

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN NIGERIA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION

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Preface

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the diverse and intersecting ways in which LGBTQ+ individuals and communities in Nigeria experience human rights violations. It documents patterns of discrimination, violence, and the denial of fundamental freedoms, with particular emphasis on access to healthcare, social services, personal security, and the right to live free from fear and persecution.

The findings presented in this report are drawn from systematic monitoring, documentation, and analysis conducted through Lawyers Alert's online documentation platform, *LadockT*. This digital tool enables the structured collection and categorization of human rights violations across Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs), offering critical insights into trends and patterns of abuse disaggregated by variables such as age, sex, location, and type of violation.

While the report captures national trends, its primary focus is on three project states, Benue, Plateau, and Nasarawa, where project activities and verification mechanisms are strongest. The documented violations encompass a wide range of abuses, including emotional and physical violence, verbal harassment, denial of family life, restrictions on freedom of association and expression, denial of access to accurate sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services, breaches of medical confidentiality, forced economic dependence, blackmail, sexual exploitation, invasion of privacy, and unlawful restrictions on freedom of movement.

Analysis of the data indicates that, within the project states, emotional abuse was the most prevalent form of violation, accounting for 16% of recorded cases. These were followed by harassment at 14%, physical abuse at 13%, and verbal abuse at 11%. Denial of freedom to express sexuality was at 8%, with denial of freedom to associate and denial of family life at 7%. Blackmail represented 4%, and Sexual Exploitation represented 3% of reported incidents.

At the national level, emotional abuse and verbal abuse emerged as the most frequently reported violations (12%), followed by physical abuse (11%) and harassment (10%). Blackmail, denial of freedom to express sexuality, and denial of freedom to associate were documented at 8%, while failure to protect personal security accounted for 7%, and denial of freedom of movement and unlawful forced detention were both at 6%.

The data presented in this report is verifiable and methodologically robust, ensuring the reliability of its findings. Data collection was carried out in close

collaboration with project partners, including the Initiative for Community Empowerment and Vulnerable Support (I-CEVS), Olive Right to Health Initiative (ORHI), and Hope Alive Health Awareness Initiative (HAHAI), as well as civil society organizations and grassroots partners working directly within affected communities. All reported cases were systematically entered into the LadoockT platform and subjected to rigorous analysis to maintain data integrity and accuracy.

The findings contained in this report serve as an important evidence base for designing targeted interventions and advancing policy and advocacy efforts aimed at protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals in Nigeria. Lawyers Alert expresses its profound appreciation to the Elton John AIDS Foundation for its consistent support in advancing this work. We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of individuals, community groups, and partner organizations who referred cases and strengthened the depth and credibility of the data.

Lawyers Alert remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing the rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations through the documentation of human rights violations, the provision of free legal services, public legal literacy initiatives, and sustained advocacy for legal and policy reforms. We envision a Nigeria where all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can live with dignity, equality, and freedom from discrimination.

Dr. Rommy Mom
President, Lawyers Alert

Background

Nigeria has some of the most restrictive laws against LGBTQ+ individuals in the world. The Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act (SSMPA) of 2014 criminalizes same-sex relationships, marriage, and public displays of affection between LGBTQ+ individuals, with penalties of up to 14 years in prison. The law also penalizes organizations and individuals who support LGBTQ+ rights, leading to the shutdown of advocacy groups and increased stigmatization.

In addition to federal laws, Sharia law, which is enforced in 12 northern states, prescribes the death penalty for same-sex relationships among Muslims. Under Nigeria's Criminal and Penal Codes, acts deemed "against the order of nature" can attract a 14-year prison sentence in the south and up to death by stoning in some northern states.

Some patterns of Human Rights Violations LGBTQ+ persons in Nigeria face include: Arbitrary Arrests and Police Brutality, Violence and Mob Attacks, Blackmail and Extortion, Workplace and Social Discrimination, Family and Community Rejection, Denial of Healthcare, etc.

The hostile legal and social environment has forced many LGBTQ+ individuals into hiding, limiting their access to education, employment, and healthcare, which undermines the efforts at ending HIV by 2030. The fear of persecution has led to the internal displacement of LGBTQ+ persons within Nigeria and forced many into seeking asylum abroad.

Methodology

Lawyers Alert conducted comprehensive training and refresher sessions for partners and stakeholders to enhance their capacity in monitoring and documenting human rights violations using the LadoockT platform. These sessions aimed to ensure accuracy, consistency, and reliability in data collection and analysis.

Additionally, community members and grassroots organizations played a vital role in the documentation process by providing referrals and facilitating engagement with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This collaborative approach strengthened the reporting framework and ensured a more comprehensive representation of violations experienced by LGBTQ+ individuals across the targeted regions.

Limitations

This Report of Human Rights Violations associated with the LGBTQ+ community in Nigeria is subject to certain limitations. While it does not provide a fully

comprehensive account, it serves as a valuable contribution to ongoing legal advocacy efforts, particularly in the push for the repeal of the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA). A key challenge remains the reluctance of LGBTQ+ individuals to report violations due to fear of legal repercussions and societal stigma. To mitigate this, Lawyers Alert continues to strengthen legal literacy and provide free legal support to affected individuals.

Regarding geographic coverage, while reports of violations were received from across Nigeria, this study focuses on Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States, where data could be independently verified. As a result, violations from other states, though documented, which were not verified, were not included in the analysis to maintain the integrity of the findings.

Additionally, some reports were provided by organizations offering services rather than the direct victims of violations. While these third-party reports are crucial for mapping trends, there is a possibility of underreporting or, in some cases, exaggeration. Despite these limitations, the report remains a critical and evolving resource that contributes to broader efforts to document and address the systemic discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in Nigeria.

Analysis of Human Rights Violations against the LGBTQ+ Community in Nigeria

States with the highest Human Rights Violations against the LGBTQ+ Community.

Analysis of Human Rights Violations against the LGBTQ+ Community in Project States.

With the project situated in 3 states within Nigeria, i.e. Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau, fig 1. reflects the findings within the project states from December 2023 to November 2025.

In this reporting period, **Benue** emerged first, accounting for 47% of LGBTQ+ violations reported. Following closely is **Nasarawa** State at 30%, with **Plateau** State coming third with a reportage of 23%.

