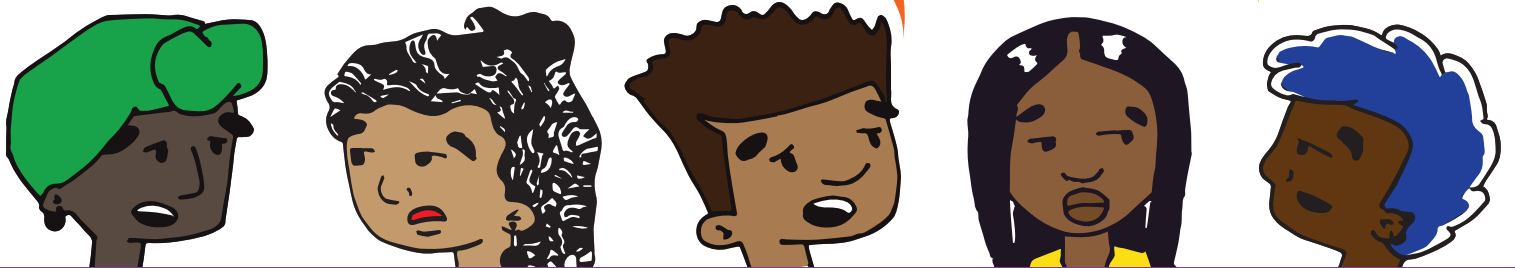


WOMAN

KNOW
YOUR

RIGHTS



**RIGHTS EVERY NIGERIAN
WOMAN SHOULD KNOW
THEY HAVE.**



Acknowledgement

It has long been recognized that an essential element in protecting human rights is a widespread knowledge among the population of what their rights are and how they can be defended (Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Sixth UN Secretary-General, 1992-1996). The idea for this material sprung from our work providing alternative dispute resolution and first aid legal support to lesbian, bisexual, and queer women in Abuja on a project initiated by the amazing team at Synergía - Initiatives for Human Rights (formerly known as the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights - Global Initiative for Human Rights) in collaboration with ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the Justice & Empowerment Initiatives - Nigeria (JEI). This publication has been developed out of the enormous need for innovative ways to continuously educate women in Nigeria about their rights and how to defend them.

Our work would not have been possible without the financial support of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Nigeria through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD). We are most grateful for your support.

We are thankful to Ayodele Olofintuade and Rafeeat Aliyu for bringing out the diverse rights related challenges Nigerian women experience through these stories. We appreciate Amina for the beautiful and empowering illustrations that brought our stories and experiences to life; we are also impressed by her commitment to using ART to expose the inequalities in our society. We are especially thankful to our team of awesome, hardworking, and brave young women committed to fighting for equality, freedom and justice through our work at the Women's Health and Equal Rights Initiative. A special shout out to the LGBTI community in Nigeria, thank you for making the world colourful and causing Nigerians to re-calibrate their acceptance level for human diversity. Thank you to all the allies who make an effort to understand diversity and fight against stigma and discrimination, you are brave.

This work is dedicated to human rights educators and defenders everywhere who have put fear away even in their scariest moments to stay courageous in the face of inequality, oppression and injustice. It is also dedicated to every woman breaking barriers, thriving, speaking up and showing up to challenge the oppressors.



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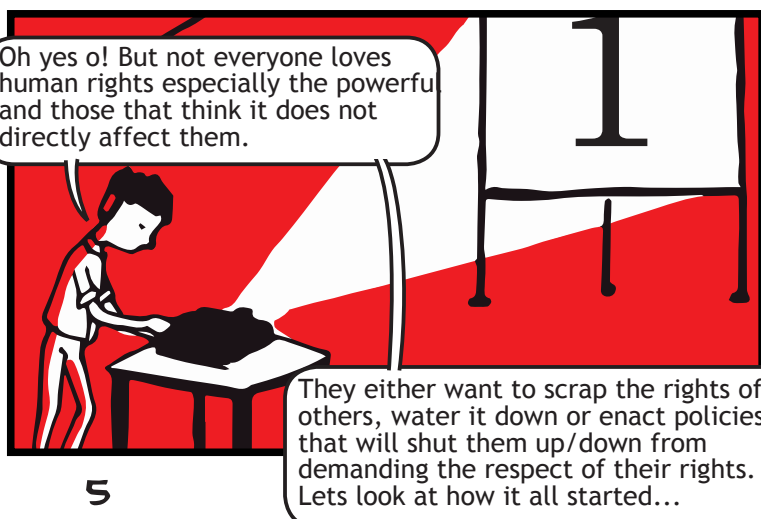
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STORIES BY AYODELE OLOFINTUNADE AND RAFFEEAT ALIYU.
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Introduction: Our Rights Are Under Threat.



The History Of Universal Declaration Of Human Rights.

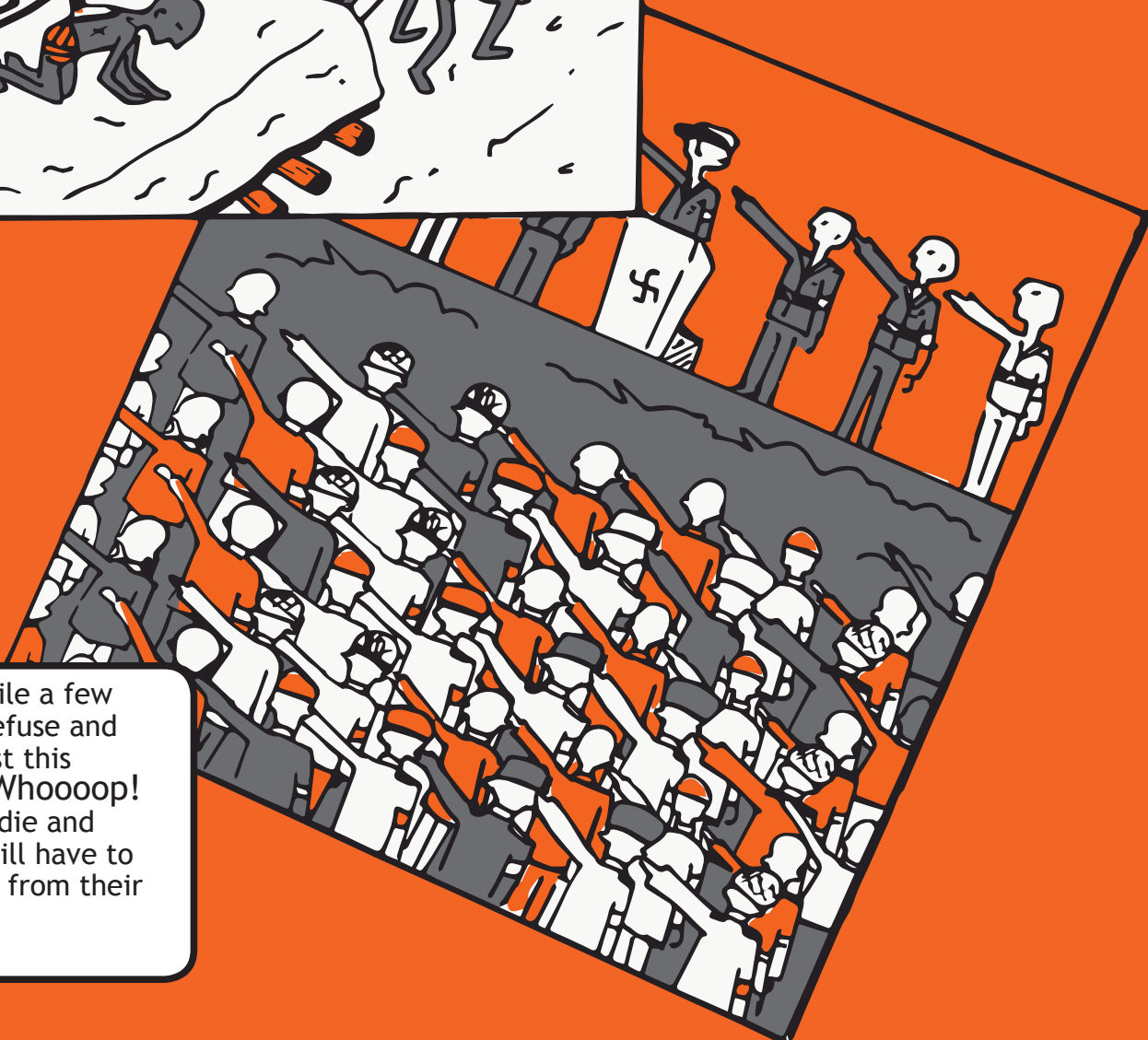
Yes o! As i was saying, people were dying left right and center, and a lot more were hurt but these 20th century dictators got stronger and stronger. They ruled by fear and oppression destroying anyone that stood up to them or spoke up against them. **Baam!** World war 2! Years and years of conflict and bloodshed, people died on an unimaginable scale, lots and lots of people were starving and homeless. It was horrible.

My goodness!

In the past, societies were controlled by powerful rulers. They willed their powers however they liked. Killed and punished their subjects, rewarded their loyal servants until they did not serve a purpose anymore.



Once in a while a few groups will refuse and gather against this oppression. Whooooop! They will all die and those alive will have to flee far away from their land.



In 1945, the United Nations was born to prevent such atrocity from happening again. To also ensure that the principles of equal rights and self-determination of all peoples are respected.



UN Conference in San Francisco – April, 25, 1945

On 10th of December 1948, the UN general assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This is celebrated world-wide every 10th of December as International Human Rights Day.

The Declaration consists of a preamble and thirty articles:

The preamble sets out the historical and social causes that led to the necessity of drafting the Declaration.

Articles 1—2 established the basic concepts of dignity, liberty, equality, and brotherhood.

Articles 3—11 established other individual rights, such as the right to life and the prohibition of slavery.

Articles 6—11 refer to the fundamental legality of human rights with specific remedies cited for their defence when violated.

Articles 12—17 established the rights of the individual towards the community (including such things as freedom of movement).

Articles 18—21 sanctioned the so-called “constitutional liberties”, and with spiritual, public, and political freedoms, such as freedom of thought, opinion, religion and conscience, word, and peaceful association of the individual.

Articles 22—27 sanctioned an individual's economic, social and cultural rights, including healthcare. Article 25 states: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.” It also makes additional accommodations for security in case of physical debilitation or disability, and makes special mention of care given to those in motherhood or childhood.

Articles 28—30 established the general ways of using these rights, the areas in which these rights of the individual can not be applied, and that they can not be overcome against the individual. These articles are concerned with the duty of the individual to society and the prohibition of use of rights in contravention of the purposes of the United Nations Organisation.



THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF Human Rights

WHEREAS recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

WHEREAS disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

WHEREAS it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

WHEREAS it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations among nations,

WHEREAS the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have

determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

WHEREAS Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

WHEREAS a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realisation of this pledge,

NOW THEREFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAIMS this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 1 — All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ARTICLE 2 — 1. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
2. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether this territory be an independent, Trust or Non-Self-Governing territory, or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

ARTICLE 3 — Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

ARTICLE 4 — No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

ARTICLE 5 — No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

ARTICLE 6 — Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

ARTICLE 7 — All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

ARTICLE 8 — Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

ARTICLE 9 — No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

ARTICLE 10 — Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

ARTICLE 11 — 1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

ARTICLE 12 — No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

ARTICLE 13 — 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

ARTICLE 14 — 1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 15 — 1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

ARTICLE 16 — 1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

ARTICLE 17 — 1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

ARTICLE 18 — Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

ARTICLE 19 — Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

ARTICLE 20 — 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

ARTICLE 21 — 1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

ARTICLE 22 — Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realisation, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the efforts and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

ARTICLE 23 — 1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration.

ation insuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

ARTICLE 24 — Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

ARTICLE 25 — 1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

ARTICLE 26 — 1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

ARTICLE 27 — 1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

ARTICLE 28 — Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

ARTICLE 29 — 1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 30 — Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on its 183rd meeting, held in Paris on 10 December, 1948.
Revised by U.N. Department of Public Information

UNITED NATIONS

Wow, Thank you for this information. I think I am beginning to understand all of this and when you said our rights are under attack. If we know all these and respect the rights of everyone, I think there will be world peace.

But Cheregodu, my sister, this UDHR does it concern us here in Nigeria? Abi our own na only the Nigerian Constitution?

I like your question. After the adoption of the UDHR, many countries adopted parts of its articles in their constitution. The Declaration also served as the foundation for two binding UN human rights covenants: The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, any country that signs and ratifies these documents are bound by the UDHR.

So did Nigeria Sign it?

Yes, Nigeria signed and ratified them on the 29th July, 1993. This means that everyone including me and you, the police, schools, churches, the government, in fact all state and non-state actors in Nigeria are bound by the provisions of this declaration.

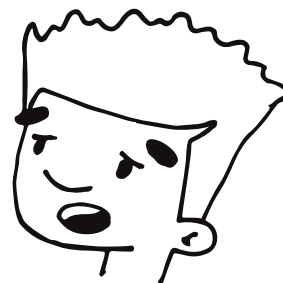
It is good to have all this information but please eh, does it mean that this UDHR is more important than the Nigerian Constitution?

If your right is violated by either state and non-state actors, you can go to the court of Law and challenge them for violating your right.

Mba o! Although there are seven (7) sources of law in Nigeria, the Nigerian Constitution adopted on the 29th of May, 1999 is the ultimate source of Law. It is therefore the most important source of Law in Nigeria. Any law that conflicts the provisions of the constitution is considered void (Chapter 1, Part 1 of the Constitution).

Make i break am down.

Chapter IV is the most important chapter of the Constitution because it sets out the fundamental rights guaranteed under constitution. However, there are six other sources of laws in Nigeria.



● **Federal And State Legislations**

Laws passed by National assembly or state house of assembly.

● **Subsidiary Legislation**

Regulations, circulars and other rules issued by federal or state ministries/agencies.

● **Judicial Precedence**

Laws and decisions made by judges in cases.

● **Customary And Religious Law**

Customary are rules that bind an ethnic group and are interpreted in the customary court. The primary body for the enforcement of religious laws is the Sharia law which is mostly enforced in the northern Nigeria and is interpreted by Sharia court. These two bodies of laws are particularly important in relation to family law, land and inheritance laws.

● **Rules Of Procedure For Court**

Rules adopted by court to govern its proceedings.

● **International Treaties And Covenants**



With all these laws and standards don't you think that there should be peace and a world where everyone's right are respected.

The problem is that there are people who still possess too much power. Over the past few years, human rights all over the world has gone from being bad and manageable to being worse with active wars, brutal regimes, millions of people dying at sea trying to migrate, human trafficking, modern day slavery, attack on women bodies, brutality against LGBTIQ folks and other minorities. The idea of human rights is that each one of us no matter where we are born or who we are, is entitled to the same basic rights and freedom. These rights are not privileges; they cannot be granted or revoked. They are universal and Inalienable.



Even sometimes the national or state house of assembly enact laws that violate the fundamental rights of people and treaties that Nigerian signed and ratified. Also, they sometimes refuse to enact laws and policies that will improve the lives of their citizen. Some of those laws are Same sex marriage prohibition act, gender equality and Disability bill.

Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act



What is same sex marriage prohibition act?
What is this law about?



The Same-sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, 2014 SSMPA is a law that prohibits marriage between persons of the same sex. The Act only criminalises a person who enters into a same sex marriage contract or civil union, persons who register, support, operate or participate on processions or meetings of gay clubs, societies, or organizations and persons who makes a public show of a same sex amorous relationship directly or indirectly.

