

KNOW YOUR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

A Legal Guide for LGBTQI Persons,
Vulnerable Women, and People
Living with HIV in Nigeria



Published By



MINORITY WATCH

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This publication is a milestone for Minority Watch, considering that it is the organization's first formal publication dedicated to advancing the protection and enforcement of the rights and dignity of LGBTQI individuals, vulnerable women and girls, and people living with HIV (PLWHIV) in Nigeria.

The successful completion of this brochure is the result of the collective commitment, diligence, and expertise of the Minority Watch team. We wish to express our profound appreciation to Chizelu Emejulu, Esq. and Clinton Mabilo, Esq., whose legal analysis formed the backbone of this publication. Their professional insight and clarity of thought ensured that the legal perspectives reflected herein are both accurate and practical.

Special thanks also go to Ademola Adebambo and Nzube Onyeakarusi, whose suggestions, meticulous editing and translation of the original English language text into Pidgin English and Yoruba language demonstrate our enduring commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and grassroots impact.

We acknowledge the creative contribution of Lucky Edet, whose design expertise brought the content to life and ensured that the brochure reflects both professionalism and approachability.

Minority Watch remains deeply grateful to everyone whose contributions, directly or indirectly, made this work possible. Together, we continue to advance the cause of justice, equality, and human dignity for all.

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria today, many individuals and communities continue to face discrimination, violence, and exclusion simply because of who they are, whether they identify as LGBTQI, live with HIV, or are women and girls navigating systems that often deny them equal opportunity and safety. These experiences not only threaten their dignity but also undermine the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Nigerian Constitution to every Nigerian.



This brochure was developed by Minority Watch as part of our ongoing commitment to protecting and enforcing the rights and dignity of LGBTQI persons, vulnerable women and girls, and people living with HIV. Its purpose is to educate and empower marginalized communities by providing clear, accessible information about their legal rights, available support and referral services, and practical steps for seeking justice and protection when their rights are violated.

Through this publication, Minority Watch and its partner organizations seek to strengthen awareness, promote the rule of law, and encourage inclusion and equality in all spaces. We believe that when people know their rights and have the courage and support to assert them, they become powerful agents in building a Nigeria where justice, dignity, and respect are realities for all.

ABOUT



MINORITY WATCH

...we defend rights

Minority Watch is a non-profit organization of lawyers and paralegals committed to the protection and enforcement of the rights and dignity of LGBTQI individuals, people living with HIV (PLWHIV), vulnerable women and girls in Nigeria

VISION STATEMENT

A society where everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, HIV status or gender identity, can live free from violence and discrimination.

MISSION STATEMENT

Minority Watch works to protect and enforce the human rights and dignity of LGBTQI persons, people living with HIV, vulnerable women and girls in Nigeria through legal research, legal interventions, strategic litigation, legal advocacy, and stakeholder engagements.

WHAT WE DO

We employ legal and advocacy strategies to safeguard the human rights of LGBTQI persons, people living with HIV, vulnerable women and girls in Nigeria.

We strive to achieve our objectives through:

1. Case documentation and reporting of abuses,
2. Rapid response support for victims of police harassment or blackmail.
3. Legal aid and representation for victims of unlawful arrest, discrimination, and rights violations.
4. Strategic Litigation,
5. Legal Research,
6. Training and awareness programs for community members, activists, and professionals.
7. Working with our partners



OUR COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF SUPPORT



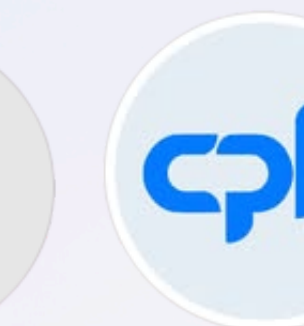
We work hand-in-hand with trusted community organizations that offer healthcare, mental health support, and emergency assistance, ensuring holistic care that addresses both the legal and other personal needs of members of our communities.



These organizations deliver confidential HIV testing, treatment and prevention services; psychosocial support and counseling; grassroots legal awareness and safety training.



Through these collaborations, Minority Watch ensures that our legal support is backed by trusted health care, mental health services, and community reinforcement, so that survivors of rights abuses and violations do not get to navigate injustice alone.



BRIEF COMMENTARY ON THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE IN NIGERIA.

Sections 33 - 43 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999.

Right to Life: Section 33 CFRN, 1999.

Every individual, including LGBTQI individuals, people living with HIV, vulnerable women and girls in Nigeria, has the fundamental right to life. This right affirms that no one shall be deprived intentionally of their life, except through a lawful court sentence for a proven criminal offense. LGBTQI individuals and women in Nigeria face unique threats to their safety and lives, and it is essential to stand united in demanding the protection of this most basic right. The power in their pride fuels the fight for a society where all lives are valued equally.



Right to Dignity of Human Person: Section 34 CFRN, 1999.

Every individual is entitled to respect for their human dignity. This includes LGBTQI individuals in Nigeria, who deserve to live free from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, and any form of slavery or forced labour. Despite the legal challenges and societal pressure they face, their dignity must not be violated. Female genital mutilation (FGM) subjects women and girls to severe physical and psychological harm and plainly amounts to inhuman and degrading treatment; as such is a violation of the right to human dignity. The practice also violates Nigeria's domestic prohibitions and international obligations to protect bodily integrity and to prohibit torture and cruel treatment. Together, we must continue to advocate vigorously for a society in which every person, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex, receives full protection of their dignity and where FGM is ended once and for all.

Right to Personal Liberty: Section 35 CFRN, 1999.

Personal liberty is a right that belongs to everybody in Nigeria, including those in the LGBTQI community. This right guarantees that no one is unlawfully arrested or detained by state actors, or kidnapped by non-state actors due to their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Unfortunately, LGBTQI individuals often face unjust arrests, detentions and kidnappings by state and non-state actors. These arrests, detentions and kidnappings are fuelled by existing discriminatory laws and practices in Nigeria. By standing firm against impunity, and demanding respect for personal liberty, we create a future where everyone is free to live authentically and without fear.

Right to Presumption of Innocence: Section 36 CFRN, 1999.

In Nigeria, everyone is presumed to be innocent until they are proved guilty by a competent court of law. This right is crucial for LGBTQI persons who are routinely arrested by law enforcement agents and paraded before the media as criminals merely because of their sexual orientation and or gender identity. By advocating for this right, LGBTQI individuals in Nigeria are paving the way for a more equitable legal system where nobody is treated as a criminal without the due process of law.



