

| FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY **Conducted By CRACO FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2017****FULL REPORT** |
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**Violence against children in nigeria**

**Child Rights Awareness Creation Organisation (CRACO)**

**MAKING THE CHILD INCLUDED & VISIBLE**

**www.cracong.org**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN NIGERIA**

 **A SURVEY (2015-2017)**

**BACKGROUND**

The rising rate of Violence Against Children (VAC) in recent time has not only become alarming but pandemic. The statistic is indeed worrisome. Millions of children in Nigeria suffer violence on daily basis. The effect can be traumatic and fatal. Only few perpetrators of this violence get accountable for it. Violence against children takes many forms including physical, sexual and emotional. The survey carried out by **CRACO** from the numerous reported cases she receives daily reveals the devastating facts that most of the perpetrators of this wicked and inhuman act are mostly close acquaintances and family members of these children. It becomes most worrisome when the Perpetrators are people children ordinarily should trust. This has gone a very long way in breaking the bonds of trust, and children who survive have difficulties forming trusting relationships through life.

**KEY FINDINGS**

Violence against children (VAC) is escalating on daily basis in Nigeria with little deterrence. It appears perpetrators of VAC are getting embolden in recent time, attributable to the fact that most perpetrators go scot free. We found that:

* There is rising cases of Sexual abuse of toddlers
* 80% of cases of sexual violence are perpetrated against little girls of between 1 – 15 years old
* 20% of cases of sexual abuse are perpetrated against boys between 5 – 17 years old
* 30% of the cases of sexual violence had led to the death of the victims
* Due to biting poverty in Nigeria and hash economic situation, most Parents accept monetary compensation from the Perpetrators or the families of the Perpetrators and enter agreement to conceal the crime.
* 80% of Perpetrators are persons familiar or related to the child victim, like siblings, step fathers, teachers, Uncles, Pastors and neigbours.
* There have been rising cases of sexual abuse of children by their biological Parents, particularly their fathers.
* Physical and emotional violence has been on the increase, and perpetrators are overwhelmingly people of authority in the lives of children: step mothers, fathers (in most cases) instigated by step mothers, teachers, elders and guardians.
* Parents, Guardians and adult relatives are the most common perpetrators of physical violence, followed by teachers.
* Most children are accused of being witches/wizards, abandoned and left to die or even murdered by their parents and accomplices who diagnose the kids of witchcraft, sometimes these accomplices are pastors or native doctors.
* There have been rising cases of babies born and abandoned or killed and thrown away by their mothers who usually attribute their actions to poverty.
* 70% of physical/domestic violence against children is perpetrated by women.
* Physical violence leads to about 40% of death of children
* Violence against children usually happens in places that should ordinarily be safe havens for children, like their homes, homes of relatives or neighbor, schools, churches.
* The highest number of recorded cases of sexual violence against children is from Clergy men.
* Lagos State has the Highest reported cases of violence against children, followed by Ogun state.

**METHODOLOGY**

This Survey was carried out based on Cases of violence against children reported to CRACO on weekly basis; as well as the follow up of cases reported to the Police and those taken to Court (both Magistrates’ and High Courts) throughout the country, and Cases reported in Nigerian Dailies and online Newspapers between 2015 to 2017.

**DEFINITION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

For the purpose of this Survey, we shall separately define each of the three forms of violence against children as follows:

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE**: This includes all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. It encompasses rape/defilement, attempted rape, sexual molestation, sexual advances to a child, fondling of a child’s genitalia, unwanted touch.

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**: This includes any physical acts of violence against a child such as beating, hitting with an object, punching, kicking, canning, slapping, burning, chaining, confinement, choking, attempt to drown, threatening to use an object on a child, and giving birth to a child and dumping or abandoning it somewhere or killing and throwing it away, female genital mutilation, intentional killing of a child for ritual purpose or for any other reason.

Physical violence is not always a result of intent to hurt a child but sometimes can be justified as being a form of discipline. This was the case of Wuraola Odunaya whose father (a military man) decorated with stripes of cane for failure to do her assignment. It can also be seen in cases where parents deliberately starve their children as punishment for wrong done.

**EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE**: This can come in different ways, which include restricting opportunities for a child to learn, socialize or explore; not expressing or showing love to a child, being ridiculed or put down, yelling or teasing and criticising a child especially in public, telling a child they are good for nothing, and that you regret giving birth to them, telling them they can never be useful in life, making a child feel unloved, making a child to witness domestic violence, trauma caused by physical abuse even without hurt or injuries. Emotional violence has most often resulted to children committing suicide. Cases of children committing suicide has been on the increase in Nigeria in recent time.

For instance: A 13-year-old boy, Rokeeb, lives with his mother, a single mother of three, at 25 Ekimogun Street, Apelehin under Isokan community in Bariga area of Lagos state. Rokeeb was a product of her first marriage, which crashed. She remarried and had two other children before the second marriage also crashed. Her mother, a petty trader who sells noodles at a bus stop in Bariga, would always transferred her life’s frustration on her children, particularly Rokeeb, the eldest one. She would always rain abuses on him and call him negative names. The emotional violence became unbearable for the child, and sometime in 2017, he started grumbling and complaining about life, telling the mother that he was tired of life. That apparently annoyed the mother and made her reply in anger that if he was tired of life he should go and hang himself. Moments later, Rokeeb’s body was found dangling from the ceiling in an uncompleted building near the house.

**PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN NIGERIA**

Violence against children has been on the rise in Nigeria. Physical and Emotional Violence, from our survey, is partly connected to the ravaging poverty across the Country. Cases of killing of children for money ritual has been reported. This is done not only by strangers but by adult relatives of the child, including the child’s parents. Most cases of physical and emotional violence can be attributed to adults transferring their economic frustration on the children. Kidnapping, trafficking and selling of children by adults are all attributable to Poverty and the quest to make ends meet. Most children who have fallen victims of sexual, emotional and physical violence are children sent into the streets to hawk wares by their parents and guardians. Most women who after giving birth, dump the child somewhere and disappear have attributed their acts to poverty. A mother of six children from Guru village in Bauchi state, Juliana James, who dumped her child in a toilet, when interviewed, said it was hardship that made her to do so. She stated that things were so hard for her and her husband, and that they were practically dying of starvation. As a result, when she delivered the last child at home, she threw the child into the toilet because she didn’t know how they were going to take care of the child. A 31-year-old lady identified as Ifunanya Eme was arrested by the police for dumping her one day old baby in a sack by the road side at Ajangbadi, area of Lagos. According to her *“my intention was just for someone to pick her and take care of her because of my financial predicament”*. Our Survey shows that 80% of victims of violence against children are children from poor homes, Orphans and homeless children. Due to the hash economic situation in country, most parents are forced to send their children to close relatives who they feel are in a better position to take proper care of these children but the reverse has always been the case as these children are maltreated, abused, violated and used as SLAVES.

Physical and emotional violence are commonly experienced by children under the guardianship of single parents, step-parents, and relatives. Worst cases have been recorded with children who are given out as house-helps to strangers. One of such cases which CRACO’s attention was drawn was that of Sandra an eight-year old child who was brought from Benue state to Lugbe in Abuja by one Mrs. Olarenwaju who happened to be her aunty, for a better life. Instead, the child was used as the family’s ‘baby sitter’ – babysitting two children ages one and four respectively. The girl herself was still a baby, so it was a case of a baby baby-sitting. The painful part of this was that this little girl was never sent to school while the two children of Mrs. Olarenwaju were in Crèche and Nursery school respectively. The organization was called upon due to the severe maltreatment and physical violence inflicted on such a young child.

