court should be a second option the first option is to leave the violent man when it becomes clear that the abuse cannot change.

Those suffering from domestic violence should not bother what people will say, their culture or religion when they leave abusive marriage. The late Singer Osinachi Nwachukwu did not want to leave her violent manager because of her religious faith even when her family was pressurizing her to come out. If you cry out that you are suffering depression because of domestic violence Nigerians will come to your rescue but when you keep quiet people will not know what you are passing through Queen May as an example of survivor because she cried out and her matter was taken to court of public opinion

4.2 Recommendations

Counselling Implications

All relevant parties—communities, religious organizations, institutions, and the government at all levels—must work together to address the issue of domestic violence in Nigeria. Oluremi (2015) said.

- It would be beneficial to arrange seminars and workshops where professional counselors might aid in spreading the word about the anti-domestic violence movement. At these forums, awareness-raising is necessary to emphasize the connection between domestic abuse and the societal violence it breeds. It is important to stress that domestic violence should be seen from a psychological standpoint as opposed to a sociocultural one.

- It's critical to communicate to the public that adults have the ability to change the social norms that support domestic violence by serving as positive role models, working together to end domestic abuse, modeling nonviolent relationships, and disseminating information against it. At PTA meetings, the school counselor may give educational talks encouraging parents to use non-violent disciplining techniques with their children and to shield them from any sort of domestic abuse.

- Prize-giving day programs might include quick talks about domestic abuse, emphasizing its negative impacts and the need for families to refrain from it in order to improve society.

- For the different age groups and grade levels, the school counselor should organize group counseling sessions on the advantages of a society free from violence. It would be very beneficial to provide the boys with instruction on how to mature into "lineally" men as they age older. From friends to the internet, music to movies, and other domestic and external sources, men are often expected to project strength and control in relationships. It's crucial to teach the children how to use force without resorting to violence. They should be taught how to vent their fury. In July 2023, the Ford Foundation and Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) began educating female corporate executives about ending domestic abuse in their areas. In order to participate in efforts to end violence against women, this project encourages collaboration between traditional women leaders, women's associations, and market leaders.

Support services are crucial to the public. Creating easily accessible support facilities, such as counseling centers, helplines, and shelters, is crucial to giving victims of domestic abuse a lifeline. Government, non-governmental organizations, and community-based groups working together can help establish a comprehensive network of support, giving survivors the resources they need to start again. (Efefairoro 2023)

Out of 36 states, only 13 have laws against violence adopted. This means that the majority of states should adopt the law, domesticate it, and implement protective laws. Northern Nigeria's penal code supports beating a wife without causing harm; these laws should be repealed. Protective laws also provide a written concept of the abused person in case they report their husband, which may not be in their best interests because they fear being separated from their children. This implies that even if the woman does not want to be beaten, you can watch helplessly as your neighbor beats her repeatedly without saying anything new.

REFERENCES

- Oluremi F.D (2015) domestic violence against women in Nigeria European journal of psychological research Vol.2 No.1 2015
- Mboho KS and Udoh ER (2018) Gender and Violence against women in Nigeria: A socio-psychological Perspective international journal of sociology and Anthropology Research vol.4 No5 pp 29-37 November 2018
- Kazeem A.O. (2020) The culture of silence on rape and plight of the Girl-child in the Nigeria society: An Encounter with FUOYE AND EKSU students Gender and behavior 18(3) December 2020 Ife center for Psychological studies services Nigeria.
- Ede Raphael (2020) how police officers brutalized me to protect Rapist retrieved from accused www.punching.com/how-officers-brutalize-me-to-protect-rapist-goodnesslawyer/07/03/2020
- Barret (2001) Why battered Women do not leave: External inhibiting factors social support and internal inhibiting factors trauma, violence and Abuse 20 30-35.
- This day (2001, September 20) Domestic violence: When law fails to protect <http://www.thisdaylive.com>
- Wikipedia (2012) Domestic Violence retrieved on April 19, 2012 from http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/domestic_violence
- National gender policy (2001-2006) Abuja federal ministry of women and social development
- Committee on elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW) legal remedies for domestic violence in Nigeria as reported.
- (Violence against persons/prohibition Act) (VAPP act) of 2015
- The prohibition Against domestic violence law of Lagos state law 2007
- The matrimonial cause Act 2009 global venue and standard: Ending violence against women UN women's virtual Knowledge Centre to End violence against women and girls.
- Kelani Mercy (2023) Alarming Rate of domestic violence in Nigeria news Efefairoro Joy Vanguard News July 11, 2023
- News agency of Nigeria November 24, 2023
- Sahara reporters New York may 31, 2010

