




SURVIVOR'S WATCH

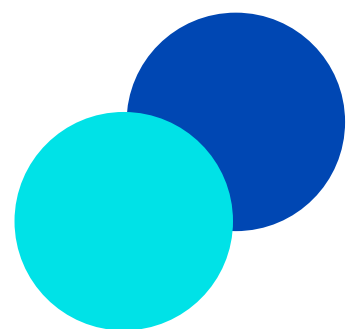
JANUARY 2024



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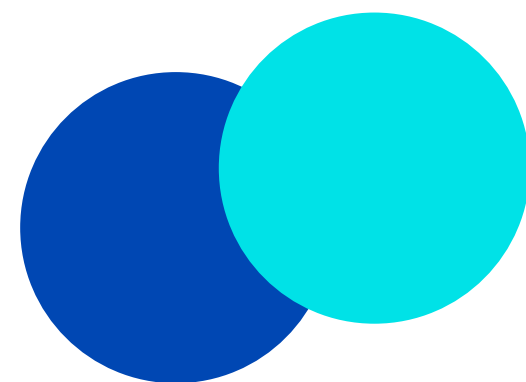
About WACOL

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

Unveiling the Dark Reality: Tackling Human

Trafficking in Nigeria

By Ugochukwu Ogoke

Human trafficking is an abhorrent violation of human rights that plagues societies globally, and Nigeria is unfortunately not exempt from its clutches. The consequences endured by victims are devastating. They face physical and psychological abuse, sexual exploitation, forced labor, and even organ trafficking. The victims, often lured with false promises of better prospects, find themselves trapped in a nightmarish existence, stripped of their freedom and dignity.

To effectively address the high rate of human trafficking in Nigeria, it is essential to understand its underlying causes. Poverty, lack of education, unemployment, gender inequality, and social marginalization contribute to the vulnerability of individuals. Traffickers exploit these vulnerabilities, preying on the dreams and aspirations of the desperate, promising them a brighter future. Desperation, coupled with limited opportunities, create a breeding ground for traffickers to exploit the hopes and dreams of the vulnerable.

Stepping up efforts to combat human trafficking requires a united front from the community. We must prioritize community safety measures to protect potential victims and hold traffickers accountable. Raising awareness about the dangers of human trafficking is crucial, as knowledge empowers individuals to identify and report suspicious activities. Educating communities on recognizing the signs of trafficking and providing them with helpline numbers and resources can make a significant difference.

Collaboration between law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and community-based organizations is vital for effective prevention and intervention. Local authorities should establish task forces dedicated to



combating human trafficking, ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice. Additionally, community-driven initiatives such as awareness campaigns, workshops, and support networks can play a pivotal role in preventing trafficking and providing assistance to survivors.

The high rate of human trafficking in Nigeria demands immediate attention and concerted efforts from all segments of society. By acknowledging the dangers it poses, understanding its causes, and implementing community safety measures, we can combat this grave injustice. Let us stand united against human trafficking, raising our voices to protect the vulnerable, supporting survivors, and creating a society where every individual can thrive with dignity and freedom. Together, we have the power to dismantle the chains of human trafficking and strive for a brighter future for Nigeria.

Did You know?

You can sue your partner to court for committing the offence of breach of promise to marry and pray the court to award damages against that particular person. In *USO V. IKETUBOSIN (1975) WRNLR 187*, the defendant promised to marry the plaintiff in 1947. In 1957 the defendant married another woman in breach of his promise to the plaintiff. Irwin, J., held that the defendant's actions constituted a breach for which the plaintiff was entitled to damages.

SUCCESS STORIES

*Names have been changed to protect survivors

Case of Defilement of Underaged Girl

On 12th Day of January 2024, WACOL received a report of defilement and rape of a 14-year-old girl named (N) for this purpose.

Meanwhile, Ns step-mother, who is also the complainant and a civil servant, who works as a cleaner, explained that her children are all grown and have left, that she began to live with N as help to assist her with domestic chores in the house. N's biological mother reportedly lives in the village and not in a good mental state to be able to take care of N.

Whereas, N, and her step-mom lives in a government house premises, where there is usually heavy presence of security personnel cut from different security agencies.