What do you mean by public display of amorous affection? Directly and Indirectly?



The provision of the Act on public show of same sex amorous relationship is ambiguous; E no specify exactly wetin e mean by same sex amorous relationship, directly or indirectly display of affection. Leaving it open to plenty different interpretation including people that think that being LGBTI person is a crime. Shey You get?

No, not really o! Do you mean that being LGBTI is not a crime?



No, it is not. Although the SSMPA has been interpreted by the Nigerian society to mean that being LGBTI is a crime and has brought an increase in cases of physical violence, extortion, blackmail, aggression, arbitrary detention and harassment of human rights defenders working on sexual minority issues and LGBT community members as a whole..

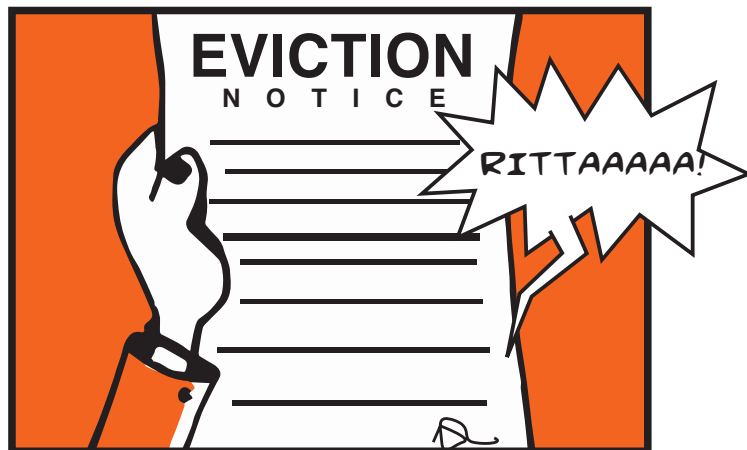
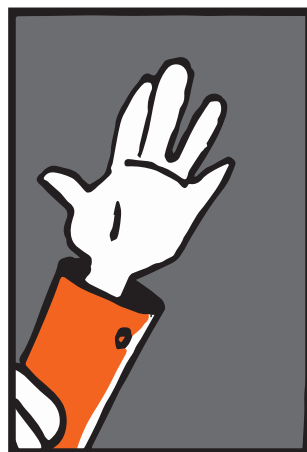
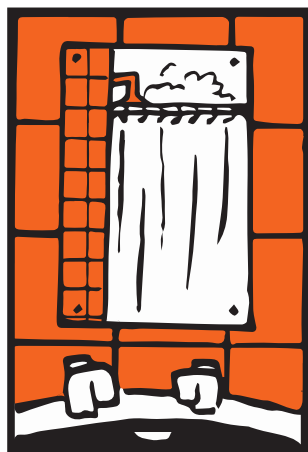
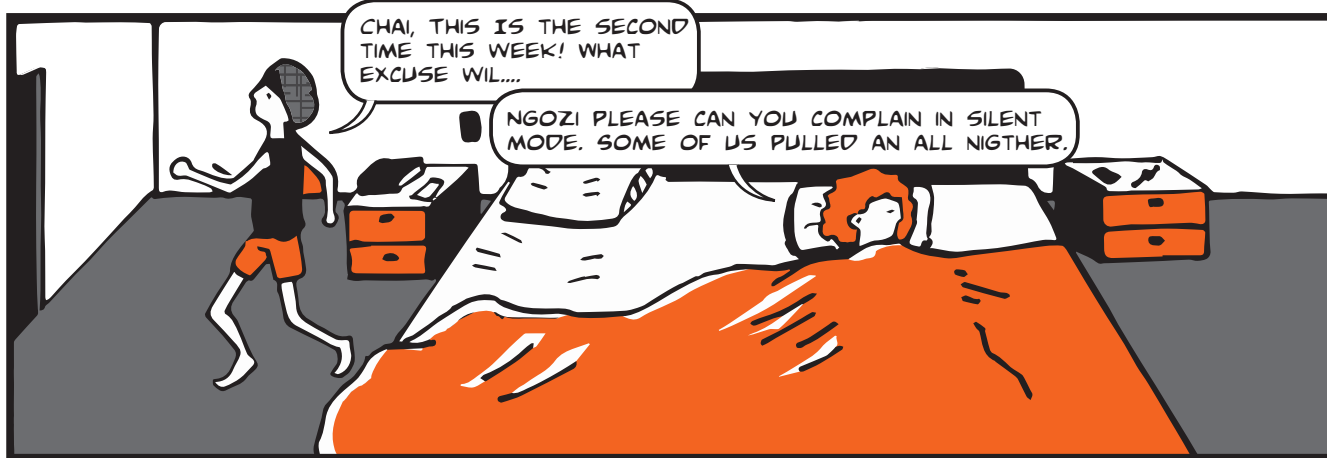
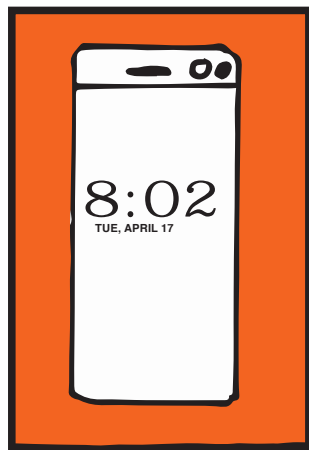
It is not. Also, the SSMPA contravenes provisions of the Nigerian Constitution, including respect for dignity of a human person, freedom of association, freedom from discrimination, even right to privacy. And remember, any law that conflicts the provisions of the constitution is considered void and unconstitutional according to Chapter 1, Part 1 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) 1999).

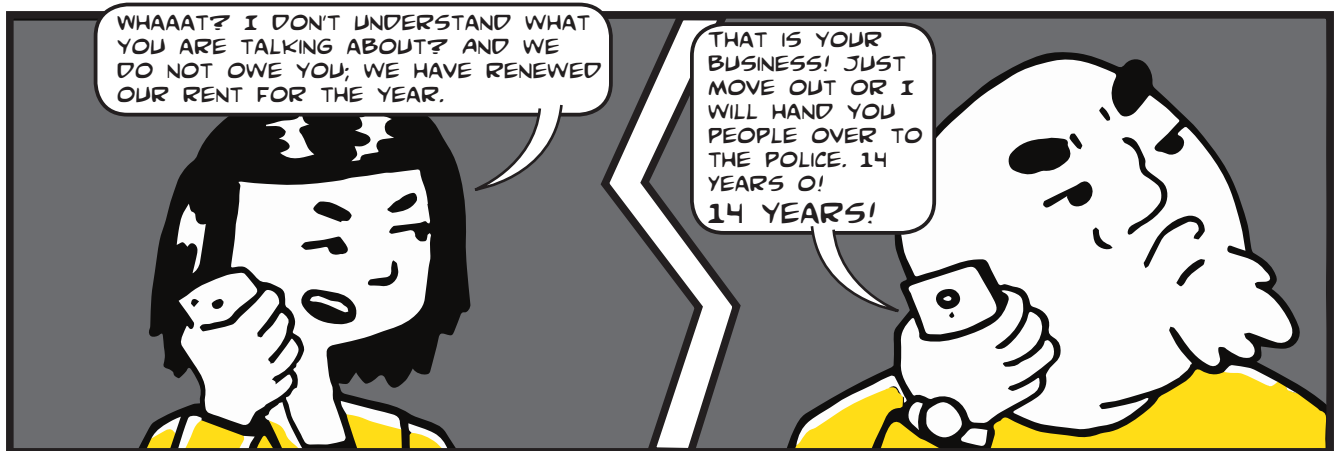
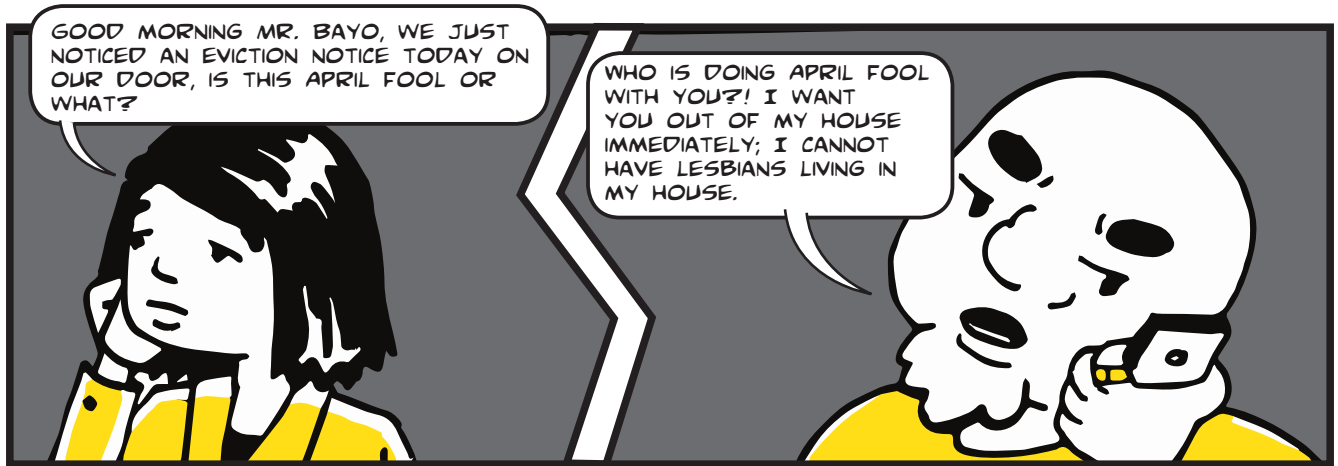
Chai, this is not right!



Ehen, this reminds me of a friend, Ngozi who is in a messy situation right now due to perceived sexual orientation.

OGA LANDLORD





FATIMA THIS IS OUR STORY O, THANKS FOR LETTING US CRASH HERE.

I CANT BELIEVE YOU ARE GOING DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT RITA, THIS IS A VIOLATION OF YOUR RIGHT. WHAT IS EVEN HIS JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS ALLEGATION?

MAYBE BECAUSE WE ARE TWO WOMEN LIVING TOGETHER

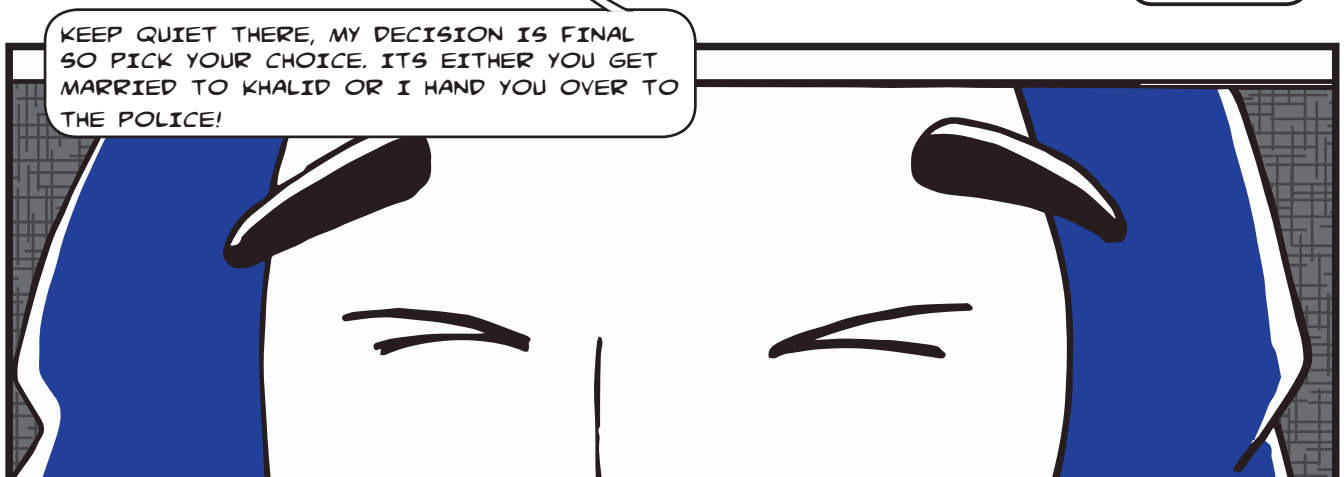
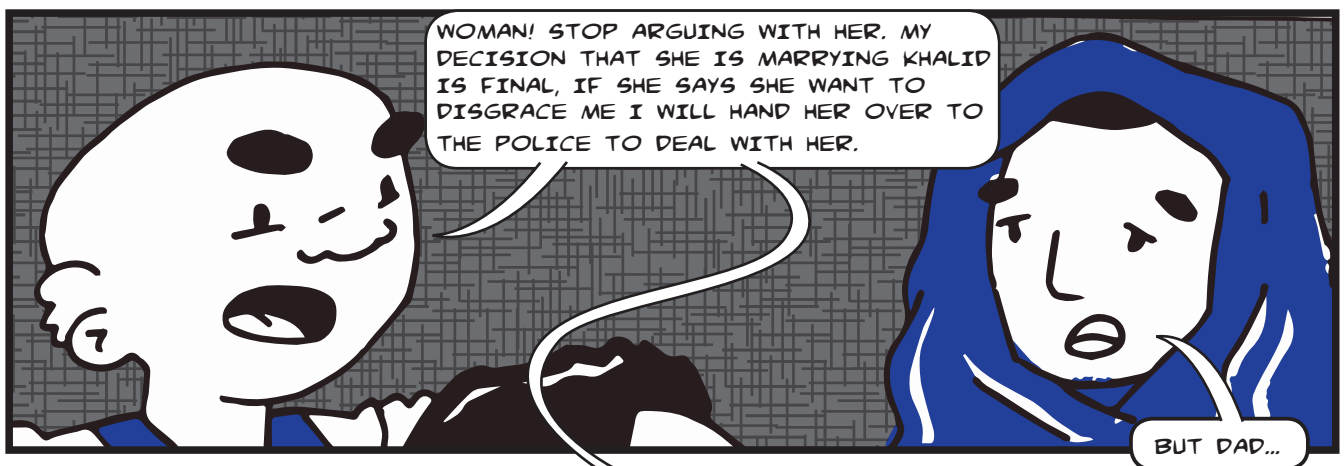
BUT THAT IS WRONG, AND UNLAWFUL. YOU NEED TO TAKE THIS ISSUE TO COURT. BEFORE A PERSON CAN BE LAWFULLY EVICTED FROM A PREMISE, THERE ARE SOME NOTICES REQUIRED BY RECOVERY OF PREMISES LAWS IN NIGERIA TO THE SERVED ON THE TENANT. THE NOTICE CAN BE 6 MONTHS' NOTICE, ONE-WEEK NOTICE, THREE MONTHS' NOTICE DEPENDING ON THE KIND OF TENANCY ENTERED INTO BY THE TENANT OR THE EXPRESS OR ORAL AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE LANDLORD AND THE TENANT. THE LANDLORD NEED TO SERVE THE REQUIRED NOTICES BEFORE HE CAN LAWFULLY EVICT YOU FROM THE PREMISES. EVEN WHEN THE NOTICES HAVE BEEN LAWFULLY SERVED, IT IS ONLY THE COURT THAT HAVE THE POWER TO LAWFULLY EVICT A TENANT FROM OCCUPIED PREMISES. ON THE ISSUE OF YOUR PERCEIVED SEXUAL ORIENTATION, THE SSMPA CRIMINALIZE SAME SEX MARRIAGE; PERSON OF SAME SEX COHABITING FOR THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE, SSMPA DOES NOT CRIMINALIZE PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR PERCEIVED SEXUAL ORIENTATION BUT MARRIAGE. THE ACT OF THE LANDLORD IS DEGRADING AND INHUMAN TREATMENT, VIOLATES YOUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY. IF YOU ARE READY TO CHALLENGE THIS, I KNOW SOME ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN HELP CONNECT YOU WITH PRO BONO LAWYERS THAT WILL HANDLE THIS CASE FOR A LITTLE TO NO COST.