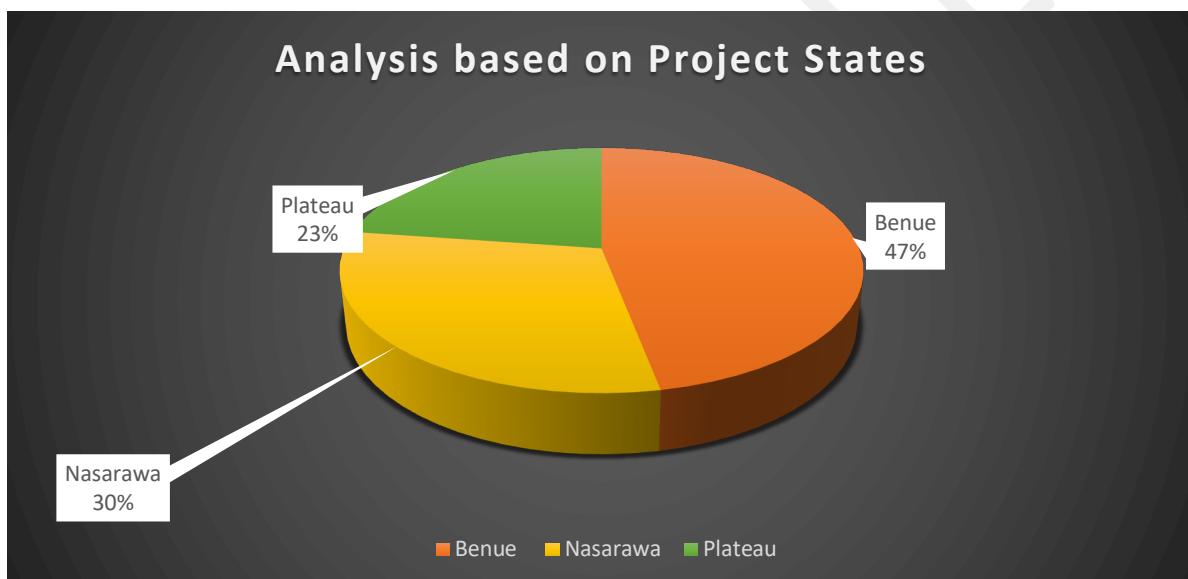


Figure 1: Pie Chart Analysis of Project States with the highest LGBTQ+ Violations

States	December 2024	November 2025	Increase	Decrease
Benue	93%	47%	-	46%
Nasarawa	7%	30%	23%	-
Plateau	0%	23%	23%	-

Table 1: Table showing the percentage of increase and decrease of violations in Project States

The table above shows trends in LGBTQ+ violations across project states, comparing data from the previous reporting period with the current reporting period.

In December 2024, **Benue** accounted for the majority of documented violations at 93%. In the current reporting period, this figure declined by 46% to 47%. This reduction should not be interpreted as a decrease in the incidence of violations.

Rather, it reflects an improvement in reporting from other project states, resulting in a more balanced distribution of reported cases across the project locations.

Nasarawa, recorded 7% violations in December 2024, and reported a significant increase to 30% in the current reporting period, reflecting a 23% increase. This increase is largely attributed to enhanced community engagement, increased trust in reporting mechanisms, and growing confidence among community members to report violations.

Similarly, **Plateau** recorded a 23% increase in the reported violations in the current reporting period, compared to the insignificant reportage of less than 1% captured in December 2024. This rise is indicative of improved awareness, strengthened community trust, and greater willingness among LGBTQ+ individuals and allies to report incidents.

[Analysis of States with the highest Human Rights Violations against the LGBTQ+ Community.](#)

The below analysis in fig 2. reflects a broader national picture of data gathered from December 2020 to December 2024 beyond the project states.

Benue state ranked first at 36%, closely followed by **Anambra** at 21%. **Lagos** State came third at 11%, **Bauchi** and **Nasarawa** were fourth at 8%, with **Plateau** and **Abuja, FCT**, fifth at 6%. The following states – **Oyo, Ogun, Kaduna, and Delta** were at 1%, respectively. **Osun** had the least reportage at less than 1%.

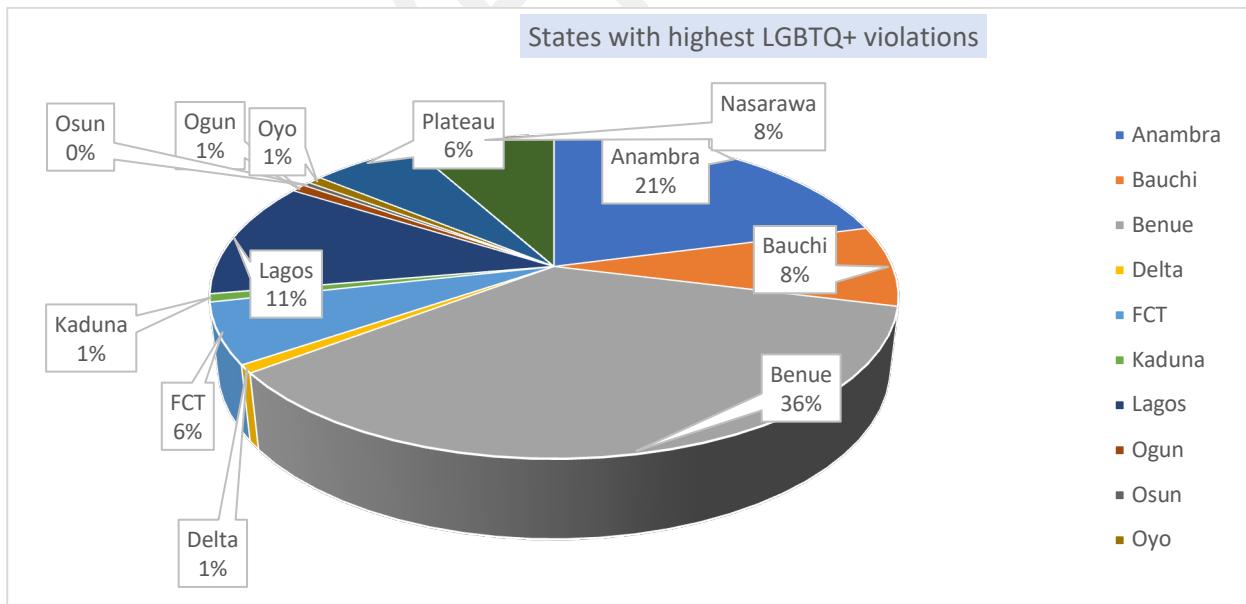


Figure 2: States with the highest LGBTQ+ Violations

States	December 2024	November 2025	Increase	Decrease
Benue	41%	36%	-	5%
Anambra	24%	21%	-	3%
Lagos	13%	11%	-	2%
Bauchi	9%	8%	-	1%
FCT	7%	6%	-	1%
Nasarawa	1%	8%	7%	-
Plateau	0%	6%	6%	-
Oyo	1%	1%	-	-
Ogun	1%	1%	-	-
Kaduna	1%	1%	-	-
Delta	1%	1%	-	-
Osun	1%	0%	1%	-

Table 2: Table showing the percentage of increase and decrease of violations in States

The table above presents a comparative analysis of the distribution of reported LGBTQ+ violations across states between December 2024 and November 2025, highlighting shifts in reporting patterns over time.

