

*Extraordinary*



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# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS (PROHIBITION) ACT 2015, AND ENACT AN ACT TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIFE, PROHIBIT ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS AND TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM PROTECTION AND EFFECTIVE REMEDIES FOR VICTIMS AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2024

*Sponsored by Senator Jibrin Isah*

[ ] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria-

1 PART I - OFFENCES

2 1.- (1) A person commits the offence of rape if the person  
3 intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus, mouth or any other part of the  
4 body of another person with any other part of the person's body or anything  
5 else, where-

Definition of Rape

6 (a) the other person does not consent to the penetration; or  
7 (b) the consent of the other person is obtained by force or means of  
8 threat or intimidation of any kind or by fear of harm or by means of false and  
9 fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act or the use of any  
10 substance or additive capable of taking away the will of such person or in the  
11 case of a married person, by impersonating the person's spouse.

12 (2) A person convicted of an offence under sub-clause (1) of this  
13 clause is liable to a minimum of 12 years and maximum of imprisonment for  
14 life except-

15 (a) where the offender is less than 14 years of age, the offender is  
16 liable to a maximum of 14 years imprisonment;

17 (b) in the case of rape by a group of persons, each offender is liable

1 to a minimum of 20 years imprisonment without an option of fine.

2 (3) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence in sub-clause  
3 (1) of this clause, commits an offence to a term of imprisonment not exceeding  
4 14 years, except-

5 where the offender is less than 14 years of age, the offender is liable to a  
6 maximum of 7 years imprisonment;

7 (4) A person who conspires with another or others to commit the act of  
8 violence in sub-clause (1), commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
9 term of imprisonment not exceeding 14 years, except -

10 Where the offender under this sub-clause is less than 14 years of age, the  
11 offender is liable to a maximum of 7 years imprisonment.

12 (5) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
13 commit the act of violence provided for in sub-clause (1) commits an offence  
14 and liable upon conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 14 years,  
15 except -

16 Where the offender under this sub-clause is less than 14 years of age, the  
17 offender is liable to a maximum of 7 years imprisonment.

18 (6) In addition to the punishments provided in this clause, the Court  
19 shall also award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in  
20 the circumstance.

21 (7) The Regulatory body shall maintain a register for convicted sexual  
22 offenders, which shall be accessible to the public.

23 (8) A court may declare a person who has been convicted of a sexual  
24 offence a dangerous sexual offender if such person has-

25 (a) more than one conviction for a sexual offence;

26 (b) been convicted of a sexual offence which was accompanied; or

27 (c) been convicted of a sexual offence against a child.

Defilement of  
a Child

28 2.-(1) A person who causes penetration into the private part of a child  
29 is guilty of the offence of defilement.

30 (2) A person who defiles a child aged eleven years or less shall on

1 conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding 14 years.

2 (3) A person who commits an offence of defilement with a child  
3 between the ages of twelve and fifteen years is liable on conviction to  
4 imprisonment for a term of not exceeding 12 years.

5 (4) A person who commits an offence of defilement with a child  
6 between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years is liable on conviction to  
7 imprisonment for a term of not exceeding 10 years.

8 (5) A person who attempts to commit an act which would cause  
9 penetration with a child is guilty of an offence of attempted defilement, and  
10 liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 7 years

11 3.-(1) A person who willfully causes or inflicts physical injury on  
12 another person by means of any weapon, substance or object, commits an  
13 offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding  
14 5 years or a fine not exceeding N1,000,000.00 or both.

Inflicting physical  
injury on another

15 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided  
16 for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on  
17 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not  
18 exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

19 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
20 commit the act of violence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
21 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
22 exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

23 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
24 knowledge, commits an offence under sub-clause (1) of this clause, is an  
25 accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment  
26 not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

27 (5) In addition to the punishments provided in this clause, the Court  
28 shall also award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in  
29 the circumstance.

Coercion 1 4. A person who coerces another to engage in any act to the detriment  
2 of that other person's physical or psychological wellbeing, commits an offence  
3 and is liable on conviction to term of imprisonment of 3 years.

Willfully placing  
a person in fear  
of physical injury 4 5.-(1) A person who willfully or knowingly places a person in fear of  
5 physical injury commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of  
6 imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000:00 or  
7 both.

8 (2) A person who attempts to commit the offence as provided for in  
9 sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
10 term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N200,000  
11 or both.

12 (3) A person who aids, abets, or counsels another person to commit  
13 the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and  
14 is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a  
15 fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

16 (4) A person who receives or assists another who has committed the  
17 offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause is an accessory after the  
18 fact and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 year  
19 or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

Offensive  
conduct 20 6.-(1) A person who compels another, by force or threat to engage in  
21 any conduct or act, sexual or otherwise, to the detriment of the victim's physical  
22 or psychological well-being commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
23 term of imprisonment not exceeding 4 years or to a fine not exceeding  
24 N500,000.00 or both.

25 (2) A person who attempts to commit the offence provided for in sub-  
26 clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term  
27 of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00  
28 or both.

29 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
30 commit the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an

1 offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding  
2 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

3 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
4 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
5 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
6 imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00  
7 or both.

8 7.-(1) The circumcision or genital mutilation of the girl child or  
9 woman is hereby prohibited.

Prohibition of  
female circumcision  
or genital mutilation

10 (2) A person who performs female circumcision or genital  
11 mutilation or engages another to carry out such circumcision or mutilation  
12 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
13 exceeding 5 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

14 (3) A person who attempts to commit the offence provided for in  
15 sub-clause (2) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
16 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding  
17 N200,000.00 or both.

18 (4) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
19 commit the offence provided for in sub-clause (2) of this clause commits an  
20 offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding  
21 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

22 8. Any person who, with intent to defraud or conceal an offence or  
23 frustrate the investigation and prosecution of offenders under this Bill or  
24 under any other enactment-

Frustrating  
investigation

25 (a) destroys, alters, mutilates, or falsifies any book or document,  
26 dress or clothing which could serve as evidence or exhibits;

27 (b) omits, or is privy to omitting, any material particular from any  
28 such document, book, dress or clothing, commits a felony and is liable on  
29 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not  
30 exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

Willfully making  
false statement 1                   **9.** A person who wilfully makes false statement, whether oral or  
2 documentary, in any judicial proceeding under this Bill or with the aim of  
3 initiating investigation or criminal proceedings under this Bill against another  
4 person commits an offence under this Bill and is liable on conviction to a fine of  
5 N500,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years.

