

Niger Delta Weekly: Raising Awareness of Sexual Violence in Ondo State

August 16-22, 2020

Description

This weekly update highlights sexual violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on the sexual abuse of children in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), over 90 incidents of sexual violence were reported in Ondo State between January 2015 and June 2020. Recent data shows an increase in incidents of child sexual abuse in the State. In April 2020, for instance, a 16-year old girl with epilepsy was reported to have been serially raped by a clergyman in Ehinogbe community, Owo LGA. In May, 2 girls, aged 6 and 9 years, were reportedly defiled by their 48-year old father in Akure town, Akure South LGA. In June, a 15-year old girl was reportedly raped by 4 men in Ikare-Akoko community, Akoko North East LGA. The culprits also reportedly attempted to rape the mother of the victim. In July, a 12-year old primary school girl was reportedly raped and killed by a commercial motorcyclist in Eshe-Akoko community, Akoko North West LGA. The incident reportedly triggered a protest by residents. Recently, on July 30, 2020, a 3-year old girl was reportedly raped by a 23-year old man in Akpata community, Ese-Odo LGA.

Why it Matters

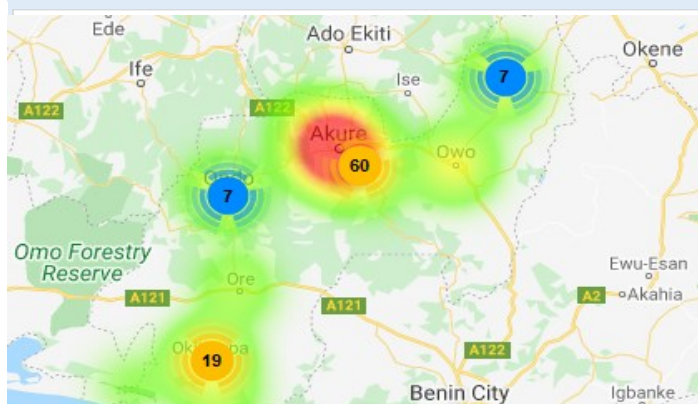
In spite of recent increase in incidents of child sexual abuse in the Ondo State, the level of public awareness of the situation remains low, mainly because many of the victims are not able or willing to report. Raising awareness of the nature, dimensions and prevalence of child sexual abuse, and its socio-economic and political consequences is crucial for prevention at the individual, institutional and societal levels.

Social: The impact of child sexual abuse could be socially upsetting and far-reaching. It can cause death, mental disorder, and sexual and reproductive health problems. The consequences of child sexual abuse could be intergenerational - sexually abused children could grow up to be vulnerable and frustrated, and develop age inappropriate sexual behaviors including high risk sexual conducts that could increase the risk of victimization and perpetration of sexual violence.

Economic: Child sexual abuse could impose substantial economic costs on victims, families, communities and government. The costs of healthcare, child welfare and criminal justice services can adversely impact family economic wellbeing. It can cause death and thus the loss of all the investment in the victim. It can also hinder the education of victims, which could lead to loss of productivity in adulthood.

Political: Child sexual abuse is a serious human rights and public health problem. Rising cases of child sexual abuse could portray the government as lacking the appropriate legislative, administrative and educational measures to protect children from sexual abuses.

Incidents Heat Map of Sexual Violence in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of sexual violence in Ondo State from January 2015 - June 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Prognosis

Recent data shows the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Ondo State. Stakeholders should work with the State government, community leaders and media outfits to raise awareness of the nature and dimensions of child sexual abuse, and carry out programs to change attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate and condone sexual violence. Stakeholders should also educate the public on available legal, remedial and support services, and appropriate preventive measures including parenting and child protection guidelines.

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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