Among the various forms of violence against children, sexual violence is the most devastating largely because of the traumatic effect it has on a child. When a child is sexually abused, it breaks bond of trust, and the trauma lasts a life time. It is violation of the right and sovereignty of a person, it is a spiritual act of violence that attack not only the body but the Soul which is the core being of such individual. The penalty for rape in Nigeria is life imprisonment, but hardly had any offender received this maximum punishment. In following up on rape cases on children in Nigerian, we observed that most Judges are not willing to award the maximum penalty, rather, sentences passed on convicts are usually between 21 years, 14 years and below. However, most recently, precisely in June, 2017, an Ekiti State High Court Judge, Hon. Justice Oluwatoyin Abodunde, took the bold step by sentencing the Vice Principal of a school to the maximum sentence of life imprisonment for raping a 12-year-old student. This is most commendable and the punishment, to our opinion, is most deserving, considering who is involved in this crime – a Vice principal, raping a school girl entrusted into his care, for the purpose of educating her for a better future, now being the one destroying the future of the girl. The plea for leniency from the defence counsel was rightly discountenanced by the Hon. Judge who stated thus: “*The defence counsel is pleading for leniency and praying for fine instead of the due punishment. My question is: who pays the victim for the lifetime scar of the trauma and torture of rape. I am unable to deviate from the provisions of the law in this instant. The defendant is found guilty as charged and sentenced to life imprisonment*”.

The Precise Statistics of sexual violence on children are not easy to come by largely because survivors hardly tell a Soul about the abuse. Perpetrators are known to always threaten their victims not to tell anyone, warning that if they do, the consequence is death or some evil calamity. Most children believe this, thus they keep the persistent violence to themselves, while dying silently. This only compounds the tragedy as the victim cannot get professional help to deal with it. Most parents get to find out when there arises complications which the child cannot handle alone. Furthermore, the nature of the abuse, duration, the circumstance around it and the child relationship to the abuser can all impact how the child processes the abuse and his or her ability to move beyond it.

**SURVEY OF ABUSE CASES AGAINST CHILDREN BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF 2015-2017**

Violence against children has become endemic, as there is no state or community in Nigeria where violence against children has not been recorded. Violence against children is perpetrated by the rich and poor, teacher and coaches, religious leaders, educated and illiterate, laymen and leaders, and more especially by family members and close acquaintances.

Recent records show a rise in abuse cases which has attracted public outcry. The Lagos state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Adeniji Kazeem stated that Lagos had recorded over 4,035 rapes of child abuse cases between 2015 - 2016. He disclosed this during a news briefing on the activities of the State’s Domestic and Sexual Violence response team (DSVRT). Kazeem in a statement by the chief press Secretary to the state Government, Habib Haruna on 31 May, 2016 said through the DSVRT, the government alone handled a total of 192 cases comprising 89 Domestic violence cases, 62 defilement cases, 18 rape cases, 6 attempted rapes, 10 child neglect and 7 child abuse cases.

The escalating rate of violence (especially sexual violence) against children has led to Federal Government, state governments and the National Assembly raising alarm. In 2017, the Federal Government of Nigeria reinstated its commitment to ending violence against children in the country. Acting president, Professor Yemi Osinbajo while unveiling the book on “*End of Violence Against Children in the FCT*”, called on stakeholders, ministries and state governments to replicate the program and enforce laws that will end the violence against children. In 2017, the Kano state government decried the rising cases of sexual violence against children, and promised to strengthen the relevant agencies to check the trend. In 2017, Plateau State government decried the rising cases of sexual violence against children and promised to take more stern measures to protect the Plateau child. In 2017, Oyo state Governor, Senator Abiola Ajimobi condemned any form of violence against children, saying his administration will continue to protect children against abuse. In 2017, the Rivers state government restated its commitment to end violence against children. The state governor, Nyesom Nwike, says that the government is committed to ensure that child rights are protected in the state. He urged Ministries, Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations to work together to produce strategic plans and actions aimed at totally eradicating violence against children, adding that child survival, child development, child protection and participation are issues of rights guaranteed by the constitution. In 2017, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) called for urgent action by the 36 state governors to end violence against children by adopting the Child Rights Act, particularly the 12 remaining states that were yet to pass the law.

**SOME OF THE REPORTED CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN NIGERIA BETWEEN 2015 – 2017.**

Though about 70% of cases of violence against children in Nigeria are not reported, especially sexual violence. But the few reported cases are indeed overwhelming. CRACO has recorded over 300 cases of violence against children that are reported (between 2015-2017), out of which some are taken to court and offenders prosecuted. For the purpose of showing the severity of these cases, and the category of persons who have become the perpetrators, we shall highlight just 100 of such cases which are reported in CRACOBLOG (www.cracong.org/blog-overview). We believe that highlighting the true magnitude of the violence is crucial to drumming up public support and encourage steady action towards its eradication.

