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FACT SHEET FIVE

LAWS PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) IN KANO STATE

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Introduction <<

In Kano state, different law exists to protect children against GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV).

These laws are mostly Edicts dated back to 1980s, with few amendments and reviews made. Some of the provisions protect the welfare, custody, adoption, and foster care of children. Others, prohibit hawking, trading, child labour, offences of GBV against children, custody of a child in remand home and educational structure of a child when a child commits an offence. The laws are:

- I. Kano State Fostering Edict of 1983 (as review in 2000 and 2013)**
The Edict was established in 1983 and reviewed in the years 2000 and 2013, the edict bothers on the welfare of children and the process and procedures towards the adoption and fostering of children in Kano State.
- II. Kano State Children and Young Persons Law**
The law defines who a child is and who a young person is. It also states the welfare and care of a child, and also bothers on treatment and custody of a child when he commits a criminal offence.
- III. Kano State Penal Code Law**
The Penal Code of Kano State has considerable sections that bothers on a child in Kano State with provisions on offences committed against a child. The law criminalizes miscarriage of an unborn child, exposure of infants, cruelty to children, assault, force labour, unnatural offence, rape, and indecent assault.
- IV. Kano State Petty Trading Prohibitions of Females and Juvenile Law, 1984**
The law prohibits street hawking, setting up of stalls, tables, and kiosk by female juveniles below the age of 16. Where a female juvenile is subjected to street hawking, setting up of stalls, tables and kiosk by a parent or guardian such juvenile shall be committed to the care of any other person fit to care for the juvenile whether a relative or not.

V. Quranic Schools Movement Law

The law focuses on tsangaya schools (Quranic Schools); it stipulates how the schools should be governed and how the Malams (teachers) are to cater and care for their pupils.

VI. Kano State Shariah Penal Code Law

The law has considerable sections bothering on offences against a child in Kano State such as the offence of rape.

VII. Kano State Prohibition of Child Labour and Street Begging Law

The law prohibits subjecting a child to child labour and street begging either by parents, guardians, relatives, or Quranic School teachers.

LAWS UNDER REVIEW

The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law and the Child Protection Law (which is a replica of the Child Rights Act) are under review and scrutiny to suit the interest, culture, and norms of the people of Kano State.

CALL FOR ACTION

Most of the above laws are edicts dated back to 1980s.

PWAN calls upon the Government of Kano state to speed the process of domesticating the VAPP and Child Rights Law in the state.

PWAN enjoins the state government to repel or amend obsolete laws to be in tandem with current happenings, while calling for greater implementation of the laws.

Kano should increase protection for girls and almajiri boys as a means of promoting their rights.