Right to Private and Family Life: Section 37 CFRN, 1999.

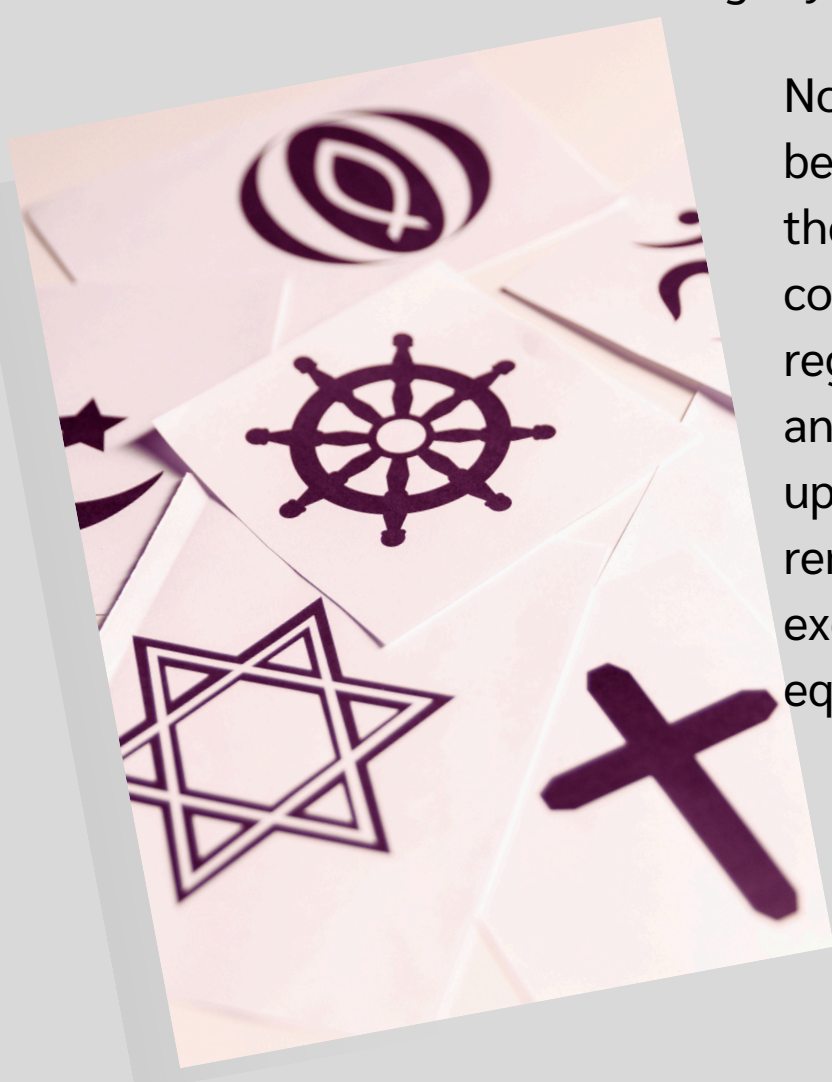
The right to private and family life is a cornerstone of human dignity and freedom. It protects every individual, including LGBTQI individuals, people living with HIV, and all vulnerable groups, from unwarranted intrusion into their personal lives, homes, relationships, and communications.

This right affirms that everyone has the liberty to love, associate, and build families without interference or discrimination. It is also a violation of Section 37 for any law enforcement officer, including the police, to search anyone's phone or personal device without a valid warrant issued by a competent court of law. People's phones, messages, and digital communications are part of their private lives, and the Constitution protects them from unlawful access or surveillance. For people living with HIV, this right also guarantees confidentiality and privacy regarding their health status. No one, whether a healthcare provider, employer, or acquaintance, has the legal right to disclose a person's HIV status to third parties without their express consent. In essence, this right reminds us that love, identity, and personal health are deeply private matters.

Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion: Section 38 CFRN, 1999.

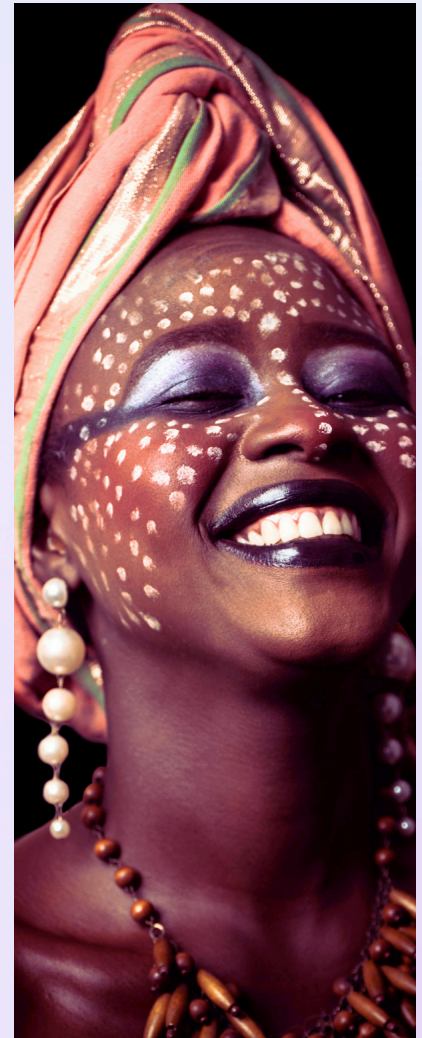
Every person in Nigeria has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This includes the freedom to hold personal beliefs, to change them, and to manifest and spread such beliefs in worship, teaching, and practice. For LGBTQI individuals, this right is fundamental in allowing them to live according to their true selves and beliefs without fear of repression or discrimination. Embracing their identity and beliefs strengthens their resilience and fosters a more inclusive society. This right also applies to people living with HIV, vulnerable women, and other marginalized groups who often face stigma justified in the name of religion or culture. It affirms their liberty to hold and express religious or moral convictions that affirm their human dignity and worth.

No one should be compelled to adopt or practice a belief that diminishes their sense of self or questions their right to exist. The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion ensures that every person, regardless of background, health status, gender, or any other identity, can find strength in beliefs that uplift, empower, and affirm their humanity. It is a reminder that faith should never be a tool for exclusion, but a foundation for love, respect, and equality.



Right to Freedom of Expression: Section 39 CFRN, 1999.

Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of human rights, allowing every person to hold opinions and share ideas without interference. LGBTQI Nigerians must have the freedom to express their identities, experiences, and demand for equality. By asserting this right, they amplify their voices and stories, contributing to a broader movement for social change and acceptance. This right equally protects women and girls, affirming their liberty to feel comfortable in their own bodies and to express themselves, through their speech, dress, or lifestyle, without fear of judgment, harassment, or violence. A woman's choice of expression should never be used as an excuse for sexual assault or as a justification for harmful cultural practices that seek to control or silence her. True freedom of expression means recognizing that every individual, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, has the right to speak, live, and present themselves authentically.



Right to Peaceful Assembly and Association: Section 40 CFRN, 1999.

The right to peaceful assembly and association under Section 40 is very important for LGBTQI individuals in Nigeria. It ensures they can form and join organizations that advocate for their rights without fear of persecution. However, this right is often undermined by societal prejudice and legal barriers, making it imperative to reinforce and protect this constitutional guarantee for meaningful advocacy and community support.



Right to Freedom of Movement: Section 41 CFRN, 1999.

Section 41 guarantees the freedom of movement, the right of every person to move freely throughout Nigeria, to reside anywhere, and to leave the country when they wish. This right is vital for LGBTQI individuals who often face harassment, profiling, and violence as they go about their lawful business, simply because of their perceived identity or appearance. For many women and girls in Nigeria, this same right is routinely violated in subtle and overt ways. Cultural and religious norms sometimes restrict women's ability to travel or appear in public spaces without male permission. In some communities, curfews and purdah (female seclusion) practices limit their movement, while in urban areas, women walking alone, especially at night, are harassed or unlawfully detained by law enforcement officers under false accusations of "immoral conduct." Advocating for this right is essential to building a just society where everyone, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation can live, travel, and exist freely without fear. Upholding Section 41 demands not only legal protection but also a collective cultural shift that dismantles the discriminatory norms and practices that still confine too many people's freedom in Nigeria.

Right to Freedom from Discrimination: Section 42 CFRN, 1999.

Section 42 is foundational for protecting every Nigerian from discrimination and unequal treatment. This right prohibits any law, policy, or administrative action by the government or its agencies that discriminates against a citizen on the grounds of belonging to a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion, political opinion, or the circumstances of their birth. It affirms that all Nigerians, regardless of their identity or background, are entitled to equal protections and benefits of the law. Although Section 42 does not expressly list sexual orientation or gender identity among the prohibited grounds for discrimination, the existing categories, particularly those of sex, membership of a particular community, and circumstances surrounding one's birth, can be reasonably interpreted to include LGBTQI individuals. This interpretation aligns with Nigeria's constitutional commitment to equality and human dignity. In practice, however, LGBTQI individuals, people living with HIV, and vulnerable women and girls continue to face widespread discrimination in employment, healthcare, housing, and access to justice. Upholding Section 42 means challenging these inequalities and demanding that every Nigerian, regardless of who they are or where they come from, is treated with fairness, respect, and humanity.

Right to Acquire and Own Immovable Property: Section 43 CFRN, 1999.

The right to acquire and own immovable property under Section 43 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigerian , 1999 (as amended) guarantees every Nigerian the freedom to own land and other forms of immovable property anywhere in the country. This right is vital because it ensures economic independence, personal security, and social empowerment for all individuals, including LGBTQI individuals, people living with HIV, and vulnerable women and girls. Despite this clear constitutional guarantee, many Nigerians still face structural and cultural barriers that prevent them from fully exercising this right. For LGBTQI individuals and women, bias and discrimination in housing and property transactions often limit their ability to rent or own property safely and openly. Without social or economic support, many are left vulnerable to exploitation and homelessness. Similarly, for many women, particularly in rural communities, cultural and customary practices frequently deny them the right to inherit or own land. In many parts of Nigeria, traditional norms dictate that only men can own family land or inherit property, leaving women dependent on their husbands or male relatives for economic survival. These practices not only contradict Section 43 but also undermine the constitutional promise of equality and justice for all citizens. Upholding this right means challenging the cultural and social barriers that exclude people based on gender identity, sexual orientation, or health status. It calls for renewed advocacy to ensure that every Nigerian, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, can own property, build security, and live with dignity and independence.

IN CONCLUSION

Fundamental rights are not privileges granted by the State, they are constitutional guarantees inherent to every human being. Whether you are an LGBTQI individual, a person living with HIV, or a woman or girl confronting social or structural vulnerability, the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recognizes and protects your dignity, liberty, and equality before the law.

Understanding these rights is the foundation for asserting them. Exercising them is an act of courage and citizenship. When every individual stands firm in the knowledge of their constitutional protections, we move closer to a Nigeria where justice, equality, and human dignity are not aspirations but lived realities for all.

How to Get Help

We provide assistance through these clear, safe, and accessible contact details:

1. 24/7 Legal Helpline: +2347039246113
2. WhatsApp: 2347039246113
3. Email: info@minoritywatchnigeria.org
4. Instagram DM: [minoritywatch_nigeria](https://www.instagram.com/minoritywatch_nigeria).

At Minority Watch, we understand that safety and trust are very important. Every report we receive is handled with the highest level of confidentiality, care, and respect. Rest assured that your story is safe with us.

Your rights are protected by law. If you experience harassment, discrimination, or violence, or if your human rights are violated in any way, contact us immediately. Our legal and community support teams are here to stand with you, guide you, and ensure that justice is served.

Together, we can uphold dignity, equality, and justice for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status, or circumstance.

ÌTÚMÒ SÍ ÈDÈ YORÙBÁ

ÌDÚPÉ

Ìwé àtẹ́jádẹ̀ yìí jẹ́ àpẹẹrẹ̀ ìtẹ̀síwájú fún Minority Watch, nítorí pé ó jẹ́ ìwé àkókó àṣẹ̀ gbangba tí agbari náà fi dá àfiyèsí sí àtílẹ̀yìn àti ìmúlò ẹ̀tọ́ ènìyàn àti ìyì àwọn ẹ̀ni LGBTQI, àwọn obìnrin àti ọ̀mọ̀bìnrin aláìlera, àti àwọn tó n gbé pẹ̀lú àrùn HIV (PLWHIV) ní Nàìjíríà.

