



# **Survivor's Watch**

## **APRIL 2023**

**WACOL 2023**

**DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

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# ABOUT WACOL

WACOL is an independent, non-political, non-governmental and non-profit organization and registered in 2000 as a company limited by guarantee, i.e. as a charitable organization (RC: 388132) with the Corporate Affairs of Commission (CAC), Nigeria. WACOL's vision is democratic society free from violence and abuse, where human rights of all, in particular women and young people, are recognized in law and practice.

Its mission is to assist in the education, social, economic and political development of women and young people through a wide range of services: training, research, advocacy, shelter, free legal and financial aid, intra-familial/community conflict resolution, and information and library services.

WACOL works throughout Nigeria and beyond. WACOL has established itself as a credible and committed organization whose work is well recognized beyond the shores of Nigeria. It has an observer status with the African Union, African Commission on Human Rights (since 2001) and it also has an NGO Special Consultative status with the United Nations (approved in 2010 by ECOSOC). WACOL is a formidable organization that can boast of institutional capacity for sustainable work in the field of advancing human rights, gender equality, democracy and good governance.

WACOL in general works in four thematic areas, which are gender/human rights, peace advocacy/conflict resolution, democracy/good governance and reproductive health rights. It has also done some work in the area of STEM and climate change.





# Editor's Statement

The survivors' watch is a platform created by WACOL to promote a safe space for victims and survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) to share their stories without any bias, conflict, intimidation, fear or threat. The survivors' watch seeks to capture the delicate and unique stories of survivors and victims, while empowering them with the strength of anonymity to own their truth and vocalise their lived experiences.

We understand the importance of supporting survivors and victims to tell their story at their

own time, giving them the opportunity to choose what aspect of their

story they wish to share. The survivors watch provides the

community and safe space for survivors and victims to not only express themselves but also trust that they will be respected while inspiring others to own their story and speak their truth.

This newsletter provides useful information about the issues survivors and victims of abuse experience in the society including emerging areas and trends. The survivors' watch further spotlights anti-SGBV tips and information. Discourse in the survivors' watch negates harmful bias/stereotypes, and promotes healthy practices to enable a safe environment for women and girls to flourish.



**Prof Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (SAN, OON)**  
**Executive Director of WACOL**



# EMBRACING DIVERSITY

## Empowering Disabled Women in the Workplace

By Omebedo Efemena Elohor

In today's rapidly evolving world, inclusivity and diversity are key aspects of a progressive society. It is crucial that we create work environments that accommodate and support individuals of all abilities, including disabled women. Recognizing the unique challenges they face, we must strive to foster inclusive workplaces that empower and care for disabled women, ensuring their talents and perspectives are valued so they can fully realise their potential.

Disability is not a limitation; it is a diverse spectrum of abilities that enrich our society. Disabled women bring unique skills, perspectives, and life experiences to the table. However, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges they encounter and create supportive environments that enable them to thrive.

The first step towards supporting disabled women in the workplace is ensuring physical accessibility. Companies should prioritize disability friendly architectural structures such as ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms. Additionally, creating designated parking spaces and implementing tactile signage can further enhance accessibility.

Recognizing that disabled women may have different needs and abilities, organizations should offer flexible work arrangements. This could include remote/hybrid work options and adjusted working hours. By accommodating individual circumstances, employers can provide disabled women with the opportunity to contribute their skills while managing their specific challenges.

Unarguably, advancements in technology have opened up a world of possibilities for disabled individuals. Employers should invest in assistive technologies and tools to aid disabled women in their work. Screen readers, speech recognition software, ergonomic devices, and specialized software can enhance accessibility and productivity, empowering disabled women to excel in their roles.

An inclusive workplace culture plays a vital role in the well-being and success of disabled women. Companies should foster an environment where diversity is celebrated and individuals are respected for their unique contributions. Encouraging open dialogue, providing sensitivity training, and promoting awareness about disabilities can help dispel misconceptions and reduce discrimination. Establishing mentoring programs and support networks can significantly benefit disabled women. Pairing disabled women with mentors who have navigated similar challenges can provide guidance, motivation, and career advancement opportunities. Additionally, support networks enable disabled women to connect with peers, share experiences, and foster a sense of belonging.

