



SURVIVOR'S WATCH

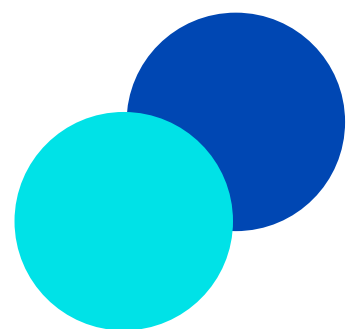
MARCH 2024



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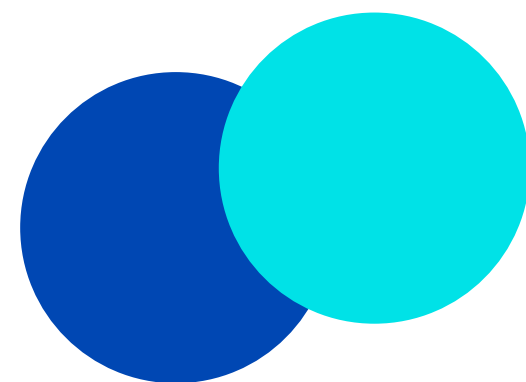
About WACOL

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

NAVIGATING CO-PARENTING: TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION.

By Onah Ebube

The focus given to child behavior problems has grown recently on a global scale. Child problem behavior trends show that these behaviors start earlier and are becoming more common.

Studies have shown that children who exhibited problem behaviors during their early childhood were more likely to experience severe emotional and behavioral difficulties as adults. They may also suffer negative outcomes like substance abuse, mental health disorders, and criminal activity. Therefore, it is imperative that children's behavioral concerns be given more attention. Due to the ongoing high frequency of problem behaviors in children, families are receiving more attention than ever before since they have the biggest impact on the growth of children. The relationship between family dynamics and children's mental health, social development, and problem behaviors has been supported by several studies. The father, mother, and child form a distinct subsystem within the family system known as co-parenting, which has attracted a lot of attention lately.

Child development is significantly impacted by the quality of co-parenting within the family system, and there may be several intricate pathways via which this influence occurs.

Children who experience destructive and conflictual co-parenting are more likely to experience externalizing behavior problems than children who experience co-parenting with high levels of paternal support and collaboration between parents.

Co-parenting is the cooperative effort of parents who continue to raise their children together even when they are no longer romantically involved. To give their kids a secure and supportive atmosphere, parents must collaborate, communicate well, and make decisions together.

Co-parenting emphasizes the value of preserving a cordial and courteous dynamic between the parents while putting the child's needs first. It makes it possible for children to maintain deep and meaningful ties with both parents, even if they move out. When parents are separated, divorced, or



were never in a committed partnership, co-parenting is very helpful.

Co-parenting can be a difficult and complicated process. Effective communication and teamwork are essential to completing this journey successfully to guarantee the child's well-being and create a stable environment. A peaceful co-parenting relationship can result by putting the needs of the child first and keeping lines of communication open, even though this can occasionally be challenging.

Setting and maintaining clear expectations and boundaries is essential to successful co-parenting. Important facets of raising children, such as routines, discipline, and other duties, require mutual agreement between the parents. Parents can reduce misunderstandings and provide a consistent environment for their child by setting clear rules and boundaries.

Another crucial component of co-parenting is courteous and open communication. Parents should preserve civility and mutual respect during conversations, with a focus on the child's needs. Parents can collaborate to overcome obstacles and discover solutions by putting their child's welfare first and avoiding talking about personal issues.

Adaptability and flexibility are crucial traits for co-parents. Since life can be unpredictable, parents and children might benefit from being flexible with their plans and schedules. This adaptability is crucial since scheduling adjustments may be required on holidays and other special events.

Using technology can make co-parenting easier as well. Parents may monitor their children's activities, provide crucial information, and arrange schedules with the aid of apps and online calendars. By acting as impartial forums for requests and updates, these tools help lessen the possibility of miscommunication.

Maintaining consistency throughout households is essential to giving the child a secure environment. This entails keeping both parent's routines, regulations, and methods of discipline consistent. No matter which parent they are with, a child who knows what to expect will feel safe and comfortable.

Conversations can be more fruitful if both parents are treated with respect and understanding for each other's viewpoints. Even though parents disagree sometimes, showing empathy and support for one another might help the child accomplish better. Supporting the child's relationship with the other parent also helps to create a strong, good attachment.

In the end, effective communication, teamwork, and a shared dedication to the child's welfare are necessary for co-parenting to be successful. Even under difficult situations, parents can foster growth and development in their child by adhering to these ideals. You can successfully negotiate the challenges of your journey and give your child a caring, supportive environment by exercising patience, respect, and an emphasis on what's best for the child.



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Did You know?

