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 **RAPE AND INSECURITY IN THE SOCIETY**

 **Rape is simply known as** Forced sexual contact with someone who does not or cannot consent. Forcing sex upon someone who does not want it, who is intoxicated, or who is not legally old enough to give consent all count as rape.

 **Insecurity** is being open to danger or threat, it is simply said to be the lack of protection.

Nigeria faces a number of problems in the society such as corruption, lack of employment, poverty, fraud, lack of basic medical care and so on, rape and insecurity is not far from the list. Rape is shown to be a global social problem and its perpetrators cut across all age brackets, the society should exhibit zero tolerance to rape by engaging rape intolerant attitudes. The recent rape case of uwa was depressing. A young girl who went to the church to read her books was badly raped and injured by a group of men, she died few minutes after she was taken to the hospital for treatment, she suffered a head injury caused by being hit with a fire extinguisher on the head. It comes to a notice that immediately this happened and celebrities began to ask for justice for uwa, young girls begin to open up of their rape encounters in the past. They have being scared all this while and they were sick of being silent and die of depression. I feel that this is caused by the normality in which the man is the head, and they feel like they are superior to every woman, they feel like they can do whatever they want to a woman and get away with it, I also blame the government for not taking much action for the rape cases and because of that they feel like they have done nothing wrong.

[Date rape](https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/psychpedia/date-rape) is sexual assault that occurs between people with an established relationship. A handful of states limit their definition of rape to forcible sexual intercourse. Yet any form of forcible sexual contact can have long-lasting effects on a person. Most states now recognize forced oral sex and similar forms of assault as rape.

 Rape victims are even being hidden away by their parents just to avoid stigmatization; the family may wish to keep it secret especially when the perpetrator is a family member. but the child suffers the depression alone and depression can also lead to death, some may end up committing suicide because its not easy to bare, some under aged children are also raped, the child is afraid to tell anyone even their parents when they are sexually abused because of the person involved might have threatened the child.

 What annoys me the most is that despite the severe penalty of life imprisonment for rape in Nigeria, perpetrators are hardly prosecuted and it encourages them to keep on raping when they feel the urge and it discourages victims from reporting. Rape and other forms of sexual abuse of the girl child have been associated with negative impact on the psychological, sexual and reproductive wellbeing of women.

**RAPE SHOULD STOP !!!**

 Rape has caused insecurity to our ladies, they feel unsafe whenever they come across a group of men, they no longer feel secured walking on the streets alone just with the intention to take an appealing walk in the beautiful weather. Women tend to get depressed and feel insecure about their capacity, some survivors feel deep shame, others anger and debilitating grief. Some suffer panic attacks, startling at the slightest sound. Others overwhelmed by humiliation and a sense of being devalued, will self destruct, drinking or abusing drugs to feel better and cope. Many will have to struggle with trust issues for the rest of their lives, developing serious trouble in their intimate relationship.

Even as women are encouraged to come forward to tell their stories, the long shadow of sexual assault is something not often discussed.

Rape is a form of gender-based violence against women. The **Committee on the Elimination of** **Discrimination Against Women** stated in its General Recommendation No. 19 that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination which the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** requires its states parties to eliminate in all its forms.

Nigeria ratified the Convention on 13 June 1985. The **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against** **Women (DEVAW**) states that the term "**violence against women**" means ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.’ **DEVAW** specifies that **rape, marital rape and sexual abuse** are forms of violence against women. Article 2(c) makes clear that ‘Physical, sexual and psychological acts of violence perpetrated or condoned by the State wherever it occurs’ also fall within the definition of violence against women. In order to take all measures to eliminate violence against women States must ‘refrain from engaging in violence against women’and exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons’. (Article 4c) It is well documented and widely accepted that rape causes severe physical and psychological pain and suffering.

The government’s response has been, and continues to be, woefully inadequate. Rape is a crime under Nigerian national law and is an internationally recognized human rights violation. Despite this, the government is failing in both its national and international obligations to prevent, investigate and prosecute rape, whether committed by state actors or non-state actors, and to provide any reparations to the victims. Further, Amnesty International (AI)has discovered that the Nigerian government has failed in its international obligations to take action against agents of the state who have committed rape and sexual abuse, and has failed to amend discriminatory legislation that guarantees impunity from charges of rape.

**RAPE SHOULD BE ELIMINATED!!!**