

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SITUATIONS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: REALITIES FACED BY WOMEN WITHIN THE IDP CAMPS IN NIGERIA*

Abstract

Human right violation and conflict across the world has resulted in the displacement of many. Individuals in various countries are evacuated from their homes and displaced in their own countries as a result of conflict. The IDPs are part of the broader civilian population that needs protection and assistance because of conflict and human rights abuses. This paper examines the fact that internally displaced women in particular face a range of protection issues on a daily basis greater than other affected populations. Often without the protection of family and communities they had before displacement, they are vulnerable to gender-based violence and others violent situations. International law sets out the rights of every individual and the responsibility of States and other authorities to ensure the protection of these rights and that of IDPs within the state. The research emphasised that the existing laws notwithstanding, internally displaced women remain within the borders of their own country and are still greatly anguished by unique set of challenges they are saddled with. The article suggested the need for the IDPs to be encouraged to take part in projects that affect them. The methodology used was the doctrinal study of the key subject of this research, and reliance was also placed on policy documents and other international instruments relevant to the research topic.

Keywords: Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs), Abuse, Human Right, Gender Based Violence, Women.

1. Introduction

Globally today there is an inexorable and escalating degree of violence in the world's armed conflicts. The result is that there are currently 59.5 million refugees worldwide,¹ among the violence; the brutalization of women has become an appalling and persistent trend.² Drawing attention to the issue, Senior UN relief official Kyung-Wha Kang pointed to the fact that when militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) have captured territory in Iraq and Syria, they had punished and sexually assault women to demonstrate their power, in addition Nigerian women and girls have given harrowing accounts of their experiences at the hands of Boko Haram.³ The non-international armed conflict in Nigerian between the Government and the armed opposition has resulted into the internal displacement of more than 1.76 million people mostly in the North Eastern region of Nigeria. In February 2015, the number of IDPs displaced as a result of the armed conflict was estimated at 946,000⁴ by October 2016, this figure had risen to an estimated number of 1.68 million with the majority located in Borno State, including approximately 528,000 IDPs in Maiduguri Metropolis, and 864,000 IDPs in areas outside of Maiduguri Metropolis. While 22% of these IDPS are residing in official camp like setting, the majority are residing within the host community.⁵ The total number of IDPs in North East and North Central

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¹M. Obradovic. *Protecting Female Refugees against Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Camps*. 2015 United Nations Universities. (UNU).P.13. <https://unu.edu/publications/articles/protecting-female-refugees-against-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-in-camps.html> Assessed on 14th Jan 2021.

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Global Trends 2010: 60 Years and Still Counting* (2011), p. 33. See also Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), *Global Overview 2014*, <http://www.internaldisplacement.org/publications/2014/global-overview-2014-people-internally-displaced-by-conflict-and-violence>; IDMC "Girl Disrupted," March 2014, accessed on 17th Jan. 2020.

³ Ibid

⁴ According to the Displacement Trafficking Matrix (DTM) Round Report II, in February 2015 there was an estimated 672,714 IDPs in Borno State, 220,159 IDPs in Adamawa State and 135,810 IDPs in Yobe State, making a total estimate of 1,028,683 IDPs in these three States, and 91.98% were displaced as a result of the conflict.

⁵S. Redondo ICRC; *Internal Displacement In The North East: Operationalising The Kampala Convention In Borno And Adamawa* 2016. <http://internal-displacement-in-north-east-nigeria.pdf> accessed on 21st of Jan 2021

Nigeria is estimated at over 2 million people,⁶ making internally displaced persons in Nigeria the six largest IDP populations in the world.⁷

In Nigeria, most of the incidences of internal displacement occur because of violent conflicts with ethnic religious and political undertones.⁸ Thousands are also internally displaced as a result of natural disasters,⁹ some incidences also occur because of clashes between Fulani herdsmen and farmers and between government forces and armed groups. Number of internal displaced persons may also increase as a result of conflict arising during general election. These fears were confirmed when the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported that about 65,000 persons were displaced internally due to post-election violence spread across six Northern states including Bauchi, Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Katsina and Sokoto.¹⁰ The activities of Boko haram insurgent also has inflicted terrible hardship on Nigerians especially the northern part of the country and has significantly increased the number of internally displaced person in the country. IDPs are generally traumatized by Forced displacement leading to extreme level of violence, the separation of their families and the loss of home and property. Seeking refuge in an IDP camp in Nigeria is an added burden because IDPs come from remote rural villages and are not acquainted with the urban density of camps and to being forced to live alongside members of different ethnic groups.

The impact of armed conflict is generally devastating on any society at large; however women and girls are often most affected, women don't only lose their rights, like right to education, political participation and livelihoods, among others but are equally violated sexually which exacerbate the issue of gender inequalities. IDP women In addition to the many general human rights violations they face may also tend to have less access to assistance, and struggle to access adequate healthcare. They are more vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, are likely to face difficulties in exercising rights to housing, land and property, and are often excluded from decision-making processes.¹¹ Sex crimes are undeniably a serious problem because they violate personal freedoms, traumatize the victim, and often lead to undesired pregnancy, unsafe abortions, complications tied to early childbearing age, or even death. Basically, one of the causes for the awful situation of violence against displaced women, which regrettably is very much prevalent in IDPs camps, is fundamentally a result of inadequate implementation of a range of existing laws and policies that aim to protect and prevent women from assaults.

Violence against women and girls, including sexual violence and domestic violence, is a frequent outcome of protracted displacement in IDP camps. These problems are compounded by the changes in gender roles which follow the breakdown of social and family structures resulting from forced displacement. The stress and uncertainty of lack of productive work, lack of income, and the humiliation of the reversal of gender roles can cause internally displaced men to become violent with their families.¹² Most of the IDPs have very few sources of income and rely heavily on humanitarian assistance; many internally displaced men have lost their traditional roles as providers for, and protectors of their families. The internally displaced women have become heads of families, finding themselves forced into unaccustomed roles and responsibilities which they are not prepared for.¹³

⁶ International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Displacement Trafficking Matrix (DTM) Round XI Report, published February 26 2015 .This figure reflects the estimated number of IDPs in Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Nasawara, Plateau, Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara and Yobe States, as well as Abuja, Federal Capital Territory.<http://issuu.com> accessed on 22nd Jan 2021

⁷ *ibid*

⁸ National Policy on Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) In Nigeria. Federal Republic Of Nigeria August 2012 P.10

⁹ Recently, the Nigerian Red Cross Society revealed that in 2010 alone about 1.5 million people were affected nationwide. The Red Cross carried out a vulnerability analysis and identified about 5,000 vulnerable families was most affected by the 2010 floods in Nigeria.

¹⁰ M.T Ladan and I.K. Aisha, *Election Violence in Nigeria. AFSTRAG – Nigeria*, Lagos with support from the Ford Foundation. (ed.) (2005). For analysis of the factors responsible for pre, during and post-election violence in Nigeria. See also National Policy on Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) In Nigeria. Federal Republic of Nigeria August 2012 P.10

¹¹ *Ibid*

¹² A. Benjamin, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *The Gender Dimensions of Internal Displacement*: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Concept Paper and Annotated Bibliography, November 1998.

¹³ *ibid*

Often the consequence of traumatic experiences with violent conflicts, gross violations of human rights and displacement always generates conditions of severe hardship and suffering for the affected populations. It breaks up families, cuts social and cultural ties, terminates dependable employment relationships, disrupts educational opportunities, denies access to such vital necessities as food, shelter and medicine, and exposes innocent persons to such acts of violence as attacks on camps, disappearances and rape.

One of the positive developments over the past decade has been the increased attention paid to refugee and internal displaced women and those within the IDPs camp in the context of United Nations emphasis on women, peace and security.¹⁴ In recent years there has been awareness that greater focus is needed on women who are displaced within the borders of their own countries. Indeed, the rights and needs of women and girls in emergency and post-conflict situations have received increased attention since the 1990s from states, international agencies, civil society organizations and other relevant actors. These actors have also sought to promote gender-sensitive approaches to humanitarian and development assistance.¹⁵ However, Nigeria is still battling with the concern of internal displacement because of the occurrences of crisis situation especially in the northern part of the country, and unfortunately the country has not recorded reasonable success in managing internally displaced persons. Apart from lack of basic amenities (food, shelter, health care) among the displaced persons, there are also persistence issues on gender-based violence like rape, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, marginalization of women in IDPs camps across the country.

2. Protection of IDPs in Nigeria

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement defined internally displaced persons as:

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.¹⁶

The primary duty and responsibility for providing humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons lies with National authorities. International Humanitarian Organizations and other appropriate actors have the right to offer their services in support of the internally displaced person.¹⁷ National responsibility is a core concept of any response to internal displacement. It is a fundamental operating principle of the international community and is consistently emphasized by governments themselves, as a function of their sovereignty¹⁸. Since violent attacks of the Islamist group Boko Haram started to spill over Nigeria's north-eastern frontier in 2014, the country has been drawn into a devastating regional conflict.¹⁹ The challenges of protecting the internally displaced person are compounded by the deteriorating security situation as well as socio-economic fragility, poverty, a harsh climatic conditions, recurrent epidemics, poor infrastructure and limited access to basic services. The Nigerian military, together with the Multinational Joint Task Force, have driven extremists from many of the areas they once controlled, but these gains have been overshadowed by an increase of Boko Haram attacks in neighboring countries.²⁰

¹⁴ In 2000, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325 on Women in Peace and Security which was intended to promote the inclusion of women in decision-making on peace and security issues.
http://www.unfpa.org/women/docs/res_1325e.pdf accessed on 11th Jan 2021.

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 22 July 1998, ADM 1.1PRL 12.1, PRL 12.1 PR00/98/109 available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3c3da7f7.htm> accessed on 8th DEC. 2020

¹⁷ Principle 10 and 25 of the UN Guiding Principle of Internally Displacement. *Op Cit*.

¹⁸ *ibid*

¹⁹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) UN Refugee Agency; *Nigeria Emergency*. July 2020
[.https://www.unhcr.org/nigeria-emergency.html](https://www.unhcr.org/nigeria-emergency.html). Accessed on the 5th of Jan 2021

²⁰ *ibid*

United Nation general principles on internal displacement provides that internally displaced person shall in particular be protected against genocide, murder, summary or arbitrary execution and enforced disappearance. It further provides that internal displaced person whether or not their liberty has been restricted shall be protected in particular against

- a. Rape, mutilation, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- b. Slavery or contemporary form of slavery like marriage, sexual exploitation or forced labor of children
- c. Act of violence intended to spread terror amongst displaced person.²¹

Chapter IV of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 in (sections 33 to 46) provides for fundamental human rights and specifically provides that every person shall have a right to be protected and assisted in situations of internal displacement.²² However in Nigeria, the protection of victim of internal displacement has been incoherent, fragmental and on ad-hoc basis owing to the absence of appropriate legal and institutional mechanism geared towards betterment of this vulnerable group of person, the gap in their protection has worsened the difficult position they have found themselves as citizen.²³ Also, Parts of the legal framework for the regulation of IDPs in Nigeria are treaties and other international instruments relating to human rights and humanitarian law which Nigeria is legally bound to comply with. In April 17, 2012, Nigeria became the 12th African country to ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displace Persons in Africa, (otherwise known as the Kampala Convention) which in article 4 calls on States-party to respond to human rights needs. Since ratification, however the Kampala Convention has not been domesticated making the legal application of its provisions within the national legal system subject to the constitutional firewall of Section 12 of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria.²⁴

The enforceability of the Kampala Convention elevates the discourse on IDPs protection beyond humanitarianism. Consequently, it places the discourse in the realm of binding legal obligations which brings into question issues of accountability. The Kampala Convention equally offers the IDPs the normative platform to assert a legitimate claim to their protection and assistance which national courts can enforce in instances of non-performance by relevant institutions with the perception that the IDPs themselves can assert a claim to protection.²⁵ The core foundation of the Convention is that States bear the primary duty and responsibility for providing IDPs with protection and adequate assistance during internal displacement. This includes many obligations which seek to ensure the safety and dignity of IDPs, as well as the obligation to provide adequate assistance to IDPs, without discrimination and with the least possible delay. Additionally, States Parties have obligations relating to the phases prior to and after internal displacement. For example, the Convention reinforces the prohibition of forced displacement by parties to an armed conflict, as well as the obligation for States Parties to strengthen the domestic legal and policy frameworks regulating protection and assistance for IDPs. The Nigeria government in 2003 also set up a committee with the mandate to draft a National Policy on the IDPs as a means of addressing the gap in the protection of IDP in line with existing norm. The draft presented to government in 2011 surprisingly has not become operational. