

# Statement for the UPR of Nigeria

1 November 2013

## Adoption of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill

The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Bill was drafted as a response to concerns about the consistent failure of Nigerian authorities to adopt and implement a legal framework to address and prevent sexual violence. The aim of the bill is to eliminate the occurrence of gender-based violence in Nigeria. The bill has been rejected twice in the past year. It has been passed by the House of Representatives, and is waiting to be passed by the Senate.

WILPF therefore suggests the following recommendation for the UPR of Nigeria:

- That the Violence Against Person's Prohibition (VAPP) Bill is passed by the Senate.

## Support to victims of acts of gender-based violence

Violence against women is rising in Nigeria with the Police reporting in 2011 that only 28% of rape cases were reported. The proliferation of small arms in Nigeria has facilitated violence against women and human rights abuses against women. During Nigeria's first UPR in 2009, the Human Rights Council recommended Nigeria to pass laws to protect women and stressed the need for an effective legal and justice system, responsive to women's needs and that secures access to justice.

WILPF therefore suggests the following recommendations for the UPR of Nigeria:

- To create and implement an effective legal aid programme to increase women's access to justice through the provision of support before, during and after trial.
- To apply a multisectoral approach in providing holistic services to survivors of violence against women and girls that ensures effective delivery of services including medical, psychological, psycho-social, trauma rehabilitation, economic

empowerment and legal services to women who need them in pursuing justice to end impunity.

#### National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

National Action Plans on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR1325) are effective tools for realizing the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda through national coordination. We welcome the launch of Nigeria's National Action Plan in August 2013. However, we stress the importance of allocating funds to effectively implement it.

WILPF therefore suggests the following recommendation for the UPR of Nigeria:

- Allocate special funds to fast track the process of implementing a national Action Plan on SCR 1325.

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