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

1. **Akwa Ibom State**: In April, 2017, the Nigerian Police dismissed one inspector Joseph Etuk, who was attached to Mkpat Enin Police Division, Akwa Ibom state, over the rape of a 15-year-old school girl. The girl, a senior secondary one pupil said she was returning from church, when the police team that stood on the road accosted her. The inspector having seen her, raised up his gun, set it and pointed it at her, saying if she dare resist him touching her, he would shoot her. The inspector then led her away from other members of the team to a dark portion of the road, and according to the girl, the inspector forcefully ran his fingers through her breasts, lamenting ‘small you possess these types of breast!’ he ordered her to undress as he was still pointing gun at her. He ordered her to lie down and open her legs, and he then forcefully had canal knowledge of her, and threatened to shoot her if she opens her mouth to cry. When he was through, in order to cover up the rape case, he took her into the vehicle and drove to the station where he detained her from Thursday through Saturday, until her uncle came to bail her.
2. **Anambra State**: In Awka, Anambra state, a 5-year old daughter of a Carpenter was raped in a Kindergaton by the son of the Head Mistress, and the owners of the school attempted to bury the case by offering the victim’s father N100, 000, which unfortunately he accepted because of poverty, and parties even signed agreement to conceal the crime and allow the case to die before their secret arrangement was busted.
3. **Abuja**: The Parish priest of a Catholic Church in Asokoro, Abuja, Rev. Fr. Anthony Ochigbo, was arrested and arraigned before an Upper Area Court in Abuja for allegedly raping a 10-year-old daughter of one of his parishioners. He asked the mother of the girl to allow her past the night in the parish house. Upon trust, the girl’s mother granted the request. At night, the Priest raped the girl. He was later re-arraigned at the High Court in Abuja.
4. **Abuja**: The Pastor of Mountain Mover Fire Ministry Church, Nyanya, Abuja, Basil Princewill was arraigned before an Abuja High Court for raping a 16-year-old girl in the name of removing evil spirits inside her. According to the girl, the pastor told her he had a revelation that her foundation was dirty and that her father’s wife was trying to kill her, and that the Lord told him to perform a quick deliverance on her. The victim agreed, after which the pastor brought a white handkerchief and a bottle of oil and asked her to remove her clothes. The pastor led her into his bedroom and asked her to close her eyes, and raped her.
5. **Bauchi state**: A nail-cutter man was reported to have had anal sex with a 13-year-old Almajiri boy in Darazo local government area of the state. He gave the boy N40 and instructed him not to disclose the act to anyone. This incident happened in 2016, and no one knew until sometime in May, 2017 when the boy developed a strange illness and his stomach got swollen.
6. **Bayelsa State**: In Yenagoa, in June, 2017, a 50-year-old man was arrested for raping a 15-months-old baby at the Swali area of Yenagoa. Confirming the incident, the spokesman of the Police Command in Bayelsa, DSP Asinim Butswat, stated that the case was incidented with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and that investigation was underway.
7. **Bayelsa State**: In Yenagoa, a woman, Blessing Joshua, caught her 40-year-old lover, Mr. Oku, raping her 15-year-old daughter at the Swali area of Yenagoa. Bayelsa state Security outfit, Operation Doo Akpo, visited the scene and arrested the suspect. According to the Victim’s mother: “I was watching television with my neighbor till late and retired to bed at about 1am. It was not quite long, I heard the scream of my child and I ran to the direction of the scream. But I was shocked when I saw him defiling my child. He claimed it was the work of the devil and I told him that this would be the last time the devil would use him and that I would take the matter seriously. He pleaded and barricaded the door to prevent me from calling neighbours. But I tricked him and ran outside with my child to call Police Patrol team at our junction. He was arrested but he denied the act. But a test carried out in the hospital showed otherwise”.
8. **Benue State**: A 22-year-old teacher was arrested by the Police in Benue State for sexually harassing three of his pupils at Kizito Nursery and Primary School, Eke in Okpokwu Local Government Area of the state. The Teacher, Emmanuel Duke, was paraded at the Police headquarters in Makurdi on allegation of committing unnatural offences. It was reported that the teacher was in the habit of having carnal knowledge of his male pupils during school hours. According to the Pupils who are all of primary 5, their class teacher would at different times ask them to wait behind after close of school, and when everyone was gone, he would blindfold them with a red handkerchief and have sex with them through the anus. The Pupils said they were afraid to report because he threatens to deal with them if they report to anybody.
9. **Cross River state**: A man abducted a three-year-old girl, while she was playing with her peers, took her into the bush and forced a stick into her vagina. The girl was rescued after her peers raised alarm and a search party combed the nearby bush where the man was apprehended when he was already wrecking havoc on the child’s body.
10. **Cross River State**: a 9-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a retired deputy superintendent of police, Christopher Archibong in Calabar, Cross River state. Mother of the girl, Mrs. Peace Edem Okon said she had gone to the market and left instruction with the girl to wash the clothes of her siblings and upon her return discovered that something foul had happened. In her statement, the victim said that after her mother had left for the market, the accused came and asked her about the whereabouts of her parents. When she told him they had gone out, he told her to come and pick some firewood. As she went to pick the firewood, he came and held her to the ground and raped her. After which he threatened to kill her if she ever disclose it to her parents. The police officer, who is also a pastor and the general overseer of the Family Prayers Network Centre, Calabar, was arrested and later taken to a Magistrates’ Court under holden charges pending his proper arraignment in a court of jurisdiction.
11. **Edo State**: A 67-year-old Pastor, Felix Adebayo, was arrested for molesting a 10-year-old girl in Ubiane Community, Aviele, Esako west local Government, Benin. He defiled the girl when she was sent to get a mobile phone from his apartment. Adebayo admitted the crime, but stated he was under the influence of the devil.
12. **Ekiti State**: A High Court in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, in June, 2017, sentenced to life imprisonment a former Vice Principal of a school, St. Mary’s Girls Grammar School, Ikole-Ekiti, Taiwo Ajayi, after finding him guilty of raping a 12-year-old student. Mr. Ajayi reportedly lured the girl into his office, locked the door from behind and raped her on the table while covering her mouth with a piece of cloth. Mr. Ajayi was caught in the act by two teachers who had to force the door open.
13. **Ekiti State**: A 53-year-old Anglican Church pastor in Ado-Ekiti, Gabriel Asateru, was remanded in prison by an Ado-Ekiti Magistrate Court, over alleged defilement of a 5-year old girl.
14. **Ekiti State**: An Ekiti state High court sitting in Ado Ekiti jailed a 57-year old man, David Oluwatoba, for 14 years imprison for defiling his 4-year-old step-daughter. Oluwatoba had defiled the child after bathing her at their home in Irepodun local government Area of the state.
15. **Imo State**: A general overseer of a popular spiritual church in Ikeduru Council Area of Imo state was arrested for allegedly having constant illicit affairs with a 13-year-old girl.
16. **Jigawa State**: The Jigawa state Command of the Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) arrested four persons, Abdullahi Rabiu, 28, Auwalu Idris, 41, Nazifi Abba, 25, and Abu Zaid Yusu, 18, in Taura local government area of the state, for committing sodomy with a 16-year-old boy identified as Umar sani. The Suspects defiled the boy at different locations within their community and threatened to kill him if he tells anybody. The suspects admitted to the crime and pleaded with the officers of the NSCDC to forgive them and let them go, saying it was the work of the devil. They were all taken to a Magistrate Court in kiyawa local government area for prosecution.