Forcefully ejection  
from home 6                   **10.**-(1) A person who forcefully evicts his or her spouse from his or  
7 her home or refuses him or her access commits an offence and is liable on  
8 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not  
9 exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

10                   (2) A person who attempts to commit the offence provided for in sub-  
11 clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
12 term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding  
13 N300,000.00 or both.

14                   (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
15 commit the offence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an  
16 offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2  
17 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

18                   (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
19 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
20 is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
21 imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or  
22 both.

Depriving a  
person of his her  
Liberty 23                   **11.**-(1) A person who deprives another of his or her liberty, except  
24 pursuant to an order of court r commits an offence and is liable on conviction to  
25 a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding  
26 N500,000.00 or both.

27                   (2) A person who attempts to commit the offence provided for in sub-  
28 clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
29 term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding  
30 N300,000.00 or both.



1 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
2 commit an offence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits  
3 an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
4 exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

5 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
6 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
7 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
8 imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00  
9 or both.

10 **12.-(1)** A person who causes mischief or destruction or damage to  
11 property of another with intent to cause or knowing that it is likely to cause  
12 distress or annoyance to the victim, commits an offence and is liable on  
13 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not  
14 exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

Damage to property  
with intent to cause  
distress

15 (2) A person who attempts to commit the offence provided for in  
16 sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
17 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding  
18 N300,000.00 or both.

19 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
20 commit the offence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits  
21 an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
22 exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

23 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
24 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
25 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
26 imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00  
27 or both.

28 (5) In addition to the punishments provided in this clause, the Court  
29 shall also award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in  
30 the circumstance.

Forced financial  
dependence or  
economic abuse

1                   **13.**-(1) A person who causes forced financial dependence or  
2 economic abuse of another commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
3 term of imprisonment not exceeding 4 years or to a fine not exceeding  
4 N1,000,000.00 or both.

5                   (2) A person who attempts to commit the offence provided for in sub-  
6 clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
7 term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding  
8 500,000.00 or both.

9                   (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
10 commit the offence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an  
11 offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2  
12 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

13                   (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
14 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
15 is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
16 imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or  
17 both.

Forced isolation  
or separation from  
family and friends

18                   **14.**-(1) A person who forcefully isolates or separates another from  
19 family and friends commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of  
20 imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or to a fine not exceeding N1,000,000.00  
21 or both.

22                   (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for  
23 in sub-clause(1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
24 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding  
25 N500,000.00 or both.

26                   (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
27 commit the offence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an  
28 offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3  
29 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

30                   (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's

1 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
2 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
3 imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00  
4 or both.

5 **15.**-(1) A person who causes emotional, verbal and psychological  
6 abuse on another commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of  
7 imprisonment not exceeding 4 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00  
8 or both. Emotional, verbal  
and psychological  
abuse

9 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided  
10 for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on  
11 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not  
12 exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

13 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
14 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
15 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
16 exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

17 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
18 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
19 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
20 imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00  
21 or both.

22 **16.**-(1) A person who subjects a widow to harmful traditional  
23 practices commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of  
24 imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00  
25 or both. Harmful  
widowhood  
practices

26 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided  
27 for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on  
28 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not  
29 exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

30 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to

1 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
2 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
3 exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

4 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
5 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
6 is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
7 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N100,000.00 or  
8 both.

Abandonment  
of children, spouse  
and other  
dependents without  
means of sustenance

9 **17.**-(1) A person who abandons a wife or husband, children or other  
10 dependent without any means of sustenance commits an offence and is liable  
11 on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not  
12 exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

13 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for  
14 in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
15 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding  
16 N200,000.00 or both.

17 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
18 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
19 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
20 exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

21 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
22 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
23 is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
24 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N100,000.00 or  
25 both.

26 (5) In addition to the punishments provided in this clause, the Court  
27 shall also award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in  
28 the circumstance.

Stalking

29 **18.**-(1) A person who stalks another commits an offence and is liable  
30 on conviction to a of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not

1 exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

2 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided  
3 for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on  
4 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to fine not  
5 exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

6 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
7 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
8 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
9 exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

10 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
11 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
12 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
13 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N100,000.00  
14 or both.

15 **19.-(1)** A person who intimidates another commits an offence and Intimidation  
16 is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a  
17 fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

18 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided  
19 for in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on  
20 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not  
21 exceeding N100,000.00 or both.

22 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
23 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
24 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
25 exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding N100,000.00 or both.

26 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
27 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
28 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
29 imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding  
30 N100,000.00 or both.

Spousal Battery 1                   **20.**-(1) A person who batters his or her spouse commits an offence and  
2 is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or to a  
3 fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

4                   (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for  
5 in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
6 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding  
7 N100,000.00 or both.

8                   (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
9 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
10 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
11 exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or both.

12                  (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
13 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
14 is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
15 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or  
16 both.

17                  (5) In addition to the punishments provided in this clause, the Court  
18 shall also award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in  
19 the circumstance.

Harmful Traditional 20                   **21.**-(1) A person who carries out harmful traditional practices on  
Practices 21 another commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of  
22 imprisonment not exceeding 4 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or  
23 both.

24                  (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for  
25 in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
26 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding  
27 N300,000.00 or both.

28                  (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
29 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
30 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not

1 exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

2 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
3 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
4 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
5 imprisonment not exceeding 2 year or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00  
6 or both.

7 (5) In addition to the punishments provided in this clause, the Court  
8 shall also award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in  
9 the circumstance.

10 **22.**-(1) A person who uses chemical, biological or any other  
11 harmful liquid on another commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a  
12 term of life imprisonment without an option of fine.

Attack with  
Harmful Substance

13 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence described  
14 in sub-clause (1) of this clause, commits an offence and is liable on  
15 conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 25 years without an  
16 option of fine.

17 (3) A person who incites aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
18 commit the act of violence, as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause,  
19 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
20 exceeding 25 years without an option of fine.

21 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
22 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
23 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
24 imprisonment not exceeding 25 years without the option of fine.

25 (5) In addition to the punishments provided in this clause, the Court  
26 shall also award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in  
27 the circumstance.

28 **23.**-(1) A person commits an offence if he intentionally administers  
29 a substance to, or causes a substance to be administered to or taken by,  
30 another person with the intention of stupefying or overpowering that person

Administering a  
Substance with  
intent

1 so as to enable any person to engage in a sexual, or other unlawful activity with  
2 that person.

3 (2) A person who commits an offence under this clause is, in addition  
4 to any other offence under this Bill, liable on conviction to a term of  
5 imprisonment not exceeding 20 years, without an option of fine.

