A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as the “The Functional Representative “. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), represents the Lawyers and Solicitors, while Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) represent the doctor’s interests. There is also Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) which champions the interests of academics and conditions of learning in Nigeria’s universities. This groups influence both public policy, administration, and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. In nature, this groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic, or social, among others. Some examples of pressure groups, in Nigeria are: ASUU (Academic Staff Union of Universities), Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress (representing the Yoruba tribe). Arewa Consultative Forum, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)

The various types of pressure groups include;

* Interest groups: sectional groups representing the people in the society e.g. Confederation of British Industry(CBI)
* Cause groups: promotion groups that seek to promote particular causes, e.g. Amnesty International
* Insider groups and Outsider groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government e.g. NBA (Nigeria Bar Association). Outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. E.g. Animal Liberation Front
* Anomic groups: they have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moment and situation in the society
* Associational groups and Non-Associational groups: Associational groups are registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non-associational groups are without a formal organization.

Pressure groups have various functions which include; links government to the people, promotes participation in government, serve as a source of information to government , curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, promotion of the interests of minority groups , influencing legislation. Pressure groups adopt strategies such as lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action in order to achieve their goals