Overall, the data show a redistribution of reported cases across states rather than a uniform decline in violations. States that previously recorded higher proportions experienced marginal decreases, while some states with minimal or no prior documentation recorded notable increases, indicating improved reporting coverage and geographic spread.

Benue State continued to record the highest proportion of reported violations, although its share declined from 41% in December 2024 to 36% in November 2025, representing a 5% decrease. Similarly, **Anambra** recorded a decrease of 3%, dropping from 24% to 21%, while **Lagos** saw a 2% reduction from 13% to 11%. **Bauchi** and the **Federal Capital Territory (FCT)** each recorded slight decreases of 1%. These reductions do not necessarily indicate fewer violations but rather reflect a relative shift in reporting as other states increasingly document incidents.

In contrast, **Nasarawa** State experienced a significant increase in reported violations, rising from 1% in December 2024 to 8% in November 2025, representing a 7% increase. **Plateau** State also recorded a substantial increase, moving from no reported cases in December 2024 to 6% in November 2025. These increases suggest strengthened community engagement, increased trust in reporting mechanisms, and improved awareness of available support and documentation processes within these states.

Several states, including **Oyo**, **Ogun**, **Kaduna**, and **Delta** recorded relatively stable reporting levels, with minimal or no change between the two reporting periods. **Osun** showed a slight decline from 1% to 0%, indicating insignificant reported cases during the current reporting period.

In summary, the observed trends point to improved reporting capacity and broader geographic inclusion across project states. The emerging increases in Nasarawa and Plateau, alongside marginal declines in traditionally high-reporting states, suggest growing community confidence in reporting systems rather than a reduction in the occurrence of violations.

LGBTQ+ Violations based on Local Government Areas (LGAs)

Analysis of LGBTQ+ Violations based on Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the Project States.

In this reporting period, **Makurdi** LGA in Benue State ranked highest with 14%. **Lafia** LGA in Nasarawa State and **Jos North** in Plateau State, came second at 10%. **Ushongo** and **Konshisha** LGAs, both in Benue State, were third at 8%. **Otukpo** LGA in Benue State, alongside **Toto**, **Akwanga**, and **Karu** LGAs in Nasarawa, ranked fourth at 6%. **Logo** in Benue State, **Mangu** in Plateau State, and **Kokona** in Nasarawa, were fifth and recorded at 4%. **Gboko**, **Oju**, **Katsina-Ala**, **Kwande**, LGAs in Benue State, and **Shendam** LGA in Plateau State were all documented at 3% respectively.

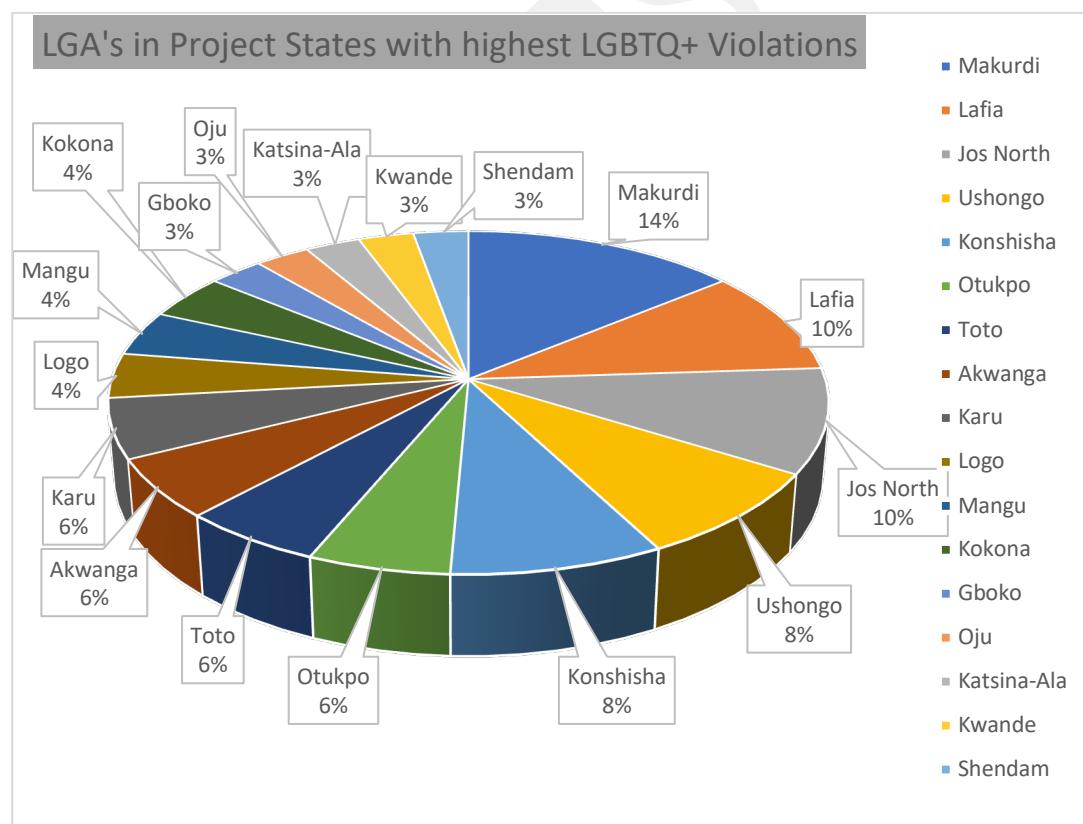


Figure 3: Pie Chart Analysis of LGAs in Project States with the highest LGBTQ+ Violations

Analysis of LGBTQ+ Violations based on Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Violations across LGAs were not restricted to LGAs of project states but covered the entire 774 LGAs of Nigeria. In this report, Dunukofia LGA in Anambra State ranked highest with 18%. **Makurdi** LGA in Benue State came second at 16%. Bauchi LGA in Bauchi State ranked third at 7%. **Abuja Municipal (AMAC)** in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), alongside **Konshisha** and **Ushongo** LGAs in Benue State were fourth at 5% respectively. **Lagos Island** in Lagos State and **Gboko** in Benue State ranked fifth with 4%. **Ikeja** LGA in Lagos State, **Bwari** LGA in the FCT, **Kwande**, **Otukpo**, and **Logo** LGAs in Benue State, and **Lafia** LGA in Nasarawa State were next at 3% each. **Lagos Mainland** in Lagos State, **Jos North** in Plateau State, **Oju** LGA in Benue State, and **Toto** in Nasarawa State were captured at 2%. **Akwanga**, **Katsina-Ala**, **Ibadan North**, **Kokona**, **Karu**, **Mangu**, **Surulere**, **Kaduna North**, **Shendam**, and **Warri North** LGAs were all at 1%. **Agatu**, **Apapa**, **Akwa North**, **Idemili North**, **Odogbolu**, **Okpokwu**, **Oshogbo**, **Pankshin**, **Shagamu**, and **Toro** LGAs were all recorded at an insignificant value of less than 1%.