Political Violence

6 **24.**-(1) A person who commits a political violence as defined under  
7 clause 54 of this Bill relating to political violence commits an offence and is  
8 liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 4 years or to a fine  
9 not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

10 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for  
11 in sub-clause (1) of this clause, commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
12 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding  
13 N300,000.00 or both.

14 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to  
15 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause,  
16 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
17 exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00 or both.

18 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
19 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
20 is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
21 imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N200,000.00 or  
22 both.

Violence by  
State Actors

23 **25.**-(1) A state actor who commits political violence commits an  
24 offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 4  
25 years or to a fine not exceeding N1,000,000.00 or both.

26 (2) A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for  
27 in sub-clause (1) of this clause commits an offence and is liable on conviction  
28 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding  
29 N700,000.00 or both.

30 (3) A person who incites, aids, abets, or counsels another person to



1 commit the act of violence as provided for in sub-clause (1) of this clause  
2 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not  
3 exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

4 (4) A person who receives or assists another who, to the person's  
5 knowledge, committed the offence provided for in sub-clause (1) of this  
6 clause is an accessory after the fact and is liable on conviction to a term of  
7 imprisonment not exceeding 1 years or to a fine not exceeding N300,000.00  
8 both.

9 (5) The State is liable for the offence committed by its agents and  
10 the Court shall award appropriate compensation commensurate with the  
11 extent and amount of damages.

12 **26.** A person who knowingly and willfully has carnal knowledge of  
13 another within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity and affinity  
14 contained in the Schedule to this Bill with or without consent, commits  
15 incest and is liable on conviction to a minimum term of-

Incest Schedule  
to the Bill

16 (a) 10 years imprisonment without an option of fine.

17 (b) where the two parties consent to commit incest, provided that  
18 the consent was not obtained by fraud or threat, 5 years imprisonment  
19 without an option of fine.

20 **27.-(1)** A person who intentionally exposes his or her genital  
21 organs, or a substantial part thereof, with the intention of causing distress to  
22 the other party, or that another person seeing it may be tempted or induced to  
23 commit an offence under this Bill, commits an offence termed "indecent  
24 exposure".

Indecent  
Exposure

25 (2) A person who intentionally exposes his or her genital organs, or  
26 a substantial part thereof, and induces another to either massage, or touch  
27 with the intention of deriving sexual pleasure from such acts commits an  
28 offence under this clause .

29 (3) A person who commits an offence under this clause is liable to  
30 upon conviction to a term of imprisonment of not exceeding 2 years or to a

1 fine not exceeding N500, 000 or both.

2 PART II - JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction 3 **28.** The High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall have  
4 the jurisdiction to hear and grant any application brought under this Bill.

Application for  
Protection Order 5 **29.**-(1) An application for a protection order may, be made before the  
6 High Court, following a complaint of violence by the complainant, and such  
7 order, if granted, shall be effective throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
8 and no time limit or prescription shall apply in relation to a person seeking to  
9 apply for such protection order.

10 (2) Any complainant may, in the prescribed manner, apply to the  
11 Court for a protection order.

12 (3) If the complainant is not represented by counsel, the police officer  
13 with whom a complaint of violence has been lodged shall inform the  
14 complainant of the remedies he or she may be entitled to under this Bill  
15 including the right to lodge a criminal complaint against the respondent if a  
16 criminal offence has been committed under this Bill.

17 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the application  
18 may be brought on behalf of the complainant by any other person, including a  
19 police officer, a protection officer, an accredited service provider, a counselor,  
20 health service provider, social worker or teacher who has interest in the well-  
21 being of the complainant.

22 Provided that the application shall be brought with the written consent of the  
23 complainant, except in circumstances where the complainant is -

24 (a) a minor;

25 (b) a person with mental disorder;

26 (c) unconscious; or

27 (d) a person who the court is satisfied is unable to provide the required  
28 consent.

29 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, any minor, or  
30 any person on behalf of a minor, may apply to the Court for a protection order

1 without the assistance of a parent guardian or any other person and  
2 supporting affidavit by persons who have knowledge of the matter  
3 concerned may accompany the application.

4 (6) The application and affidavits shall be filed in Court.

5 **30.**-(1) The Court shall as soon as is reasonably possible, consider  
6 an application submitted to it under clause 29 (6) of this Bill and may, for that  
7 purpose, consider such additional evidence as it deems fit, including oral  
8 evidence or evidence by affidavit, which shall form part of the record of the  
9 proceedings.

Consideration of  
Application

10 (2) If the Court is satisfied that there is prima facie evidence that the  
11 respondent is committing, has committed or that there is imminent  
12 likelihood that the respondent may commit an act of violence under this Bill,  
13 the Court shall, notwithstanding the fact that the respondent has not been  
14 given notice of the proceedings contemplated in sub-clause (1) of this  
15 clause, issue an interim protection order against the respondent, in the  
16 prescribed manner.

17 (3) An interim protection order shall be served on the respondent in  
18 the prescribed manner and must call on the respondent to show cause on the  
19 return date, specified in the order why a protection order should not be  
20 issued.

21 (4) A copy of the application referred to in clause 29 of this Bill and  
22 the record of any evidence taken under sub-clause (1) of this clause, shall be  
23 served on the respondent together with the interim protection order.

24 (5) If the Court does not issue an interim protection order under  
25 sub-clause (2) of this clause, the Court shall direct the Registrar of the Court  
26 to cause certified copies of the application concerned and any supporting  
27 affidavit to be served on the respondent in the prescribed manner, together  
28 with a prescribed notice calling on the respondent to show cause on the  
29 return date, specified in the notice, why a protection order should not be  
30 issued.

Issuing of  
Protection Orders

1 (6) An interim protection order shall be served on the respondent in  
2 the prescribed manner and shall call on the respondent to show cause on the  
3 return date, specified in the order why a protection order, should not be issued.

4 (7) The return dates referred to in sub-clauses (3) and (5) of this clause  
5 may not be less than 5 days after service has been effected upon the respondent.

6 **31.-(1)** If the respondent does not appear on a return date  
7 contemplated in section 30 (3) or (5) of this Bill, and if the Court is satisfied  
8 that-

9 (a) proper service has been effected on the respondent; and

10 (b) the application contains a prima facie evidence that the respondent  
11 has committed, is committing or that there is an imminent likelihood that he  
12 may commit an act of violence under this Bill-

13 the court shall issue a protection order in the prescribed form.