Ìparí àṣeyọ́rí ìwé àtẹ́jádẹ̀ yìí jẹ́ abájádẹ̀ ìmúlò pọ̀, ifarapa mó یشه, àti ọ̀ye tó lágbára látinú ẹgbẹ̀ Minority Watch. A fẹ́ fi ọpẹ́ wa hàn pátápátá sí Chizelu Emejulu, Esq. àti Clinton Mabilo, Esq., nítorí àtúpalẹ̀ ọ̀fin tí wọn ṣe tó jẹ́ ọ̀kan pàtàkì nínú ìwé yìí. Ìmọ̀ jinlẹ̀ àti àkíyèsí ọ̀lọgbọn wọn ló mú kó dájú pé àwọn àlàyé ọ̀fin tó wà nínú ìwé yìí dá lórí ọ̀títọ́ àti pé wọn lè ló nípa tòótọ́.

A tún fi ọpẹ́ hàn fún Ademola Adebambo àti Nzube Onyeakarusi, nítorí àfowósowopọ̀, àtúnṣe, àti ìtumò tí wọn ṣe pẹ̀lú ifarapa láti tumò ìwé Gẹ̀ẹ̀sì sí Èdè Yorùbá àti Èdè Pídín. یشه wọn fi hàn pé Minority Watch dá lórí ifaramọ̀, ìmọ̀lára àjọṣe, àti ìmúlò tó dé sí àwùjọ̀ àwọn ènìyàn ní ìpìlẹ̀.

A tún gbàgbé یشه ìmọ̀ràn àti àpẹẹrẹ̀ Lucky Edet, ẹ̀ni tó fi ọ̀gbọn àpẹẹrẹ̀ rẹ̀ dá ìwé yìí lójú, tó sì jẹ́ kó dájú pé àtẹ́jádẹ̀ náà dà bí ẹ̀ni pé ó kún fún ìmọ̀-ọ̀ye àti ìrírí tó dájú.

Minority Watch dúpẹ̀ lówó gbogbo àwọn tó kópa, bó tilẹ̀ jẹ́ taara tàbí nípasẹ̀ àfowósowopọ̀ kejì, nítorí gbogbo ìrànlowó wọn ló jẹ́ kó ṣeé ṣe. Pẹ̀lú یشه kan wa, a máa tẹ̀síwájú láti gbé ẹ̀tọ́ ènìyàn, ìdájọ́, àti ìyì ènìyàn sókè fún gbogbo ará Nàìjíríà.

ÌFÒRÒWÉPÒ

Ní orílẹ̀-èdè Nàìjíríà òní, ọ̀pọ̀ ènìyàn àti àwùjọ sì n dojú kọ ifiyèsí, ifarapa, àti iyàsoto, nítorí ẹnì tí wọn jẹ tàbí bí wọn ẹ n dá ara wọn mọ. Bí wọn ẹ jẹ LGBTQI, tàbí àwọn tó n gbé pẹlú HIV, tàbí àwọn obìnrin àti ọmọbìnrin tó n bá àṣà àti ètò tí kò fún wọn ní ààyè tó dogba àti ààbò ẹ́ṣẹ́. Írírí wònyí kì í ẹ pé ó n fì yì ènìyàn wọn sí ewu nìkan, ó tún n dá àwọn ètò àkókó tí Òfin Orílẹ̀-èdè Nàìjíríà fún gbogbo aráàlú rú.



Ìwé yìí ni Minority Watch dá kalẹ̀ gégẹ́ bí apá kan nínú ìlérí wa láti dáàbò bo àti láti mú ètò ènìyàn àti yì àwọn LGBTQI, obìnrin àti ọmọbìnrin aláìlera, àti àwọn tó n gbé pẹlú HIV dúró. Ìdí rẹ̀ ni láti kọ àwọn ènìyàn, láti fún wọn ní agbára, àti láti pèsè ìmọ̀ tó kedere nípa ètò òfin wọn, ibi tí wọn lè rí ìrànlowọ̀ àti bí wọn ẹ lè ṣàbò bó bá jẹ pé ètò wọn ti bàjẹ.

Pẹlú ìwé àtẹ́jádẹ̀ yìí, Minority Watch àti àwọn alábaápín rẹ̀ fẹ́ túbò jí ìmọ̀ nípa òfin, láti gbé ìjọba òfin sókè, àti láti mú kí àfọmọ̀ àti àiyasoto kúrò nínú àwùjọ wa. A gbà pé nígbà tí ènìyàn bá mọ ètò rẹ̀, ó ní agbára àti ìdánimọ̀ láti dáàbò bo ara rẹ̀, ó sì lè kópa nínú ìdàgbàsókè orílẹ̀-èdè tí ìdájọ̀ àti yì ènìyàn di òtítọ̀ fún gbogbo ènìyàn.

Minority Watch jẹ agbari aláìní èrè tí ó kún fún àwọn agbẹjórò àti àwọn olùrànlowó òfin, tó dá sílẹ̀ láti dáàbò bo àti láti mú ètò èniyàn àti iyi àwọn LGBTQI, àwọn tó n gbé pẹ̀lú HIV (PLWHIV), àti àwọn obìnrin àti ọmọbìnrin aláìlera ní Nàìjíríà dúró.

ÌRÒRÙN WAÌRÒRÙN WA

Àwùjọ kan níbi tí gbogbo èniyàn, láika ibásepò, ipo HIV, tàbí ìdánimò akọ/abo wọn, lè gbé láísí ifarapa àti àìdà.

ÌPÈLU WA

Minority Watch n sísẹ̀ láti dáàbò bo àti láti mú ètò èniyàn àti iyi àwọn LGBTQI, àwọn tó n gbé pẹ̀lú HIV, àti àwọn obìnrin àti ọmọbìnrin aláìlera dúró ní Nàìjíríà nípasẹ̀:

- Ìwádìí òfin,
- Ifarapa òfin àti ìmúlò àfowósowopò,
- Ijọba òfin àkànṣe (Strategic Litigation),
- Itànkálẹ̀ ìmò òfin àti agbára itọ́jú ètò èniyàn,
- Ibásepò pẹ̀lú àwọn tó ní ipa nínú àwùjọ àti ijọba.

ÌṢÉ TÍ A ṢE

A n lo òfin àti itànkálẹ̀ ìmò láti dáàbò bo ètò èniyàn LGBTQI, àwọn tó n gbé pẹ̀lú HIV, àti àwọn obìnrin àti ọmọbìnrin aláìlera ní Nàìjíríà.