17. **Jigawa State**: A 40-year-old man, Ibrahim Yusuf, was arrested by the Police for raping 4 minors in Kangere Village, Birnin Kudu Local Government Area of Jigawa State. Three of the girls were aged four, five and six. Yusuf who operates a Cinema House in the Village lured the girls into the Cinema house where he entertain them with different films for free before raping them.
18. **Katsina State**: A seven-month-old baby, Hauwa Ibrahim, was raped by her 55-year old stepfather, Magaji Dansale, at Dangaski village in the Musawa local government of Katsina state. The child later died as a result.
19. **Katsina State**: The Katsina State Police Command arrested a 33-year-old teacher at Nasarawa Annex Primary School in the Faskari local Government area of the State for allegedly raping a nine-year-old pupil, after luring the child into the staff room.
20. **Katsina state**: Two men were reported to have snatched a 1-year old baby from her mother and took turns to rape her, while the mother, Suwaiba, watched helplessly, after which they fled on their motorcycle.
21. **Katsina State**: A 16-year-old boy identified as Abdulmalik Yau of Durbi Ta-Kusheyi village in Mani Local Government Area of Katsina state was arraigned before a Katsina state Magistrate Court for raping and impregnating a 14-year-old girl. The accused was said to be living in the same house with the victim when the act was perpetrated. The victim’s father, Murtala Lawal reported the matter to the police and the suspect was arrested. Being a minor, the presiding Magistrate, Fadila Dikko, ordered that he be remanded at the remand home pending when the case would be assigned to a Court with jurisdiction.
22. **Katsina state**: The State Police command arrested an 18-year old man for raping his eight-year-old sister. He was reported to have lured his younger sister into a toilet and forcefully had sexual intercourse with her. He was arrested after the victim reported the matter to their mother, who lodged a complaint to the police. He was arraigned on a two-count charge of rape and incest before a Katsina state Magistrates’ court.
23. Katsina State: A senior Katsina Magistrate’s court has remanded one Yahaya Idris, 40, in prison for allegedly raping and impregnating his neighbour’s 15-year-old daughter. Police said the victim’s father, Lawal Abubakar from Gawa village of Bindawa Local Government Area, reported the matter to the police on September 23, 1017 leading to the arrest and subsequent arraignment of the suspect. Idris resides in the same house with Abubakar where he reportedly committed the offence. The suspect allegedly deceived and lured the victim before raping her leading to the pregnancy.
24. **Kano State**: A 25-year old labourer, Nasiru Ibrahim was arraigned before a Magistrate court for raping a 13-year-old girl. The victim was sent to grind tomatoes by her mother, and on her way back, Ibrahim deceived and took her into an uncompleted building and had unlawful intercourse with her. He was caught in the act.
25. **Kano State**: A 30-year old business man, Lawan Zubairu, was arraigned at a Kano Magistrates’ Court for raping an 11-year old set of twins after luring them to his room.
26. **Kano State**: A 35-year-old man, Nasiru Amadu, was arraigned before a Kano Chief Magistrates’ Court for defiling a nine-year-old girl. The accused was alleged to have deceived and lured the girl into an uncompleted building and defiled her.
27. **Kebbi state**: A 17-year-old girl, Zarau, was on her way to her sister’s house in Kimba village, Jega council area of the state when four men led by one Aliyu Sarkin Mata accosted her, kidnapped and raped her repeatedly and later strangled her. Her lifeless body was found in the bush three days after she was declared missing.
28. **Lagos State**: A 36-year old man, Okoro Sunday, was arraigned before an Ikeja Magistrates’ Court, Lagos, for forcefully having carnal knowledge of his daughter.
29. **Lagos State**: One Ike Iwuanyanwu was arrested by the Lagos State Police Command for allegedly raping and impregnating his 15-year-old daughter at Ajao Estate, in Isolo Area of Lagos State.
30. **Lagos State**: The police at Area G Command Ogba, Lagos state arrested and charged to an Ogba Magistrate court in Lagos two young men, Oriko Samuel and Bassey Joseph for gang-raping of a 13-year old girl at a church premises at Oke-Ira area of Ogba, Lagos state.
31. **Lagos State**: A 68-year-old man, Patrick Onyesom, was in April, 2017 arraigned at an Ikeja Magistrates’ Court for defiling a 12-year-old girl. The accused was said to have defiled the girl who was a house-keeper in his house, when his wife travelled. The girl later told one of their neighbours who alerted the police, and the accused was arrested.
32. **Lagos State**: A 29-year-old man, Emmanuel Etim, was arraigned before a Surulere Magistrate, Court, Lagos state for defiling a 3-year-old girl, at Ikota Housing Estate, Lagos. He defiled the girl by putting his fingers into her private part. Mr. Etim who lives in the same Estate with the parents of the victim, was playing with the girl and later took her to his apartment to commit this heinous act.
33. **Lagos State**: A 28-year-old man, Daniel Johnson, was arraigned before an Ebute Meta Magistrate court, Lagos, where he pleaded guilty to sucking the sexual organ of an 11-year-old boy at Orile Iganmu, Lagos state.
34. **Lagos State**: A 14-year old boy was arraigned at a Magistrates’ Court in Ikeja, Lagos for defilement of his neigbour’s 7-year-old daughter. The accused broke into the toilet where the girl was easing herself, and defiled her. Being a minor, the Magistrate ordered that he be remanded in the Boy’s Correctional Centre, Oregun, Ikeja, until his bail condition is met.
35. **Lagos State**: A 40-year-old Chef, Godwin Obot, was arraigned before a Magistrates’ court in Lagos state for defiling his neigbour’s 8-year-old daughter after luring the girl into his room at Esther Adeleke street, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos, with a soft drink, when her parents were at work, and the girl just returned back from school.
36. **Lagos State**: A 56-year-old man, Sunday Adimagwu, and his son, Kenneth, 21, were arraigned before an Ikeja Magistrates’ court for defiling a 12-year-old girl. The father was being charged for defiling his own daughter, while the son was charged for defiling the same girl – his step-sister. The girl had been staying with her father and step-mother following a separation between her father and her mother. Both have sexually assaulted the girl on different occasions. When the opportunity came, the girl ran to her mother’s house and reported what she had been passing through. Her mother reported to the police, which led to the arrest of the duo.
37. **Lagos State**: A 38-year-old man, Yusuf Oriyomi, and his friend, Idowu Ayigoro, 42, were arraigned before an Ikeja Magistrates’ court for sexually assaulting Oriyomi’s 15-year-old daughter. Both had sexually assaulted the girl on different occasions. The girl’s mother travelled to their village when the father woke her up at night and put his manhood between her thighs. The case was reported to the police by the girl’s mother, which led to the arrest of the duo.
38. **Lagos State**: In Oko-Oba area of Lagos State, a 42-year-old man, Aminu Umar was arrested and charged before a Lagos Court for defiling his neighbour’s two under-aged girls, 4, 7, at the same time on several occasions in his apartment with Bobo drinks. The Kano state-born Umar who is a butcher usually return early to their house after he finished killing cows at abattoir. While at home, he would lure the victims into his apartment with Bobo drinks when their parents were not around and defile them.
39. **Lagos State**: a 25-year-old Barman, Wale Ayo, was arraigned before a Magistrate court in Lagos Island for forcefully having anal sex with a 10-year-old boy. The boy’s mother sent him to the bar to greet his uncle who came to visit them but went to the bar to drink with his friends. Unknown to the boy that his Uncle had left the bar, the barman lied to him that his uncle was at the back of the bar. The accused bundled him into the store, locked the door and forcefully had anal sex with him.
40. **Lagos state**: The Lagos State Police Command arrested a Pastor, Abraham Sunday, for allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl in Adalemo Estate, in the Toll Gate area, on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway. Sunday, the Pastor of Christ In All Nations Church in Adalemo, was arrested by the Ojokoro Police Division, from where he was taken to the Department of Criminal Investigation, Yaba. The girl who was ill was taken by the Pastor to a house in Adalemo Estate for deliverance prayer when the incident occurred.