14 (2) If the respondent appears on the return date in order to oppose the  
15 issuing of a protection order, the court shall proceed to hear the matter and  
16 consider-

17 (a) any evidence previously received under section 30 (1) of this Bill;  
18 and

19 (b) such further affidavits or oral evidence as it may direct, which  
20 shall form part of the record of the proceedings.

21 (3) The Court may, on its own accord or on the request of the  
22 complainant, if it is of the opinion that it is just or desirable to do so, order that  
23 in the examination of witnesses, including the complainant, a respondent who  
24 is not represented by a legal practitioner-

25 (a) is not entitled to cross-examine directly a person who is in a  
26 domestic relationship with the respondent; and

27 (b) shall put any question to such a witness by stating the question to  
28 the Court, and the court is to repeat the question accurately to the witness.

29 (4) The Court shall, after a hearing as contemplated in sub-clause (2)  
30 of this clause, issue a protection order in the prescribed form if it finds, on a

1 balance of probabilities, that the respondent has committed, is committing  
2 or that there is an imminent likelihood that the respondent may commit an  
3 act of violence under this Bill.

4 (5) Upon the issuing of a protection order, the Registrar of the  
5 Court shall, in the prescribed manner, cause-

6 (a) the original of such order to be served on the respondent; and

7 (b) a certified copy of such order, and the original warrant of arrest  
8 contemplated in clause 34 (1) (a), to be served on the complainant.

9 (6) The Registrar of the Court shall, in the prescribed manner,  
10 forward certified copies of any protection order and of the warrant of arrest  
11 contemplated in clause 34 (1) (a) to the police station of the complainant's  
12 choice.

13 (7) Subject to the provisions of clause 32 (7) of this Bill, a  
14 protection order issued under this clause remains in force until it is set aside,  
15 and the execution of such order shall not be automatically suspended upon  
16 the filing of an appeal.

17 **32.**The Court may, by means of a protection order referred to in  
18 section 29 or 30 of this Bill, prohibit the respondent from-

Court's Powers  
in respect of  
Protection Orders

19 (a) committing any act of violence under this Bill;

20 (b) enlisting the help of another person to commit any such act;

21 (c) entering a shared household provided that the court may impose  
22 this prohibition only if it appears to be in the best interests of the  
23 complainant;

24 (d) entering a specified part of such a shared household;

25 (e) entering the complainant's residence;

26 (f) entering the complainant's place of employment;

27 (g) preventing the complainant from entering or remaining in the  
28 shared household or a specified part of the shared household;

29 (h) alienating or disposing the shared household or encumbering  
30 same;

1 (i) renouncing the respondent's rights in the shared household except  
2 in favour of the complainant; or

3 (j) committing any other act as specified in the protection order.

4 (2) The Court may impose any additional condition, which it deems  
5 reasonably necessary to protect and provide for the safety, health or well-being  
6 of the complainant, including an order-

7 (a) to seize any arm or dangerous weapon in the possession or under  
8 the control of the respondent;

9 (b) that a police officer shall accompany the complainant to a  
10 specified place to assist with arrangements regarding the collection of personal  
11 property;

12 (c) directing the respondent to secure alternative accommodation for  
13 the complainant;

14 (d) order a temporal relocation to any safe place as may be deem fit in  
15 the interest of the complainant; or

16 (e) approve a mediation channel upon submission by the  
17 complainant.

18 (3) In ordering a prohibition under sub-clause 1 (c) of this clause, the  
19 Court may impose on the respondent obligations as to the discharge of rent or  
20 mortgage payments having regard to the financial needs and resources of the  
21 complainant and the respondent.

22 (4) The Court may order the respondent to pay emergency monetary  
23 relief having regard to the financial needs and resources of the complainant and  
24 the respondent, and such order has the effect of a civil judgment of a court.

25 (5) The Court may issue any direction to ensure that the complainant's  
26 physical address is not disclosed in any manner, which may endanger the  
27 safety, health or well-being of the complainant.

28 (6) If the court is satisfied that it is in the best interests of any child, it  
29 may-

30 (a) refuse the respondent contact with such child; or

1 (b) order contact with such child on such conditions as it may  
2 consider appropriate.

3 (7) The Court may not refuse to issue a protection order or impose  
4 any condition or make any order which it is competent to impose or make  
5 under this clause , merely on the grounds that other legal remedies are  
6 available to the complainant.

7 (8) If the Court is of the opinion that any provision of a protection  
8 order deals with a matter that should, in the interests of justice, be dealt with  
9 further under any other relevant law, including the Matrimonial Causes Act,  
10 Cap. M7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, Child's Rights Act, the  
11 Court shall order that such a provision shall be in force for such limited  
12 period as the court determines, in order to afford the party concerned the  
13 opportunity to seek appropriate relief under such law.

14 **33.-(1)** A police officer, at the scene of an incident of violence or as Power of Police  
15 soon thereafter as reasonably possible or to whom a report of violence has  
16 been made, shall have the duty of -

17 (a) assisting a victim of violence to file a complaint regarding the  
18 violence;

19 (b) providing or arranging safe transport for the victim to an  
20 alternative residence, safe place or shelter where such is required;

21 (c) providing or arranging transportation for the victim to the  
22 nearest hospital or medical facility for treatment of injuries where such  
23 treatment is needed;

24 (d) explaining to the victim the victim's rights to protection against  
25 violence and remedies available in terms of this Bill;

26 (e) explaining to the victim that he or she has the right to lodge a  
27 criminal complaint in addition to any remedy provided under this Bill; and

28 (f) accompanying the victim to victim's residence to collect  
29 personal belongings.

30 (2) A police officer may, without an order from the Court or a

1 warrant of arrest, arrest any person whom-

2 (a) he or she suspects upon reasonable grounds to have committed any  
3 of the offences under Part 1 of this Bill; and

4 (b) a complaint has been made for having committed any of the  
5 offences under Part 1 of this Bill.

6 (3) A police officer in carrying out his or her duties under this Bill  
7 shall have the power to -

8 (a) remove or supervise the removal of a person excluded from a  
9 shared residence where the court has issued such an order under this Bill;

10 (b) remove or supervise the removal of any dangerous weapon used in  
11 order to commit an act of violence as contemplated in this Bill;

12 (c) collect and store fingerprints including DNA of accused and  
13 convicted offenders; and

14 (d) perform any other act considered necessary in order to ensure the  
15 safety and well-being of the complainant.

Warrant of Arrest  
upon issuing  
Protection Order

16 **34.**-(1) Whenever a court issues a protection order, the court may  
17 make an order-

18 (a) authorizing the issue of a warrant for the arrest of the respondent,  
19 in the prescribed form; and

20 (b) suspending the execution of such warrant subject to compliance  
21 with any prohibition, condition, obligation or order imposed under clause 32 of  
22 this Bill.

