

GENDER, SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND THE LAW IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The fight to protect women's enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health has been intensified by various international conferences, international and regional treaties and conventions which have been ratified by many States, Nigeria inclusive. However, Nigeria has not sufficiently advanced in the implementation as a result of gender inequality, which occurs due to harmful cultural and traditional beliefs and practices. Being a patriarchal society further makes it difficult to penetrate such beliefs and practices. This article, therefore, examines women's right to sexual and reproductive health vis-a-vis the paraphernalia of its impingement in Nigeria. Furthermore, it examines abortion—a perceived option for women—vis-a-vis its enhancement or diminution of women's reproductive health, in light of the recent research revelations. In all, this discourse is poised to appraise Nigeria's disposition to acceptable standards in this regard, as well as proffer suggestions for improvement, in the hope of meeting the Millennium Development Goals.