41. **Lagos State**: The Police in Lagos state arrested a 40-year-old man, Hakeem, popularly known as Baba Iwura, for allegedly defiling a 7-year-old girl. Baba Iwura usually takes permission from Mrs. Taiwo Fathia, the girl’s mother to send her on errands every Sunday when his wife and children had gone to Church. But unknown to the victim’s mother, the errands were a guise to abuse her daughter. The bubble burst when the little girl innocently told her playmates what Baba Iwura has been doing to her each time he sends her on errand. In the process the victim’s elder sister overheard her and immediately alerted their parents who quizzed the victim and she admitted.
42. **Lagos State**: A woman, Ajoke Afolabi, revealed before Hon. Justice Oluwatoyin Ipaye of Ikeja High Court how her former husband, Kenneth Okonkwo, defiled his 12-year-old daughter when she visited him during Easter holiday. The girl opened up to a Councillor at the Lagos State Mediation Centre. Tests carried out on the girl showed that she had been sexually abused.
43. **Lagos State**: A 39-year-old man, Innocent Azamarogbe, was arraigned before an Ikeja Magistrates’ Court in Lagos State for raping his 14-year-old niece. The accused had been molesting the girl since 2016 but she kept it to herself until her mother paid a visit, and she told her what the accused had been doing to her. The mother reported to the police and Innocent was arrested.
44. **Lagos state**:Two men, Saheedu Yahaya, 20, a factory worker and Rabiu Muhamed, 46, a fashion designer were arraigned at an Ikeja Magistrates’ Court for alleged sexual assault on their neigbour’s son. The accused persons who live at No. 3, Awoyinfa street, Agege, lagos, lured the 10-year-old boy into their room on the pretext of sending him on an errand. They thereafter shut the door behind him, fingered his anus and inserted their manhood. It was the cry of the boy that alerted one of the neighbours and she rushed to the accused window to see what was happening. Upon seeing what was happening, she shouted for help and the two accused persons were apprehended by tenants and handed over to the police.
45. **Lagos state**: a 14-year-old SS2 school girl, Obiamaka Orakwue, was raped right inside her room at night in her father’s house at Abule Ado area of Lagos state; and thereafter, the rapists murdered her by smashing her head with a stone.
46. Lagos State: A case against a 40-year-old man, who allegedly raped a three-year-old nursery school pupil in Onaosa, in the Ibeju-Lekki area of Lagos state was filed in a Lagos State Magistrate’s Court. The accused, Kehinde Gabriel, approached the girl when she was going to a mosque with her sisters on 16 August, 2017. Gabriel, a neighbour of the girl’s parents, reportedly lured the minor girl into his apartment with a loaf of bread, beans and a drink before raping her.
47. Lagos State: The police in Lagos arrested a man, Chigozie Ezeofor for sexually assaulting his teenaged domestic help. The suspect’s spouse, Mrs. Isioma was also arrested for allegedly pouring hot water on the victim. They were arrested at their 26, Aunty Toyin Street, Kodeibo Estate, Ijegun Road, Isheri Oshun residence. It was gathered that the woman had poured the hot water on the victim and refused to treat her injuries, which angered other residents. According to the police, the man penetrated the teenager through the anus on several occasions.
48. Lagos State: A 13-year-old girl on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 disclosed how her uncles— Saviour Philip, 35, and Paul Philip, 17—took turns to rape her in their one-room apartment on Olowolagba Street, off Odunsi, Bariga area of Lagos State. She also revealed that one of the suspects also assaulted her eight-year-old cousin, while their mother was away. The victims and their mother moved into the suspects’ apartment five months before the incident, due to their parents’ inability to get an accommodation. “He covered my mouth when I wanted to shout. When he was done, he threatened to kill me if I told my mother or anyone. When he is finished with me, he would call my little cousin inside and asked me to stay outside”. The child said.
49. **Nasarawa State**: A 57-year-old man, Aminu Ibrahim, was arrested and arraigned before a Jos Upper Area Court, sitting in Kasuwa Nama, for raping an 8-year-old girl after luring her with N50 and Viju milk, after which he took her to his Shop and raped her; after which he threatened to kill the victim if she ever mentioned it to anyone. The mother noticed that her 8-year old daughter had difficulties walking, and asked her what happened, which exposed Ibrahim’s crime. The accused confessed to having committed the crime.
50. **Nasarawa State**: A school proprietor, 42-year-old Mr. Elias Oyeke was arrested for allegedly raping a four-year-old Nursery one Pupil of his school at Maraba, Nasarawa state. The suspect had raped the child on several occasions and gives the child sweet, and threaten that the child would get into trouble if she informed anybody of the acts.
51. **Niger state**: In Minna, a Niger State’s Magistrates’ Court ordered the remand of a 33-year-old Pastor, Paul Aderinwa, in prison for allegedly raping a minor. The father of the girl, one Oluwatoyin Joseph of Gurara reported the matter at Kpakungu Police station. The defendant, also a resident of Gurara, invited the girl to his house under the pretext of sending her on an errand, and had carnal knowledge of her.
52. **Ogun State**: Police in Ogun state arrested a 20-year-old boy, Olaseni, for raping a 9-year-old girl in her father’s house at New Life Estate, Sango –Ota in Ogun state. The victim’s father, Mr. Adepoju Akinyemi, reported the matter to the police after he came back and found his daughter in bad condition. Upon interrogation, the suspect admitted having carnal knowledge of the girl.
53. **Ogun State**: A Pastor in Ogun State, Taiwo Olubayode, was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment for impregnating his 16-year old daughter.
54. **Ogun State**: A pastor in Ogun State, Adekunle Francis, was arrested by the Ogun State police Command for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl under the pretence of praying and anointing her.
55. **Ogun State**: An Abeokuta High Court sitting in Isabo, in June, 2017, sentenced a Pastor, Johnson Adeleke, to 5-years imprisonment for raping a 14-year-old member of his church. Pastor Adeleke attended night vigil at the home of the victim and used the opportunity to rape her. He disvirgined his victim and threatened to kill her if she tells anybody.
56. **Ogun State**: A 48-year-old Pastor, Micheal Adeniran, was remanded in prison by an Abeokuta Chief Magistrates’ Court for allegedly impregnating a 17-year-old girl.
57. **Ogun State**: The Police in Ogun State arrested a 52-year-old man, Isiaka Obadairo, for defiling a six-year-old girl. While the child’s mother, Mrs. Comfort Ajayi, went to work, the Suspect who was living in the same compound with the victim, lured the girl into his room under the pretext of sending her on errand, and forcefully had carnal knowledge of her.
58. **Oyo State**: Four men were arrested in Ibadan, Oyo state, for raping an 11-year-old girl. The secondary school girl who lives at NNPC area of Ibadan, was said to be hawking detergent when the suspects lured her into an uncompleted building (pretending that they want to buy the detergent), where they raped her in turns.
59. **Rivers State**: A Port Harcourt High Court sentenced a man to 2-years imprisonment for defiling his 9-year-old daughter. The child told the court that her father had sexually abused her thrice. Twice in his bedroom and once in a hotel. The presiding Judge, Hon. Justice Adolphus Enebeli condemned the accused for exploiting the relationship between him and his daughter to sexually abuse her.
60. **Rivers State**: In Portharcourt, a 47-year-old Pastor was arrested for raping and impregnating a 13-year-old girl. Narrating how the said Pastor defiled her at the state Police Headquarters, the victim said: “This Pastor is our neighbor, I went to his house to collect our needle and thread his wife’s sister borrowed. When I knocked on their door, he ushered me in. On entering the house, he grabbed me, closed my mouth, tore my pant and raped me. He also threatened me that if I tell anyone, I was going to die”. The Pastor who confirmed the claims of the victim said he only had “canal knowledge” of her once.
61. **Taraba State**: An 11-year-old girl, the daughter of a security guard, was raped through the anus by a 21-year old son of her father’s employer (a law maker) in Taraba State. The girl died at the hospital.