23 (2) The warrant referred to in sub-clause (1)(a) of this clause remains  
24 in force unless the protection order is set aside, or cancelled after execution.

25 (3) The Registrar of the Court shall issue the complainant with a  
26 second or further warrant of arrest, if the complainant files an affidavit in the  
27 prescribed form in which it is stated that such warrant is required for the  
28 complainant's protection and that the existing warrant of arrest has been-

29 (a) executed or cancelled; or

30 (b) lost or destroyed.



1 (4) A complainant may hand the warrant of arrest together with an  
2 affidavit in the prescribed form, where it is stated that the respondent has  
3 contravened any prohibition, condition, obligation or order contained in a  
4 protection order, to any police officer.

5 (5) If it appears to the police officer concerned that there are  
6 reasonable grounds to suspect that the complainant may suffer imminent  
7 harm as a result of the alleged breach of the protection order by the  
8 respondent, the police officer shall forthwith arrest the respondent for  
9 allegedly committing the offence referred to in Part I of this Bill.

10 (6) If the police officer concerned is of the opinion that there are  
11 insufficient grounds for arresting the respondent under sub-clause (5), he or  
12 she shall hand a written notice to the respondent which-

13 (a) specifies the name, the residential address and the occupation or  
14 status of the respondent;

15 (b) calls upon the respondent to appear before a court, and on the'  
16 date and at the time specified in the notice, on a charge of committing the  
17 offence referred to in clause 32 (1); and

18 (c) contains a certificate signed by the police officer concerned to  
19 the effect that he or she handed the original notice to the respondent and that  
20 he or she explained the import thereof to the respondent.

21 (7) The police officer shall forward a duplicate of a notice referred  
22 to in sub-clause (6) to the Registrar of the Court concerned, and the mere  
23 production in the Court of such a duplicate original shall be a prima facie  
24 proof that the original was handed to the respondent specified therein.

25 (8) In considering whether or not the complainant may suffer  
26 imminent harm, as contemplated in sub-clause (5), the police officer shall  
27 take into account the-

28 (a) risk to the safety, health or well-being of the complainant:

29 (b) seriousness of the conduct comprising an alleged breach of the  
30 protection order; and

1 (c) length of time since the alleged breach occurred.

2 (9) Whenever a warrant of arrest is handed to a police officer under  
3 sub-clause (4) (a) of this clause, the police officer shall inform the complainant  
4 of the complainant's right to simultaneously lay a criminal charge against the  
5 respondent, if applicable, and explain to the complainant how to lay such a  
6 charge.

Variation or  
Setting aside of  
Protection Order

7 **35.**-(1) A complainant or a respondent may, upon written notice to the  
8 other party and the court concerned, apply for the variation or setting aside of a  
9 protection order referred to in clause 30 in the prescribed manner.

10 (2) If the Court is satisfied that a good cause has been shown for the  
11 variation or setting aside of the protection order, it may issue an order to this  
12 effect, provided that the Court shall not grant such an application to the  
13 complainant unless it is satisfied that the application is made freely and  
14 voluntarily.

15 (3) The Registrar of the Court shall forward a notice as prescribed to  
16 the complainant and the respondent if the protection order is varied or set aside  
17 as contemplated in sub-clause (1) of this clause.

Discharge

18 **36.** Where a protection order has been made, any of the following  
19 persons may apply to have it discharged-

20 (a) if the application for the order was made by a Police Officer in  
21 respect of any dependent person by -

- 22 (i) the Police Officer,
- 23 (ii) the person who brought the application, or
- 24 (iii) the respondent to that application;

25 (b) if the application for the order was made by a Police Officer in any  
26 other case by virtue of section 28-

- 27 (i) the Police Officer,
- 28 (ii) the person who was the applicant for the order, or
- 29 (iii) the respondent to that application;

30 (c) in any other case-

- 1 (i) the person who was the applicant for the order, or  
2 (ii) the person who was the respondent to the application for  
3 Discharge

4 **37.**-(1) A respondent who contravened an interim protection order  
5 or a protection order, or while an interim protection order is in force, refuses  
6 to permit the applicant or any dependent person to enter and remain in the  
7 place to which the order relates or does any act for the purpose of preventing  
8 the applicant or such dependent person from so entering or remaining  
9 commits an offence and is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not  
10 exceeding N500,000.00 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years  
11 or both.

Offences Relating  
to Protection Orders

12 (2) The provisions of sub-clause (1) shall be without prejudice to  
13 any punishment or sanction as to contempt of court or any other liability,  
14 whether civil or criminal that may be incurred by the respondent concerned.

15 (3) A person who, in an affidavit referred to in this clause, willfully  
16 makes a false statement in a material respect commits an offence and is  
17 liable on conviction to a fine of not exceeding N500,000.00 or, to a term of  
18 imprisonment not exceeding 2 years.

19 **38.**The affidavit, application and forms of Protection Order  
20 referred to in this Part of the Bill shall be in accordance with the Schedule to  
21 this Bill.

Application and  
Forms of Protection  
Order

22 **39.**-(1) In addition to the rights guaranteed under Chapter IV of the  
23 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, or any other  
24 international human rights instrument to which Nigeria is a party, every  
25 victim of violence, as defined in this Bill, is entitled to the following rights-

Rights of Victims

26 (a) to receive the necessary materials, comprehensive medical,  
27 psychological, social and legal assistance through governmental agencies or  
28 non-governmental agencies providing such assistance;

29 (b) to be informed of the availability of legal, health and social

1 services and other relevant assistance and be readily afforded access to them;

2 (c) to rehabilitation and re-integration programme of the State to  
3 enable victims to acquire, where applicable and necessary, pre-requisite skills  
4 in any vocation of the victim's choice and also in necessary formal education or  
5 access to micro credit facilities;

6 (d) any rules and or regulations made by any institution or  
7 organization prohibiting or restraining the reporting of offences or complaint  
8 with the provisions of this Bill, shall, to the extent of the inconsistencies be null  
9 and void: and

10 (e) no complainant of any offence under this Bill shall be expelled,  
11 disengaged. suspended or punished in any form whatsoever by virtue of the  
12 action of compliance with the provisions of this Bill.

13 (2) No person may be present during any proceedings under this Bill  
14 except-

15 (a) officers of the Court;

16 (b) the parties to the proceedings;

17 (c) any person bringing an application on behalf of the complainant  
18 under section 29 (4);

19 (d) any legal practitioner representing any party to the proceedings;

20 (e) accredited service provider;

21 (f) witnesses;

22 (g) not more than 3 persons for the purpose of providing support to the  
23 complainant;

24 (h) not more than 3 persons for the purpose of providing support to the  
25 respondent; and

26 (i) any other person whom the Court permits to be present provided  
27 that the court may, if it is satisfied that it is in the interests of justice, exclude any  
28 person from attending any part of the proceedings.

29 (3) Nothing in this clause limits any other power of the Court to hear  
30 proceedings in camera or to exclude any person from attending such

1 proceedings.

2 **40.** -(1) No person shall publish in any manner any information Prohibition of  
3 which might, directly or indirectly, reveal the identity of any party to the Publication of  
4 proceedings. certain Information

5 (2) The Court if it is satisfied that it is in the interest of justice, may  
6 direct that any further information relating to proceedings held under this  
7 Bill shall not be published provided that no direction under this sub-clause  
8 applies in respect of the publication of a bona fide law report which does not  
9 mention the names or reveal the identities of the parties to the proceedings or  
10 of any witness at such proceedings.

11 (3) A person who contravenes the provisions of this sub-clause  
12 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term imprisonment not  
13 exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding N500,000.00 or both.

14 PART III- ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF  
15 VIOLENCE SUPPORT FUND

16 **41.** There shall be established and maintained by the Regulatory Establishment  
17 Body, a fund known as the Survivors of Violence Support Fund, (in this Bill of the Victims  
18 referred to as "the Fund") into which shall be paid and credited- Support Fund

19 (a) Grants or allocations from the Federal Government in support  
20 of survivor of violence;

21 (b) such monies as may, from time to time, be lent, deposited or  
22 granted to the Regulatory body, for the purpose of supporting victims of  
23 violence under this Bill;

24 (c) all Grants received from both local and international  
25 organizations for the purpose of supporting victims of violence under this  
26 Bill;

27 (d) all fines paid as punishment for offences under this Bill;

28 (e) all properties forfeited for being used to perpetrate acts of  
29 violence under this Bill; and

30 (f) all other monies and assets which may accrue to the Fund from

1 time to time.

Management  
of the Fund

2 **42.** The Fund shall be managed in accordance with rules made by the  
3 Regulatory body, with the approval of the Minister responsible for Justice-

4 (a) specifying the manner in which the assets of the Fund are to be  
5 held and regulating the making payments into and out of the Fund;

6 (b) prescribing the qualifications for accessing the Fund;

7 (c) Specifying the procedure for supporting victims of violence; and

8 (d) requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for the  
9 purposes of the Fund in such form as may be specified in the rules.

Application of  
the proceeds of  
the Fund

10 **43.** The Regulatory body shall apply the proceeds of the Fund to-

11 (i) cost of administration of the Fund;

12 (ii) defraying expenses incurred in supporting victims of violence  
13 under the Bill;

14 (iii) cost of maintenance of any property acquired or vested in the  
15 Regulatory body for the purpose of supporting victims of violence;

16 (iv) cost of rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors of violence  
17 under this Bill; and

18 (v) undertaking such other expenses and activities as are connected  
19 with all or any of the functions of the Regulatory body to supporting survivor of  
20 violence under this Bill.

Donations to  
the Institute

21 **44.** The Regulatory body may, subject to the provisions of this Bill,  
22 receive donations from persons, organizations, bodies or governments for the  
23 purpose of the Bill.

Restrictions  
on Donations

24 **45.** The Regulatory body shall not accept any donation or gift if the  
25 conditions attached by the person or organization making the gift are  
26 inconsistent with the functions of the Regulatory body under this Bill.

Annual Estimates  
and Expenditure

27 **46.** The Regulatory body shall, not later than 30th September of each  
28 year, submit to the Supervisory Minister, an estimate of the expenditure and  
29 income from and into the Fund for the next succeeding year.

1                   **47.**The Regulatory body shall cause to be kept proper accounts of Audit of accounts  
of the Fund  
 2                   the Fund in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and  
 3                   shall cause the accounts to be audited not later than 6 months after the end of  
 4                   each year by auditors appointed from the list in accordance with the  
 5                   guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.

6                   **48.-** (1)The Regulatory body shall prepare and submit to the Annual Report  
 7                   Supervisory Minister, not later than 30th June in each year, a report in such  
 8                   form as the Supervisory Minister may direct on the operationalization of the  
 9                   Fund during the preceding year, and shall include in the report a copy of the  
 10                   audited accounts for that year and auditor's report thereon.

11                   (2) The Supervisory Minister shall, upon receipt of the report  
 12                   referred to in sub clause (1) of this clause, cause a copy of the report and the  
 13                   audited accounts, and the auditor's report thereon to be submitted to the  
 14                   National Assembly.

PART IV - SERVICE PROVIDERS

15                   **49.-** (1) Subject to such rules as may be made, any voluntary Registration and  
Powers of Service  
Providers  
 16                   association registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act by the  
 17                   Corporate Affairs Commission or any other law for the time being in force  
 18                   with the objective of protecting the rights and interests of victims of violence  
 19                   by any lawful means including providing of legal aid, medical, financial or  
 20                   other assistance shall register itself with the Regulatory Body as a service  
 21                   provider for the purposes of this Bill.

22                   (2)The Regulatory body shall-

23                   (a) keep a register of all accredited service providers and circulate  
 24                   same to all police stations, protection officers and the courts; and

25                   (b) draw up guidelines for the operation of the accredited service  
 26                   providers.

27                   (3)A service provider so registered under sub-clause (1) shall have  
 28                   the power to-

29                   (a) record the violence incidence report in the prescribed form if  
 30

1 the aggrieved person so desires and forward a copy to the Magistrates and the  
2 Protection Officer having jurisdiction in the area where the violence took  
3 place;

4 (b) get the aggrieved person medically examined and forward a copy  
5 of the medical report to the Protection Officer and the police station within the  
6 locality of which the violence act took place; and

7 (c) ensure that the aggrieved person is provided shelter in a shelter  
8 home, if the person so requires and forward a report of the lodging of the  
9 aggrieved person in the shelter home to the Police station within the locality of  
10 which the act of violence took place.

11 (4) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any  
12 service provider who is, or who is deemed to be acting or purporting to act  
13 under this Bill, for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done  
14 in the exercise of powers or discharge of functions under this Bill towards the  
15 prevention of the commission of violence.

