

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Family and domestic violence is an aggressive behavior within the home whereby one individual gains power over another individual. It can also be referred to as intimate partner violence, this includes physical or sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression. It might be from a present or former intimate partner.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

According to WIKIPEDIA, Domestic violence is prominent in Nigeria as in other parts of Africa. There is a deep cultural belief in Nigeria that it is socially acceptable to hit a woman as a disciplinary measure.

Cases of domestic violence are on the high and show no signs of reduction in Nigeria, regardless of age, tribe, religion, or even social status.

The CLEEN Foundation reports 1 in every 3 respondents identified themselves as a victim of domestic violence. The survey also found a nationwide increase in domestic violence in the past 3 years from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013.

A CLEEN Foundation's 2012 National Crime and Safety Survey demonstrated that 31% of the national sample confessed to being victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence takes many forms including physical, sexual, emotional, and mental. Traditionally, domestic violence is committed against females. Common forms of violence against women in Nigeria are rape, acid attacks, molestation, wife beating, and corporal punishment.

The Nigerian government has taken legal proceedings to prosecute men who abuse women in several states. There is currently a push in Nigeria for federal laws concerning domestic violence and for a stronger national response and support for domestic violence issues.

Incidents of domestic violence in Nigeria include battery, beating, torture, acid baths, rape, and consequently death. It is however estimated that approximately one in every three women suffers domestic violence and intimate partner violence from the hands of those who claim to love and supposedly protect them.

The menace is eating deep as most of the victims do not speak out about violations of their rights, a result of nonchalance, insensitivity, and negative response from their immediate family and society at large.