CEDAW: Article 16: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

(d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;

SUCCESS STORIES

*Names have been changed to protect survivors

Resolving financial conflict



In March, WACOL (Women's Aid Collective) intervened in a case involving a man who had taken a loan of 300,000 from his romantic partner, the complainant, while their relationship was ongoing. The man had taken the money to invest in his business, promising to pay it back later. However, when the relationship turned sour, he refused to repay the debt.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, WACOL's legal team stepped in to advocate for the complainant. Through their persistent efforts, the organization was able to ensure that the man was made to pay back the full amount of the loan.

This successful intervention not only restored the complainant's financial security but also sent a strong message about the importance of honoring one's commitments, even in the face of personal conflicts. By leveraging the power of the law, WACOL empowered the complainant and helped to safeguard her financial well-being. In March, WACOL (Women's Aid Collective) intervened in a case involving a man who had taken a loan of

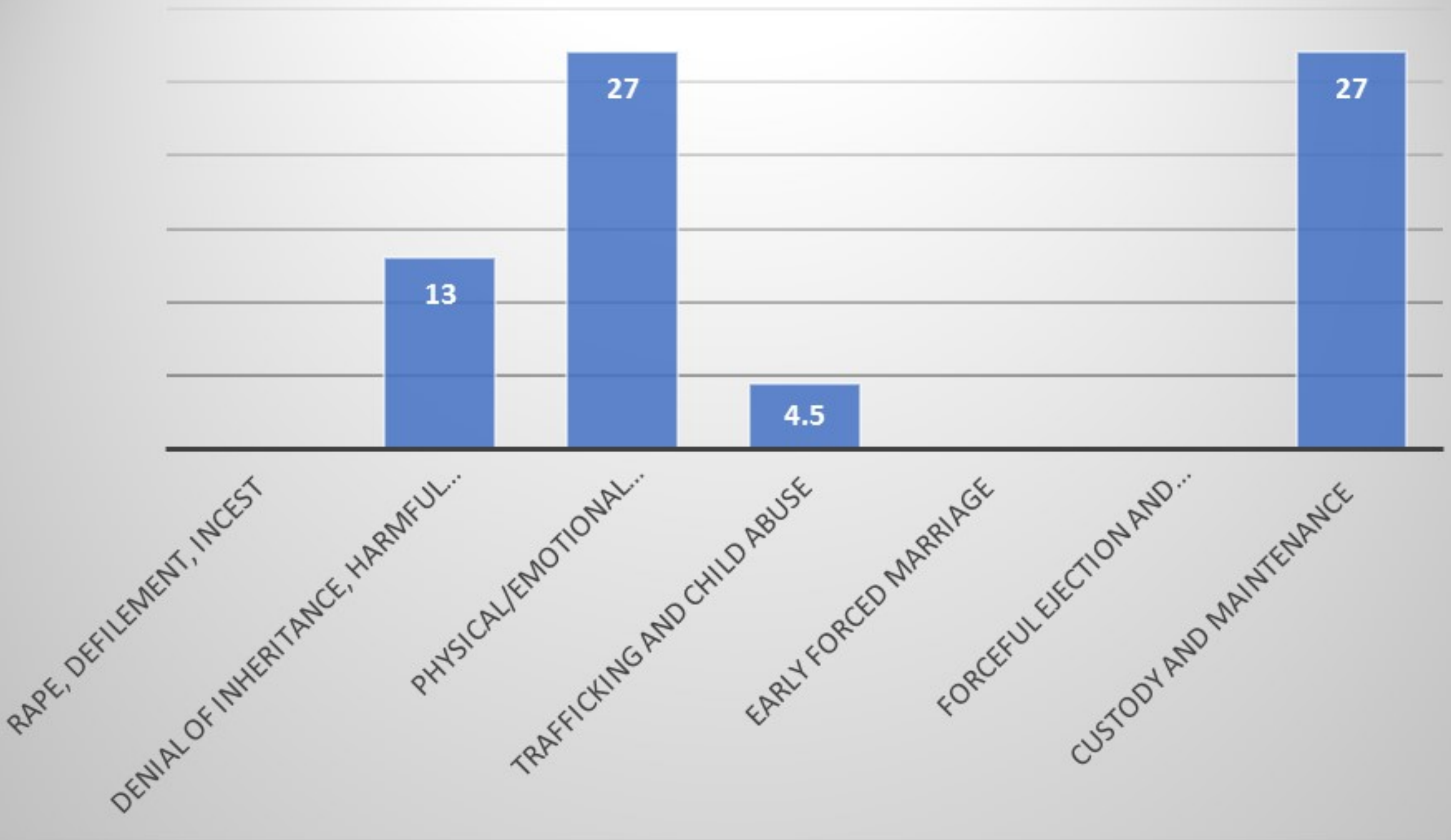
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CASE BREAKDOWN

for August 2023



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).