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**

1. **Abia State**: In Aba, a man identified as Chibuike Onwuchekwa, inflicted injuries on his housemaid for failing to fill two water containers at Umuga Ovom in Obingwa local government area of the state. Onwuchekwa and his wife sent the girl to fill two containers in their house from a nearby borehole while they left for church service. The couple returned to discover that the girl, aged about 10, was unable to fill the two containers before the borehole owner closed shop. Onwuchekwa beat the girl, leaving her with injuries, poured a mixture of salt and pepper to her injuries and locked her up and left for an event with his wife, despite the pleas from neighbours.
2. **Akwa Ibom State**: A little boy, later named Hope, was found roaming the streets naked and severely acutely malnourished. He was abandoned by his own family who accused him of being a witch. He was rescued by a Danish health worker who took him to a hospital.
3. **Abuja**: The FCT Police command arrested a 36-year-old woman, Kemi Egbukole, for pouring boiling water on her house help, Hope David, badly burning her breasts for waking up late from sleep.
4. **Abuja:** A disgruntled Housemaid strangled a 3-year-old girl to death because her mistress refused to allow her travel to her village to celebrate Christmas. The Maid took her anger out on the child, and when her mistress went to work, she strangled the toddler to death and ran away.
5. **Bayelsa state**: The state Police Command arrested the parents of a 4-year-old girl who was tortured with a hot boiling ring for bedwetting. Injuries inflicted on the little girl on daily basis prompted neigbours to report the matter to the police.
6. **Borno State**: A director of planning in one of the Ministries in Borno state was arrested by the state Police Command for inserting electric heater into the anus of his 19-year-old son over the allegation of engaging in homosexual activities.
7. **Cross River State**: The Police arrested a 35-year-old man from Ikot-Okpora village in Biase Local Government Area of Cross River state, Okon Uben, for killing his 8-year-old stepson identified as Godwill. Mr. Okon admitted killing the boy. He said he killed the boy because he insulted him.
8. **Delta state**: A man, Austin Segun, was given ultimatum to leave the Eruemukohwarien community for burning his palm and feet and tying his 13-year-old son to a window burglar-proof with his hands tied behind him for three days because a church leader said the boy was a wizard. The victim, Tobi Segun was rescued by a group of vigilante, who heard him whimpering at about 2 a.m, saying he wants to die and that he can no longer bear the torture.
9. **Ebonyi State**: In Abakaliki, Ebonyi state, a police woman attached to Ebonyi state Police Command, Mrs. Okochi Joy Ugo, poured hot melon soup and boiling water on her 15-year-old housemaid, Chinyere Igwe. Mrs. Okochi was reported to have poured the hot soup and hot water on the girl for not making the soup the way she wanted it. Okochi’s husband was also reported to have beaten up the housemaid immediately he returned from work and his wife reported Chinyere’s disobedience, not minding that she suffered a first degree burn on her upper back.
10. **Ebonyi State**: In Abakaliki, a doctor at Federal teaching hospital, Jane-Glad Ugba was arrested for pouring boiling cooking water on a 16-year-old boy. The boy, Nwanga Chidiebere, a JSS 3 student of Presco secondary school, Abakaliki lives with the doctor. It was reported that the eldest son of the doctor had left the door open but chidiebere was wrongly accused of the offence. While he was being punished, the doctor accused him additionally of burning the yam he was asked to cook. To punish him, Ugba was said to have emptied the cooked yam and hot water on the boy’s back, chasing him out of the house. He slept in a church overnight and in the morning, while roaming the streets, a female member of Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) found him and took him to the hospital. The woman was arrested and arraigned in court.
11. **Imo State**: The police in Imo state arrested a woman, one Mrs. Promise Obinna, who bathed an 11-year-old girl with hot water. The hot water severely affected the girl’s breasts, labs, buttocks, hands, face, back and legs.
12. **Kaduna state**: A stepmother burst open the head of a four year old preschooler and broke the arms and legs of her two-year-old sibling. The children were also starved. This happened at their father’s house in Igabi local government of Kaduna state. The stepmother fled after officials of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) came in search of her.
13. **Kaduna state**: a 10-year-old girl who lives with her uncle in Gonigora, Kaduna state was left with horrific burns on her buttocks after being maltreated by her uncle’s wife – Mrs. Remi Joseph. The girl who is out of school, was allegedly brutalized and her buttocks burnt with fire and abandoned without treatment. A well meaning neighbor reported the case to the “presenter of Oga Landlord on Capital Sounds 90.9 FM, who then notified the authorities.
14. **Kano State**: A 2-year-old boy, Musa Murtala, was reported to have been tortured by his grandmother, Hafsatu, and stepmother, Zainab, at their home in Gulu town in the Rimin Gado local government Area of the state. The two suspects were reported to have broken the legs and arms of Musa, cut his tongue, remove his eyes and private parts. The victim’s father reported the case to the Kano state police Command, and the suspects were arrested.
15. **Kano State**: Three little girls were rescued from their stepmother who locked them in a room and starve them for days after their father had travelled.
16. **Lagos State**: Police in Lagos state arrested a pastor, Adedoyin Oyekan, and his accomplice, one Eric, who beheaded a 7-year old school boy at Ikorodu, Lagos state, and buried his head on the church’s altar. Eric who was a friend to the victim’s father abducted the boy, after his father left him in his custody.
17. **Lagos State**: The police in Lagos arrested a Muslim cleric, Kazeem Alimson, for killing a 3-year-old boy, Chiagozie Okereke, at Ejigbo, Lagos state. The boy’s head was found in his house after a search was conducted.
18. **Lagos State**: Police in Lagos arrested a woman, identified as Oby, for beating her maid to death in Okota area of Lagos. The woman was nabbed by people when she attempted to dispose of the 8-year-old girl’s body. Neigbours reported that she was fond of beating the girl, and wherever people intervene, she would tell them to go away because she brought the girl from the village and it was none of their business.
19. **Lagos state**: The state government demoted the principal and five other teachers of Eva Adelaja Girls Secondary school involved in brutality of a 14-year-old SS2 student of the school. The 14-year-old, Ogechi, was slapped by the school’s head girl after a disagreement and she returned the slap. The head girl reported the matter to the school principal and teachers who took Ogechi to their staff room where they asked her to pull up her uniform and thereafter gave her some hot lashes on her bare buttocks.
20. **Lagos state**: The State government adopts a 9-year old house maid, Chiwendu, who hails from Imo state, tortured with hot water. The girl’s boss, Ifeoma Mbakwe sent her to bring crayfish in the kitchen, but she could not find it. The woman accused her of eating the crayfish without her consent. She beat her up before pouring hot water on her and forced her to sleep in pains on that day before taking her to the hospital the following morning. Chiwendu narrates:”she (Mbakwe) said I should go and bring crayfish, but I told her I did not see it. She said I ate it. She used something we used to grind pepper to hit my head. She bit me in the back and poured hot water on me. I complained that my body was paining me, but she told me to go and sleep like that. She does not give me food regularly. There is no food for me in the afternoon when I come back from the school. Sometimes, she would not give me food in the evening. She always beats me. I want to go back to my parents.”
21. **Lagos State**: The State Police Command arrested a man, Surakat Idowu, for brutalizing his 5-year-old daughter with hot iron in Ikotun area of Lagos state. The 45-year-old man who separated from his wife in 2013 tortured the girl with iron in the face and in the private parts. Her offence was that she was asked by her father to dispose faeces in a potty into the latrine, but she poured it on the floor.
22. **Lagos State**: The state Police Command arrested a woman, Fatima Williams, and her neigbour, Waliu Yusuf for brutalizing a 16-year-old girl, identified as Kemi, with hot iron and electric cables. The girl who was brought from Cotonou, Benin Republic as a house maid was allegedly tortured for not sweeping William’s compound.
23. **Lagos State**: A whipping incident in a school in Ijegun area of Lagos state left the buttocks of a 13-year-old girl badly bruised. The girl was allegedly canned by three male teachers of St. Saviour’s High school, Ijegun as punishment for attending the birthday party of another student of the school in company of other classmates.
24. **Lagos State**: The State Police Command arrested a 40-year-old trader, Mrs. Deborah Gabriel, who brutalized her housemaid, 8-year-old girl, Glory Ugbon, and put pepper in the girl’s eyes and private part when the girl decided to steal a plate of rice when she was hungry.
25. **Lagos state**: a 28-years old business woman, Ngozi Adeleke, was arraigned at an Ikeja Magistrates’ Court for allegedly using hot iron to inflict injury on her house keeper. She claimed that the housekeeper, a 10-year –old girl, stole her money, hence, she plugged an iron and when it was hot, she used it on the girl’s bottom and neck which caused her severe injury. It was one of her neighbours that alerted the police and she was apprehended.
26. **Lagos State**: In Odogunyan, Ikorodu Area of Lagos state, a man simply identified as Mr. Paul drove a three-inch nail into the head of his eight-year-old nephew named Friday. The eight-year old Friday, an orphan, lives with his uncle/guardian Mr. Paul and his immediate family in a room apartment at Anjolarin street, Odogunyan, Ikorodu, after the death of his parents. Mr. Paul allegedly accused the boy of stealing the money he kept in his room, but the boy denied the act, which infuriated his uncle. Mr. paul was said to have dragged the boy into an apartment and tortured him. Not done with that, he drove a three inches nail into the boy’s skull, abandoned him in pain and fled, but was later arrested. At the time of compiling this survey report, Friday was still battling for his life at the hospital, and needed N100,000.00 for a surgery.
27. **Lagos State**: a 34-year-old woman, Uzoma Austin, was arraigned before an Ogudu Magistrates’ court in Lagos state for allegedly setting her 12-year-old foster child ablaze. The woman who resides at Mile 12 area of Lagos state was reported to have set the little girl ablaze for stealing N1,000.00. The Lagos state Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, DSVRT, rescued the child and took her to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH.
28. **Lagos State**: Officers of the Lagos state Police Command arrested one Esther Bello, a trader, for violence against her 13-year-old housemaid, Titi, in Obanikoro, Lagos. Policemen from Pedro Police station were called by neighbours after Titi, who was said to be from cotonou, Benin Republic, ran out of her Madam’s house with a bleeding hand that had been cut deep in 3 places with a broken bottle. According to Titi, Esther her Madam had caused the injuries and threatened to kill her if she raised alarm. Officials of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team went to the police station and took charge of the welfare of the girl.
29. **Lagos State**: One Mrs. Bethelyn Falade was dragged to the police station and later arraigned before a Magistrates’ court at Ojokoro in Ifako-Ijaiye, for pouring steaming hot water on the chest of her 12-year-old housemaid, Chinemerem Sunday, for the offence of being sturborn. The reason for the nasty act was triggered by her missing laptop which the maid said was taken by her Mistress brother-in-law, while she was not around. Mrs. Bethelyn who is from Abia state, grabbed a kettle on the gas cooker filled with boiling water and emptied the hot content on the girl’s chest on the ground that she should have notified her before allowing her brother-in-law take the Laptop.
30. **Lagos State**: A 34-year-old woman, Onyinye Chuks, was arraigned before an Ikeja Magistrates’ Court for locking her 14-year-old housemaid in a toilet for 20 days. She alleged that the girl stole her money, beat her and locked her inside her toilet, fed her once and didn’t allow her to take a bath or change her clothes for those weeks in bondage. It was one of the neighbours who could not bear the torment anymore that informed the police, hence the accused was arrested, and the girl taken to hospital.
31. **Nasarawa State**: The police in Nasarawa state, confirmed the beheading of a five-year-old boy, Meshach, in Shabu Lafia local government area of the state. The boy who was with his mother and other siblings, went to excrete but never came back. In the process of search, his headless body was found in an uncompleted four-bedroom flat not too far away from their residence.
32. **Ogun State**: The state Police Command arrested a house wife, Fatimoh Olanrewaju, for allegedly breaking the arms and legs of her 5-year-old step-son, Iyanu. The biological mother of the victim was said to have divorced the father, and the victim had been living with his stepmother and his father.
33. **Ogun state**: The Nigerian security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) rescued a nine-year-old boy, Korede Taiwo, whose hands and legs were chained by his father, a pastor, for one month at a church, the Celestial Church of Christ, Key of Joy Parish, Ajiwo in Ogun State. The boy was accused by his step mother of stealing meat from his family’s cooking pot. After he was rescued, he was extremely tired and pale and was not able to talk.
34. **Ogun State**: The Police in Ogun State arrested a 41-year-old man, Adeoye Oreyomi, for brutalizing and chaining his 13-year-old son, Demola, for stealing his N2000. Mr. Oreyomi was arrested by operatives of the Shagamu Police Division who also rescued the boy who was almost at the point of death. The boy was found naked on the bare floor with his hands and legs chained with padlocks at both ends of the chain by his father, who said he took the action to curtail the boy’s stealing habit. The boy was also said to be covered in blood with bruises all over his body, a sign that his father had also beaten him mercilessly.
35. **Ondo State**: In Akure, a child was accused of witchcraft, and severely tortured and chained in a dog cage without food for months, and left to die, before she was found and rescued.
36. **Ondo State**: In Akure, a 28-year-old woman identified as Mary Mathew was arrested by the men of the Ondo Police Command for caging her 4-year-old foster daughter inside the bush for over five months in Imafon village in Akure South local government Area of Ondo state. She said she ‘quarantined’ the young girl identified as Precious Micheal when she suspected that the girl was possessed with witchcraft and also suspected that she must have been infected with HIV, which reportedly killed her mother.
37. **Oyo State**: An SS2 pupil of Bishop Philip Academy, Ibadan, Oyo state, Miss Iyanuoluwa Dahunsi was hospitalized after she was reportedly slapped by the secretary to the school’s principal, Mrs. Funke Fashina. She developed an eye problem, and six months later, she died.
38. **Rivers state**: One Richard Olunwa was arrested by the police for torturing his 6-year-old son to death because he allegedly stole N3200. Encouraged by the boy’s step mother, he was reported to have started beating the child from Friday night till the early hours of Saturday, and the boy died during the torture. It was reported that the boy whose mother left after his father brought in another woman was a victim of starvation, maltreatment and persistent abuse.
39. **Yobe State**: In Potiskum, a baby was raped by a 40 year-old man, Shaaibu Danladi. Danladi, a deaf and dumb man, tore the baby’s vagina through to her anus. She was rushed to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