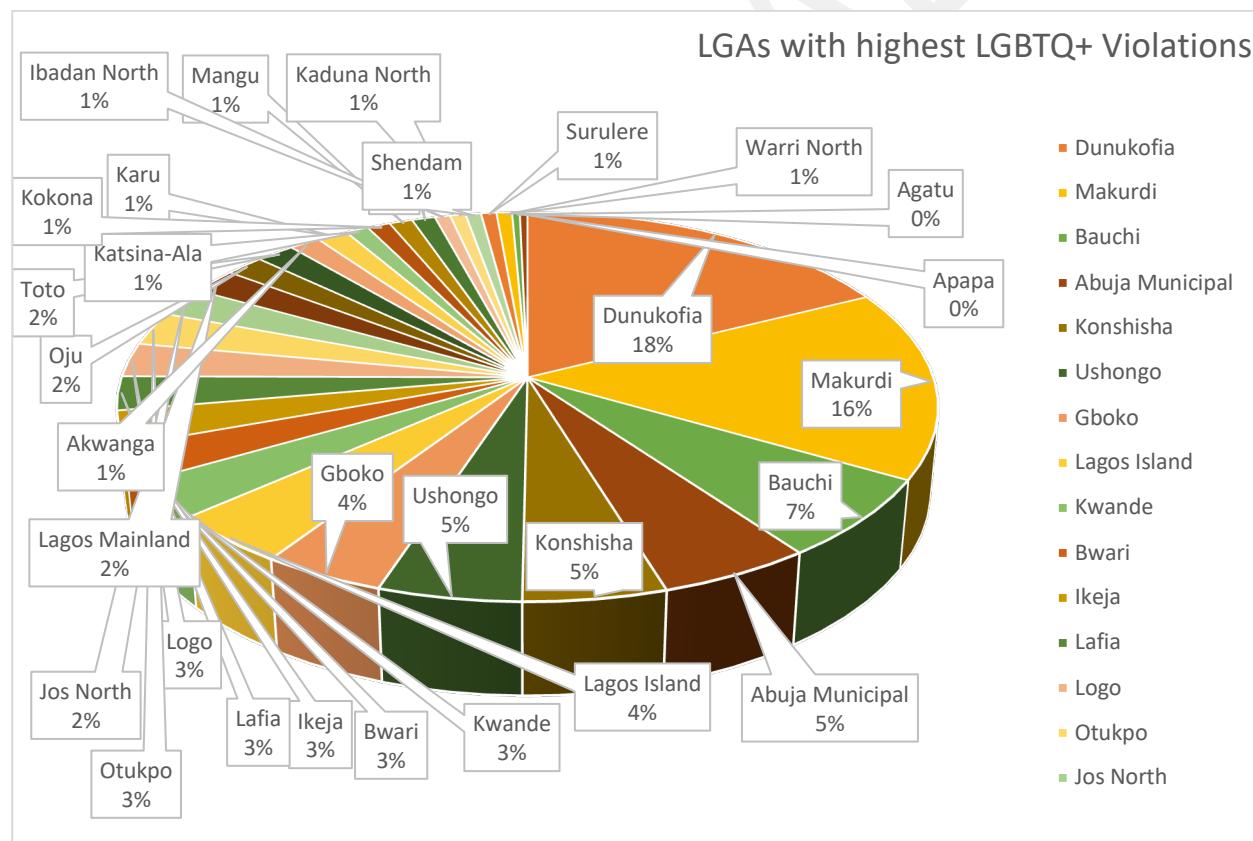


Figure 4: Analysis of LGAs with the highest LGBTQ+ Violations

Perpetrators of LGBTQ+ Violations

Analysis of Perpetrators of LGBTQ+ Violations in the Project States.

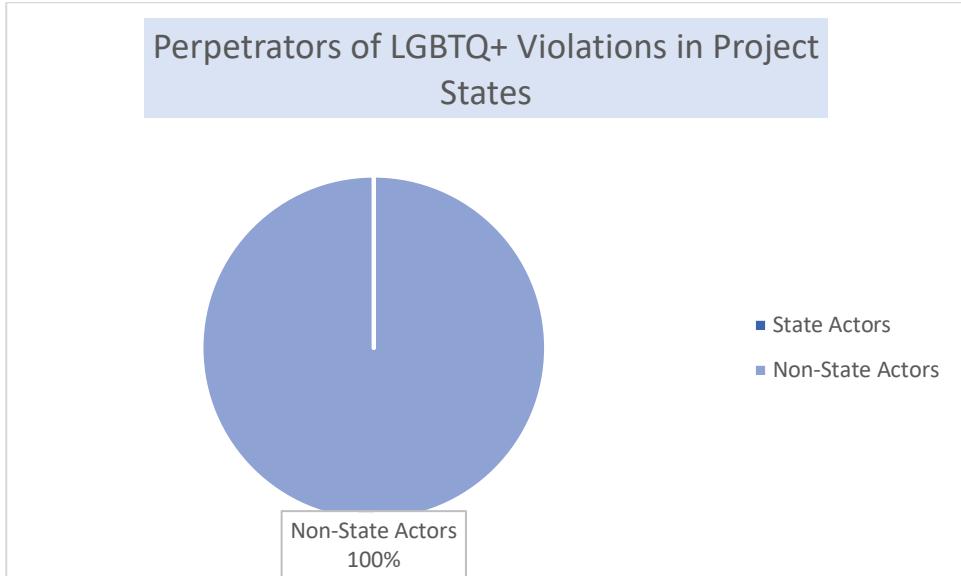


Figure 5: Pie Chart Analysis of Perpetrators of LGBTQ+ Violations in the Project States

From the above analysis, violations from **Non-State Actors** were documented at 100%. This encompassed family members, landlords, private employers of labour, friends, partners, community members, religious leaders, neighbours, etc. This is similar to the last reporting period, where Non-State Actors accounted for the highest violations in project states. The stigma of the LGBTQ+ community within the domestic space calls for further enlightenment and literacy.

