**RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Key areas in which people (in your country, region or worldwide) suffer socio-cultural and economic exclusion as a result of violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity; in particular,

1. What knowledge, including data, exists in the State planning bases in relation to socio-cultural and economic exclusion based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including levels of poverty, homelessness, education, employment, health, political participation and any other relevant social indicator?

**Response: The National Bureau of Statistics is in- charge of data in Nigeria. Hence, there is data on the above subject.**

1. How are individuals, groups or communities differently affected, based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity?

**Response: The society does not see them as having their rights guaranteed under the constitution and disregard their humanity because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. This reality exposes them to all forms of human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, invasion of privacy, assault and battery, sexual violence, extortion, blackmail and threats to life.**

c) What are the main barriers in ensuring equal access to education, health care,

employment and occupation, housing and other relevant sectors?

**Response: There is no barrier. The law did not say, they should not have access to social services.**

2. Root causes and structural factors responsible for marginalisation and socio-cultural

and economic exclusion, such as laws, public policies, institutional practices,

Organizational behaviours, and prevailing ideologies, values and beliefs?

**Response: Marginalisation of LGBT is propelled by prejudice rooted in particular interpretations of culture and religion and based on low levels of knowledge on LGBTI identities and issues. State and non- state actors have leveraged this views, beliefs and discriminatory laws including Same Sex MarriageProhibition Act (SSMPA) to perpetrate violence.**

3. State efforts to address socio-cultural and economic exclusion through legislation,

policies, data gathering, and other means, for example:

a) Destitution and poverty;

b) Current efforts by States to address bullying and exclusion of LGBT people from

education, including in education curricula teacher training, measures to promote

continuing education or reinsertion in education settings and vocational training;

c) Homelessness among LGBT people, particularly youth, and inclusion in shelter

programs;

d) Coverage by social security and benefits, as well as public and private health

insurance (Taking into account survivor’s pensions for same-sex couples, insurance coverage for gender affirming care, social housing for LGBT youth and older persons etc.);

e) Equal access to health (including through training and sensitisation of health care

personnel), regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;

**Response:SSMPA does not expressly prohibit LGBTI from accessing social services but internalized stigma, fear of public outing or prosecution, religious and traditional sentiments may discourage them from seeking such services. Therefore, LGBTI people have been instilled with fear, which diminishes any interest and desire to access services including health care and legal aid.**

4. Complaints mechanisms available and accessible to LGBT people facing discrimination.

**Response:Complaints mechanisms available and accessible to them are - National Human Rights Commission, the Police, Ministry of Women Affairs, National Agencies for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, Public Complaints Commission, National Agency for the Control of AIDS, Legal Aid Council, NGOs, CSOs amongst others.**

5. Actions to ensure socio-cultural and economic inclusion based on sexual orientation

and gender identity in measures undertaken to ensure implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and regional levels.

6. Actions taken to raise public awareness and sensitisation on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, in order to promote the meaningful socio-cultural and

economic inclusion of LGBT people.

**Response: Many organizations have done incredible work through education, empowerment, advocacy, sensitization, lobbying and service provision for the promotion and protection of sexual minorities that are being forced into silence by the law.**

7. Services provided by civil society to excluded and marginalised LGBT people.

**Response: Services provided by CSOs to LGBTI people include- setting up of health clinic in response to LGBTI health care service provision, establishment of safe space in the comfort of the community built to create an enabling environment for MSM to freely express themselves, address the issue of low self- esteem, discrimination and help mitigate the burden of HIV/AIDS and STI. The Center also has three units- Social interaction, Skill acquisition and Healthcare in order to address economic and social needs. Also some NGOs offer programs to address stigma, discrimination and self- esteem issues within the lesbian community. They also provide pro-bono legal aid service to people who have or are experiencing violation and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.**