



FACT SHEET THREE

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Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kano

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Introduction <<

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) REFERS TO any act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships. It encompasses threats of violence and coercion. It can be physical, psychological or sexual in nature and can take the form of a denial of resources or access to services. It inflicts harm on women, girls, men and boys (UNHCR).

Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kano <<

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS COMMITTED AGAINST SOMEONE without that person's freely given consent or with consent when the person is not old enough to give consent. It can manifest itself under different circumstances and can happen at home, school, workplace or open space. There can be one or more perpetrators. The most common form of this violence is "rape" and that of minors which is common in Kano. The state also records cases of unnatural offences (sodomy), sexual harassment and attempted rape.

Physical violence is a deliberate use of physical force with the potential for causing harm. Common forms of this violence include grabbing, shoving, pushing, restraining,

throwing, twisting, slapping, beating and choking with or without weapons. Physical assaults may or may not cause injuries.

Emotional violence, sometimes called **psychological violence**, is characterised by a person subjecting or exposing another to behaviour that may traumatise them and make them anxious. Common forms include threats such as that of divorce, killing, undermining one's capacity, and deliberate scaring. These acts may not be physical and may not result to physical actions but it makes the person involved really scared. It is the most difficult form of gender-based violence to recognise since it hardly leaves any evidence.

Economic violence: in this type of violence, the major determinant is finance. The perpetrators control access to all of the family resources: time, transportation, food, clothing, shelter and money. He or she may actively prevent the victim from becoming financially self-sufficient as a way to maintain power and control. When the victim leaves the relationship, the perpetrator may use economics as a way to maintain control or force him or her to return. Common forms of such coercion are refusal to pay for school fees, hospital bills, medication, selling of spouses' property without consent or refusal to allow women work, and instituting legal procedures costly to women who cannot afford lawyers.

Domestic Violence: This is very common and rampant yet when writing about SGBV, it is usually buried. It manifests itself in the different categories. Most often, the

domestic violence consists of different kinds of violence that are physical, psychological, and economical. Most often it's difficult to notice domestic violence since it's something that grows during a longer period of time.

Trafficking in Persons: Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Children are transported from villages to the cities and are employed as domestic workers (mostly girls) in homes. Visible within the metropolis is the use of Almajiri children for errands and house work too.

There is recruitment of women from around the state who are transported to Arab countries, mainly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the purpose of domestic work and others.

Early and Forced Marriages: Child marriage, or early marriage, is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age. Forced marriages are marriages in which one and /or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and /or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent.

Traditional and Non-traditional Views on SGBV <<

DEEPLY ROOTED CULTURAL AND SOCIAL NORMS AND THE BELIEF systems that emerge from them play vital roles in SGBV which reflects power inequalities between women and men. Women and girls are more commonly the victims of SGBV due to patriarchy that tilts the balance of power in favour of men.

Societal expectations normalise negative aspects of male and female behaviour. Dominant conceptions about manhood may condone boys acting out expressions of aggression, violence and sexual power, while girls and women are expected to be submissive, passive and defer to men and boys.

Many people do not consider domestic violence and forced sex within a marriage as SGBV. This is because of the misconception around religion which sees beating a wife as a man's role of disciplining his wife and his entitlement to have sex whenever he demands it.

Kano State
About 24% of girls complete secondary school.

Over 70% of women are unable to read and write.

Gender stereotyping of girls and women's roles by society as being those of mothers, carers, the property of men who are viewed as vulnerable and in need of protection, and not as rights-holders contributes to the discriminatory practice of child marriage. Hence education of the girl child is not valued nor considered important which is an abuse of her right.

"Within the huge number of out-of-school children, girls are in the majority, especially in northern Nigeria. Gender is an important factor in the pattern of educational marginalisation. In Nigeria, the political will is weak and there is no full implementation of the Universal Basic Education Act of 2004 and other education policies".

The girl child is sent out to work as domestic helps or street hawkers to provide income for their families. Kano State Child Labour law was signed into effect in 2014 and has a minimum 2-year sentence but implementation continues to be a challenge.

Nigerian law is also infused with discriminatory practices against women, including an implied legal backing to the

assault of a wife in Section 55 of the Penal Code, and, in Section 6 of the Criminal Code, a lack of legal recognition for rape within marriage.

Referral Mechanisms in Kano <<

AN UNCOORDINATED MULTI-SECTORAL REFERRAL MECHANISM exists in the state. Government institutions such as the Nigeria Police have special units dedicated to responding to sexual and related offences at Shahuci while the state has established a sexual assault referral centre at the Murtala Mohammed Hospital. Non-government organisations and

some community-based organisations (CBOs) provide various services at different levels too.

The majority of service providers need improved capacity building on survivor centred responses.

While efforts are made to support and protect victims of sexual violence victims, survivors of other forms of SGBV do not enjoy similar support and treatment. Services such as trauma counselling are not available.

SGBV REFERRAL INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS IN KANO			
S/N	Organizations	Contact person & Phone number	Address
1	Coalition Against Rape and Violence (CARAV)	Barr. Aisha Abdullahi 09097862425	Green Horizon No. 1 Race Course Road, Nassarawa GRA, Kano.
2	Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative	Executive Secretary, Mrs Amina Hanga 07033418288	No 10 Arakan Road, Nassarawa GRA, Kano
3	International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)	Barr. Huwaila Muhammed 08033041727	No.143 Lawan Danbazau Link, Kano Forum's Building (Inuwa Jama'ar Kano), Adjacent FRSC Office
4	Fagge Paralegals Development Association	Ahmed Kyabo 08098529808	Fagge A
5	National Human Rights Commission	Hajia Hauwa Salihu Jauro 08033711345	Plot 313 New Hospital Road, Opp. Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Gyadi-Gyadi, Kano.
6	Merit Legal Advocacy and Human Rights Initiative, MELAHRI	Barr. Hussaina Aliyu Ibrahim 08082269187	Alu Avenue, Kano.
7	Nigerian Bar Association Kano (NBA)		
8	National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP)	08024703327	No. 98 Foundation Road, Nasarawa GRA
9	Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)	Dr Auwal Garba, Centre Manager, 08032882149	Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital.
10	Gender and Socially Inclusive	Hauwa Shehu 08062441344	No. 50 Hadejia Road, Kano.
11	Transparency & Development Initiative	Ibrahim Garba Maryam 08038101030	No. 97 Hadejia Road, Kano.
12	Campaign for the Development of the Vulnerable (CAMDEV)	Barr. Zaliha 07033862248	No. 5 Nene Plaza, Zoo Road, Kano.

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