General Analysis of Perpetrators of LGBTQ+ Violations

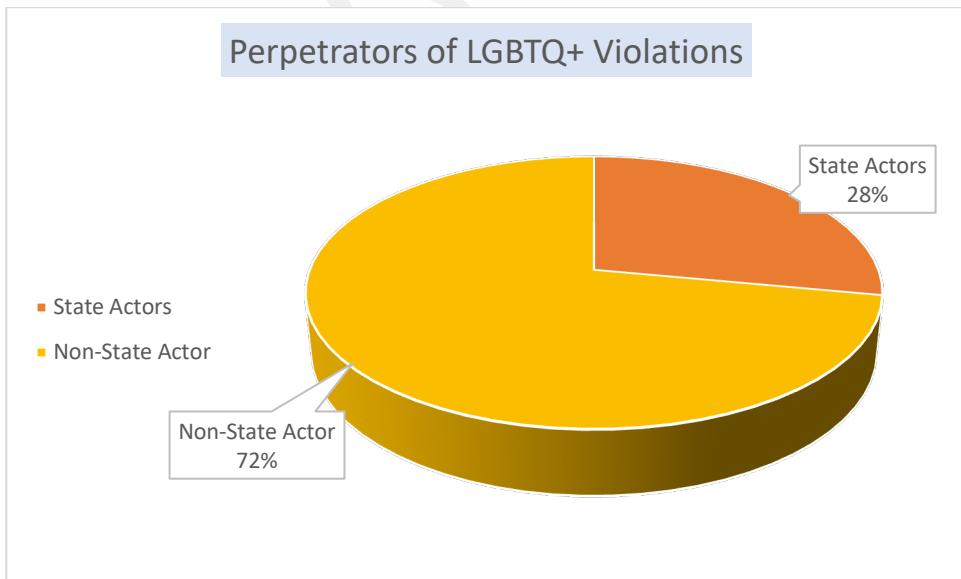


Figure 6: Analysis of Perpetrators of LGBTQ+ Violations

From the above analysis, **Non-State Actors** also ranked first at 72%. Just like in the project states, this includes family members, landlords, private employers of labour, friends, religious leaders, neighbours, etc. **State Actors**, which include the Police, Vigilantes, Medical Care Givers, Nurses, etc., ranked second at 28%. There is also a need to further enhance the knowledge of State Actors on the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in Nigeria.

Perpetrators	December 2024	November 2025	Increase	Decrease
Non-State Actors	75%	72%	-	3%
State Actors	25%	28%	3%	-

Table 3: Table showing the percentage of increase and decrease of violations by Perpetrators in States

From the above table, **Non-State Actors** continued to account for the majority of reported perpetrators across both reporting periods. However, their share declined slightly from 75% in December 2024 to 72% in November 2025, representing a 3% decrease. Despite this marginal reduction, non-state actors remain the predominant perpetrators, underscoring the persistent risks posed by individuals, community groups, and other non-state entities.

In contrast, reported violations attributed to **State Actors** increased from 25% in December 2024 to 28% in November 2025, reflecting a 3% rise. This increase may be indicative of improved documentation and reporting of abuses involving state authorities, as well as increased confidence among survivors and community members to report such violations.

This suggests a slight shift in the perpetrator profile, with a growing proportion of reported cases involving state actors. This trend highlights the need for continued advocacy, accountability mechanisms, and engagement with state institutions, alongside sustained community-based interventions to address violations perpetrated by non-state actors.

LGBTQ+ Violations based on Age

Analysis of LGBTQ+ Violations based on Age in Project States.

The pie chart below provides a breakdown by age, illustrating that the highest incidents of LGBTQ+ violations in the project states occur in the 20-24 years age group, accounting for 57%. The 25 – 40 years age bracket follows closely behind at 40%, while the age bracket of 10 – 19 years comes in third at 3%. The 0-5- and 6-9-years groups had an insignificant reportage at less than 1%.

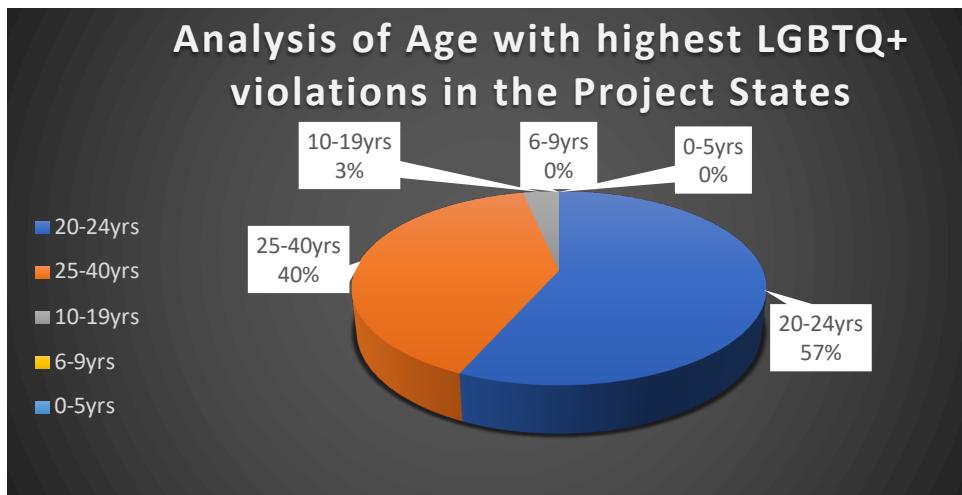


Figure 7: Age with the highest LGBTQ+ violations in the project states.

Age	December 2024	November 2025	Increase	Decrease
20-24	62%	57%	-	5%
25-29	31%	40%	9%	-
10-19	7%	3%	-	4%
6-9	0%	0%	-	-
0-5	0%	0%	-	-

Table 4: Table showing the percentage of increase and decrease of violations in Project States

The table above presents a comparative analysis of reported LGBTQ+ violations by age group between December 2024 and November 2025, highlighting shifts in age-related reporting trends over the two periods.

Young adults aged **20-24** continued to represent the largest proportion of reported cases across both reporting periods. However, their share declined from 62% in December 2024 to 57% in November 2025, reflecting a 5% decrease. While this age group remains the most affected, the reduction suggests a relative redistribution of reported cases across other age categories rather than a substantive decline in violations.

In contrast, the **25-29** age group recorded a notable increase, rising from 31% in December 2024 to 40% in November 2025, representing a 9% increase. This shift may indicate increased awareness, confidence, and willingness to report violations among individuals in this age cohort, as well as improved reach of reporting mechanisms within this demographic.

Adolescents aged **10-19** recorded a decrease from 7% to 3%, representing a 4% reduction. This decline may reflect underreporting within this age group, barriers related to disclosure, or limited access to reporting channels, rather than an actual reduction in violations.

Both age groups **0-5** and **6-9**, had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in both reporting periods.

Overall, the data indicate a shift in reporting toward older youth and young adults, particularly those aged **25-29**, while highlighting the need for targeted interventions to strengthen safe reporting pathways and protective mechanisms for adolescents and younger age groups.