PLEASE CONNECT US ABEG!

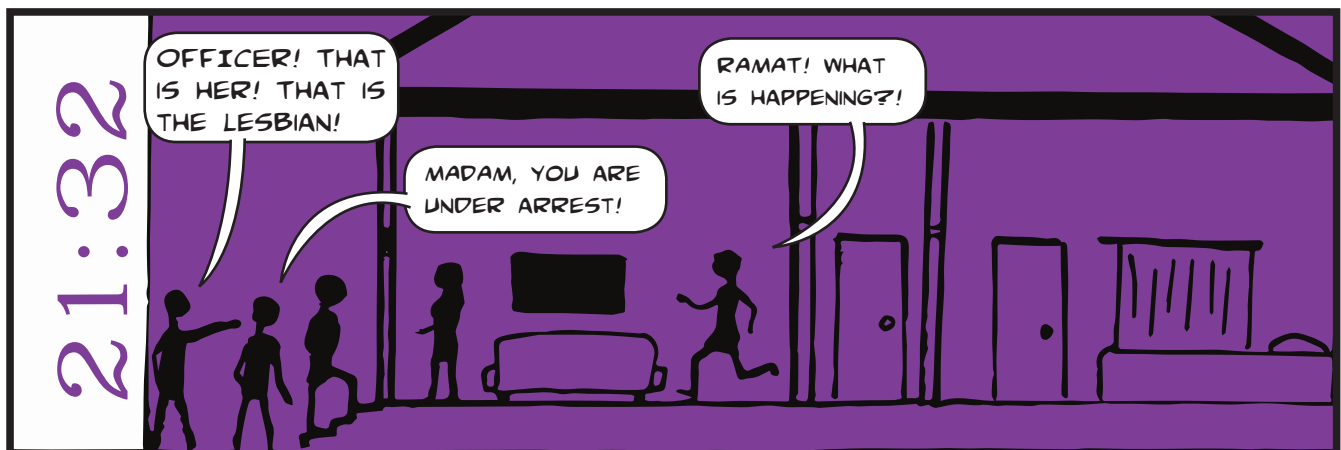
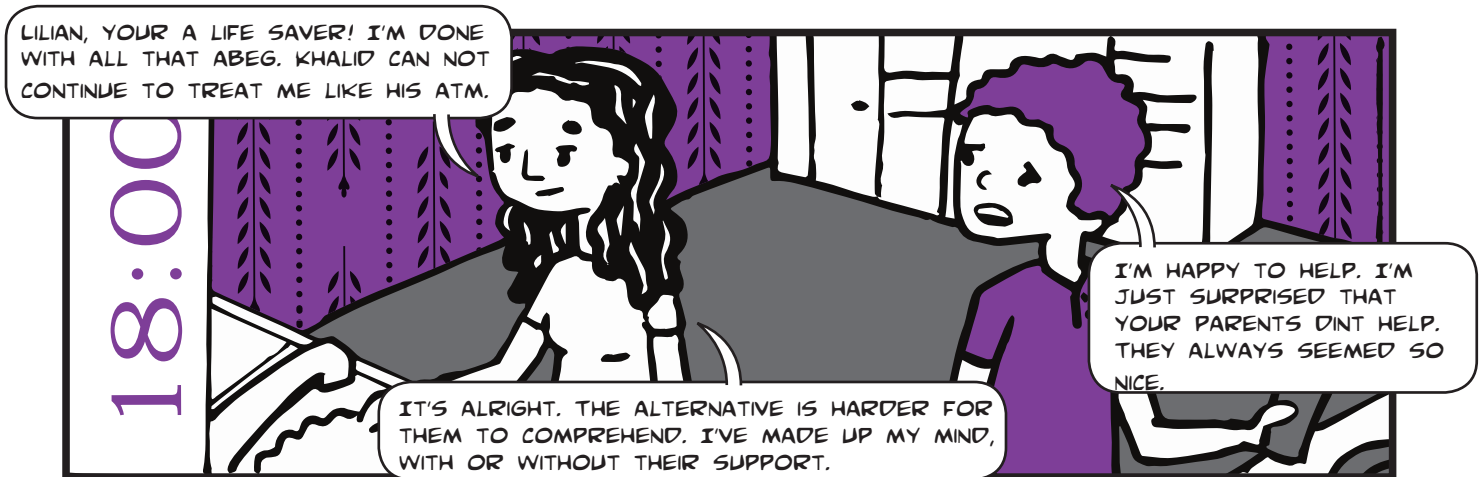
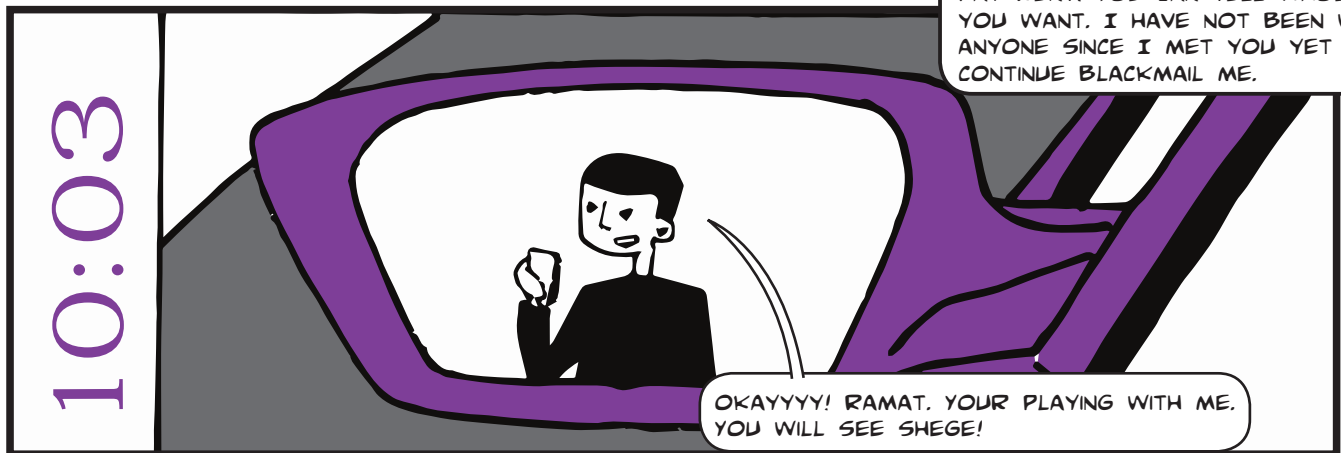
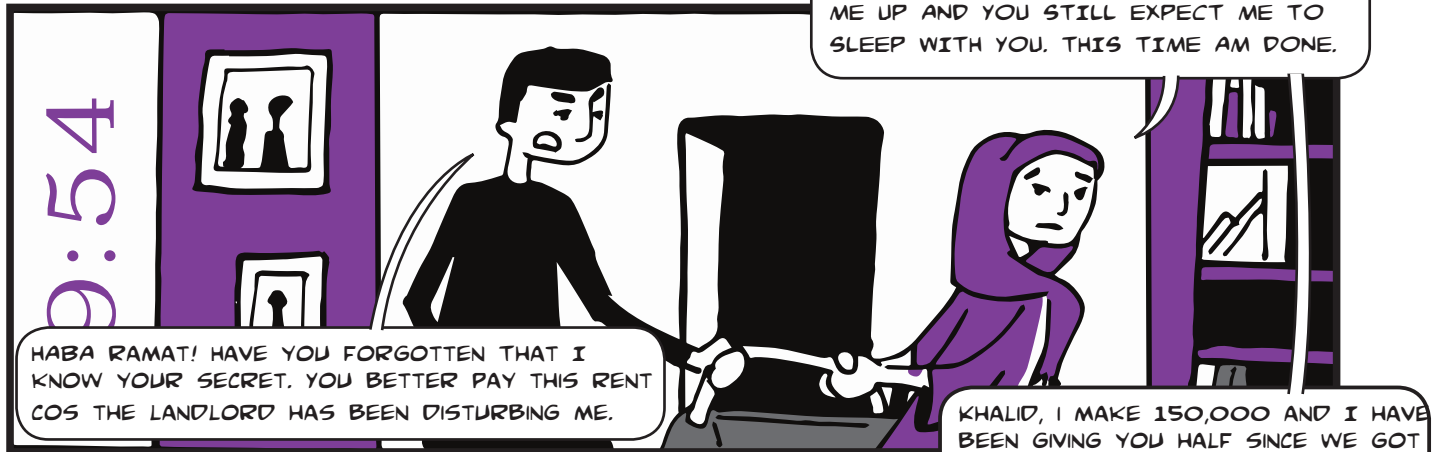


BLACKMAIL

8:30PM 26 JULY, 2016. NO. 6 KWAME
NKURUMAH STREET, MAITAMA. ABUJA.



12 JANUARY, 2017.
NO. 13 MANDELA STREET, WUSE ZONE 2. ABUJA.

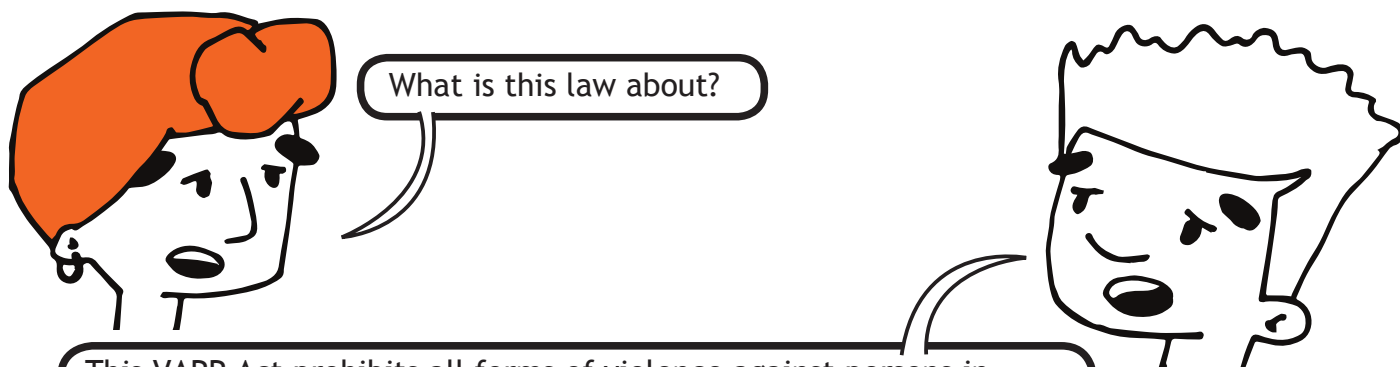


14 JANUARY, 2017.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, JABI. ABUJA.

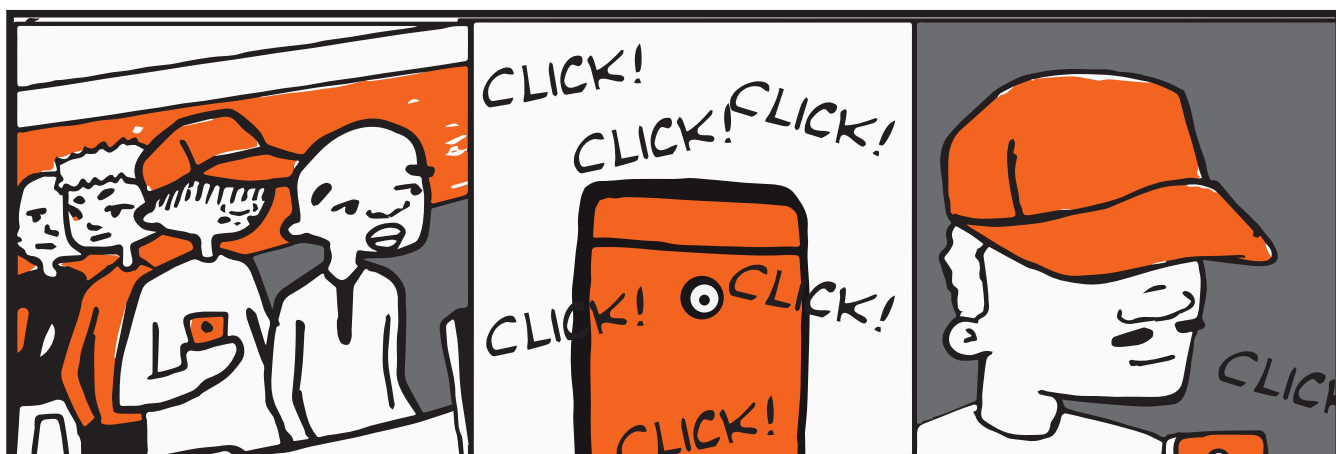


UPON A PERSON BEING ARRESTED AND IN POLICE CUSTODY, IT IS STATED UNDER SECTION 35(1-2) OF THE CONSTITUTION THAT THE PERSON SHALL BE BROUGHT BEFORE A COURT OF LAW WITHIN THE 24HOURS OR 48 HOURS, FURTHER DETENTION OF THE PERSON IS A VIOLATION OF THE PERSON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. THE POLICE DO NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO DETAIN A PERSON MORE THAN 24 HOURS OR 48 HOURS WITHOUT THE PERSON BEING CHARGED TO COURT EXCEPT THE OFFENCE THE PERSON IS BEING ARRESTED FOR IS A CAPITAL OFFENCE, WHICH IS NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS RAMAT'S CASE. ACCORDING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE, POLICE BAIL IS FREE. POLICE OFFICERS ASKING YOU TO BRING 250,000NAIRA TO BAIL YOUR FRIEND RAMAT FROM THEIR CUSTODY IS AN ACT OF EXTORTION AND THE POLICE OFFICER THAT DEMANDED FOR THE SUM CAN BE BROUGHT TO BOOK FOR IT. I ADVISE THAT YOU CONTACT A HUMAN RIGHT ORGANIZATION THAT WILL HELP IN TAKING STEPS IN MAKING SURE THAT THE VIOLATION SHE IS GOING THROUGH ARE BEING ADDRESSED. IF YOU ARE READY TO CHALLENGE THIS, I KNOW SOME ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN HELP CONNECT YOU WITH PRO BONO LAWYERS THAT WILL HANDLE THIS CASE FOR LITTLE TO NO COST AND YOU WILL BE OUT OF HERE IMMEDIATELY.

