**Thematic report on rape as a grave and systematic human rights violation and a form of gender violence against women.**

Rape is unconsented sexual intercourse which is considered unlawful, carried under threat and forcefully. The consent must be valid, consents regarded as null and void are related with under age, mental issues, intoxications, unconsciousness, coercion, abuse of status, deceptions, intellectual ill-health or incapacitation. Occasionally referred to as sexual assault, Rape is considered as human rights violation, does not matter the circumstances that it occurs, whether in battle, as traditional social event or within marriage couples. Not that matters related to sex is private and only the parties involved are supposed to consent and no third party can consent on behalf of another person.

Human rights, these are basic rights innate to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, culture, language, belief, or any other rank. Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other social standing. Human rights include the right to existence and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination [UN human rights definition].

Gender-Based violence refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender or sex. Sexual assault is one of a human right violation. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. Examples of gender based violence includes , child marriage, female genital mutilation, honor killings, trafficking for sex or slavery, intimate partner violence, physical punishment, sexual, mental, emotional and psychological violence.

Causes of rape are not clearly understood, however we have triggers that have been said to cause rape. These factors include; there are several factors that contribute to occurrence of sexual violence risks. The contributing factors are not direct causes. Not everyone considered a risk usually perpetrates the violence. This factor includes individual factors, relational, community, and societal factors contribute to risk of becoming a perpetrator of sexual assault.

Individual risk factors are alcohols and drug consumption, delinquency, lack of empathy, general aggressiveness and acceptance of violence, early sexual initiation, coercive sexual fantasies, Preference for impersonal sex and sexual-risk taking, Exposure to sexually explicit media, Hostility towards women, Adherence to traditional gender role norms, Hyper-masculinity, Suicidal behavior, Prior sexual victimization or perpetration.

Relationship Factors include; Family environment characterized by physical violence and conflict, Childhood history of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, Emotionally unsupportive family environment, Poor parent-child relationships, particularly with fathers, Association with sexually aggressive, hyper masculine, and delinquent peers, Involvement in a violent or abusive intimate relationship.

Community Factors comprise of; Poverty, Lack of employment opportunities, Lack of institutional support from police and judicial system, General tolerance of sexual violence within the community, Weak community sanctions against sexual violence perpetrators. Societal Factors are; Societal norms that support sexual violence, Societal norms that support male superiority and sexual entitlement, Societal norms that maintain women’s inferiority and sexual submissiveness, Weak laws and policies related to sexual violence and gender equity, High levels of crime and other forms of violence.

Protective Factors for Perpetration; Protective factors may lessen the likelihood of sexual violence victimization or perpetration. These factors can exist at individual, relational, community, and societal levels. Parental use of reasoning to resolve family conflict, Emotional health and connectedness, Academic achievement, Empathy and concern for how one’s actions affect others

# Implications of raping; Sexual assault has a number of side effects that include psychological, mental, emotional and physical on a survivors. This include depression due to unattended questions of self-pity that keep emotions , psychological and mental engines run nonstop in search of unavailable answers surrounding the circumstances and the aftermath of the torturous event. Depression is an indication of hopelessness regular bouts of sadness and feelings of powerlessness. When it reaches this point, the victim is supposed to be supported by immediate families that can guide on professional medical attention for their loved one, Depressions is not something you tell the victim to snap out of. Nightmares and flashback memories recollects the rape scenario as if it was currently happening. Post-traumatic stress disorders of anxiety, stress, or fear make it difficult to cope. Others are suicidal thoughts, sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, isolation, panic attacks, eating disorders, sleeping disorders and accident pregnancies.

Consequences of rape come with three categories that are namely physical, psychological and sociological. Physical consequences include genital inflammation and tear, bleeding and infections. Lack of interest in sex in future; low sexual desire that can result to painful sexual intercourse, pregnancy and viral deadly infections like HIV and hepatitis B and currently covid-19. Rape can also result to accidental pregnancy.

Psychological impacts include anxiety, hyper sexuality, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, self-blame and suicidal thoughts.

Sociological impact and mistreatment of victims. Sexual violence victims experience in most cases a double and a chain of privacy loss. Unscheduled medical examinations and questioning by police intrudes to already broken privacy further. This normally results to self-blaming and victim blaming like slut-shaming and cyber-bullying and the character of the victim become to unnecessary scrutiny.

Secondary victimization that is closely associated with sociocultural where loss of virginity is considered loss of purity means the victim can only be a married as a second hand, as a second wife, need to be punished and in some cases they are murdered. Victim blaming is common, the situation and circumstances that raped occurred blames victim as wearing in a manner that enticed rape, flirting and other gender roles society breaking with regard to set standard of female behavior.

According to UN what a woman is wearing, what and how much she had to drink, and where she was at a certain time, is not an invitation to rape her. While international organizations are taking rape case with the velocity it deserves, some of communities continue to downplay rape as something that need to be solved locally with a few jugs of traditional brews and goat meets while the offender is given a chance to marry the victim or fined a few goats or sheep. Other communities prohibit women reporting rape case because the communities remedy is bizarre, ranging from unnecessary tedious rituals forced marriage, forced circumcision, canning and sometimes outright murder. In this community, cartels of patriarchal attitudes deny justice to of Regina versus Morgan, where the husband invited friends to rape wife. Morgan has briefed perpetrators that Regina will enjoy the rape and any resistance and squawky is enjoyment, then the perpetrators did as instructed and during trials a host of men defended the innocent men that has been deceived while many held that a case of rape is rape regardless of the version of the story.

Rape is one of the most heinous crimes that in most cases leave victim with blisters of beatings, maim, mutilation, burn or other forms of terrorism. Women being global pillars need better treatment than this. Rape is both men and women matter of concern. It is men who behave like beasts that cause problems, training women how to defend against animal beasts is almost impossible, what’s paramount in fighting rape is targeting the source of trouble that is men who behave weird to undergo sort of training that will see them behave as God or Allah intended. A thorough education and persuasion with a view of convincing communities to discard practices that harm female human beings need to be done intensively, extensively and strongly targeting the perverted patriarchal societies that have no respect to women.

Victims, the conduct of men, perpetrators, medical procedures and of the criminal justice system need re-evaluation to sound supportive rather than subjecting the victim to a series of cyclic torture.