Protection Officers

16 **50.**-(1) The Regulatory Body shall appoint such number of protection  
17 officers in each Area Council as it may consider necessary, to assist the Court in  
18 the discharge of its duties under this Bill, to co-ordinate the activities of the  
19 police and the accredited service providers in the protection officer's Area  
20 Council to ensure that the victims or survivors of violence-

21 (a) have easy access to accredited service providers:

22 (b) have easy access to transportation to an alternative residence or a  
23 safe shelter, the nearest hospital or medical facility for treatment, if the  
24 complainant so requires;

25 (c) are able to collect their belongings or properties from a shared  
26 household or the victim/survivor's residence, if the complainant so requires;

27 (d) are able to access the court for orders under this Bill; or

28 (e) have access to every possible assistance in the service of interim  
29 protection order on the respondent, and the enforcement of any order that may  
30 have been made by the court under this Bill.



1 (2) The protection officer may, upon the failure of the respondent to  
2 make payment ordered by the Court under this Bill, direct an employer or a  
3 debtor of the respondent or any bank in which the respondent operates any  
4 account, to directly pay to the complainant or deposit with Court a portion of  
5 the wages or salaries or debt due to or accrued to the credit of respondent or  
6 monies in any bank account operated by the respondent, which amount may  
7 be adjusted towards the emergency monetary relief payable by the  
8 respondent.

9 **51.** The Regulatory body shall appoint a person as the Coordinator  
10 for the prevention of violence under this Bill who shall submit annual report  
11 to the Federal Government on the implementation of this Bill, a copy of  
12 which shall be deposited with the National Bureau of Statistics.

Coordinator for  
Prevention of  
Violence

13 PART V- REGULATORY BODY AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT

14 **52.** The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in  
15 Persons and Other related Matters (NAPTIP) is mandated to administer the  
16 provisions of this Bill and collaborate with the relevant stakeholders  
17 including faith based organizations.

Regulatory body

18 **53.**-(1) Any offence committed or proceedings instituted before the  
19 commencement of this Bill under the provisions of the -

General Savings  
and Repeal

- 20 (a) Criminal Code, Cap. LFN, 2004;  
21 (b) Penal Code, Cap. LFN, 2004;  
22 (c) Criminal Procedure Code, Cap. LFN, 2004; and  
23 (d) any other law or regulation relating to any act of violence  
24 defined by this Bill shall as the case may require be enforced or continue to  
25 be enforced by the provisions of this Bill.

26 (2) Any provision of the Bill shall supersede any other provision on  
27 similar offences in the Criminal Code, Penal Code and Criminal Procedure  
28 Code.

29 **54.** In this Bill-  
30 "Abandonment of women, children and other persons" means deliberately

Interpretation

1 leaving women, children and other persons. under the perpetrator's care,  
2 destitute and without any means of subsistence;

3 "accredited service provider" means governmental, non-governmental, faith  
4 based, voluntary and charitable associations or institutions providing shelter,  
5 homes, counseling, legal, financial, medical or other assistance to victims of  
6 domestic violence and are registered with the appropriate Government  
7 Ministry under the provisions of this Bill;

8 "circumcision of a girl or woman" means cutting off all or part of the external  
9 sex organs of a girl or woman other than on medical ground;

10 "civil proceedings" means-

11 (a) proceedings for the making, variation or discharge of a protection  
12 order, safety order or interim protection order;

13 (b) proceedings by way of appeal or case stated which are related to  
14 proceedings to which paragraph (a) applies; or

15 (c) proceedings under this Bill for compensation or award;

16 "Court" means the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory;

17 "damage to property" means the willful destruction or causing of mischief to  
18 any property belonging to a person or in, which a person has, a vested interest;

19 "dangerous weapon" means any instrument or machine directed toward a  
20 person with the intention of inflicting bodily harm on such person and includes  
21 a gun, knife, stick, whip or other household appliance capable of inflicting  
22 bodily harm on a person;

23 "domestic relationship" means a relationship between any person and a  
24 perpetrator of violence constituted in any of the following ways-

25 (a) they are or were married to each other, including marriages  
26 according to any law, custom or religion;

27 (b) they live or have lived together in a relationship in the nature of  
28 marriage, although they are not or were not married to each other;

29 (c) they are the parents of a child or children or are the persons who  
30 have or had a parental responsibility for that child or children:

1 (d) they are family members related by consanguinity, affinity or  
2 adoption;

3 (e) they are or were in an engagement, dating or customary  
4 relationship, including actual or perceived romantic, intimate or sexual  
5 relationship of any duration; or

6 (f) they share or recently shared the same residence.

7 "domestic violence" means any act perpetrated on any person in a domestic  
8 relationship where such act causes harm or may cause imminent harm to the  
9 safety, health or well being of any person;

10 "economic abuse" means-

11 (a) forced financial dependence;

12 (b) denial of inheritance or succession rights,

13 (c) the unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial  
14 resources to which any person is entitled or which any person requires out of  
15 necessity, including-

16 (i) household necessities,

17 (ii) mortgage bond repayments, or

18 (iii) payment of rent in respect of a shared residence; or

19 (d) the unreasonable disposal or destruction of household effects or  
20 other property in which any person has an interest;

21 "emergency monetary relief" means compensation for monetary losses  
22 suffered by any person arising from an act of violence and does not in any  
23 way constitute a maintenance order, including-

24 (a) loss of earnings;

25 (b) medical and dental expenses;

26 (c) relocation and accommodation expenses;

27 (d) household necessities; or

28 (e) legal fees related to obtaining and serving the protection order.

29 "emotional, verbal and psychological abuse" means a pattern of degrading  
30 or humiliating conduct towards any person, including -

1 (a) repeated insults,  
2 (b) ridicule or name calling;  
3 (c) repeated threats to cause emotional pain; or  
4 (d) the repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness, which is of  
5 such a nature as to constitute a serious invasion of such person's privacy,  
6 liberty, integrity or security;  
7 "forced isolation from family and friends" includes preventing a person from  
8 leaving the home or from having contact with family, friends or the outside  
9 community;  
10 "harassment" means engaging in a pattern of conduct that induces fear of harm  
11 or impairs the dignity of a person including -  
12 (a) stalking of whatever nature, including cyber-stalking;  
13 (b) repeatedly making telephone calls or inducing another person to  
14 make telephone calls to a person, whether or not conversation ensues; and  
15 (c) repeatedly sending, delivering or causing delivery of information  
16 such as letters, telegrams, packages, facsimiles, electronic mail, text messages  
17 or other objects to any person;  
18 "harmful traditional practices" means all traditional behaviour, attitudes or  
19 practices, which negatively affect the fundamental rights of women, girls, or  
20 any person and includes harmful widowhood practices, denial of inheritance or  
21 succession rights, female genital mutilation or female circumcision, forced  
22 marriage and forced isolation from family and friends:  
23 "incest" means an indecent act or an act which causes penetration with a person  
24 who is, to perpetrator's knowledge, the perpetrator's daughter or son,  
25 granddaughter or son, sister or brother, mother or father, niece or nephew,  
26 aunt/uncle, grandmother or granduncle;  
27 "indecent exposure" means the intentional exposure of the genital organs, or a  
28 substantial part thereof, with the intention of causing distress to the other party;  
29 "intimidation" means the uttering or conveying of a threat or causing any  
30 person to receive a threat, which induces fear, anxiety or discomfort;

