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COI QUERY RESPONSE

NIGERIA –DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In April 2025 the *Centre for Democracy and Development* notes that: “At the heart of Nigeria's femicide crisis is the entrenched perception of women as second-class citizens, a belief system that permeates social, economic, legal, and political structures. Deeply rooted patriarchal norms reinforce the notion that women are subordinate to men, limiting their rights and agency while fostering a culture of impunity in which perpetrators of violence face little to no consequences. Police officers often meet survivors of gender-based violence with indifference or even hostility, dismissing their cases as private family matters. In some instances, victims are pressured to reconcile with their abusers rather than pursue justice.”¹

In February 2025 the *Guardian* states that: “Almost two dozen women have died due to gender-based violence across Nigeria in 2025 alone, activists and civil society organisations have said in a call for a state of emergency.”²

In 2025 *Freedom House* issued a report reviewing events of 2024 which included noting that: “Despite the existence of strict laws against rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, and child marriage, these offenses remain widespread, with low rates of reporting and prosecution.”³

In December 2024 *UNICEF* states that: “In Nigeria, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, child marriage, and female genital mutilation (FGM), is deeply

¹ Centre for Democracy and Development (9 April 2025) *The Rising Tide of Femicide in Nigeria: A Silent War Against Women*, p.2

² *Guardian* (25 February 2025) *Activists call for state of emergency in Nigeria over gender-based violence*

³ *Freedom House* (2025) *Freedom in the World 2025, Nigeria*, p.10

rooted in unequal power dynamics and manifests as physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse.”⁴

Voice of America in November 2024 states that: “Poor awareness, a low rate of reporting, cultural and religious biases, and trust deficits in the justice system are some of the challenges hampering efforts to address GBV in Nigeria.”⁵

A report released in November 2024 by *UNICEF* states that: “Violence against children appears to be on the rise irrespective of adult education level or socioeconomic background...”⁶

A paper issued by *Health System & Reform* in October 2024 states that: “In recent times, the incidence of GBV has skyrocketed in Nigeria due to rising insecurity and conflicts, especially in the northern region of the country...The most dominant forms of GBV include physical and sexual violence, emotional (psychological) violence, socioeconomic violence, cultural practices such as female genital mutilation, and violence against civilian women in conflicts.”⁷

A report issued in July 2024 by the *European Union Agency for Asylum* states that: “Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remained ‘widespread’ in Nigeria during the reference period...”⁸

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⁴ UNICEF (2 December 2024) *Unites to End Gender-Based Violence: 16 Days of Activism Highlights Urgent Call for Action*

⁵ Voice of America (26 November 2024) *Nigerian activists, lawmakers coalesce against gender-based violence*

⁶ UNICEF (November 2024) *The State of Nigeria’s Children 2024, Summary of the Updated Situational Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Nigeria*, p.9

⁷ Health System & Reform (22 October 2024) *Applying Mobile Technology to Address Gender-Based Violence in Rural Nigeria: Experiences and Perceptions of Users and Stakeholders*, p.2

⁸ European Union Agency for Asylum (July 2024) *Nigeria – Country Focus*, p.59

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