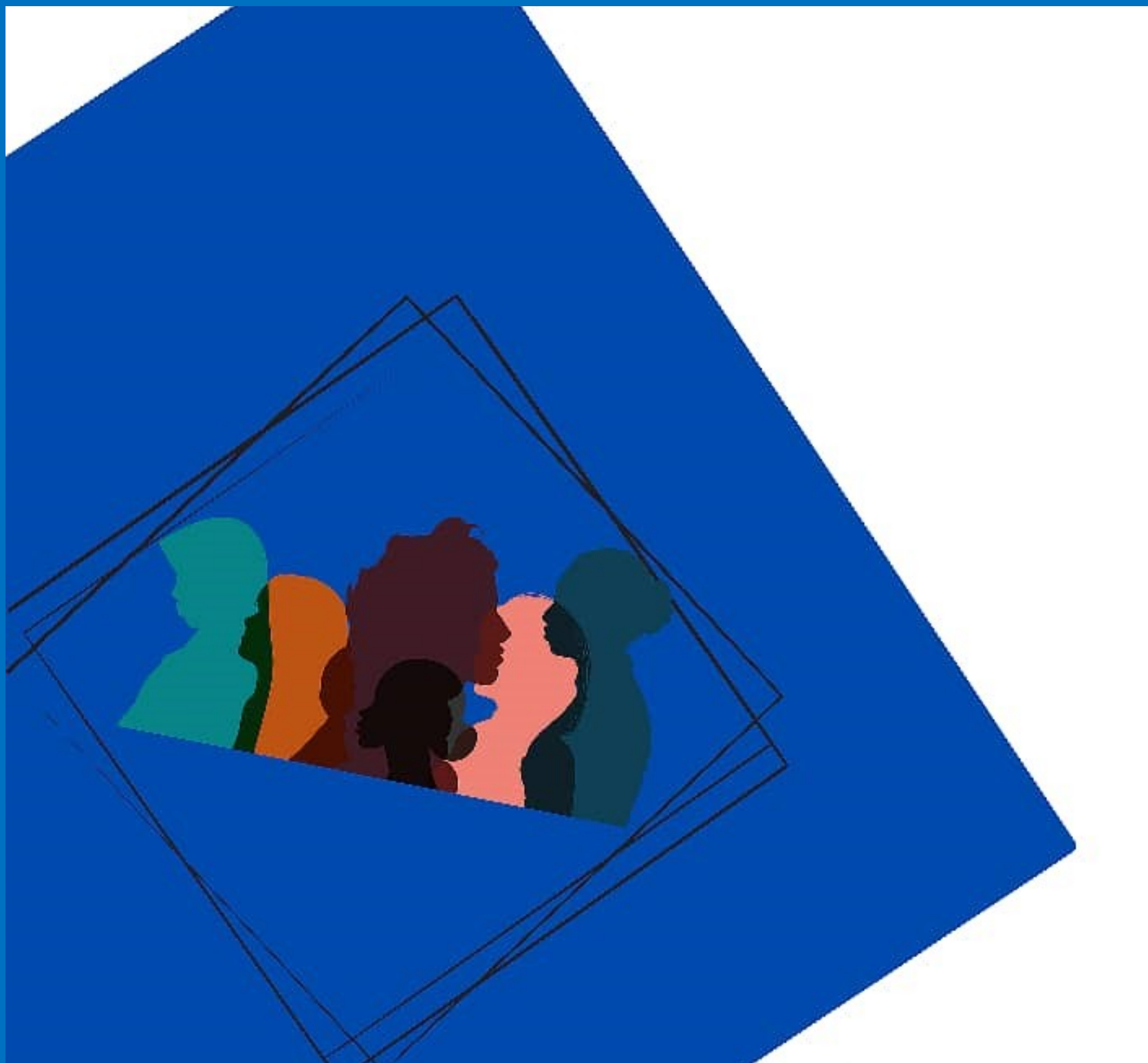
Ibangah Esemé Goodness Esq. is a Communicator, Women Human Rights Defender and Digital Enthusiast. She is the program manager of WACOL GirlsWill Initiative.

Ugochukwu Ogoke is a graphics designer, web developer, Philosopher and Human Rights Advocate. He is a digital communications officer at WACOL.

Onah Ebube is a Law student and SDG Advocate for gender and quality education. She is also a skilled graphics designer and volunteer at WACOL.

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)
No 9 Dr. Mathias Ilo Avenue, New Haven Extension.



0703 577 9083; 08095757590



wacol@wacolnigeria.org; wacolnig@yahoo.com;
wacolnig@gmail.com



WACOLTamarSARC
www.wacolnigeria.org



WACOL Tamar Sarc
Women Aid Collective-WACOL