Again, N, has also secured admission in a government school to commence JSS1 and her step mom had bought items for school resumption. Surprisingly, Ns, step mom discovered that N, was behaving somehow, would vomit at times and usually weak and sleeping around. So, she began to quiz N., to ascertain who got her pregnant, it was tough but eventually N, said that it was one police officer, who is their family friend that impregnated her. Her stepmom confronted the said police officer, around mid-last year, 2023, and he denied, but N., in her report said that the police officer at first started being nice to her, asking her about her school even providing food and sundry assistance to her and her step mom, that he would invite her to a section of the quarters in the government house and would have unprotected sex with her, not once not

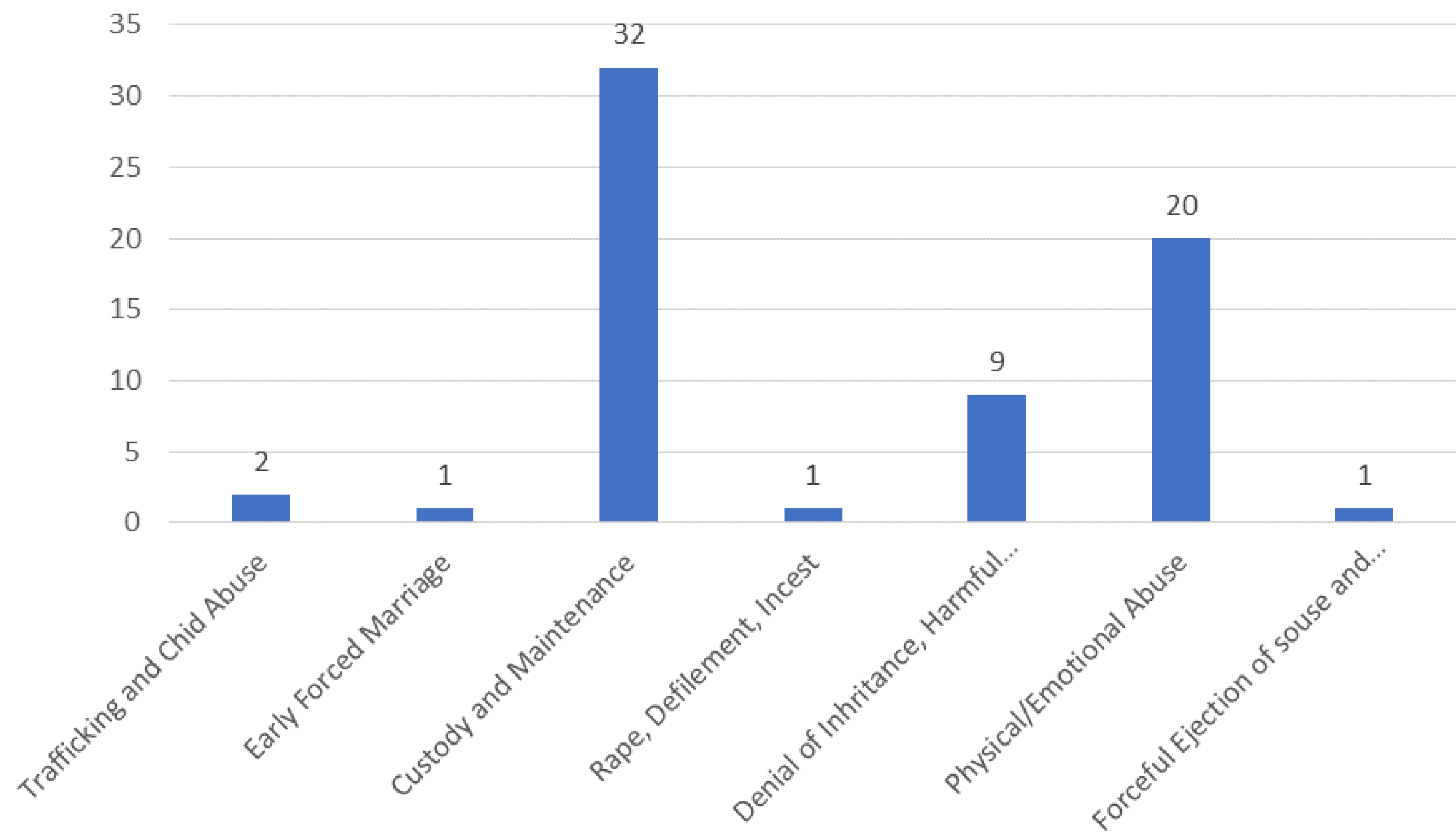
twice, and that when she told him, she was pregnant, he made attempt to purchase drugs that would terminate the pregnancy, which she actually took but the pregnancy remained, all these was happening right behind her stepmom. At a point, the said police officer became hostile to Ns, step-mom, so she began to report to a number of human right agencies in the state but she did not get justice, alleging that the police officer seemed to wield influence, so someone directed her to WACOL and she made this report, we quickly swung into action inviting the police officer at first, but because N, was already 8 months gone in her pregnancy, and in our estimation needed all the medical care she could get, not necessarily prosecution, which of course would come later after N's, delivery.

On the mediation day, the police officer denied responsibility and accused N., of being a flirt, though he on the other hand agreed to pay all the medical expenses – ante-natal care, delivery bill, and a DNA test after delivery to ascertain, whether he is responsible for the pregnancy. But pledged to support N., financially and that he does that because he was directed by his organisation to foot the bills since he was the one mentioned by N, as being responsible.

Finally, WACOL ensured that N's, delivery materials have been purchased and she is well registered in a government teaching hospital when she will be well attended for delivery and post-natal attention, which we await DNA result and investigation that will follow thereafter.

CASE BREAKDOWN

for January 2024



Gender Disaggregated data



Female complainants total: 60



Male complainants total: 6



Overall total: 66 cases.

Age Range

Under 18: 2

18-24: 5

25-34: 23

35-44: 24

45-59: 9

60 and above: 3

Unknown: 0

CONTRIBUTORS

Prof. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (SAN, OON) is the founding director of Women's Aid Collective (WACOL), she is the Emeritus Dean Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria and Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons.

Nkechi Igwe is the Head of Programme and Administration at WACOL, a gender consultant and the pioneer Centre Manager Tamar Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Tamar SARC).

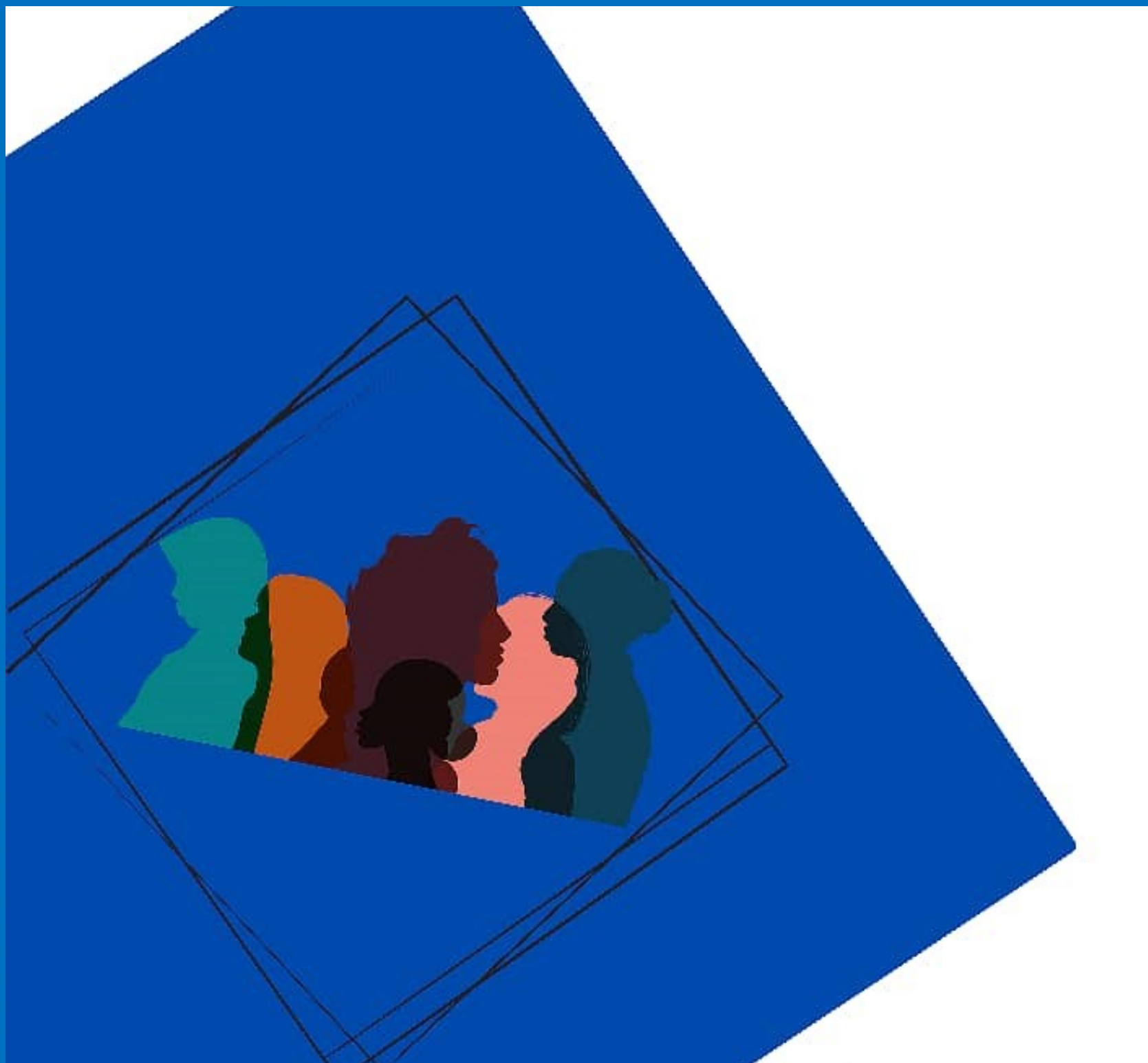
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ADVERTISEMENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

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



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