It is incumbent upon us to create workspaces that value and support the unique abilities and contributions of disabled women. By embracing diversity, removing barriers, and fostering inclusivity, we can create an environment where all individuals can thrive. Let us celebrate the strengths and capabilities of disabled women, enabling them to reach their full potential, and collectively build a more inclusive and equitable society.



# SUCCESS STORIES

\*NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT SURVIVORS

## SPOUSAL BATTERY

C reported a case of spousal battery against spouse F.

C alleged that in the previous weekend, F hit physi-

cally abused her by holding her neck and attempting to strangle her until she managed to scream loudly till neighbor's came to her rescue. She had reported to the police station closest to their residence but was sadly advised her to go home & reconcile with spouse without any investigation or punitive action taken. This later led to subsequent and even more intense abuse on C by F.

C told WACOL that she has lost count of the number of times she was abused and violated by F and now lives in fear of her spouse and would like to separate.

During the joint session, F denied the allegations, of countless domestic violence but admitted dragging C forcefully by her arm during an argument over a handset. Actions of which he noted that he regretted. He also accused C of infidelity and disrespect. WACOL legal team vehemently cautioned F, reprimanded him for spousal battery and on the request of obliged parties to yield to family meeting and advised parties to report the outcome of the family meeting to WACOL after a week.

cally abused her by holding her neck and attempting to strangle her until she managed to scream loudly till neighbor's came to her rescue. She had reported to the



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# CHILD ABUSE

A 12 year old boy [V] was brought by his friend to WACOL office to report a case of severe physical abuse. On speaking to the V, it was discovered that his caregiver was the abuser, and always took advantage of any situation to physically abuse him. The latest of such abuse was a blinding slap that left him with a red eyes.

WACOL quickly sent a petition to the police and the suspected caregiver was arrested and detained. V was sent to a hospital

for treatment as WACOL makes concerted efforts to reach the biological parents of the victim in Akwa Ibom state. It is alleged that the caregiver, a crayfish dealer who shuttles Enugu and Akwaibom got V as a help from one of his customers in Akwaibom. Meanwhile V is currently sheltered by a pastor , who's son brought V to WACOL office to complain.

# FAMILY DISPUTE

M 16 , G 20 , alleged that their mother threw them out of their home in April. Leaving them homeless and vulnerable as they slept in uncompleted buildings and unsafe environments.

In a joint meeting with the parties and WACOL legal team , their mother admitted throwing them out with the excuse that M and G have become unruly & disrespectful to her, refusing to help out in the akara business that feeds the family and sleeping out without telling her.

WACOL instructed their mother to take them off the streets immediately and further cautioned the duo to obey their mother and be of good behaviour. Due to WACOL intervention the family was reunited.