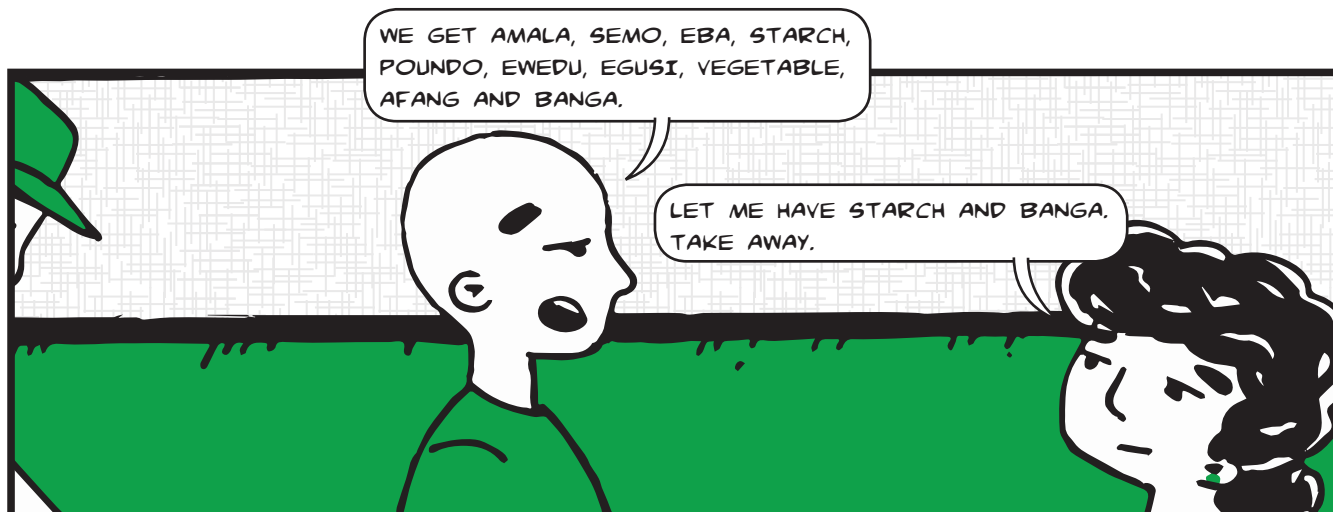
Violence Against Person Prohibition Act 2015 (VAPP)

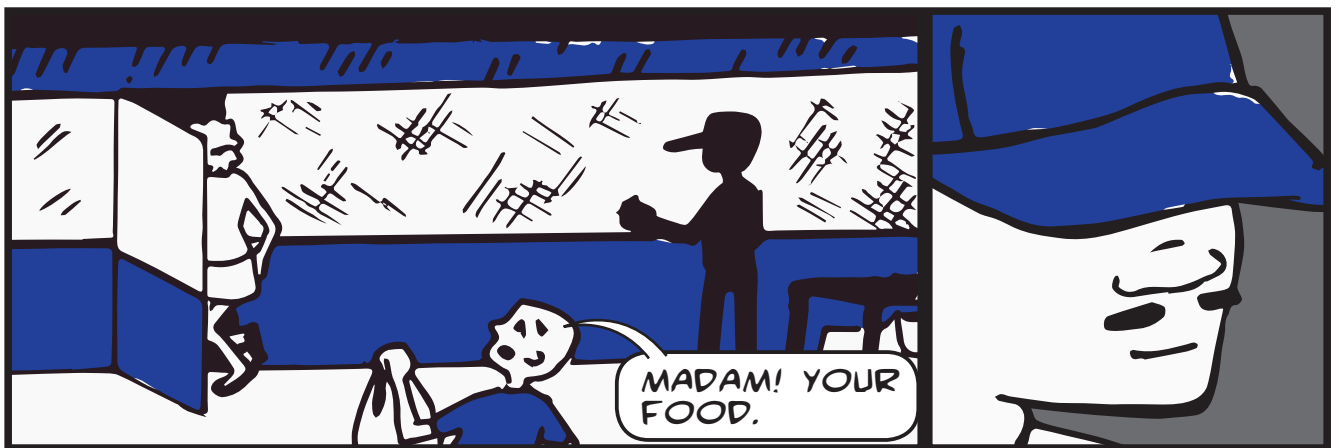
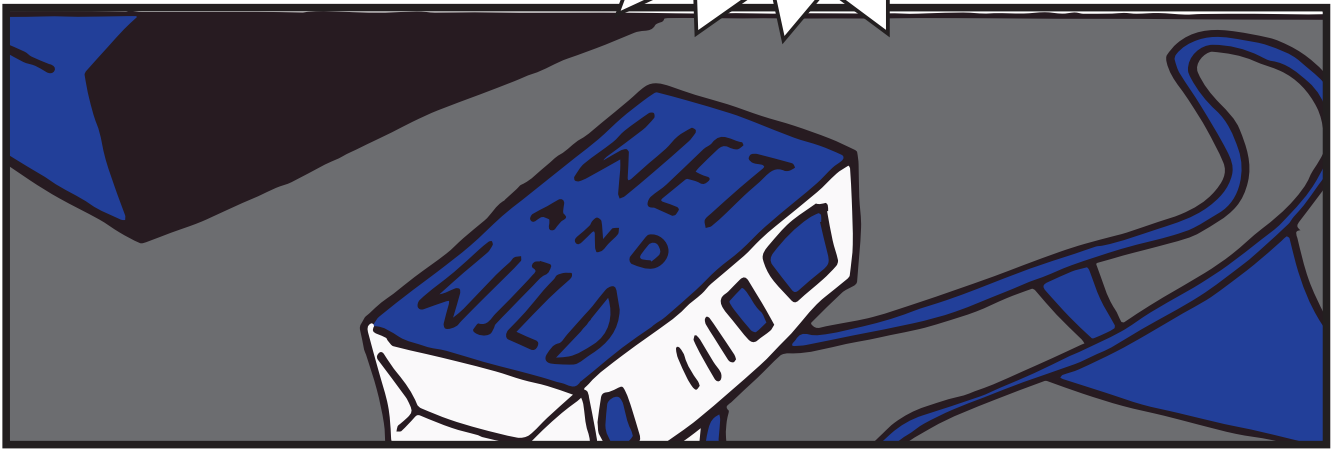


This VAPP Act prohibits all forms of violence against persons in private and public life, and provides maximum protection and effective remedies for victims. The acts prohibited under the VAPP Act are criminal offences in which the perpetrator can either be liable to imprisonment or an option of fine. However, the VAPP Act is only applicable in Abuja but other states need to push likely laws as violence is said to have buried its tentacles in our cultures. Let me tell you a story.



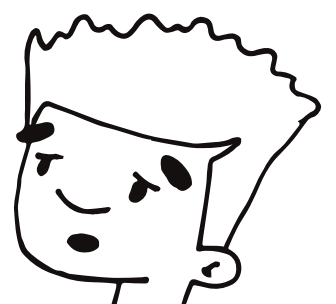




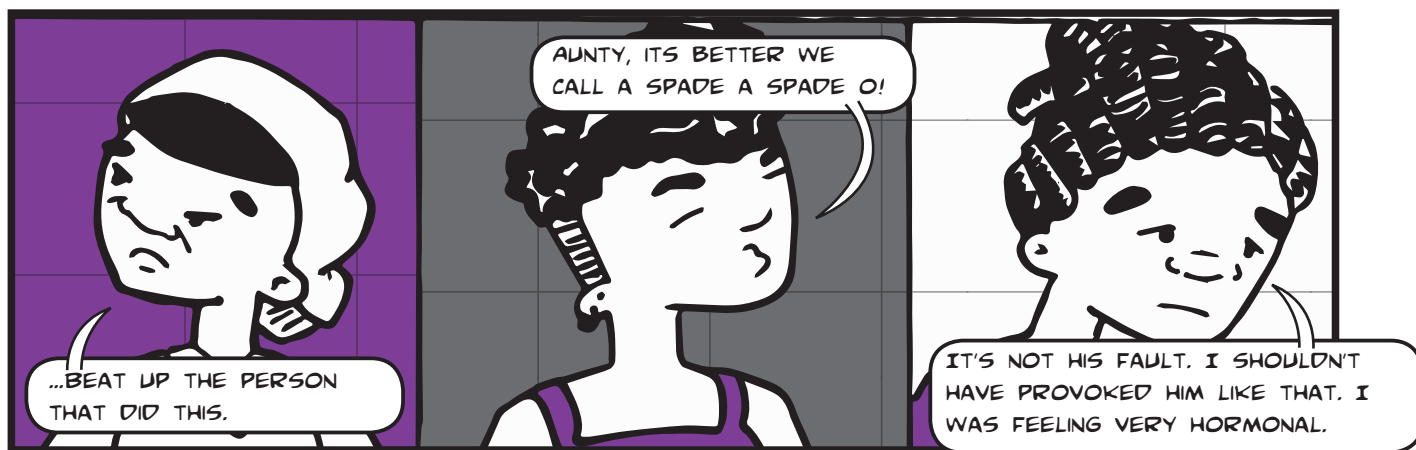
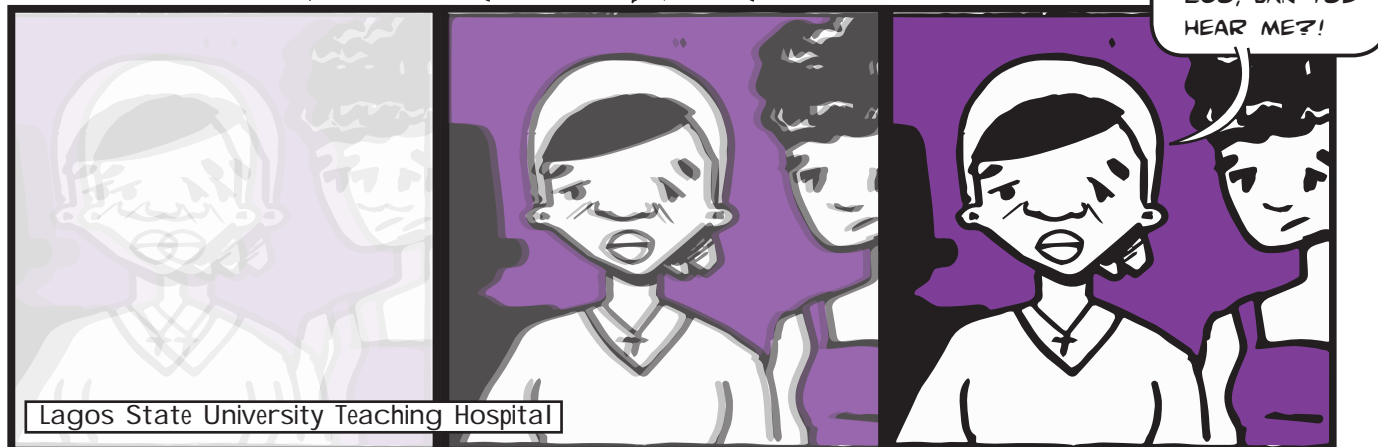


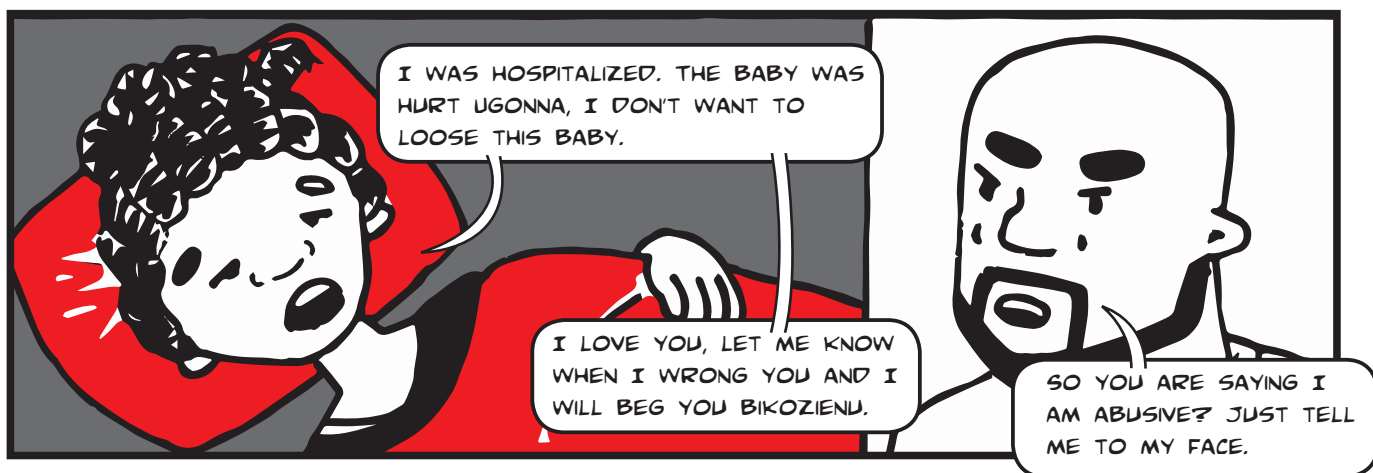
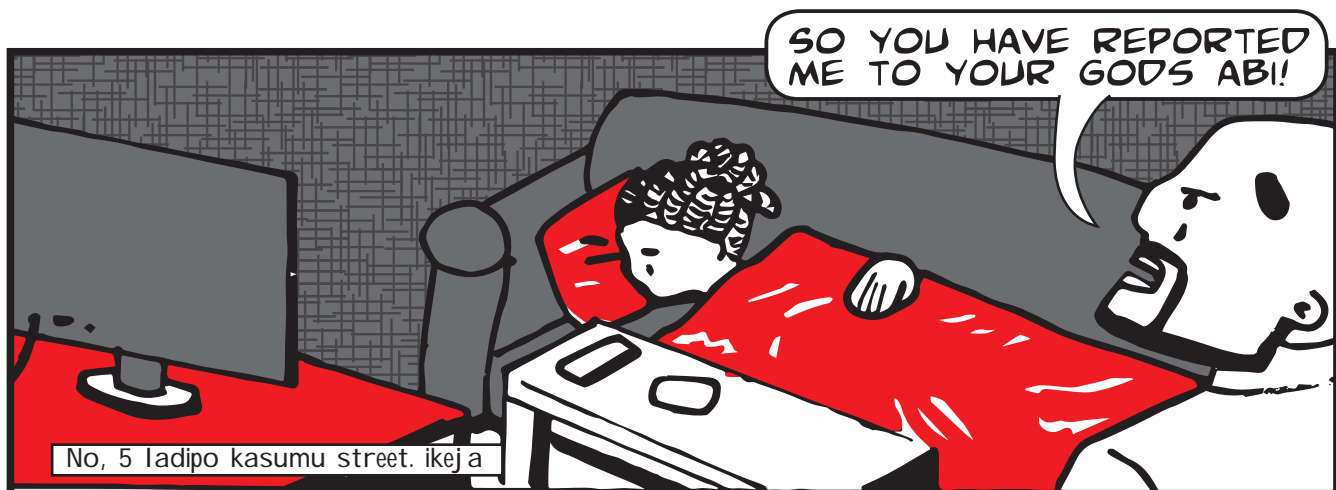
IF YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION, REPORT TO THE POLICE STATION NEAREST TO YOU AND GET A LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ADVISE YOU APPROPRIATELY. ACCORDING TO THE PROVISION OF VAPP, STALKING OF ANOTHER PERSON IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND THE STALKER CAN BE LIABLE TO IMPRISONMENT.