A n sàṣeyọ́rì èyí nípasẹ̀:

1. Ìkòwé àti ijábò àwọn ìṣẹ̀lẹ̀ ifarapa ètò èniyàn.
2. Ìrànlowó pajawiri fún àwọn tó jẹ olùfarapa ifarapa olópa tàbí ijẹwó iyámí.
3. Ìrànlowó òfin àti aṣojú fún àwọn tó jẹ olùfarapa ìdímótẹ̀, ifarapa tàbí àìbòwò sí ètò wọn.
4. Ijọba òfin àkànṣe.
5. Ìwádìí òfin.
6. Ìkẹkọ̀ àti àtẹ̀yìnwá ìmò fún àwọn ọmọ egbé àwùjọ, àwọn olùgbó, àti àwọn akíkanjú.
7. Ìfowósowopò pẹ̀lú àwọn alábaápín wa.



ÌFÒWÓSOWỌPỌ PELU AWON ALABAAPIN WA

A ní sísẹ̀ pọ̀ pẹ̀lú àwọn agbari tó dájú àti tó gbékèlẹ̀, tí wọn n pèsè ìtoju ìlera, ìtìlẹ̀yìn ọ̀pọ̀lọ̀, àti ìrànlowọ̀ pajawiri, láti dájú pé àtìlẹ̀yìn wa dá lórí ìtoju tí ó kún fún àfowósowopọ̀ tó dá lórí òfin àti ayé ẹ̀ni.



Àwọn agbari wọ̀nyí n pèsè ìdánwò HIV tó dá lórí àṣírí, ìtoju, àtìlẹ̀yìn ọ̀pọ̀lọ̀ àti ìmòrán, àti ìkẹ̀kọ̀ ààbò fún àwọn ẹ̀niyàn ní ìpìlẹ̀ àwùjọ.



ÀLÀYÉ KÚKÚRÚ LÓRÍ ÀWỌN ÈTÓ ÀKÓKỌ TÍ ÀWỌN ÈNÌYÀN TÍ ÀNṢE, IRANLOWỌ FUN WA NI NAIJIRIA NÍ

**Àwọn Àbala 33 sí 43 Òfin Orílẹ̀-èdè
Nàìjíríà (CFRN) 1999.**

ÈTÓ LÁTI NÍ IYÈ – ÀBALA 33

Gbogbo ènìyàn, pèlú àwọn LGBTQI, àwọn tó n gbé pèlú HIV, àti àwọn obìnrin àti ọmọbìnrin aláìlera ní Nàìjíríà, ní ètọ àkókọ láti ní iyè. Ilàna yìi tùmọ sí pé kò sí ẹnìkẹni tí a gbọdọ pa tàbí gba iyè rẹ lówọ rẹ, ayafi nígbà tí ilé-ẹjọ tó ní àṣẹ bá dá ipinnu náà gégé bí òfin.

Ní Nàìjíríà, àwọn LGBTQI àti obìnrin n dojú kọ ìṣòro tó fi ààyè àti ààbò wọn sí ewu, nítorí náà ó ṣe pàtàkì pé ká dákédáké pọ láti bèbẹ fún ààbò ètọ pàtàkì yìi. Agbára àti ìgbọran wọn ló n ru ijà fún àwùjọ tí gbogbo iyè ni a fi tọka sí bí ohun tó níye.

ÈTÓ LÁTI NÍ IYÌ GÉGÉ BÍ ÈDÁ ÈNÌYÀN – ÀBALA 34

Gbogbo ènìyàn ní ètọ pé kí a bọwọ fún iyì rẹ gégé bí èdá ènìyàn. Èyí tún kàn àwọn LGBTQI, tí wọn gbọdọ ní ààyè láisí ìtànje, ìna, tàbí iwà tó n bàjẹ iyì ènìyàn.

Bí wọn tilẹ n dojú kọ ìdènà òfin àti àṣà tó le, kò sí ohun tí ó yẹ kí ó bàjẹ iyì wọn.

Ìṣe Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) tàbí gígún apá ara obìnrin jẹ ìṣe tó n fa ifarapa tó lagbara sí ara àti ọpọlọ, ó sì dájú pé ó jẹ iwà búburú tó n ṣe ètọ iyì ènìyàn. Òfin ilẹ Nàìjíríà àti àwọn ilérí àgbáyé tí a fowọ sí ló ti kílò lòdì sí ìṣe yìi.

A gbọdọ tèsíwájú láti bèbẹ pé kí a dá àwùjọ kan sílẹ níbi tí gbogbo ènìyàn, láìka ibáṣepọ tàbí akọ/abo wọn, ní ààbò ètọ wọn pátápátá, àti kí FGM parí títí láé.

ẸTỌ LÁTI NÍ ÒMÌNIRA ÀRA ÈNÌYÀN – ÀBALA 35

Ẹtọ òmìnira jẹ ti gbogbo ènìyàn ní Nàìjíríà, pẹ̀lú àwọn LGBTQI. Ẹtọ yìí dáàbò bo ènìyàn pé kí a má dìmọtẹ̀ tàbí mú ẹnikẹni láìsí ìdí tó bófin mu.

Ẹ̀sùgbọ̀n ọ̀pọ̀ LGBTQI sì n ní ìdímọtẹ̀ tàbí ifarapa ní ọ̀wọ̀ olópa tàbí àwọn ẹgbẹ̀ aládaáni nítorí ohun tí wọn jẹ̀ tàbí bí wọn se n hàn. Àwọn یشه wònyí n jẹ̀ kí ẹtọ̀ òmìnira ènìyàn kojá lórí.

A gbọ̀dọ̀ dúró ẹ̀nẹ̀n lẹ̀dì sí àìdà, ká sì rọ̀yìn pé òmìnira jẹ̀ ohun tó yẹ fún gbogbo ènìyàn láìka ẹni tí wọn jẹ̀.

ẸTỌ LÁTI MÁA KÀ NÍ ALÀÌŞÉ – ÀBALA 36

Ní orílẹ̀-èdè Nàìjíríà, gbogbo ènìyàn gbọ̀dọ̀ kà sí ẹni aláìşé tí tí ilé-ẹjọ̀ tó ní àşé bá fi dá wọn lẹbi. Ẹtọ̀ yìí jẹ̀ pàtàkì fún LGBTQI, nítorí pé olópa máa n dí wọn mú, wọn á sì fi hàn ní tẹ̀lífíşẹ̀n bí ẹni pé wọn ti se ẹşé, nígbà tí kò sí ìdájọ̀ ọ̀fin kan.

A gbọ̀dọ̀ bèbẹ̀ fún àtìlẹ̀yìn ẹtọ̀ yìí, kí a lè ní orílẹ̀-èdè tó máa dá gbogbo ènìyàn lójú ọ̀dodo.