**Reasons For under reported Cases Of violence Against Children**

1. **Shame, Stigma and guilt**: So many cases of violence against children, especially sexual violence are swept under the carpet because of the Shame and fear of Stigma that comes with it. For instance, Six years old Tina was allegedly raped by her mother’s cousin who came to the house for a visit but the family decided not to report the case because they felt it would expose and put the child and the family to shame. Parents may worry that the stigma of sexual violence could have an adverse effect on the child, so they want to deal with it quietly themselves. They may feel guilty that it happened and don’t want to deal with the consequences they may face.
2. **Protecting someone**: 90% of sexual violence cases are perpetrated by someone the child knows. The family either knows that person or it’s someone in their family. Most often, a parent may know that the sexual violence is taking place but chooses to protect the perpetrator rather than the child.
3. **Not being too sure:** many adults don’t want to report and get the authorities involved because they are not too sure the child is telling the truth, and they don’t have irrefutable proof, hence they don’t want to ruin an adult’s life by falsely accusing them of such a heinous crime. But the truth of the matter is if you are seeing something that leads you to believe that a child is being sexually violated, or a child comes to you and tells you; the chances are that something is happening to that child, and it needs to be reported.
4. **Poverty**: Most cases of violence against children are perpetrated by caretakers who parents felt were financially buoyant to take care of their children. Hence when such wicked acts are perpetrated, against children, parents tend to keep silence since they do not have the financial ability to fight the wealthy Perpetrator. Sometimes, they accept monetary compensation to seal up the case.
5. **Fear**: Almost every person who reports cases on violence against children to CRACO will always plead that the organisation do not expose their identity. They simply want to remain anonymous. For this reason, such people do not like reporting cases to the police because they tend to believe that the police would expose their identity, especially when they believe they would be called upon to give evidence, should the matter go to court. Because of this fear, a lot of adults watch children within their neighbourhoods pass through violence without doing anything to help such children. Some believe that due to the large scale of corruption in the Nigerian Police Force, reporting such cases will end up making the hunter to become the hunted once some corrupt members of the police force have been influenced with money by the perpetrator. Most perpetrators often bribe their way out of custody. There is however some atom of truth in their fears because CRACO has come across cases when the Police end up victimizing the victim. Visit CRACOBLOG @ [www.cracong.org/child-ritual-killers-on-the-rampage-need-for-drastic-action](http://www.cracong.org/child-ritual-killers-on-the-rampage-need-for-drastic-action), to read the case of Kingsley Oleh, and what the father (who reported violence against his child) experienced in the hands of Police officers at Ogun State, before we caused the matter to be transferred to Federal SARS in Lagos state upon petition to the Inspector General of Police.
6. **Customs & belief / religion**: Another reason for under reported cases of violence against children is because of religion and belief. Most parents quote the scripture “Spear the Rod and spoil the child” hence when children are beaten beyond recognition, society believes it is normal way of child upbringing, and parents claim to be in the best position to discipline their own children thus people have little or nothing to say. An Example is the case of Oby, who beat her maid to death. She would always tell her neighbours to stay away because she brought the girl from the village and it was none of their business.
7. **Age for marriage**: In Nigeria today, there is no minimum age stipulated for marriage to be consummated in some religion, hence we see men as old as 70 getting married to a girl of 12 years or less; when such a girl complain of violence, she is told to keep silent and do her wifely duties. Thus when sexual violence is perpetrated within such marriage, the minor is told to endure it. This had led to deaths of many children and high rate of VVF.
8. **Legal System**: When violence occurs, it is expected that the first place to report and get justice is security agencies. But most complainants are of the view that instead to getting the justice they seek, they are being forced into more traumatic situation by our Nigeria police Authority and the court system in criminal trials. When you report a case to the police, you must be ready to spend money, as the police might end up extorting the complainant. You may be asked to pay money for file, for fuel to fuel the police vehicle which they will use to get the perpetrator arrested, or money for transportation where there is no vehicle. The Police officers going for the arrest may request payment from you before they can step out. It has been stated earlier that there are even instances where victims are blamed for act they are innocent of and worst still perpetrators often bribe their way out of custody. CRACO has experienced all this in the course of her fight against child abuse and violence against children in Nigeria. We spent so much to get the police arrest a suspect. Also, the number of years it takes to prosecute a criminal case in Nigerian Courts is most discouraging. Most people simply tell you they don’t have time for “Come today, come tomorrow” of Nigerian Court system; and most victims do not want to face the trauma and embarrassment that usually accompanies court trials in Nigeria. It takes courage for a victim to report case of Sexual violence and follow it up through the court process to the end.

