**RAPE CASES**

The term **RAPE** originates from the Latin *rapere* meaning “to snatch, to grab, to carry off”. Since the 14th century, the term has come to mean “to seize and take away by force”.

Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without the person’s consent. The act maybe carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority, or against a person who is physically disabled or unconscious. Worldwide rape is primarily committed by **males** against **females**. Widespread and systematic rape and sexual slavery, usually occur during conflicts.

Different causes of rape issues include; **Lax rape laws in Nigeria**, it is one of the main reasons why rapists are so free in Nigeria. The laxity of laws against rapist can be a real problem for the safety of the women if the government take this issue seriously and the government enlightens the people about the drastic decisions that would be taken if anyone should be caught in such acts. **Indecent dressing**, even if women protest from the idea that their dressing is one of the reasons for rape, the statistics show that its true. Recently the modern way of dressing provides the exposure of various erogenous zones on the body of women, which can provoke sexual harassment in male.

There are several effects of Rape, they include; Gynaecological disorders, Reproductive disorders, Miscarriage, Pelvic Inflammatory disease, Pregnancy complications, Acquiring HIV/AIDS, Depression, Unwanted pregnancy, and so on. Ways of taking care of rape victims; **Victims’ Rights** include the right to have a victim’s advocate preside over every step of the medical/legal exam to ensure sensitivity towards victims, provide emotional supports and minimize the risk of re traumatization. **Emergency rooms** of many hospitals employ Sexual Assault Nurse/forensic examiners (SAN/FEs) with specific training to care for those who have experienced a rape or sexual assault, they are able to conduct a focused medical legal exam. **Diagnostic testing**, after the general assessment and treatment of serious injuries, further evaluation may include the use of additional diagnostic testing such as x-rays, CT or MRI image studies and blood work. The presence of infection is determined by sampling of body fluids from the mouth, throat, vagina, perineum and anus. **Forensic sampling** victims have the right to refuse any evidence collection, victims’ advocates ensure the victims wishes are respected by hospital staff. After the physical injuries are addressed and treatment has begun, the forensic examination proceeds along with the gathering of evidence that can be used to identify and document the injuries.

Treatment for rape victims; **Physical injuries,** patients with severe, life threatening conditions should be referred for emergency treatment immediately. Patients with severe injuries for example, cuts, bruises and superficial wounds can usually be treated by the examining health care worker or other nursing staff. Any wounds should be cleaned and treated as necessary. **Pregnancy prevention and management,** most female victims of sexual violence are concerned about the possibility of becoming pregnant as a result of the assault. If a woman seeks health care within a few hours and up to 5 days after the sexual assault, emergency contraception should be offered. **Sexually transmitted infections,** victims of sexual violence may contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI) as a direct result of the assault. Infections most frequently contracted by sexual violence victims, and for which there are effective treatment options, are: chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, trichomoniasis.

Ways to avoid it include; do not use alcohol and/or drugs to get someone to have sex with you, do not participate in sexiest behaviour by objectifying or stereotyping women, be aware of your environment, avoid wearing clothes that attract men sexually.

In summary men should try to control themselves sexually to avoid mentally destroying women and the Government should also take drastic decisions when such events occur so as to make them realise that they are doing the wrong thing.