General Analysis of LGBTQ+ Violations based on Age.

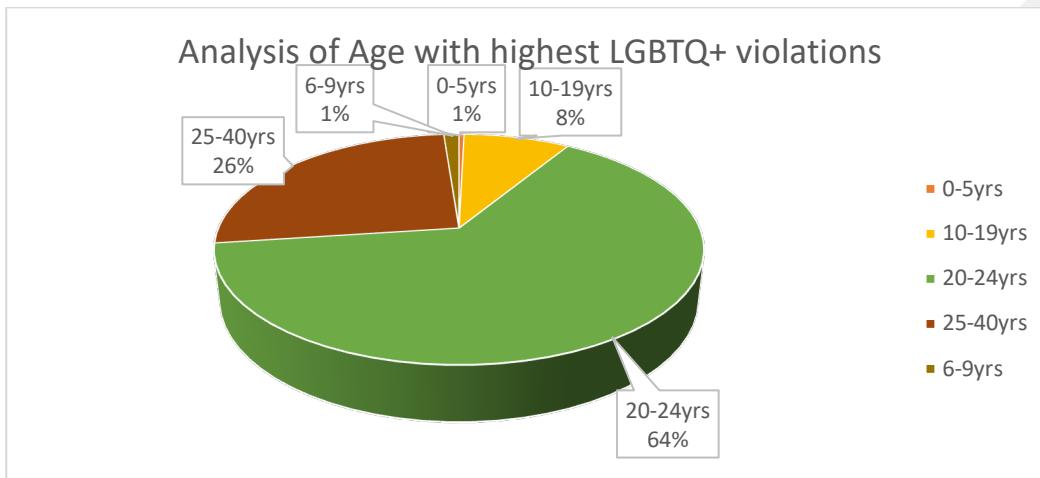


Figure 8: Age with the highest LGBTQ+ violations in the states.

In the pie chart analyzing violations in all states captured, the 20-24 year age group had the highest violation at 64%. This is closely followed by the 25 – 40 years age bracket at 26%, with the age bracket of 10 – 19 years in third position at 8%. The 6-9 and 0-5 year groups were documented at 1% respectively.

Age	December 2024	November 2025	Increase	Decrease
20-24	66%	64%	-	2%
25-29	21%	26%	5%	-
10-19	10%	8%	-	2%
6-9	2%	1%	-	1%
0-5	1%	1%	-	-

Table 5: Table showing the percentage of increase and decrease of violations in States

The table above show an analysis of reported cases by age group between December 2024 and November 2025, highlighting changes in age-related reporting patterns over time.

Individuals aged **20-24** continued to account for the highest proportion of reported cases in both reporting periods. However, their share decreased slightly from 66% in December 2024 to 64% in November 2025, representing a 2% decline. Despite this marginal reduction, this age group remains the most

represented, underscoring their continued vulnerability and visibility within reporting mechanisms.

The **25–29** age group recorded an increase from 21% to 26%, reflecting a 5% rise. This increase suggests improved engagement, awareness, and confidence in reporting among individuals in this age bracket, potentially as a result of targeted outreach efforts and strengthened reporting channels.

Age **10–19** experienced a modest decrease of 2%, declining from 10% to 8%. Similarly, age **6–9** saw a reduction from 2% to 1%, representing a 1% decrease. These declines may indicate underreporting among younger age groups due to barriers such as limited access to reporting mechanisms, dependence on caregivers, or concerns around disclosure, rather than an actual reduction in incidents. The proportion of reported cases among children aged **0–5** remained unchanged at 1% across both reporting periods.

The data reflects a gradual shift in reporting toward older youth and young adults, particularly those aged 25–29, while highlighting persistent gaps in reporting among younger age groups.

Impact of LGBTQ+ Violations

Analysis of the Impact of LGBTQ+ Violations in the Project States.

The chart below provides an overview of the impact of violations related to the LGBTQ+ community as captured in the project states. **Emotional Abuse** ranked highest at 16%, closely followed by **Harassment** at 14%. **Physical Abuse** ranks third at 13%, with **Verbal Abuse** coming fourth at 11%. **Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality** was fifth at 8%, with **Denial of Freedom to Associate** and **Denial of Family Life** following at 7%. **Blackmailing** was at 6%, with **Sexual Exploitation** documented at 4%. **Invasion of Privacy** and **Forced Financial Dependence/ Economic Abuse** were at 3%. **Denial of Accurate SRH Information**, **Limited Access to SRH Services**, and **Failure to Protect Personal Security** were reported at 2%, respectively. **Unlawful denial of Freedom of Movement**, **Denial of Quality Health Care**, **Denial of Quality SRH Services**, and **Confidentiality Breach** were all captured at 1%, while **Denial of Affordable SRH** was recorded at an insignificant value of less than 1%.