**Effect of Violence against Children**

The negative effects of violence on a child or children are numerous, however the following are worth mentioning:

* Children who have experienced physical abuse usually sustain degrees of injuries as a result of maltreatment or sexual violence depending on the age and size of the child, and the degree of force used. Child sexual violence can cause internal bleeding. In severe cases damages to internal organs may occurred which in many cases lead to death.
* Violence against children can also be linked to poor school performance. Children who grow up to experience any form of abuse have impaired ability to concentrate, difficulty in completing school work and lower scores in school and in worst cases withdrawal from school and social activities.
* A child who is a Victim of prolonged sexual violence usually develops low self-esteem, a feeling of worthlessness and mistrustful of Adult, and this can become suicidal.
* Effect of Child sexual Abuse on the Victim(s) include guilt and self-blame, flashbacks, nightmares, depression, eating disorder, sleeping disorder, insomnia. And also victims are also at an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections due to their immature immune systems and a high potential for mucosal tear during forced sexual contact.
* The behavioral response of children who witness domestic violence may include acting out, withdrawal, or anxiousness; may exhibit sign of anxiety and have short attention span.
* Children that had experienced physical forms of violence may learn that violence is an effective way to resolve conflict and problems. They may replicate the violence they experienced as children in their teens and adult relationship.
* For victims of sexual violence, life is permanently bruised by the stigma associated with it. The account of a primary 5 pupil in Lagos who was gang raped by six men in January 2017 underscore this. The girl says everybody in the community have been avoiding her since the incident occurred. This may compound the psychological harm to children.
* Teenage pregnancy and risky sexual behaviour may appear in adolescence. Research has shown that young males who were sexually abused were five times likely to cause teen pregnancy, three times more likely to have multiple sexual partners and two times more likely to have unprotected sex.
* Children from violent homes have higher risk of drugs and alcohol abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder and juvenile delinquency.
* The risk of harm is greater if the violence involves intercourse or attempted intercourse or if threat or force is used. The level of harm to a child can also be affected by duration and frequency of abuse and the use of force.
* The effect of emotional violence could lead to low self-esteem, being aggressive, distressed and malnourishment. Such a child might grow up to experience mental health problems and difficulties in personal relationships.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Increase violence against children or child abuse can be eradicated from our society only when we come together to fight against such crime. The following are key roles to be played by groups in our society in ensuring the protection of children against violence.

**PARENTAL ROLE**

* Parent should create more times for their children. Visit them at school, ask questions especially when they act in ways and manners unusual to them.
* Children between the ages of 3 to 5 especially girls should be taught to wash their private parts without assistance. Young adult or teens should be warned to dress decently to avoid clothing which exposes their sensitive parts.
* Children and teens should be warned to avoid lonely roads, not walking on the road with earphones, not taking already opened drinks as well as being alone with member of the opposite sex.
* Movies and internet usage should be monitored by parents, as this medium exposes kids to illicit sexual act and violence.
* Mothers should watch out for husbands that are drug addicts and drunkards, as a man under such influence is capable of any act.
* Be wary of any person (including teachers, school proprietors, and religious leaders) that are always available to take care of your child, makes your child feel more special than others, gives your child an excessive number of gifts and treat.
* If your child discloses abuse to you, remain calm, do not express panic or shock immediately, allow the child to tell you what happened in their own words, show interest and concern, appreciate the child for being open to you, tell the child it was not their fault and assure the child of your love, take action and report immediately.
* Parents and caregivers must consistently be on the alert. No parents should totally trust anyone with his child. Nothing should be taken for granted.

**COMMUNITY ROLE**

Public enlightenment has been shown to be a critical tool in changing behavior, attitude, beliefs and value system of people. Therefore community as a whole should be involve in intense public enlightenment and education at school, social clubs, cultural groups, church and mosque.

The mentality held by many in our society is that violence against a child is somebody else’s problem as long as theirs are not affected directly. However, given the prevalence of cases of violence against children, it has become everybody’s problem as the impact of these violence affect the society at large. Hence any form of violence should be reported to appropriate channels immediately.

 **MEDIA ROLE**

The role the media and internet play in our society cannot be over emphasized. To end violence against children, these medium must be exploited. Not only should the media preach against such barbaric acts, but also be used to publicize penalties and convicted violators of children. CRACO has been consistent in publishing cases of violence against children, conviction of offenders and their punishments. Visit CRACOBLOG to read cases of violence against children in Nigeria - the arraignments, convictions and punishment of offenders.

**RELIGION ROLE**

Religion plays a very important role in the lives of individuals; hence religious leaders should be involved in the fight to end violence against children. Churches and Mosques should consistently talk about it and educate members on it. Societies/organizations should be set up within churches and mosques to address violence against children, and provide a platform for members to safely and confidently report such cases. This becomes necessary in view of the fact that religious leaders have become worst offenders. Situations where most churches concealing cases of sexual violence against children when it affects religious leaders in order to protect the perpetrator rather than the child is condemned. The truth is that both need help. When you report, you get the child the help that he or she deserves and you get the perpetrator the help – and consequences – that he or she deserves as well.

**SCHOOLS ROLE**

Schools must watch out for unhindered access and opportunity to any form of violence against children as children spend most time/day in school. Teachers already have access to children by virtue of the fact they teach them, but management must ensure that teachers do not have opportunity to abuse such children physically (hitting, shaking), emotionally (teasing, yelling, and criticising) and sexually.

Also school management should watch out for emotional abuse by older adolescent. Most children are emotionally abused by being bullied and teased at school. This can lead to low self-esteem and psychological trauma. Measures should be put in place to check bullying. Schools should make provision for counseling units and professional counselors to manage cases of violence in schools across the country.

**GOVERNMENT ROLE**

The role played by government in protection of children is numerous\_

* Government should take measures to address the hash economic situation in the country, and implement laws towards the protection of children. Laws protecting the rights and welfare of children in Nigeria are not the problem; rather the problem is implementation of those laws.
* Apart from homes provided by charities, government should provide shelters and facilities for abused/violated children all over the country, this will prevent further violence, and professional help is secured.
* Government should formulate policy guidelines for addressing the problem of violence against children in schools.
* Despite the fact that the Nigerian child right act, has been passed since 2003 to protect the right of children; most of the 36 states in the country have not domesticated it, and most of them that has domesticated it have not really been implementing it the way it should. Hence, there is really no change in way and manner children’s rights have been protected. It is paramount for the Government to live up to its expectations or the fight against violence against children would be futile.

**CONCLUSION**

Violence against children is a problem for all of us, and we must fight it together if we must win. If we fail to act urgently on this growing incidence, we may unwittingly be breeding an angry, psychologically traumatized, wayward and rebellious generation. Presently, not enough is being done to punish those who commit violence against children. Parents, Teachers, Religious Leaders, Traditional Rulers, Government, Non -Governmental Organisations and all critical stakeholders must come together to fight against these epidemic in our society. We all have a moral, legal and economic imperative to end violence against children, and we cannot allow these findings and the priority actions needed to fight it to remain on paper.