**Name: Okechukwu Lucy Chinenye.**

**Matriculation Number: 19/law01/191**

**Course Code: GST 201**

**Course Title: Peace Studies and Conflict Resolutions.**

**Level: 200lv**

**Question:**

**Write an Essay on Violence Conflict on The Geographical Zone You Are From. Not less than 2 pages.**

**Answers:**

In all human interaction, there is always differences in our ideas. We all have different backgrounds. The way we were born and raised are different and so the way we see things will also be different. Conflict is a relation between two or more parties. These parties might be individual or group who have or think they have incompatibility or incompatible goals. Although conflict is in a way related to violence, they are also different.

Violence consists of actions, words, attitudes, structures or systems that cause physical, psychological, social or environmental damage and/or prevent people from reaching their full human potentials. Violence involves injuring, hurting or harming people, animals, property and environment. Violence has various forms, it could be direct, physical or behavioral like (killing, beating, torture, damage), contextual or structured like (deprivation of life essentials, marginalization, etc.), cultural (feelings of hatred, fear, mistrust, etc.) and attitudinal (values, mindset, that are potentially violent).

The various forms of violence (direct, structural, cultural and attitudinal) are all interconnected with one another and with conflict. For instance, direct conflict such as wife-battery may be rooted in cultural violence such as a religious belief that supports this. A key effort in culture of peace sensitization is realizing this interconnectedness. It is realization that effort aimed at reducing violent behavior needs to be complemented by actions directed at structure, culture and attitudes (including those inherent in our cultures) if we are to achieve sustainable peace. Similarly, violence may be the cause or driver of conflict. For instance, the existence and need to address structural or attitudinal violence might lead to conflict. Peace empowerment requires an understanding of this interconnection. Conflict and violence are related. Some forms of violence might be the underlying causes of conflict. The foregoing has revealed a careful distinction between conflicts and violence. Though the two may be closely-related, there still could be conflict without violence. While on the other hand, there, probably, could not be violence without underlying conflicts. Most conflicts, involving individuals (between citizens: husband and wife, friends, town people and the likes) and group (rival gangs, ethnic, religious, political, trade unions) in Nigeria are fraught with direct violence. Also, most of these acts of direct-violence perpetuated in conflicts are rooted in structural, cultural and attitudinal violence.

In Nigerian, conflict manifest in different forms across geopolitical zones and ethno-cultural groups. Prevalent forms include competition for resources and power (resource-based and political conflict), ethno-religious conflict, operations and clash of human values (value-based), psychological needs of individuals and groups (identity based), poverty and ignorance and poor management of information.

Different geopolitical zones have their different sources of conflict in their various zones. Enugu where am from is in the South-Eastern geopolitical zone. The major source of conflict in this geopolitical zone is Religion.

Today, Nigeria is laced with some of the most adamant conflicts, most of them constructed from differences in religious and ethnic identities. Religious and ethnic nationalism has led to conflicts about control of state power, unequal allocation of resources, citizenship issues, state collapse, economic decline and ethno-religious clashes. Nigeria has been pushed by recurrent crises of regional or state illegitimacy, often impairing efforts at economic transformation, democratization, national cohesion and stability.

Religion is the belief in and worship of a superhuman (God or gods) controlling power. Religious conflict is predominant in Nigeria especially in the South-Eastern part of Nigeria. Religion Conflict is a conflict allowed in the name of or under the banner of a religion or party of a religion. It could be against another religion, another party of the same religion or a materialistic government. All religions have their accepted dogma, or articles of belief, that followers must accept without question. This can lead to inflexibility and intolerance in the face of other beliefs. Religious extremists can contribute to conflict escalation. They see radical measures as necessary to fulfilling God's wish. Religious Conflict is a form of identity crisis where an individual experiences drastic changes to their meaning system (i.e., their unique purposes, goals, values, attitude and beliefs, identity and focus) typically because of a spontaneous spiritual experience. In Nigeria, among the causes of religious conflicts are marginalization, oppression, government influence, uneven distribution of wealth and resources, division in government, nepotism and socio-religious bigotry. Religious conflict therefore manifests as Inter-Faith and Sectarian conflicts as well as confrontations between a religions group or party and a materialistic state. Inter-Faith conflict is one between two religions (for instance, between Christians and Muslims) while Sectarian is between two groups of a particular religion (for example, between the Shia and the Sunni groups in Islam). We also have, Intra-religious violence and Inter-religious violence. Intra-religious violence consists of the negative attitudes formed by ingroup members about outgroups while Inter-religious violence is said to be an aggressive behavior between ingroups and outgroups. Inter-religious conflicts are brought about by a number of factors. One of these causes is the clashing interests of those in authority. The ruling class has applied a number of processes to express their dissatisfaction with exclusion from important decision-making processes of the country. The methods employed include religious violence and military coups d’état. A majority of the religious conflicts in Northern Nigeria are reported to be due to the large number of rich Southerners who reside there. Many Northern elites are hurt by the business inventiveness of the Southerners and employ religious calls to provoke people to destroy property belonging to non-natives. The results are wars fought under the pretense of being religious.

Nigeria is predominantly northern Muslim and Southern Christian. Nigeria has been engulfed in numerous religious crises and/or conflicts between 1980 and 19941. Due to their tendency to spread into other areas after an early stage in one area, Religious conflicts have gained notoriety as the most violent crises in Nigeria. Christians are dominant in the Southern-Eastern part of Nigeria. According to the Pew Research Center, Nigeria has the largest Christian population of any country in Africa, with more than 80 million persons in Nigeria belonging to the church with various denominations.

In conclusion, due to the differences in their different religion in the country, everyone thinks their own religious belief is the best and these leads to more religious conflict especially among Nigerians. In a bid to stop all these religious conflict in Nigeria, one has to accept his or her own religion the way they are and not to forcefully make other people practice their own religion.