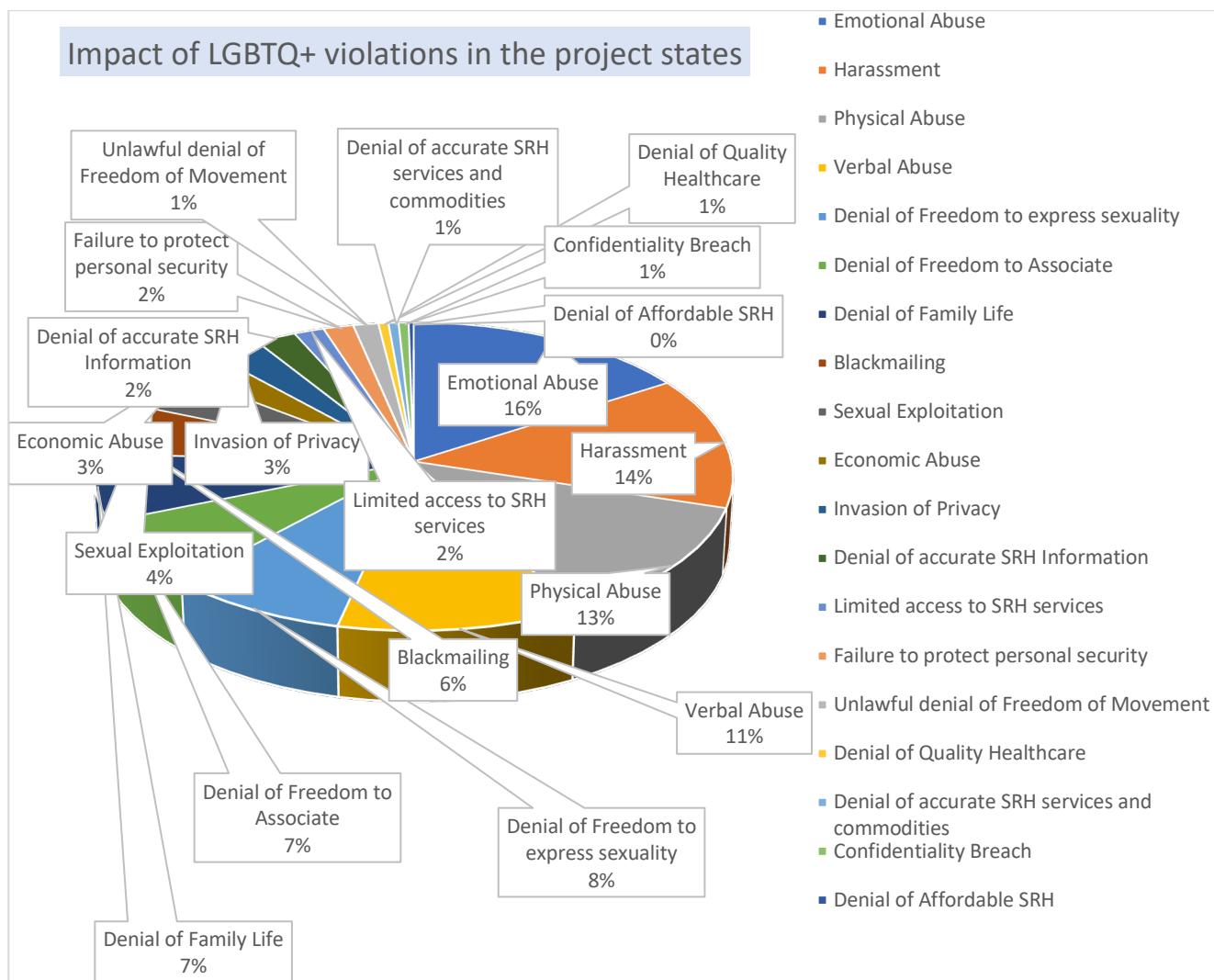


Figure 9: Analysis of the Impact of LGBTQ+ Violations in the Project States

Impact	December 2024	November 2025	Increase	Decrease
Emotional Abuse	17%	16%	-	1%
Harassment	9%	14%	5%	-
Physical Abuse	17%	13%	-	4%
Verbal Abuse	8%	11%	3%	-
Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality	9%	8%	-	1%
Denial of Freedom to Associate	9%	7%	-	2%
Denial of Family Life	6%	7%	1%	-
Blackmailing	6%	6%	-	-
Sexual Exploitation	4%	4%	-	-
Invasion of Privacy	1%	3%	2%	-

Forced Financial Dependence/ Economic Abuse	2%	3%	1%	-
Denial of Accurate SRH Information	2%	2%	-	-
Limited Access to SRH Services	4%	2%	-	2%
Failure to Protect Personal Security	2%	2%	-	-
Unlawful denial of Freedom of Movement	1%	1%	-	-
Denial of Quality Health Care	1%	1%	-	-
Denial of Quality SRH Services	2%	1%	-	1%
Confidentiality Breach	1%	1%	-	-
Denial of Affordable SRH	1%	0%	1%	1%

Table 6: Table showing the percentage of increase and decrease of the impact of LGBTQ+ violations in Project States

From the table above, Emotional Abuse and Physical Abuse remained prominent impacts, although both recorded marginal declines. Emotional Abuse decreased slightly from 17% in December 2024 to 16% in November 2025, while Physical Abuse declined more notably from 17% to 13%, representing a 4% reduction. These decreases should be interpreted cautiously, as they may reflect changes in reporting patterns or the relative increase of other forms of violations rather than a substantive reduction in occurrence.

Harassment recorded a significant increase, rising from 9% to 14%, representing a 5% increase. This suggests a growing prevalence or improved reporting of harassment-related violations. Similarly, Verbal Abuse increased from 8% to 11%, reflecting a 3% rise, further highlighting the persistence of non-physical forms of violence and intimidation.

Several rights-based violations related to personal freedoms showed modest declines. Denial of freedom to express sexuality decreased slightly from 9% to 8%, while denial of freedom to associate declined from 9% to 7%. Limited access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services also decreased from 4% to 2%, alongside a reduction in denial of quality SRH services from 2% to 1%. These reductions may indicate incremental improvements in access or, alternatively, shifts in reporting focus.

Conversely, certain impacts recorded increases. Denial of family life rose marginally from 6% to 7%, while invasion of privacy increased from 1% to 3%, representing a 2% rise. Economic-related violations also showed upward trends,

with forced financial dependence and economic abuse increasing from 2% to 3%. These trends point to emerging or increasingly reported forms of control and coercion.

Other impacts, including blackmailing, sexual exploitation, denial of accurate SRH information, failure to protect personal security, unlawful denial of freedom of movement, denial of quality health care, and confidentiality breaches, remained relatively stable across both reporting periods.

Denial of affordable SRH services declined from 1% in December 2024 to 0% in November 2025, indicating no reported cases during the current reporting period.

The above analysis reflects a shift toward increased reporting of harassment, verbal abuse, privacy violations, and economic control, while physical abuse and certain SRH-related deprivations showed relative declines. These patterns underscore the evolving nature of violations and highlight the need for targeted interventions that address both overt and less visible forms of abuse, alongside sustained monitoring of access to health and protective services.

General Analysis of the Impact of LGBTQ+ Violations

In the chart below, **Emotional Abuse** and **Verbal Abuse** ranked highest at 12%, closely followed by **Physical Abuse** at 10%. **Harassment** was third at 9%. **Blackmailing, Denial of Freedom to Express Sexuality, and Denial of Freedom to Associate** were documented at 8%, with **Failure to Protect Personal Security** documented at 7%. **Unlawful Forced Detention** and **Unlawful Denial of Freedom of Movement** were at 6%, with **Invasion of Privacy** at 4%. **Denial of Family Life** was at 2%, while **Limited access to SRH services, Confidentiality Breach, Sexual Exploitation, Forced Financial Dependence/Economic Abuse, Rape, and Denial of Accurate SRH** were at 1% respectively. **Denial of Quality Health Care, Denial of Affordable SRH, Denial of accurate SRH services & commodities, and Denial of housing or eviction on grounds of sexual orientation**, all had an insignificant amount of less than 1%.