ẸTỌ LÁTI NÍ ÌGBÉSÍ AYÉ ÀLÁDÙÚGBÒ – ÀBALA 37

Ẹtọ̀ yìí n dáàbò bo gbogbo ènìyàn kúrò ní ìwọ̀lé àìtọ̀ sí ayé ara ẹni, ilé, ìbáşẹ̀pọ̀, tàbí ìbáńisọ̀rọ̀ wọn.

Kò sí ẹnikẹni, tó fi mọ̀ olópa, tó ní ẹtọ̀ láti şawárí fónú tàbí kọ̀nputà ẹnikẹni láìsí ìwé àşé ilé-ẹjọ̀.

Ó tún dáàbò bo àwọn LGBTQI àti àwọn tó n gbé pẹ̀lú HIV pé kò sí ẹni tó ní ẹtọ̀ láti fi ipò ìlera wọn hàn láì gba àşé wọn. Ìfẹ̀, ìdánimọ̀, àti ìlera ẹni jẹ̀ ohun àşírí, àti ọ̀fin n dáàbò bo wọn.

ẸTỌ LÁTI NÍ ÈRÒ, ÌMỌLÁRA, ATI ÌGBÀGBÓ – ÀBALA 38

Gbogbo èniyàn ní ẹtọ láti ní èrò tirẹ, láti yí i padà, àti láti sọ ìgbàgbọ wọn di mímọ nípasẹ ìjọsìn tàbí ẹkọ.

Ẹtọ yìí fún LGBTQI ní ààyè láti gbé gégé bí ẹnì tí wọn jẹ láìsì ìbẹ̀rù tàbí ifiyèsí.

Ó tún kan àwọn tó n gbé pẹ̀lú HIV àti àwọn obìnrin aláìlera tí a máa n dá lórí àṣà tàbí ẹ̀sìn.

Kò yẹ kí ẹnìkẹ̀ni fi ipa mú ẹ̀lòmíí láti gba ìgbàgbọ tó n ba yìi rẹ̀ jẹ. Ìgbàgbọ̀ gidi gbọ̀dọ̀ dá lórí ifẹ́, ìbòwọ̀, àti àfọ̀mọ̀.



RẸTỌ LÁTI SỌRỌ – ÀBALA 39

Ẹtọ yìí jẹ kí gbogbo èniyàn ní ààyè láti sọ ohun tí wọn rò àti láti fi ara wọn hàn.

Àwọn LGBTQI ní Nàìjíríà gbọ̀dọ̀ ní ààyè láti sọrọ nípa ìrírí àti ìdánimọ̀ wọn láìsì ìbẹ̀rù.

Ẹtọ yìí tún dáàbò bo àwọn obìnrin àti ọmọbìnrin pé wọn lè fi ara wọn hàn, wọ aṣọ tí wọn bá fẹ́, àti gbé bí wọn bá fẹ́ láìsì ifarapa tàbí ifiyèsí. Ẹ̀se àbùkù tàbí ìjẹ̀pàtàkì kò gbọ̀dọ̀ dá lórí bí obìnrin ẹ̀ wulẹ̀ dá ara rẹ̀ hàn.

ẸTỌ LÁTI KÓPỌ ATI LÁTI DÁ ÀGBÀRÍ SÍLẸ – ÀBALA 40

Ẹtọ yìí fún èniyàn ní ààyè láti dá ẹgbé sílẹ̀ tàbí darapọ̀ mọ̀ agbari míí láìsì ìbẹ̀rù.

Ó ẹ̀se pàtàkì fún LGBTQI nínú Nàìjíríà pé wọn lè dá ẹgbé tó n dáàbò bo ẹtọ wọn sílẹ̀ tàbí kópa nínú ìjọpọ̀ tí n bá a ṣiṣẹ́.

A gbọ̀dọ̀ dájú pé ọ̀fin yìí n ṣiṣẹ́ kedere láì sí ìdènà àwùjọ̀ tàbí ọ̀fin tó kò lókun

ẸTỌ LÁTI RÌN ÀFÉFÉ – ÀBALA 41

Gbogbo èniyàn ní ẹtọ láti rìn kiri ní gbogbo agbègbè Nàìjíríà, láti gbé níbi tí wọn bá fẹ, àti láti kúrò ní orílẹ̀-èdè nígbà tí wọn bá fẹ.

Ẹtọ yìí ẹ̀se pàtàkì fún LGBTQI tó máa ń ní ifarapa tàbí ifiyèsí nígbà tí wọn bá ń ẹ̀se wọn.

Àṣà àti ẹ̀sìn kan tún ń dènà òmìnira àwọn obìnrin. A gbòdò gbìmò pọ̀ láti dájú pé gbogbo èniyàn ní ààyè láti rìn, gbé, àti kó ara wọn lọ láìsí ìbèrù.

ẸTỌ LÁTI MÁA GBÁDÚN ÀÌYÀSOTO – ÀBALA 42

Àbala yìí sọ pé kò sí òfin, ilànà ìjọba, tàbí àṣẹ ẹ̀ka kankan tí ó gbòdò ẹ̀se iyàsoto sí aráàlú nítorí ibi tí wọn ti wá, ẹ̀yà, akọ/abo, tàbí ìgbàgbọ̀.

Bí kò tilẹ̀ sọ kedere nípa ibáṣepọ̀ tàbí ìdánimọ̀ akọ/abo, ó lè túmọ̀ sí LGBTQI nítorí pé òfin ń dá lórí iyì èniyàn.

Ẹ̀sùgbọ̀n òtítọ̀ nì pé àwọn LGBTQI àti àwọn obìnrin ẹ̀ ní iyàsoto nínú ẹ̀sẹ̀, ìlera, àti ìdájọ̀.

A gbòdò bèbẹ̀ fún orílẹ̀-èdè tí gbogbo èniyàn máa ní ànfààní tó dogba.

ẸTỌ LÁTI NÍ OHUN-ÌNÍ – ÀBALA 43

Òfin yìí fún gbogbo ará Nàìjíríà ní ẹtọ láti ní ilẹ̀ tàbí ohun-ìní ibikíbi nínú orílẹ̀-èdè.

Ẹtọ yìí ẹ̀se pàtàkì nítorí ó ń fún èniyàn ní ìdánimọ̀ àti agbára ìlera.

Ẹ̀sùgbọ̀n àwọn LGBTQI àti obìnrin ń ní ìṣòro láti yá tàbí rà ilẹ̀ nítorí àfiyèsí àwùjọ̀.

Àṣà tó dènà obìnrin ní agbègbè abúlẹ̀ láti jogún ilẹ̀ jẹ̀ àìtó.

