WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Create awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV.
- Ensure enforcement of penalties and prosecution of perpetrators of GBV.
- FGM and Child Marriage MUST be stopped, and perpetrators prosecuted.
- Empower girls and women with information, skills, and support networks.
- Operationalizing the VAPP Act and Establishing GBV specialised courts for speedy trials of GBV cases.
- Girl child education.

WHY WE NEED TO ACT

- GBV is life-threatening with long-lasting adverse consequences on survivors.
- GBV can result in death of girls and women.
- High maternal mortality rates as a result of teenage pregnancy, child marriage and FGM.
- High economic costs for complications related to GBV.

CHALLENGES

- Commodification of the female child.
- Lack of awareness and sensitization on the negative impact of GBV.
- Lack of protection for survivors.
- Social norms that promote child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV.
- Low literacy rate.
- Poverty.

ACTION REQUIRED

- Create awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV to the individual, family and society.
- Provide support and empowerment to survivors of GBV.
- Provide adequate training on best practice for all agencies providing support to survivors of FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Ensure enforcement of laws against GBV, FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Enforce education laws.
- Address harmful social norms.
- Engage religious/traditional gatekeepers.

Advocacy Brief

End all forms of Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in the Federal Capital Territory

Context

In Nigeria, violence against women is evident in many forms, including domestic, verbal, and physical abuse, rape and sexual assault, early and forced marriages, incest, female genital cutting, acid baths and outright killing. Women continue to suffer all forms of degradation and deprivation in public and private spaces.

You can end all forms of gender-based violence by taking action NOW!
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

All procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for cultural or other non-medical reasons.

BACKGROUND

Global estimates published by WHO indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. In Nigeria, 25% of women have experienced physical violence since age 15. In 2017, 14% of women experienced physical violence. Most of this violence is perpetrated by an intimate partner. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime.

Facts

- Child Marriage
  - 5.1% of girls aged 15-19 years have been circumcised.
  - 2.6% are within the 0-14 years age group.
  - The percentage of girls circumcised in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), 5.1% of girls aged 15-19 years have been circumcised. 2.6% are within the 0-14 years age group.
  - 1 in 8 children between ages 15 and 19 was married before age 15.
  - 1 in 6 children between ages 15 and 19 is a child bride.
  - 6.6% of children aged 15-19 are currently married.
  - 7.4% of children aged 15-19 are currently married.
  - In FCT, 7.4% of children aged 15-19 are currently married.

- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
  - At least 1 out of 3 women have experienced sexual violence.
  - 3% have experienced physical violence during pregnancy.
  - 3% have experienced physical violence during pregnancy.
  - 3% have experienced physical violence during pregnancy.
  - At least 1 out of 3 women have experienced sexual violence.

- Ending all forms of Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in the FCT.
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- Nigeria has the third highest number of child brides in the world and ranks 11th in countries with highest number of child marriage globally.