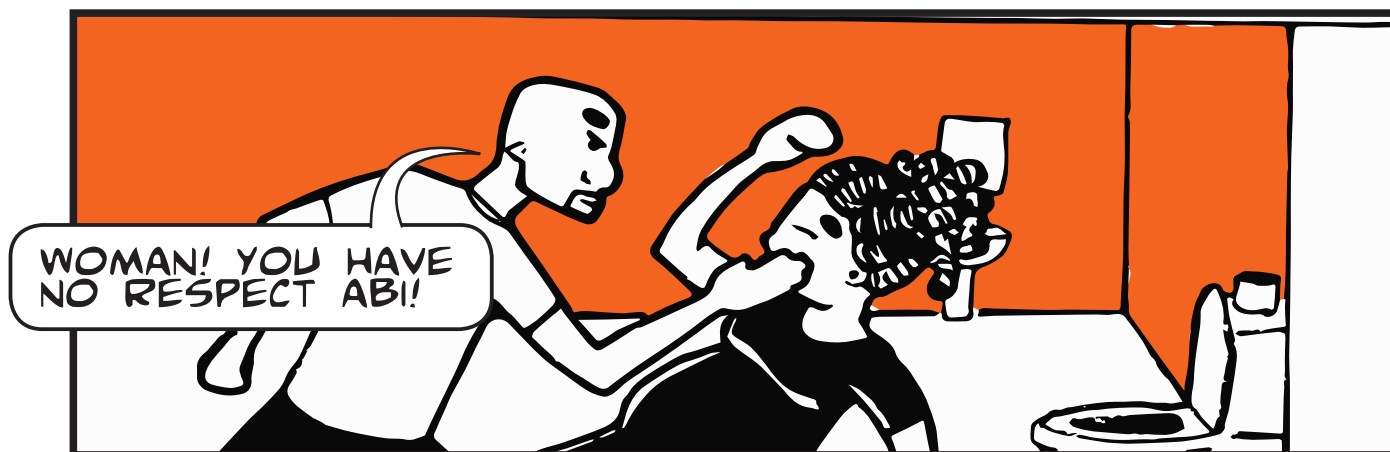
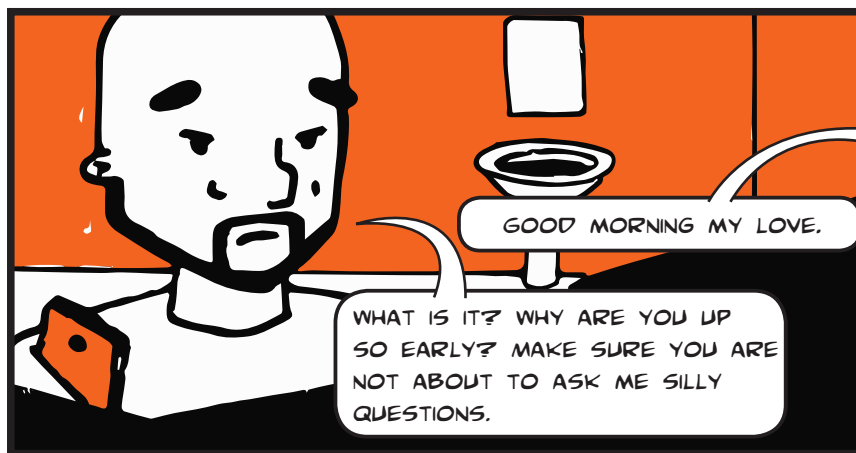
Sometimes these stalkers either rape or kill their victims. This VAPP Act is really needed. I pray other states enact such laws as it will help us weed out the tentacles of violence. A lot of people especially women have died from abusive relationships. This one happened to my relative.



PUNCHING BAG



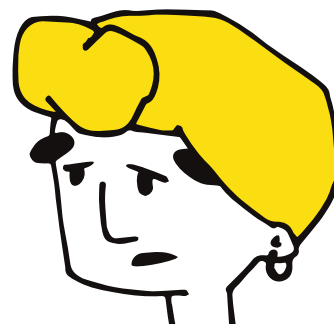






My dear, that is how Ego's matter just died like that. Nothing happened to Ugonna. He even went ahead to stop Evlyn and her aunt from seeing the child.

That is so sad! Something similar happened to a friend of mine. We were just on the phone a day before everything happened.



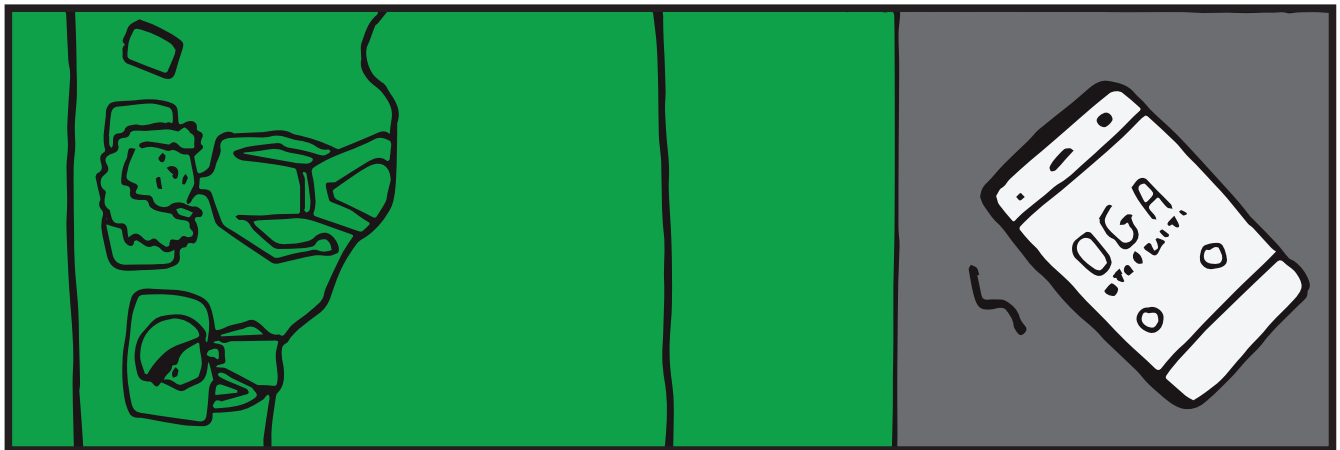
F**K BOI

ABI NA LIE I DEY LIE? NA WA FOR THAT YOUR EMIKE. I DEY TELL YOU, THROWAY THAT MAN BEFORE HE GO KILL YOU.

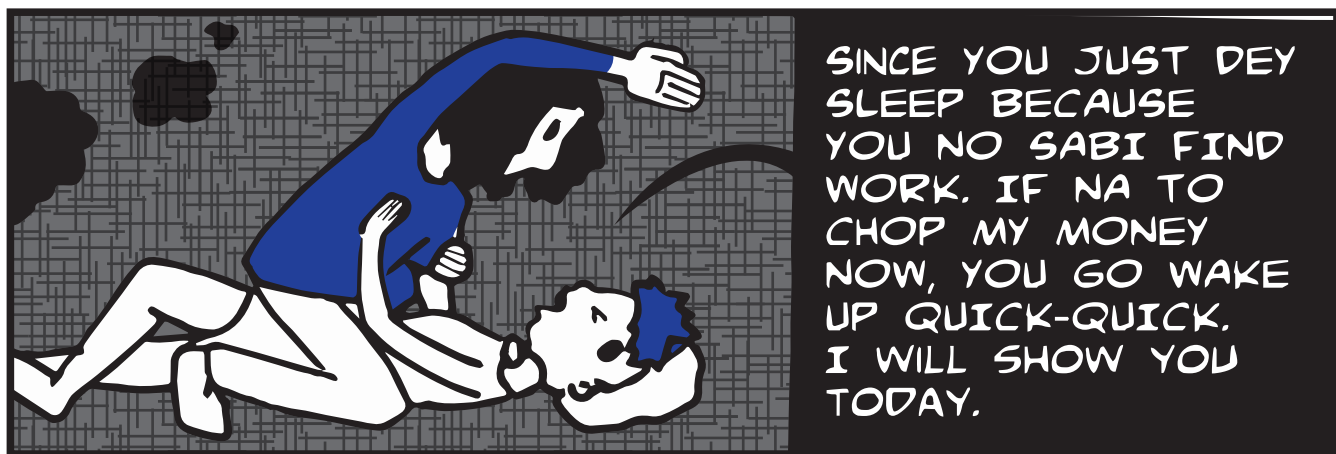
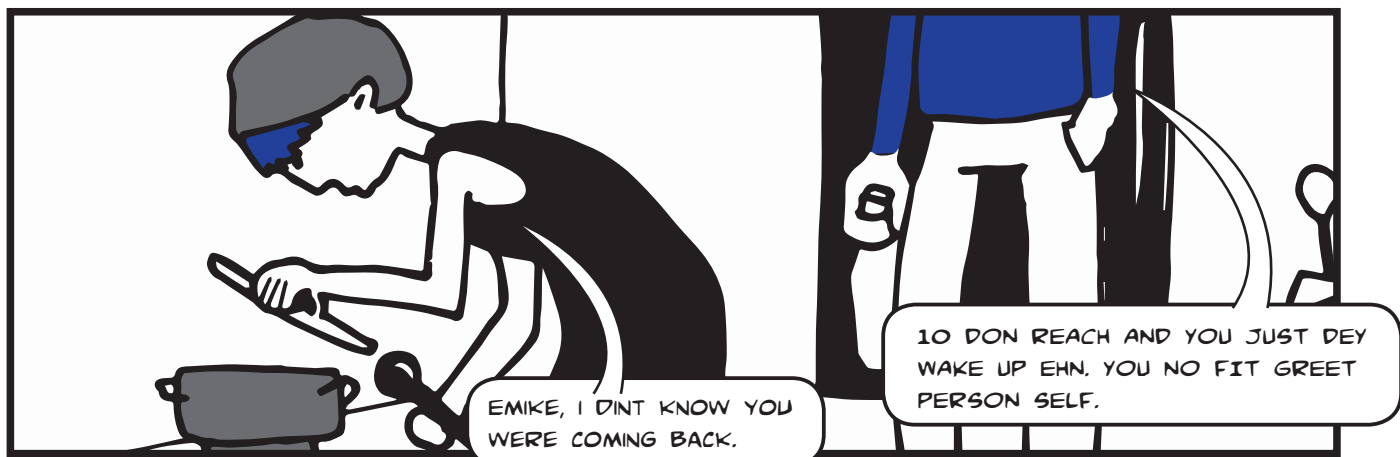
SIGHS...FOOD DEY?

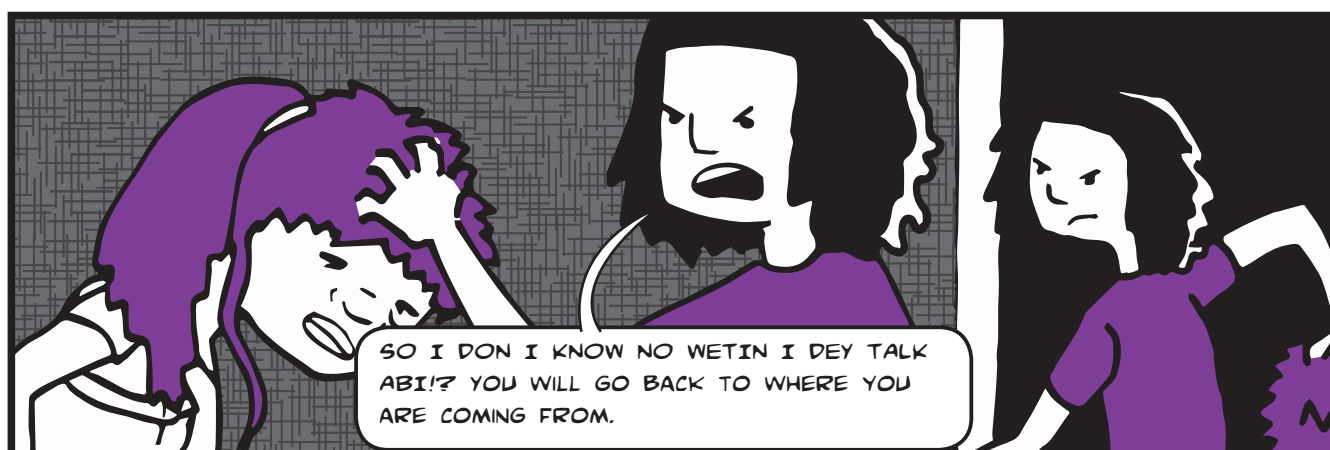
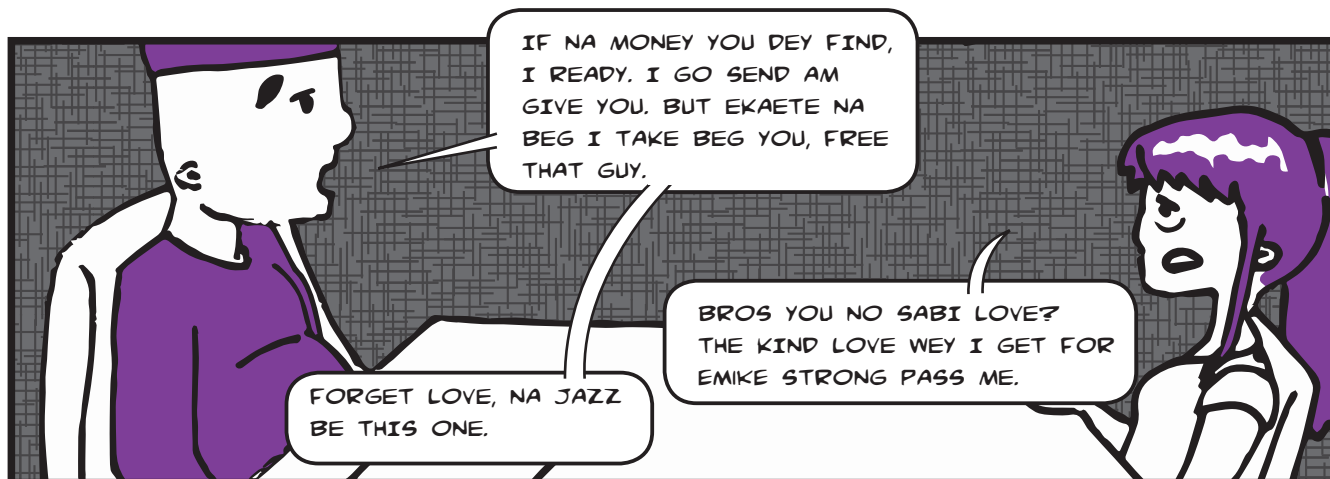
WOMAN WEY NEVER MARRY DEY GIVE ME ADVICE? ABEGI, MY BABY LOVES ME.

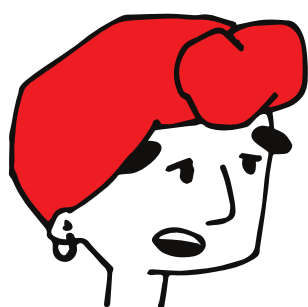
BABE, I GO CALL YOU BACK.



GOOD MORNING SIR...I HOPE ALL IS WELL YOU CALLED ME SO EARLY. NO SIR...PLEASE I NEED THIS JOB...SHIT! I'M ON MY WAY SIR.



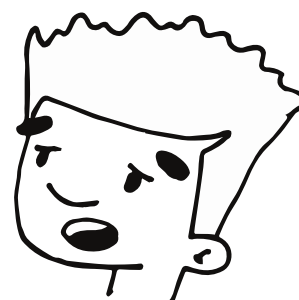




If there was VAPP Act in Lagos State, he would have been brought to book.

This is disheartening; he should be arrested immediately. Domestic violence is a criminal offence in Nigeria, which is punishable under VAPP (applicable in Abuja) and domestic violence laws of various states like Lagos, Ebonyi, Cross river, Ekiti, Jigawa etc. Domestic violence is a breach of the fundamental right to dignity of a person and to be free from torture. Some of these laws provides remedies for victims of domestic violence like the perpetrator getting a place for the victim etc.

I will encourage women who have been going through domestic violence (either psychological abuse, physical abuse or even financial abuse) to take a bold step in reporting cases of abuse to HR organization closest to them. If appropriate steps are not taken, the abuse can lead to death. Furthermore, VAPP protects women against harmful widowhood practices and female genital mutilation (FGM).



Family Law: Matrimonial Causes Act

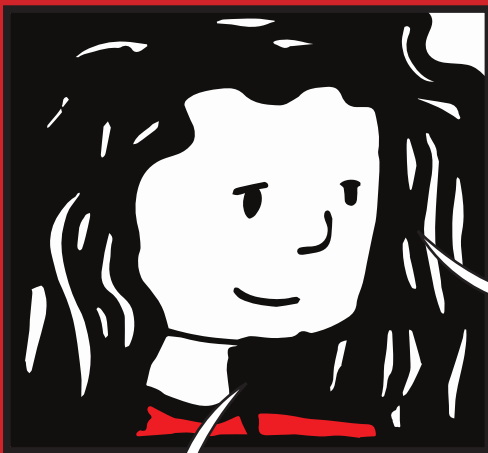


People are really suffering in this country o! These women are going through unimaginable mental torture and most times our families are not helping. Don't get me wrong sometimes pastors make matters worse.

I know exactly what you are saying. Our source of psychosocial support in this country are usually the family and then the church (any place of faith). And these sources hardly will advise victims of domestic violence to leave the perpetrators, they are usually concerned with 'what will people say' 'what about your kids' bla bla bla.



But it is true, once women are married and have children, they can never divorce your husband if they are abusing them.



That is not true o. They can start by trying separation and counseling from a professional o. However, we have family law in Nigeria which deals with family legal matters including husband and wife issues, parent and child relationships and guardianship or custody issues. Family law covers right of a child, domestic violence and inheritance issues.

Family law Kwa?! In this Nigeria?

Oh yes! That people don't use these laws doesn't mean they don't exist. However, if you are handling domestic violence issues as a human right defender, the first thing o find out is whether the person is legally married to the spouse. If they are indeed married, the next thing to find out is the kind of marriage they did.

I don't understand!



Okay my friend, let me break this down. Marriage in Nigeria can be conducted under three different systems.

How to get married in Nigeria.

1. Statutory Marriage

UNDER THIS TYPE OF MARRIAGE, EACH SPOUSE HAS AN OBLIGATION TO HELP MAINTAIN HIS OR HER SPOUSE AND THE CHILDREN (MAINTENANCE) AND THIS OBLIGATION CONTINUES EVEN IF THEY DECIDE TO PART WAYS.

STATUTORY MARRIAGE IS GOVERNED BY MARRIAGE ACT (2004) AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT (2004)

JUDICIAL SEPARATION, DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT CAN ONLY BE GRANTED BY THE JUDGE. GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE INCLUDE ADULTERY, DESERTION, LONG SEPARATION AND LACK OF MAINTENANCE. UPON SEPARATION/DIVORCE, THE SPOUSE CAN FILE A 'CERTIFICATE OF MEANS', THE JUDGE WILL THEN DECIDE IF THE SPOUSE SHOULD PAY ALIMONY AND/OR CHILD MAINTENANCE DEPENDING ON WHO GET CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN (CHILD RIGHTS ACT, 2003).

2. Customary Marriage

CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE IS GOVERNED BY LOCAL CUSTOM OF THE MAN THE WOMAN IS MARRIED TO.

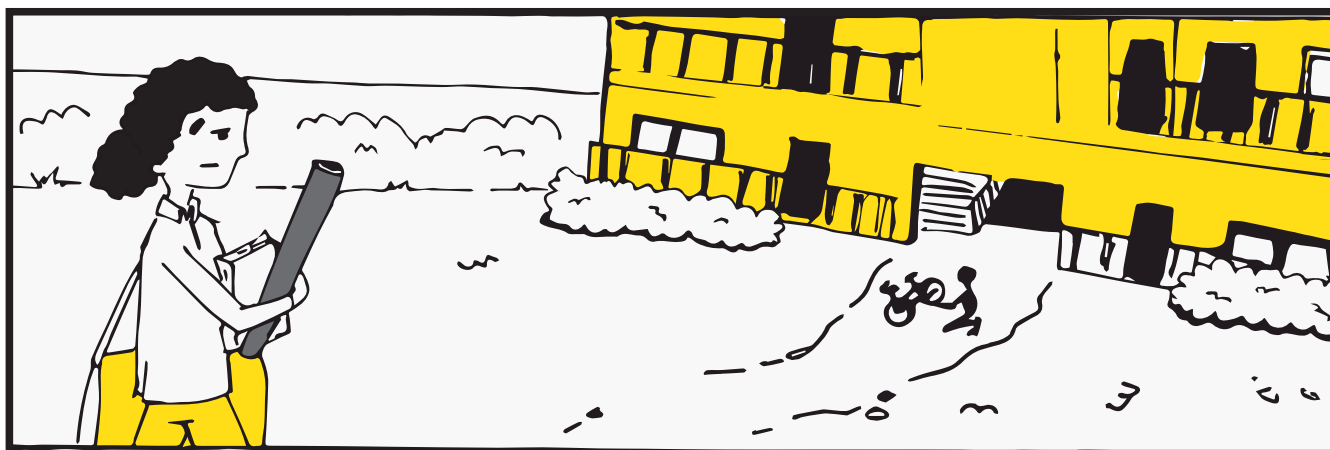
DIVORCE AND SEPARATION DEPENDS ON THE CUSTOM BINDING THE MARRIAGE AS CUSTOM VARIES. IT CAN HAPPEN UNDER CUSTOMARY COURT OR BY THE RETURN OF BRIDE PRICE/DOWRY BY THE FAMILY OF THE BRIDE.

3. Islamic Marriage

ISLAMIC MARRIAGE IS GOVERNED BY ISLAMIC LAW.

CAN BE DISSOLVED BY A SHARIA JUDGE OR MUTUAL CONSENT BY THE COUPLE.

CHEATER



HI AUNTY TITI, YOU LOOK SO TIRED, LET ME HELP YOU WITH YOUR BAGS.



HEY GORIOLA. THANKS SO MUCH, BUT DON'T WORRY.



DID YOU HEAR THAT THE LANDLORD'S WIFE HAS JUST HAD A BABY? AND THE BABY HAS SIX FINGERS ON EACH HAND! AUNTY, YOU SHOULD GO AND VISIT THEM.

GORIOLA PLEASE LET ME PASS, AS YOU CAN SEE I'M VERY TIRED AND I WANT TO JUST GO AND REST. WE CAN FINISH THIS CONVERSATION LATER.

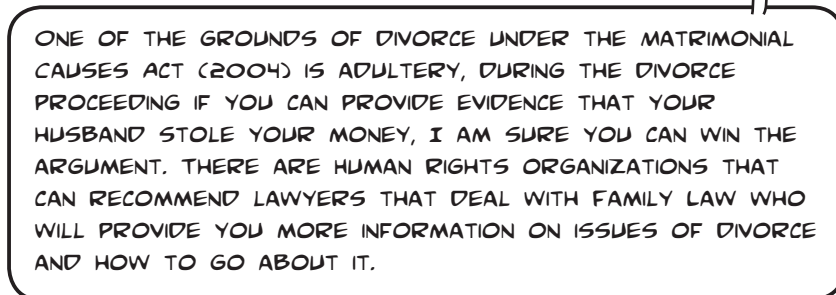


BUT AUNTY YOU CANNOT GO INSIDE NOW, I HAVE THE GIST OF HOW THAT PASTOR FROM NEXT DOOR...

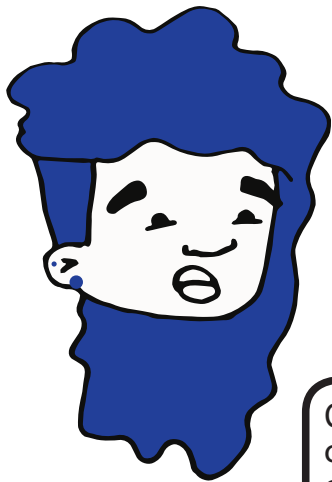
GORIOLA! SHIFT PLEASE!



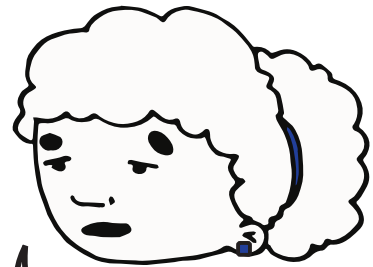
THIS CAN'T BE! CHIKE HAS CHANGED! OH GOD NO, PLEASE, NOT TODAY OF ALL DAYS.



Marriage Act (2004)

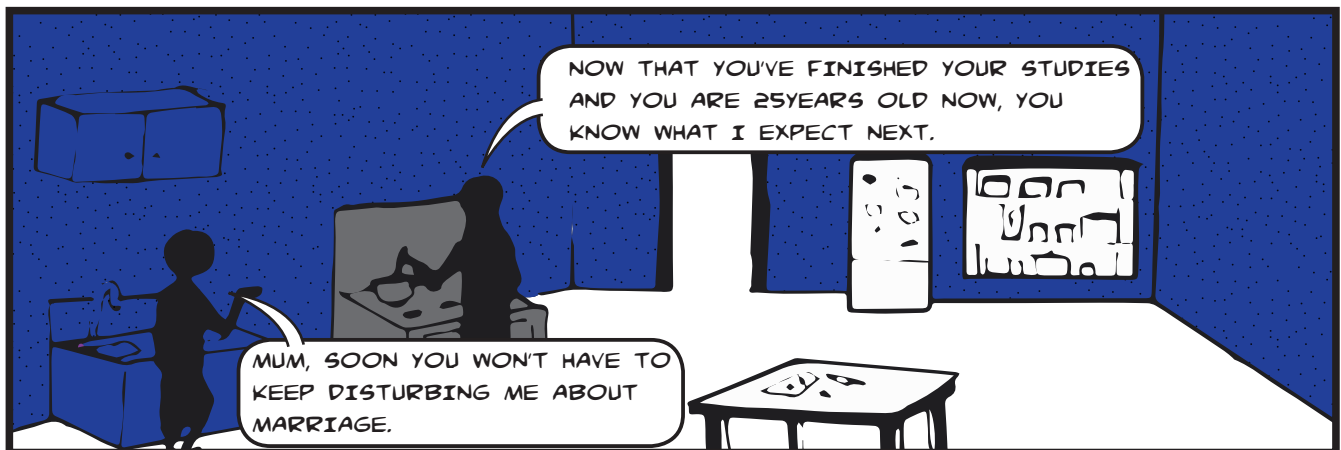


Since Matrimonial Causes Act (2004) deals with the dissolution of marriage under statutory marriage, what of Marriage Act (2004) you mentioned it earlier?



Oh! Yea. Marriage Act (2004) deals with the consummation of marriage. This Act lays down certain preliminary requirements which are to be fulfilled before the solemnization of marriage. Persons wishing to get married under this Act must thereby comply with the legal requirements under the Act.; Non-compliance with the provisions of this Act will invalidate the marriage.

Arrangee



DOES THIS MEAN YOU'VE FOUND SOMEONE? ALHAMDULLILAH.

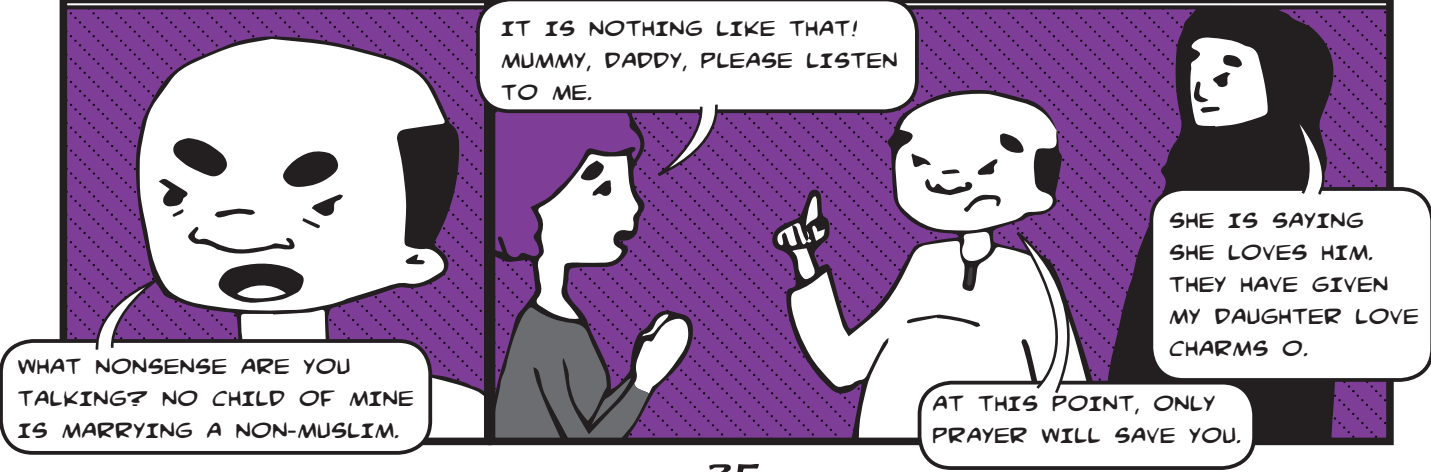
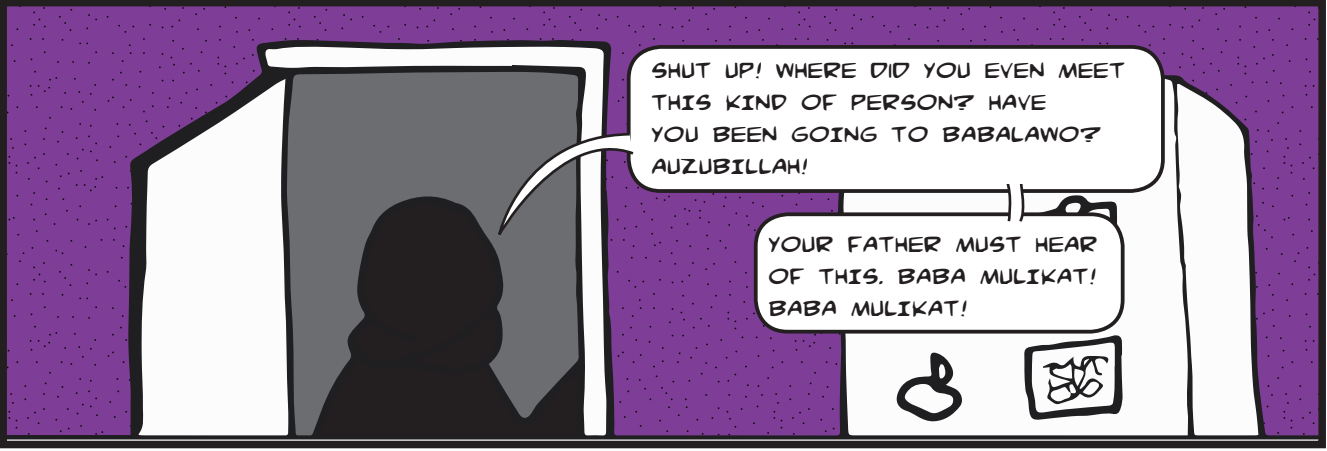
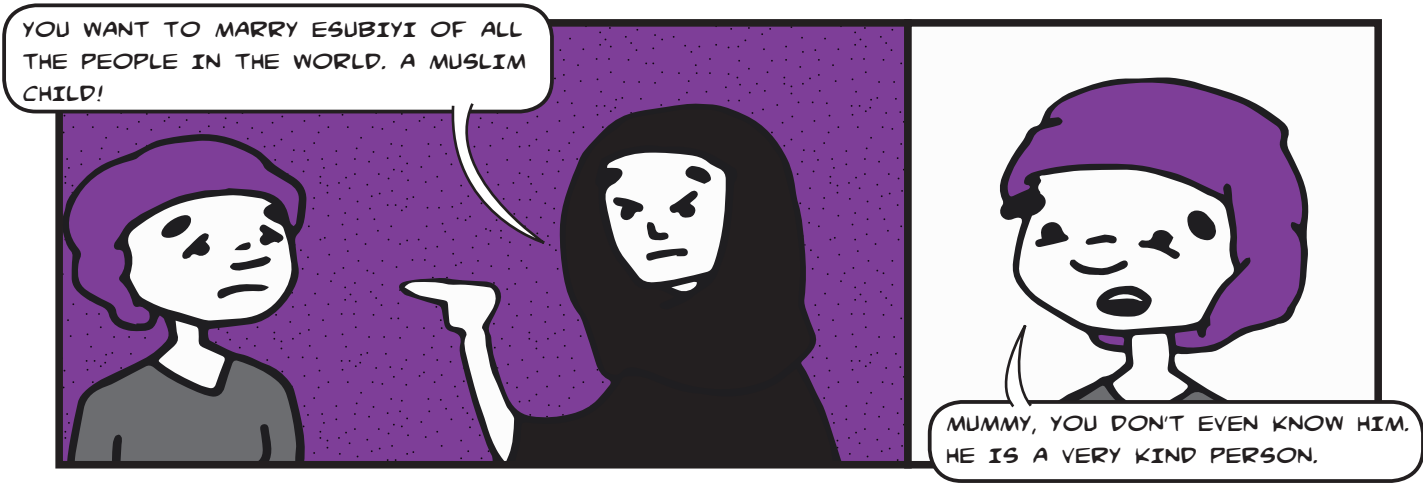


I WANT YOU TO TALK TO HIM. HIS NAME IS ESUBIYI.