A gbòdò bèbẹ̀ pé gbogbo èniyàn ní ẹtọ láti ní ohun-ìní àti láti gbé pẹ̀lú iyì àti òmìnira.



ÌPARÍ

Àwọn ẹ̀tọ̀ àkókó kì í ẹ̀ ẹ̀nfaàní tí ìjọba n fún ẹ̀niyàn — wọn jẹ́ ohun tí a dá sí ìpílẹ̀ ìbí wa gégé bí ẹ̀niyàn.

Bó tilẹ̀ jẹ́ pé o jẹ́ LGBTQI, obìnrin, tàbí ẹ̀ni tó n gbé pẹ̀lú HIV, Òfin Orílẹ̀-èdè Nàìjíríà 1999 dáàbò bo ìyì, òmìnira, àti ìdájọ̀ rẹ̀.

Ìmọ̀ nípa ẹ̀tọ̀ rẹ̀ nì ìpílẹ̀ àkókó. Ìmúlò rẹ̀ nì ìgbésẹ̀ àgbára àti ìbímọ̀ àfiyèsí.

Nígbà tí gbogbo ẹ̀niyàn bá dúró ẹ̀niyàn ní ìmọ̀ ẹ̀tọ̀ wọn, orílẹ̀-èdè Nàìjíríà yóò di ibi tí ìyì àti ìdájọ̀ di òtítọ̀.

BÍ O Ẹ̀ LÈ GBA ÌRÀNLÓWỌ̀

A ní ọ̀nà tó rọ̀rùn, tó dájú, àti tó láàbò fún ìbásepọ̀ pẹ̀lú wa:

1. Láìpé 24/7: +2347039246113
2. WhatsApp: 2347039246113
3. Ìmẹ̀lì: info@minoritywatchnigeria.org
4. Instagram DM: @minoritywatch_nigeria

Ní Minority Watch, a mọ̀ pé ààbò àti ìgbókànlé ẹ̀ pàtàkì gan-an.

Gbogbo ohun tí o bá sọ fún wa nì a máa bófin mu, pẹ̀lú ìtọ́jú àti ìbòwọ̀.

Ìtàn rẹ̀ ní ààbò ní ọwọ̀ wa.

Ẹ̀tọ̀ rẹ̀ wà lábẹ̀ àbò òfin. Bí ẹ̀nikẹ̀ni bá ẹ̀ ìfarapa, ìyàsoto, tàbí ìjẹ̀pàtàkì sí ọ, pe wa lésèkẹ̀sẹ̀.

Ẹ̀gbẹ̀ òfin àti àwùjọ̀ wa yóò dúró pẹ̀lú rẹ̀, yóò tọ̀ ọ̀ sójú òfin, yóò sì jẹ́ kó dájú pé ìdájọ̀ ẹ̀lẹ̀.

Pẹ̀lú ìṣọkan wa, a lè gbé ìyì, ìdájọ̀, àti àfọ̀mọ̀ sókè fún gbogbo ẹ̀niyàn, láìka ìbásepọ̀, akọ/abo, ipo HIV, tàbí ìpò ayé wọn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This publication na big step for Minority Watch because e be our first official booklet wey focus on defending the rights and dignity of LGBTQI people, vulnerable women and girls, and people wey dey live with HIV (PLWHIV) for Nigeria.

The success of this brochure na the hard work, commitment, and skill of the Minority Watch team. We thank Chizelu Emejulu, Esq. and Clinton Mabilo, Esq. well-well their legal understanding and analysis form the main foundation of this work. Their knowledge make sure say all the legal points wey dey inside make sense and dey correct.

We also thank Ademola Adebambo and Nzube Onyeakarusi, wey help with editing and translation of this document into Pidgin English and Yoruba Language. Their input show say we truly believe in inclusion, accessibility, and community impact.

Special appreciation go Lucky Edet, wey use him creative design make this brochure fine and easy to read.

Minority Watch thank everybody, directly or indirectly wey make this publication possible. Together, we go continue to push justice, equality, and human dignity for everybody.

INTRODUCTION

For Nigeria today, many people and communities still dey suffer discrimination, violence, and rejection simply because of who dem be, whether dem be LGBTQI, dey live with HIV, or dem be women and girls wey dey struggle with unfair systems. These experiences no just affect their dignity; dem also violate the basic human rights wey the Nigerian Constitution talk say everybody suppose get.



This brochure na one of the ways Minority Watch dey continue our work to protect and defend the rights of LGBTQI people, vulnerable women and girls, and people wey dey live with HIV. The aim na to give clear information wey go educate, empower, and guide marginalized people about their legal rights, where dem fit get help, and wetin dem fit do if their rights don suffer abuse.

Through this publication, Minority Watch and our partner organizations wan increase awareness, promote respect for law, and encourage inclusion and equality everywhere.

We believe say when people sabi their rights and get the courage and support to stand for am, dem go become agents of change for a Nigeria where justice and respect go truly belong to all of us.

ABOUT



MINORITY WATCH
...we defend rights

Minority Watch na non-profit organization of lawyers and paralegals wey dey protect and enforce the rights and dignity of LGBTQI people, people wey dey live with HIV, and vulnerable women and girls for Nigeria.

VISION STATEMENT

We dream of a society where everybody, no matter their sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status, fit live free from violence and discrimination.

MISSION STATEMENT

Minority Watch dey protect and defend the rights and dignity of LGBTQI people, people wey dey live with HIV, and vulnerable women and girls through legal research, legal support, court actions, legal advocacy, and partnership with stakeholders.

WHAT WE DO

We use legal and advocacy strategies to protect the human rights of LGBTQI people, people living with HIV, and vulnerable women and girls for Nigeria.

We dey achieve this through:

1. Case documentation and report of abuses.
2. Quick response support for people wey suffer police harassment or blackmail.
3. Legal aid and representation for victims of unlawful arrest, discrimination, or human rights violation.
4. Strategic litigation.
5. Legal research.
6. Training and awareness programs for community members, activists, and professionals.
7. Working together with our partners.



OUR COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF SUPPORT



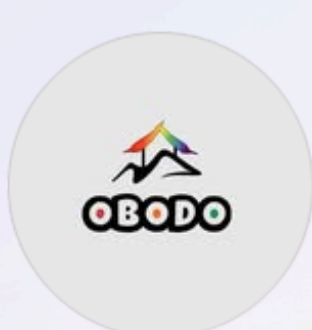
We dey work hand in hand with trusted community organizations wey provide healthcare, mental health support, and emergency help, so that members of our community go get full support both legally and personally.