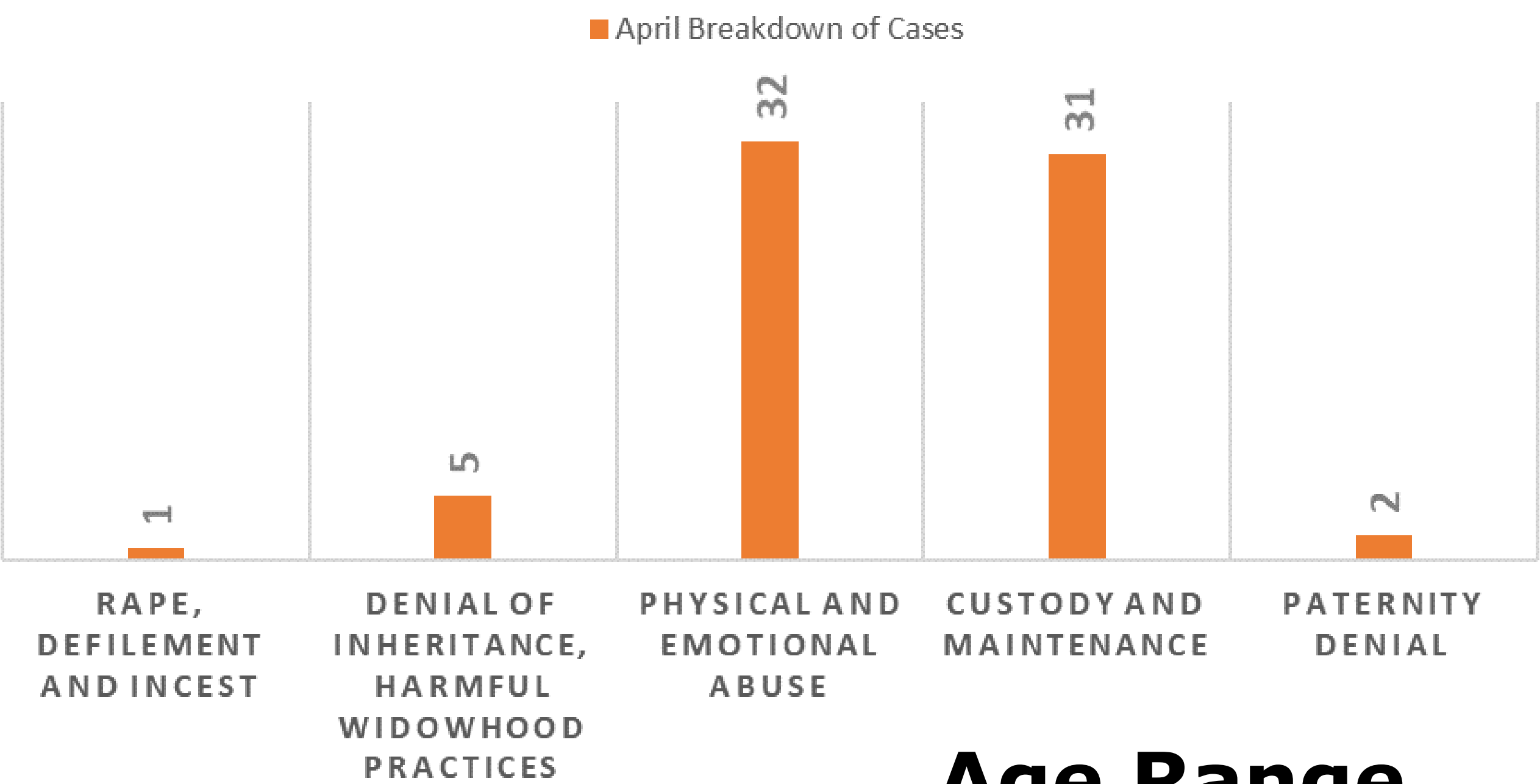




# CASE BREAKDOWN

for April 2023

## TYPES OF CASES



## Gender Disaggregated data



Female complainants total: 57



Male complainants total: 14



Overall total: 71 cases.

## Age Range

Under 18: 2

18-24: 5

25-34: 30

35-44: 27

45-59: 3

60 and above: 1

Unknown: 5



# ABILITY IN DISABILITY:



Ifeanyi Ukwueze is a fiery young woman from Enugu State, Nigeria who came to WACOL in 2022 to report an injustice meted on her by a certain landlord. According to her, after making a payment as rent for an apartment. The landlord reneged on the agreement and rented same apartment to another person. On discovering this action, Ifeanyi requested for appropriate refund to enable her get another accommodation, which was not honoured.

On several occasions, the said landlord gave her appointments but never

## THE BLIND COSMETIC FORMULATOR

showed up. Driven to frustration, Ifeanyi ran to an NGO for help in recovering her money, the NGO later referred her to WACOL. Upon receipt of her complaint, WACOL immediately sprung into action and invited the landlord for joint session. Following WACOL's intervention the landlord refunded the rent to Ifeanyi and she was able to secure another apartment. WACOL further encouraged Ifeanyi to pursue her dream in cosmetic formulation.

Recently, WACOL visited Ifeanyi at her place. She took WACOL to her factory, as she displayed her products and also business achievements in the last one year. In excitement she narrated to WACOL how she handles delivery, noting the many orders she has received through phone calls. She thanked WACOL for helping her get justice and further supporting her to start a business.



# SGBV NEWS DESK

## ● Kwara commercial motorcyclist bags jail term for raping teenager

A Magistrate Court sitting in Kaiama in the Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara State has sentenced a commercial motorcyclist, Hussain Kamilu, to a total jail term of 42 months for raping a 15-year-old girl. The convict who was found guilty of three counts will, however, spend 18 months of the 42 months at the Federal Correctional facility in New Bussa, Niger State for sexual assault if he can pay the option of a fine imposed on him instead of 12 months im-

prisonment each for criminal trespass and intimidation respectively by the Magistrate, Abubakar Boro. Kamilu, 35, who was arrested on Sunday by the Kaiama Division of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Kwara State Command in Ado village, Bani in Kaiama Local Government Area of the state was prosecuted for the alleged rape of a 15-year-old lady in Adogo village in the council area. According to a statement by the state Public Relations Officer of the NSCDC, Ayeni Olasunkanmi, the convict was alleged to have taken the victim on a motorcycle to an unknown destination where he sexually molested her and threatened her never to tell anyone.





**14th April**

## **Daily Punch**

- **Man, 41, sent to prison for groping woman's breast**

A Badagry Magistrates' Court, Lagos, on Friday, ordered the remand of a 41-year-old man, Ibrahim Lemo, for groping the breast of a woman. The court heard that Lemo beat up his victim, Zainab Babalola, when she demanded he stopped the unlawful act. Chief Magistrate Fadahunsi Adefioye remanded Lemo after he pleaded guilty to a two count bordering on assault. Adefioye ordered that the defendant should be remanded in Awhajigoh Correctional Centre, Badagry.

## **Daily Punch**

- **Man bags life jail for defiling neighbour's three-year-old daughter**

The Lagos Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court sitting in Ikeja on Monday sentenced a 46-year-old man, Kehinde Gabriel, to life imprisonment for defiling a three-year-old girl. The court presided over by Justice Ramon A. Oshodi found him guilty of the one-count charge of defilement in case ID/8392C/2018 and described him as a person of no truth who has no remorse for what he did. The judge said the act, which violated Section 137 of the Criminal Law 2015, was unjustifiable and handed him the maximum punishment. The name of the convict will be registered in the Sexual Offenders Register maintained by the Lagos State Government.





As part of sustained effort to ensure that Ifeanyi's business thrives and she is financially equipped to advance in the face of economic setbacks and challenges, WACOL recently supported her with N100,000 naira. Ifeanyi hopes that one day her brand "Divine Love" will become a household name and she can inspire other people with disability(ies) to reach their goal. In the words of Ifeanyi " There is ability in disability and the highest disability lies in the mind". Indeed, Ifeanyi's resilience, doggedness and strength to succeed regardless of setbacks and challenges is worth showcasing. A gentle reminder of the many possibilities that abound when women/girls and people with disabilities are given equal access to opportunities without any discrimination.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

International Day of Disabled Persons is celebrated on 8th December every year.

An estimated 1.3 billion people (about 16% of the global population) currently experience significant disability  
-(WHO)

Women and girls with disability are twice more vulnerable to abuse and violence, hence multiply at risk cause of their disability and gender.

It is difficult for children with disability to access quality health care and education in Nigeria

Nigeria has an Act on disability titled " Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, only 9 of 36 states have domesticated this law.

**Now You Know!!!**



## CONTRIBUTORS

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# **ADVERTISEMENT & UPCOMING EVENTS**

To Report any threat or human rights violation call our hotlines:  
(1) +2349060002128; (2) 09091333000; (3) 09092777000.



**WACOL Women House (Ulo Umunwanyi)**  
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