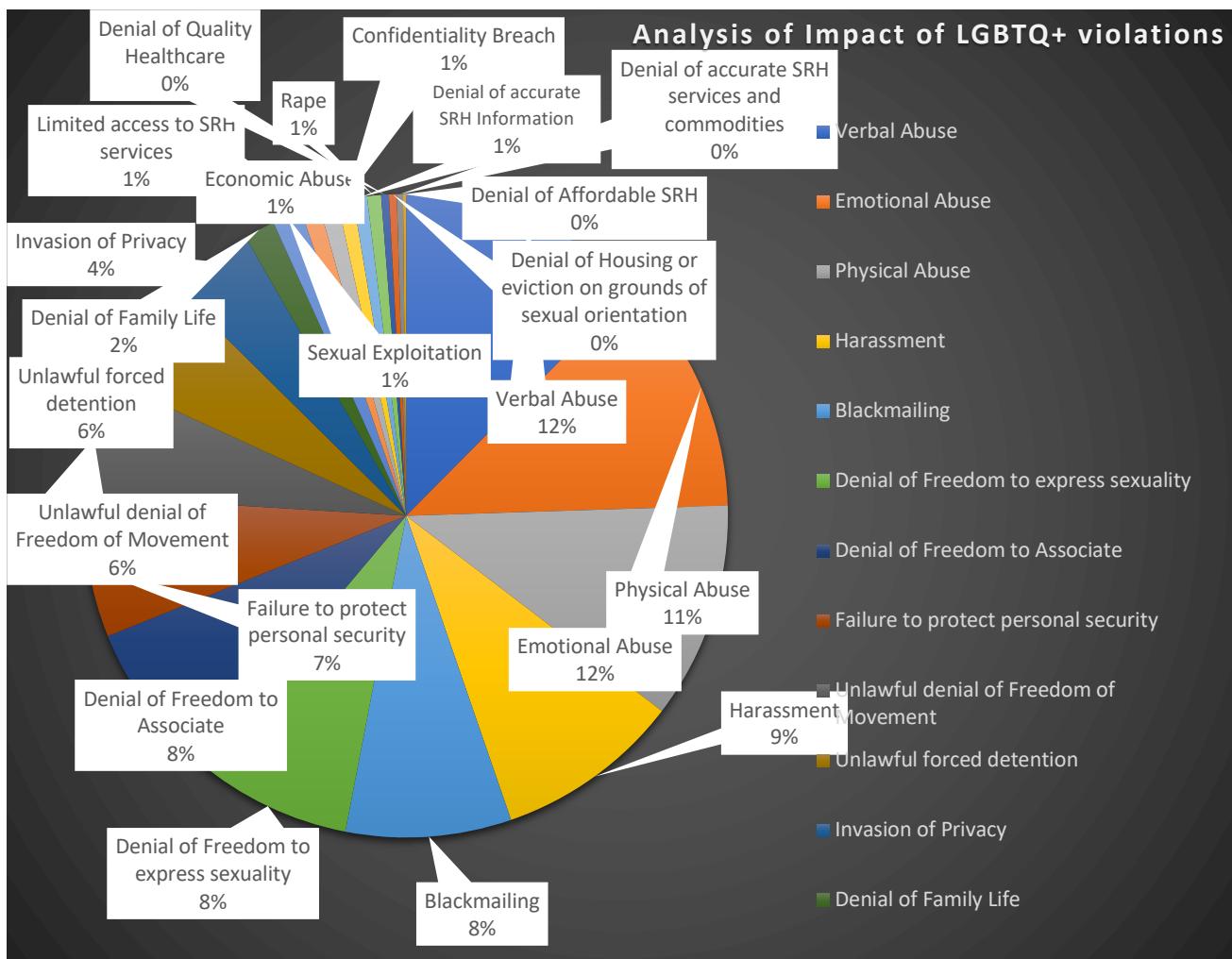


Figure 2: Analysis of the Impact of LGBTQ+ Violations

Emotional and Psychological Impact of LGBTQ+ Violations

The persistent discrimination and human rights violations experienced by LGBTQ+ individuals in Nigeria have far-reaching emotional and psychological effects. Legal and social hostility, reinforced by the enforcement of the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA), has fostered an environment characterized by fear, isolation, and sustained psychological distress for sexual minorities.

One of the most pervasive consequences is prolonged anxiety and stress. Many LGBTQ+ individuals live under constant threat of exposure, arrest, or violence, resulting in heightened levels of anxiety that interfere with daily life. This sustained state of fear often manifests in physical symptoms, including sleep disturbances, chronic headaches, and elevated blood pressure, significantly undermining overall wellbeing.

Depression is also widely reported, driven by social exclusion and rejection from families, peers, and communities. Experiences such as forced eviction from homes, economic marginalization, and the loss of support networks contribute to feelings of hopelessness and emotional despair. The absence of safe and affirming spaces for self-expression further intensifies these challenges, increasing vulnerability to self-harm and suicidal ideation.

Emotional abuse, which is identified as one of the most frequently reported forms of violation in this study, significantly exacerbates psychological harm. Persistent verbal harassment, intimidation, and degrading treatment erode self-worth and often lead to internalized stigma, whereby individuals begin to view themselves as undeserving of dignity and acceptance. This internal conflict frequently results in identity suppression, as individuals feel compelled to conceal their sexual orientation or gender identity, leading to profound emotional strain.

Mental health outcomes are further worsened by limited access to appropriate psychological and medical support. Many LGBTQ+ individuals avoid seeking professional assistance due to fears of discrimination by healthcare providers, breaches of confidentiality, and the absence of culturally competent mental health services. As a result, trauma associated with physical and sexual abuse often remains untreated, giving rise to long-term psychological harm.

The hostile legal and societal context also deepens feelings of loneliness and exclusion. Restrictions on freedom of association and expression isolate individuals from peer networks and community support systems. This isolation not only affects mental health but also restricts access to essential services, including legal assistance and healthcare.

Addressing the emotional and psychological consequences of these violations requires urgent and sustained action. Strengthened legal protections, increased public awareness, and the provision of accessible, inclusive, and affirming mental health services are critical to mitigating the long-term effects of discrimination. Without such interventions, the cycle of stigma, emotional distress, and marginalization will continue, perpetuating harm against an already vulnerable population.

Conclusion

The violation analysis presented above reflects documented incidents recorded between December 2023 and November 2025. While the data may not capture the full scope of violations across all parts of the country, it remains accurate, credible, and provides a reliable representation of the human rights situation affecting LGBTQ+ individuals in Nigeria.

It is important to note that the findings in this report are based solely on data collected through the online reporting portal, the Lawyers Alert Documentation Tool (LadockT). Despite this limitation, the data offers critical insights into prevailing patterns and trends of violations experienced by the LGBTQ+ community.

By systematically documenting and analyzing these incidents, Lawyers Alert is confident that the evidence generated will serve as a vital resource for informed, evidence-based advocacy aimed at combating stigma and discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons in Nigeria. Furthermore, it is anticipated that this data will contribute to advancing dialogue on inclusion, promoting systemic change, and supporting long-term efforts toward the repeal of the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA) in Nigeria, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and rights-respecting society.