1 "perpetrator" means any person who has committed or allegedly committed  
2 an act of violence as defined under this Bill;

3 "persons" in this Bill is as defined in the Interpretation Act under section 18,  
4 Cap. I23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

5 "physical abuse" means acts or threatened acts of physical aggression  
6 towards any person such as slapping, hitting, kicking and beating;

7 "political violence" means any act or attempted act of violence perpetrated  
8 in the course of political activities, such as elections, and includes any of the  
9 following acts -

10 (a) thuggery;

11 (b) mugging;

12 (c) use of force to disrupt meetings; or

13 (d) the use of dangerous weapons that may cause bodily harm or  
14 injury;

15 "protection officer" means an officer appointed under clause 50 of this Bill in  
16 relation to and for the purpose of this Bill;

17 "protection Order" means an official legal document, signed by a Judge that  
18 restrains an individual or State actors from further abusive behaviour  
19 towards a victim;

20 "sexual abuse" means any conduct which violates, humiliates or degrades  
21 the sexual integrity of any person;

22 "sexual assault" means the intentional and unlawful touching, striking or  
23 causing of bodily harm to an individual in a sexual manner without the  
24 victim's consent;

25 "sexual exploitation" occurs where a perpetrator, for financial or other  
26 reward, favour or compensation invites, persuades, engages or induces the  
27 services of a victim, or offers or performs such services to any other person;

28 "sexual harassment" means unwanted conduct of a sexual nature or other  
29 conduct based on sex or gender which is persistent or serious and demeans,  
30 humiliates or creates a hostile or intimidating environment and this may

1 include physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct;

2 "Sexual intimidation" means -

3 (a) any action or circumstances which amount to demand for sexual  
4 intercourse with either a male or a female under any guise, as a condition for  
5 passing examination, securing employment, business patronage, obtaining any  
6 favour in any form, as defined in this Bill or any other enactment;

7 (b) the actual demand for sexual intercourse with either a male or  
8 female under any guise, as a condition for passing examination, securing  
9 employment, business patronage and or obtaining any favour in any form, as  
10 defined in this Bill or any other enactment;

11 (c) acts of deprivation, withholding, replacing or short-changing of  
12 entitlements, privileges, rights, benefits, examination or test marks or scores,  
13 and any other form of disposition capable of coercing any person to submit to  
14 sexual intercourse for the purpose of receiving reprieve thereto; or

15 (d) any other action or inaction construed as sexual intimidation or  
16 harassment under any other enactment in force in Nigeria.

17 "Stakeholders" means institutions, both governmental and non-governmental,  
18 and persons involved in the prevention of violence against persons, including  
19 those in the service of providing care for victims or survivors of violence.

20 "spouse" means husband or wife as recognised under the Matrimonial Causes  
21 Act, Islamic and Customary Law;

22 "spousal battery" means the intentional and unlawful use of force or violence  
23 upon a spouse, including the unlawful touching, beating or striking of a spouse  
24 by another against the spouse's will with the intention of causing bodily harm to  
25 that person:

26 "stalking" means repeatedly -

27 (a) watching, or loitering outside of or near the building or place  
28 where such person resides, works, carries on business, studies or happens to be;

29 (b) following, pursuing or accosting any person in a manner which  
30 induces fear or anxiety; or

1 (c) any other meaning ascribed to it by the Cybercrimes  
2 (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act currently in force  
3 "State actors" means group of persons; structured or organised institutions  
4 and agencies;  
5 "substance attack" means the exposure of any person to any form of  
6 chemical, biological or any other harmful liquid with the intention to cause  
7 grievous bodily harm, which includes acid attack, hot water, or oil;  
8 "Supervisory Minister" means the Minister responsible for the federal  
9 ministry under which the Regulatory Agency is domiciled at the relevant  
10 time.  
11 "trafficking" means the supply, recruitment, procurement, capture, removal,  
12 transportation, transfer, harbouring, sale, disposal or receiving of a person,  
13 within or across the borders of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for use in  
14 sexual acts, including sexual exploitation or pornography of any person;  
15 "victim" -  
16 (a) means any person or persons, who, individually or collectively,  
17 have suffered harm, including-  
18 (i) physical or mental injury,  
19 (ii) emotional suffering,  
20 (iii) economic loss, or  
21 (iv) substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through  
22 acts or omissions that are in violation of this Bill or the criminal laws of the  
23 country; and  
24 (b) includes the immediate family or dependents of the direct  
25 victim and any other person who has suffered harm in intervening to assist  
26 victims in distress;  
27 "violence" means any act or attempted act, which causes or may cause any  
28 person physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, emotional or economic harm  
29 whether this occurs in private or public life, in peace time and in conflict  
30 situations:

1 "violence in the private sphere" means any act or attempted act perpetrated by a  
2 member of the family, relative, neighbour or member of a community, which  
3 causes or may cause any person physical, sexual, psychological, verbal,  
4 emotional or economic harm;

5 "violence in the public sphere" means any act or attempted act perpetrated by  
6 the State or non-State actors before, during and after elections, in conflict or  
7 war situations, which threatens peace, security and well-being of any person or  
8 the nation as a whole;

9 "violence perpetrated by non-State actors" includes-

- 10 (a) wrongful arrest and detention;
- 11 (b) assault;
- 12 (c) use of force without lawful authority;
- 13 (d) unlawful entry into the premises; or
- 14 (e) demolition of property without due processes;

15 "vulnerable groups" means women, children, persons living under extreme  
16 poverty, persons with disability, the sick and the elderly, ethnic and religious  
17 minority groups, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and persons  
18 in detention.

Application 19 **55.** This Bill applies only to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.-

Citation 20 **56.** This Bill may be cited as the Violence Against Persons  
21 (Prohibition) Act, (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to repeal the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, and enact an Act to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence against persons and to provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims, and punishment of offenders; and for related matters.