These partners dey offer confidential HIV testing, treatment, and prevention; counseling and emotional support; grassroots legal awareness and safety training.



Through these partnerships, Minority Watch make sure say legal help dey backed up with healthcare, mental wellness, and community support, so that nobody wey face rights abuse go fight alone.



BRIEF COMMENTARY ON THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Sections 33 - 43 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999.

Right to Life (Section 33)

Everybody, including LGBTQI people, those wey get HIV, and vulnerable women and girls, get the right to life. Nobody suppose take another person life except court sentence person for proven crime.

For Nigeria, LGBTQI people and women still dey face danger to their safety and life. We must join hand together to protect this basic right because every life get equal value.



Right to Dignity (Section 34)

Everybody get right to human dignity. That means say no one suppose torture or treat another person like slave. Even LGBTQI people wey dey face rejection still get this right. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) na wicked act wey bring pain and trauma to women and girls, e be clear human rights abuse. Nigeria law and international law both reject am. We must stand for a society where everyone, regardless of gender or sexuality, get full dignity and FGM end forever.

Right to Personal Liberty (Section 35)

This right mean say nobody suppose arrest or detain person unlawfully.

LGBTQI people for Nigeria dey always face police harassment and illegal detention just because of who dem be. We need to keep speaking against this injustice so that everyone fit live free and without fear.

Right to Presumption of Innocence (Section 36)

For Nigeria, everybody dey innocent until court prove otherwise. But LGBTQI people dey often arrested and paraded on TV as criminals without trial. This right mean say nobody suppose treat person as guilty until law talk so.

Right to Private and Family Life (Section 37)

This right protect person privacy, home, family, communication, and relationship. No police or anybody get right to search your phone or personal things without valid court warrant. For people living with HIV, this right also mean confidentiality about their health. Nobody fit expose your HIV status without your consent. Love, identity, and health matter, all of them be private things, and law protect am.

Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion (Section 38)

Everybody get right to believe in wetin dem choose, worship how dem want, and change their belief if dem wish. For LGBTQI people, this right mean freedom to live true to themselves without fear. E also protect women, people living with HIV, and others from stigma wey religion or culture dey cause. Faith no suppose divide us, e suppose bring love, respect, and equality.



Right to Freedom of Expression (Section 39)

Everybody get right to express themselves. LGBTQI people suppose free to talk about their experience, identity, and demand equality. Women too get right to express themselves without being judged or harassed for how dem dress or talk. True freedom of expression mean say everybody fit live and speak true to who dem be.

Right to Peaceful Assembly and Association (Section 40)

This right allow LGBTQI people to form and join organizations wey fight for their rights. But because of discrimination, this right no dey easy for them to use. We must protect it so that everyone fit gather and support each other without fear.

Right to Freedom of Movement (Section 41)

Every person get right to move freely inside Nigeria, stay anywhere, and travel out anytime. Many LGBTQI people dey harassed or profiled because of their appearance. Women too dey face restriction — culture and religion sometimes stop them from moving freely. We must fight for society where everyone fit move without fear or judgment.

Right to Freedom from Discrimination (Section 42)

This section talk say no law or government policy suppose discriminate against anybody because of their tribe, gender, religion, or origin. Even though e no mention sexual orientation directly, e still cover LGBTQI people because of equality and dignity. But discrimination still plenty for work, healthcare, housing, and justice. We must continue to demand fairness for everyone, no matter who dem be.

Right to Own Property (Section 43)

Every Nigerian get right to buy or own land anywhere. But many LGBTQI people and women dey face problem renting or buying house because of discrimination. For rural areas, tradition still deny women from inheriting property. We must challenge these bad customs so that everyone fit own property, build future, and live with independence and dignity.

IN CONCLUSION

Human rights no be government favour na something wey belong to every person from birth. Whether you be LGBTQI, person living with HIV, or woman, the Constitution protect your dignity, freedom, and equality. To know your rights na the first step. To use am na courage. When everybody stand for their rights, Nigeria go truly become place where justice and respect belong to all.

HOW TO GET HELP

You fit reach us through these safe and easy ways:

1. 24/7 Legal Helpline: +2347039246113
2. WhatsApp: 2347039246113
3. Email: info@minoritywatchnigeria.org
4. Instagram DM: @minoritywatch_nigeria

For Minority Watch, we know say safety and trust matter. Everything you tell us go remain private, handled with care and respect. Your story safe with us.

Your rights dey protected by law.

If anybody harass you, discriminate against you, or violate your human rights, contact us immediately. Our legal and community support teams dey ready to stand by you and make sure justice happen. Together, we fit build a Nigeria where dignity, equality, and justice go truly reach everybody; no matter their sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status, or condition.

	Organization name	Social media handles	Help line	State
1	Minority Watch	X & LinkedIn @minoritylex @minority-watch IG & Facebook: @minoritywatch_nigeria @minoritywatchnigeria	07039246113	Lagos
2	The momentum support initiative (TMSI)	IG @tms_initiative	08108178512	Lagos and Ogun state
3	The Initiative for Minority Excellence and Development (TIMED NIGERIA)	@timednigeria (X and Instagram)	08096039692 (Whatsapp only)	Lagos and Ogun state
4	Obodo Centre for Advocacy and Equal Rights (Obodo Nigeria)	Linkedin Obodo Nigeria	09166674071	Nationwide
5	Centre for Population Health Initiatives (CPHI)	IG, FB, X and Tiktok @cphinigeria	08000022744	Lagos and Rivers state
6	Vision Spring Initiatives	vsi_ng (twitter and IG)	0913 610 3643	Lagos and Abia state
7	Response to Health and Right Initiative (RHRI)	IG@Rhri_Nigeria	08126218345	Lagos

	Organization name	Social media handles	Help line	State
8	Positive Champions Health and Empowerment Initiative (PCHEI)	IG: @tea_nigeria	0816 313 8481	Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo, Lagos states
9	Toward Empowerment and Advocacy initiative (TEA Nigeria)	IG @tms_initiative	08108178512	Lagos state
10	Think Positive Live Positive Support Initiative (TPLPI)	X & LinkedIn @Tplpinitiative IG & Facebook: @Tplp.initiative	09028942008, 09152664110	Lagos state
11	The Rainbow Alive Hub Initiative (TRAHI Nigeria)	FB: trahinigeria, IG: trahinigeria, X: trahinigeria	08144597773	Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Edo, Delta

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