

# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls in Ondo State

October 30 - November 05, 2022

## Description

This weekly update spotlights gender-based violence (GBV) in the Niger Delta with a focus on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), more than 80 incidents of VAWG were reported in Ondo State between January 2019 and September 2022. Recent incidents indicate an upsurge of violence against women and girls including sexual abuse and domestic violence in the State. In May 2022, for instance, a 15-year-old girl was reportedly raped by a 20-year-old man in Ondo town, Ondo West LGA. In September, a woman was reportedly strangled by her 18-year-old son during a disagreement in Ikakumo Akoko Community, Akoko North-East LGA. Separately, in September, a 2-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her stepfather in Akungba-Akoko community, Akoko South-West LGA. Recently, on October 14, 2022, a middle-aged woman was reportedly killed by her 42-year-old husband during a quarrel in Oke Aro community, Akure South LGA. The man reportedly killed his wife after he allegedly discovered the sum of 10 million naira deposited in one of her accounts hidden from him.

## Why it Matters

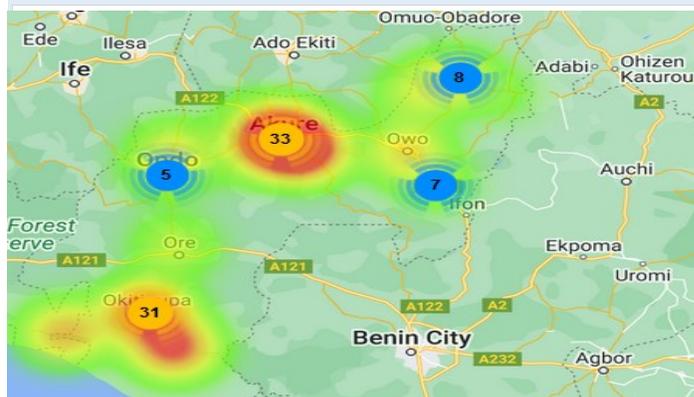
Recent data shows that violence against women and girls is becoming increasingly prevalent in Ondo State. If not curtailed, the situation could intensify in ways that could severely undermine the security and wellbeing of women and girls in the State. This could bring about far-reaching devastating social, economic and political consequences.

**Social:** Victims of VAWG often suffer lifelong emotional and psychological trauma as well as health and safety risks including injuries and death. Sexually abused children and girls could grow up to be solitary, emotionally unstable, insecure and distrustful. VAWG is not only devastating for victims and their families, it also has damaging impacts on communities and society. When cases of VAWG are condoned, it can embolden perpetrators to commit more violence. This could bring about a general feeling of insecurity and injustice in the society.

**Economic:** VAWG could impose huge financial burdens on families, communities, the government, and the private sector. These could be the costs of psychosocial support, child welfare, healthcare services or legal expenses. Victims of VAWG could suffer physical and psychological pains that can affect their productivity at home and in the workplace. This could undermine the economic wellbeing of families.

**Political:** VAWG is a human rights violation with serious implications for politics and governance. It could hinder participation of women in politics and the fulfilment of their electoral rights including voting. This could undermine ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls which are prerequisites for the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Incidents Heat Map of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of reported incidents of VAWG in Ondo State from January 2019 - September 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

VAWG is increasingly becoming prevalent in Ondo State. The situation could worsen, unless appropriate actions are taken by stakeholders. Peace and development actors should collaborate with the government to intensify ongoing efforts to curtail the different forms of VAWG and tackle the societal and structural drivers in the State. Stakeholders should also work with media outfits to raise awareness of VAWG and advocate for appropriate preventive, punitive and remedial measures to mitigate the situation in the State.

## Contact Us

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## Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

**Incident Details:** Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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