WHAT?!







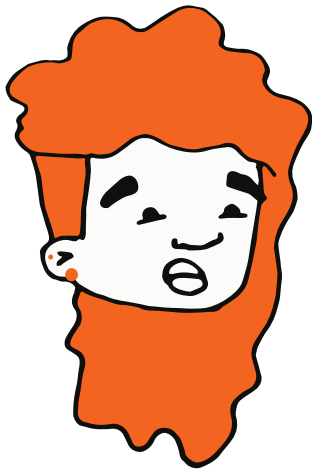
THREE MONTHS LATER.



What amount to marriage under the act is marriage done at the federal registries across Nigeria or marriage celebrated in registered place of worship. Before a marriage can take place under the act, there are some preliminaries that are required by the Act. One of it is consent of the parent of the parties seeking to get married. The consent of parents only applies when one or both parties are below the age of 21 years.

THE MARRIAGE ACT IS SILENT IN RELATION TO THE CONSENT OF PARTIES THEMSELVES THAT ARE ABOVE THE AGE OF 21 YEARS BUT THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT (MCA) PROVIDES FOR THE 'REAL CONSENT' OF THE PARTIES, THAT IS, CONSENT OBTAINED WITHOUT 'DURESS OR FRAUD'. IF CONSENT OF EITHER PARTY TO THE MARRIAGE IS GOTTEN BY DURESS OR FRAUD, ONE OF THE PARTIES CAN FILE FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE BECAUSE IN THE EYE OF THE LAW, NO MARRIAGE TOOK PLACE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

INHERITANCE LAW



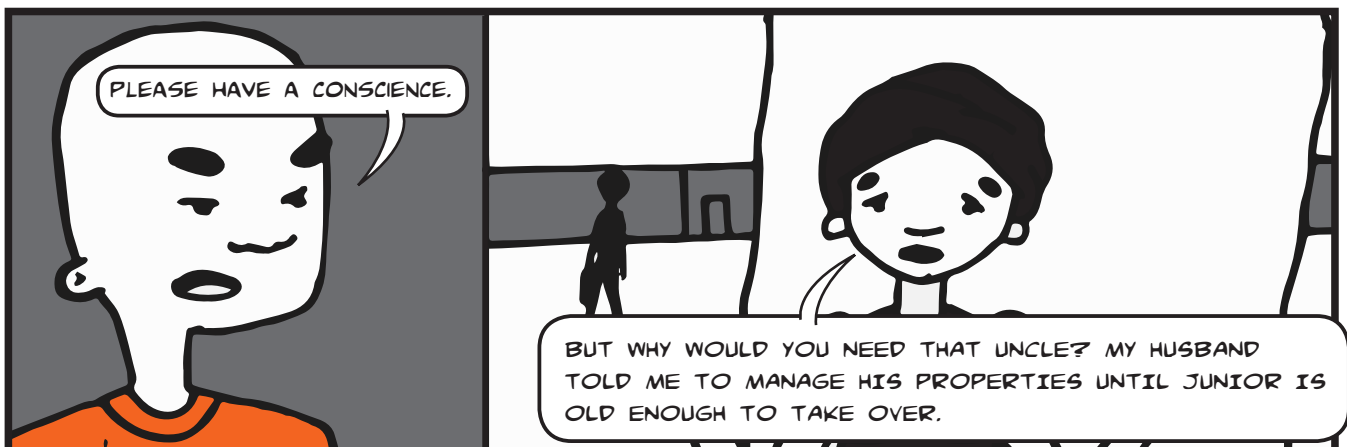
Women are suffering o! See how we get dragged around eh?! Marry this one, marry that one... If you decide to just be on your own, you will be left hanging by your family. They will not regard you as anything unless you marry and stay in your husband's house. You see, we are damned.. mtcheeww.

But we can change our reality, it should stop.

Inheritance sef, we no get! Whether na your husband or your parents, you will not get any inheritance if it is shared.



HUSBAND PROPERTY



WHAT NONSENSE! WE ARE HIS BROTHERS AND WE CAN TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIS BUSINESS FOR HIM AND WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU TOO.

GREEDY WOMAN.

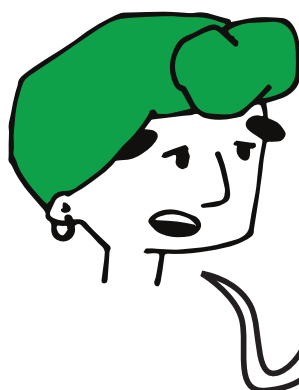
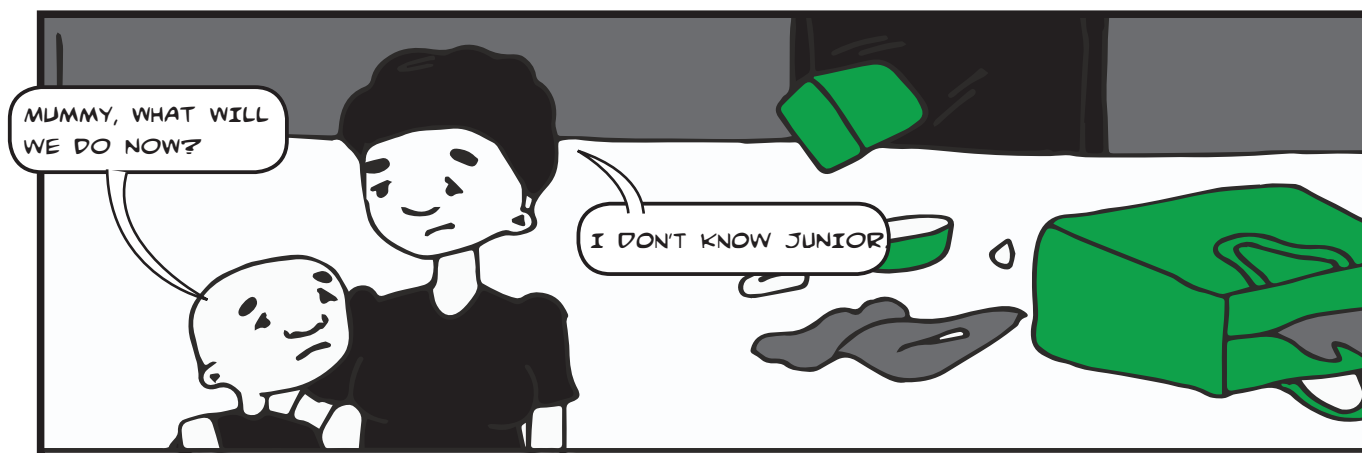
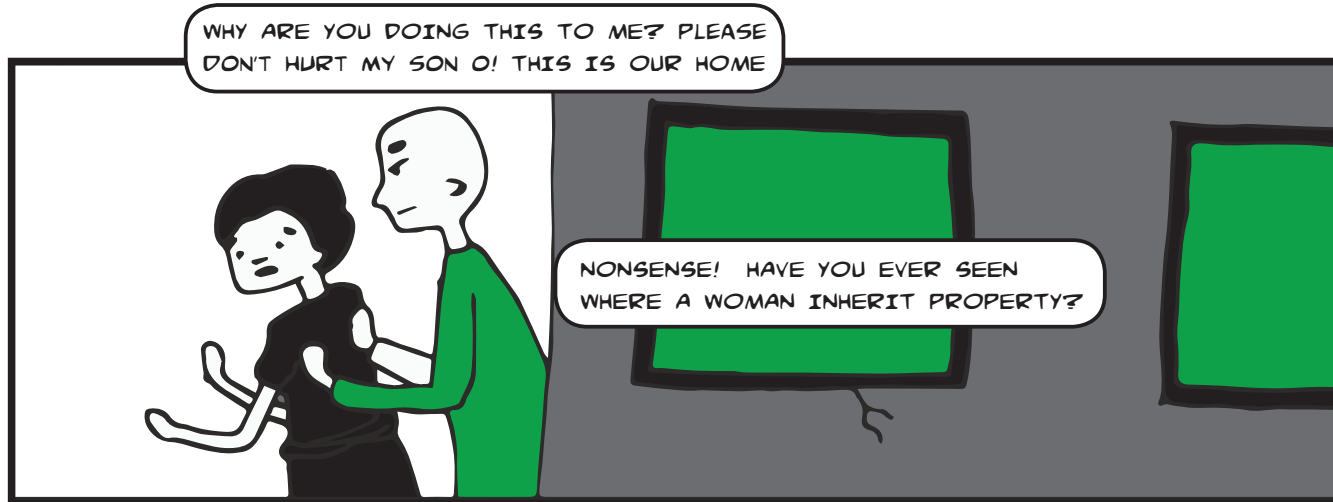
OR ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT WE WON'T TAKE CARE OF YOU, NNA NA WA O?

MY HUSBAND LEFT A WILL. HE HASN'T EVEN BEEN BURIED YET AND YOU'RE ALREADY TRYING TO TEAR APART HIS LEGACY. THE LAWYER WILL SOON BE SHE TO INFORM YOU ABOUT THE WILL.

GOOD AFTERNOON GENTLEMEN. THIS IS MR. SHEDRACH'S WILL. HE WILLED EVERYTHING TO HIS SON BUT HIS WIFE SHOULD BE IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTIES TILL THE HIS SON IS OF AGE..

THIS WHAT SHEDRACH WANTED. HE WORKED HARD FOR HIS FAMILY...

EHEN! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY BROTHER WILL DO US WRONG. WE GREW UP AND SWEATED TOGETHER AFTER ALL, WE ALL KNOW HOW HARD SHEDRACH WORKED.



This is completely wrong; I can't believe this is still happening in the 21st century. She needs to consult a lawyer immediately. If a person leaves a will before they die, it is called testate inheritance and if they die without a will, they died intestate. These exist in statutory, customary and Islamic law. Although the rules differ. In statutory law, the will must be written voluntarily and signed in the presence of a witness. In customary, it will be oral but must be said in front of witnesses. In Islamic law, two thirds of property must be divided among traditional heirs including children and spouses. Only one third of the property is allowed to be bequeathed to non-traditional heirs.

However, if the person married under marriage act died without a will, Administration of estate law will help guide the distribution of their properties. Since her husband left a will, the terms of his will automatically displace any existing rules of inheritance, whether under customary law, Islamic law or under Administrative of Estate law. If any act is done contrary to the will, you can go to court to take action against the people in question. Any act taken by them will amount to trespass to property. To get more information on this contact a legal representative or a HR organization to give more information on the laws guiding inheritance law in Nigeria.

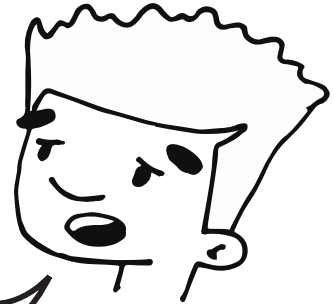
In fact, the Supreme Court recently delivered a landmark judgment on April 14, 2014, *Ukeje vs Ukeje* which voided the Igbo law, and custom that disinherited female children. The Court declared that the tradition is discriminatory and conflicts with section 42(1-2) of the Nigerian Constitution that provides for freedom from discrimination. This judicial precedence also extends to widows whose family members refuse access to her husband's property because she is a woman.



In *Mojekwu v. Mojekwu* the Court of Appeal of Nigeria held that the 'oli-ekpe' custom of Nnewi which permits the son or the brother of a deceased person to inherit his property to the exclusion of his female children is discriminatory.

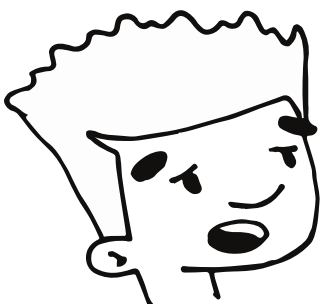
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in which Nigeria is a party to states that women have the right to land and property whether in rural and urban areas.

Also, article 21 of the protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples Right on the rights of women in Africa ratified by Nigeria guarantees comprehensive rights to women including to own a land or property. The CFRN also states that everyone has a right to property which is not to the exclusion of anyone.



