

**RAPE AND THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A STUDY OF LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA**

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**JULY, 2022**

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**BY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE  
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LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT  
UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.**

**JULY, 2022**

## **ACCEPTANCE**

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Masters of Science in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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## **DECLARATION**

I, **JOHNSON DORCAS INYANG (14AH017305)** declare that this M.Sc. dissertation is based on my study in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State. This project has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of a degree. All ideas and views expressed are products of personal research and all sources of data, scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

**JOHNSON, DORCAS INYANG**

**Signature & Date**

## **CERTIFICATION**

We certify that this dissertation titled “**RAPE AND THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (DEVAW): A STUDY OF LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA**” is an original research work carried out by **JOHNSON, DORCAS (14AH017305)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Professor Daniel Esemé Gberevbíe. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of M.Sc. in International Relations.

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**Signature and Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to God Almighty for his love, favour, grace, mercy, strength, wisdom, knowledge and understanding that he continually bestows upon my life. To him alone be all the glory.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>DEVAW</b>	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technology

## ABSTRACT

Rape is a long-standing crime that is gradually becoming a way of life in developing societies. In climes such as Africa, with the high incidences of rape that occur on a daily basis, it will not be out of place to refer to it as an epidemic or pandemic. The reason for this proliferation is not far-fetched as issues pertaining to rape seem to be discussed in hush tones while victims get blamed for being raped as though they are the architect of their misfortune. With events playing out, it thus looks as though by subtle acts that can be misconstrued for approval, rapist now escape apprehension and persecution. With victims refusing to report their ordeal to the law enforcement agencies, it has become so difficult to produce accurate statistics on rape in Nigeria. These issues acted as a catalyst to this work as it is borne out of failure of the authorities to reduce the crime of rape. Arising from the identified loopholes, the work embarked on a study of rape prevalence in Lagos State, Nigeria utilizing the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women the frame of analysis. The reason we choose Lagos was basically due to its strategic location, Ikeja is the seat of Lagos state administration, paradoxically, Ikeja is one of the top three local government areas that has the highest number of rape cases reported among the 20 local government areas in Lagos State. Data is harnessed from the interview feed backs and questionnaire respondent while supplementing it with book chapters, journals and other sources from the internet. With retrieved data from the 340 questionnaires analyzed, interviews conducted and secondary sources, the work discovers that rape is surging rather than subsiding. It further observed that the blame on indecent dressing as a key causal factor for rape was misleading as it contributed minimally to the activity. It recommended the strengthening of existing laws on rape in other to act as a deterrence mechanism to would be offenders. It strongly called for the utilization of ICT enabled technologies in the fight against rape and suggests the forging of synergies and linkages between the government and non-state actors. It admonishes the relevant government parastatal to ensure the Nigerian state benefits from preexisting coalitions or conventions the state has assented to rather than join more without any mutual benefits accruing to her.

***Keywords: Assault, crime, Lagos, rape, Nigeria***