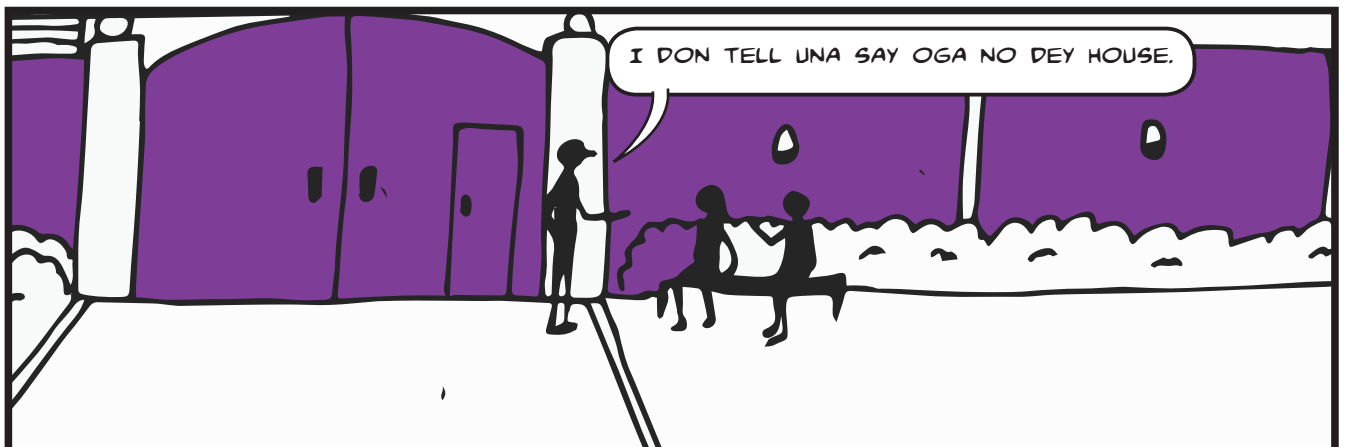
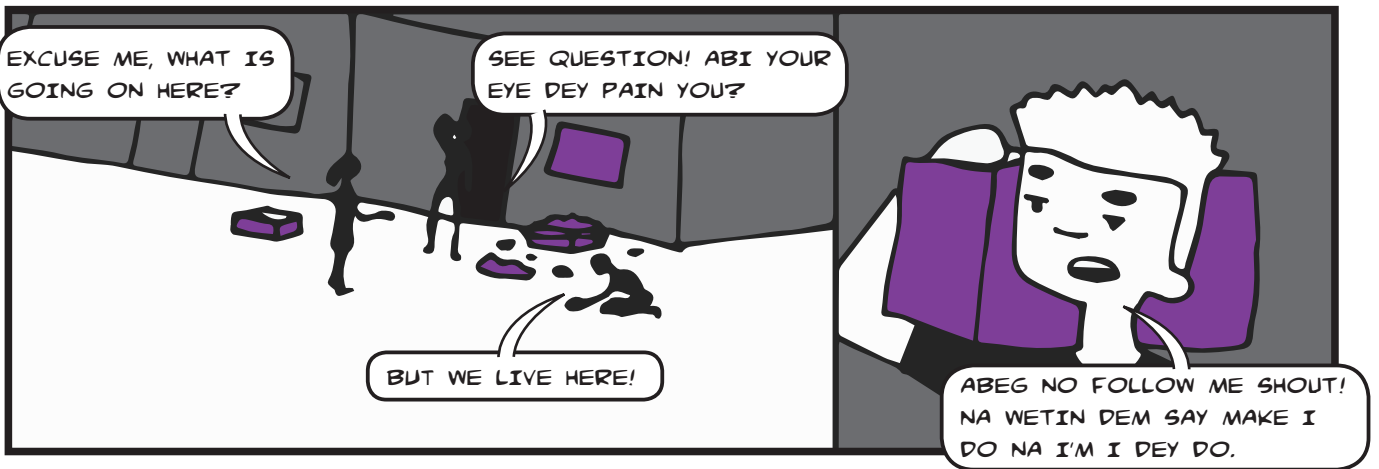
Entering another person property without the person's permission amount to trespass to property. Both civil and criminal action can be taken. When such act occurs it is advisable to make a First information report to a police station nearest to where the act occurs. Furthermore, contact a lawyer to give other advice on how to sue the perpetrators to court.

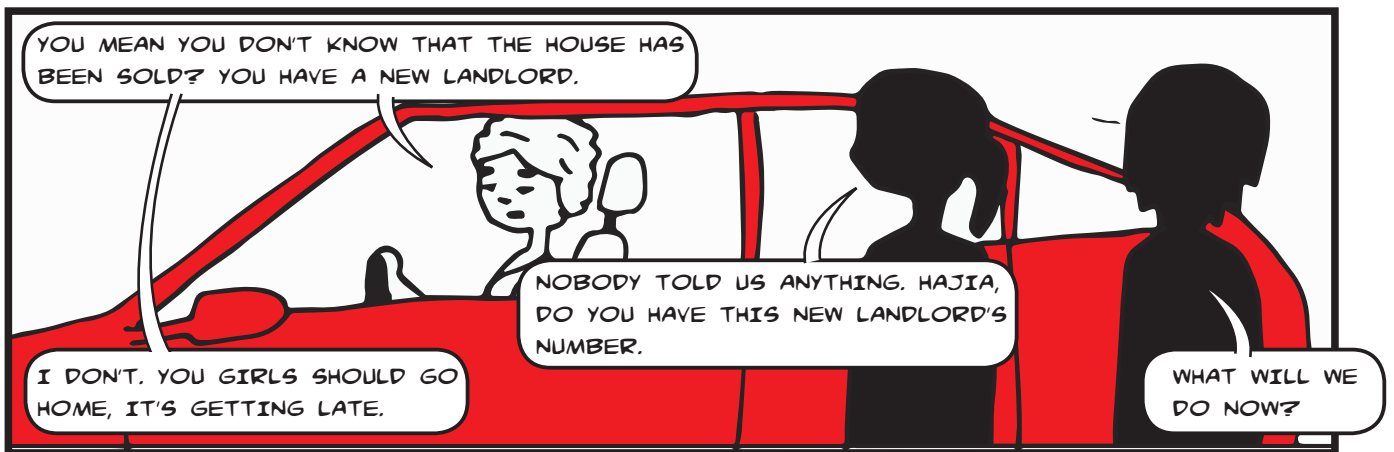
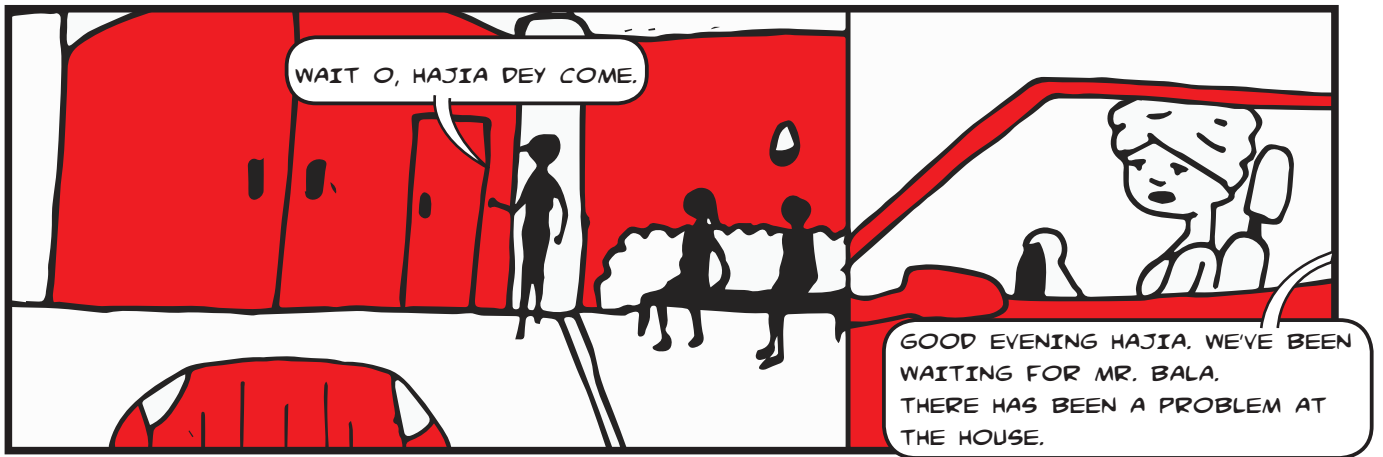
Landlord/Tenant Law



This is a law that governs the relationship between landlords and tenants, land owners and occupiers. It is governed by Recovery of Premises Law (RPL).

Evicted

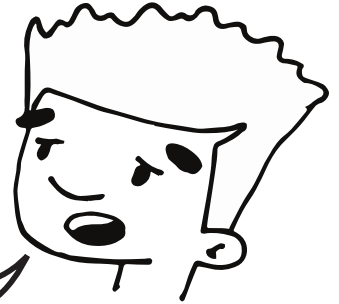






This is completely unfair.

In Nigeria, there are procedures that need to be taken before a landlord can lawfully evict a tenant from a premises. A tenant cannot be thrown out of her apartment unless there is a strict compliance by her landlord with the relevant Recovery of Premises Law. Recovery of Premises Law provides that a valid 'Notice to Quit' (Quit Notice) of a landlord's intention to terminate/quit the tenancy of the tenant must be written and served to the tenant. Afterwards, the landlord will serve them 7 days' notice of intention to recover his premises before he can now proceed to court.



No person (tenant) can be tried in a competent court without his/her own part of the matter being heard before judgment is passed. So no tenant can be evicted by court without hearing from the tenant. Even if the notices required by law have been served on the tenant and the tenant still occupy the premises, it is only the court that has the power to order the eviction of such tenant.

LAWS

Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act:

The Same-sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, 2014 SSMPA is a law that prohibits marriage between persons of the same sex. The Act only criminalises a person who enters into a same sex marriage contract or civil union, persons who register, support, operate or participate on processions or meetings of gay clubs, societies, or organizations and persons who makes a public show of a same sex amorous relationship directly or indirectly.

The provision of the Act on public show of same sex amorous relationship is ambiguous; it did not specify exactly what it means by same sex amorous relationship, directly or indirectly display of affection. Leaving it open to different interpretations including people that think that being LGBTI person is a crime.

SSMPA does not criminalize people based on their perceived sexual orientation but marriage.

Violence against Persons Prohibition Act 2015 (VAPP):

This VAPP Act prohibits all forms of violence against persons in private and public life, and provides maximum protection and effective remedies for victims. The acts prohibited under the VAPP Act are criminal offences in which the perpetrator can either be liable to imprisonment or an option of fine. However, the VAPP Act is only applicable in the Abuja with the need for other states to enact the Act. Rivers, Ekiti, Jigawa etc.

The Act has provision for victims of stalking, domestic violence, rape, coercion, female genital mutilation, forceful ejection from homes, harmful widowhood practices harmful traditional practices to name a few.

Family Law:

Family law is a collective term used in describing those laws that deal with any matter that has a significant impact on family relationships, like abuse, custody, divorce and adoption. The law is broad with acts enacted under the law like the Matrimonial Causes Act; that states that a marriage will be declared as void if such marriage is not a valid marriage under the law of the particular place or location or country where the marriage had taken place, especially by reason of failure of the husband and wife to comply with all the requirements of the law in that particular country. With respect to the form of solemnization of marriages. Also the law provides provisions for ground of a divorce which include adultery

Also under the law we have the Marriage Act; which deals with the consummation of marriage. This Act lays down certain preliminary requirements, which are to be fulfilled before the solemnization of marriage. Persons wishing to get married under this Act must thereby comply with the legal requirements under the Act and non-compliance with the provisions of this Act will invalidate the marriage.

What amount to marriage under the act is marriage done at the federal registries across Nigeria or marriage celebrated in registered place of worship? Before a marriage can take place under the act, there are some preliminaries that are required by the Act. One of it is consent of the parent of the parties seeking to get married. The consent of parents only applies when one or both parties are below the age of 21 years.

The Marriage Act is silent in relation to the consent of parties themselves that are above the age of 21 years but the Matrimonial Causes Act (MCA) provides for the 'real consent' of the parties, that is, consent obtained without 'duress or fraud'. If consent of either party to the marriage is gotten by duress or fraud, one of the parties can file for dissolution of marriage because in the eye of the law, no marriage took place in the first instance.

Inheritance Law:

The law states that if a person leaves a will before they die, it is called testate inheritance and if they die without a will, they died intestate. These exist in statutory, customary and

Islamic law. Although the rules differ. In statutory law, the will must be written voluntarily and signed in the presence of a witness. In customary law, it will be oral but must be said in front of witnesses. In Islamic law, two thirds of the property must be divided among traditional heirs including children and spouses. Only one third of the property is allowed to be bequeathed to non-traditional heirs.

However, if the person married under marriage act dies without a will, Administration of estate law will help guide the distribution of their properties.

Judicial Precedence on inheritance: the Supreme Court delivered a judgement on April 14, 2014, *Ukeje vs Ukeje* that voided the Igbo law, and custom that disinherited female children. The Court declared that the tradition is discriminatory and conflicts with section 42(1&2) of the Nigerian Constitution that provides for freedom from discrimination. This judicial precedence also extends to widows whose family members refuse access to her husband's property because she is a woman.

The Court of Appeal of Nigeria held that the 'oli-ekpe' custom of Nnewi, which permits the son, or the brother of a deceased person to inherit his property to the exclusion of his female children is discriminatory.

International Treaties and the African Charter

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in which Nigeria is a party to states that women have the right to land and property whether in rural and urban areas. Also, article 21 of the protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples Right on the rights of women in Africa ratified by Nigeria guarantees comprehensive rights to women including to own a land or property. The CFRN also states that everyone has a right to property, which is not to the exclusion of anyone.

Landlord/Tenant Law:

This is a law that governs the relationship between landlords and tenants, landowners and occupiers. It is governed by Recovery of Premises Law (RPL); provides that a valid "Notice to Quit" (Quit Notice) of a landlord's intention to terminate/quit the tenancy of the tenant must be written and served to the tenant. Afterwards, the landlord will serve them 7 days' notice of intention to recover his premises before he can now proceed to court. No person (tenant) can be tried in a competent court without his/her own part of the matter being heard before judgment is passed. So no tenant can be evicted by court without hearing from the tenant. Even if the notices required by law have been served on the tenant and the tenant still occupies the premises, it is only the court that has the power to order the eviction of such tenant.

Before a person can be lawfully evicted from a premise, the Recovery of premises laws in Nigeria states that a notice has to be served (6 months' notice, one-week notice, and three months' notice) depending on the kind of tenancy entered into by the tenant or the express or oral agreement entered into between the landlord and the tenant. The landlord needs to serve the required notices before he can lawfully evict anyone from the premises. Even when the notices have been lawfully served, it is only the court that has the power to lawfully evict a tenant from occupied premises

Police Bail:

Upon a person being arrested and in police custody, it is stated under Section 35(1-2) of the constitution that the person shall be brought before a court of law within the 24 hours or 48 hours, further detention of the person is a violation of the person fundamental rights. The police do not have a right to detain a person more than 24 hours or 48 hours without the person being charged to court except the offence the person is being arrested for is a capital offence.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people, Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law, Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations, Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge, Now, therefore, The General Assembly, Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.

1. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment,

sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Do you know your rights?

Do you know that the police are not supposed to arrest anyone unless they are a suspect for a crime?

Do you know that if the suspect is not around, for whatever reason, the police are not supposed to arrest anyone else on their behalf, be it their family members, friends or colleagues?

Let's say they arrest the suspect and put them in custody, do you know that they are allowed to contact their lawyers and/or family members?

Do you know that within 24 hours, the police are supposed to release the suspect on police bail and do you know that BAIL IS FREE? And any treatment contrary to the above mentioned violates Section 35 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) as Amended?

Do you know that if the police beat up the suspect in the process of arresting or question them, it is Torture, Cruel inhuman degrading treatment which prohibits Section 34 (1) of the 1999 CFRN?

Do you know we used "Suspect" throughout this text on purpose because a suspect is "Innocent" until proven guilty?

There are Human Rights Layers and Organization available to fight with you so speak up and report every Human Rights abuse and violations. It is our collective responsibility to build a culture of Human Rights in Nigeria.

Are you or do you know anyone who is a victim of arbitrary arrest, extortion, blackmail, wrongful termination of employment, sexual harassment/assault, violence (domestic, etc), divorce and child custody, landlord-tenant disputes and any other human rights violations? We are rights defenders with competent community paralegals who can provide first aid legal support, education and conflict resolution brought to us.

The services are free and confidential.

You can access these services by calling us on our 24 hour helpline:

+234 818 645 7675



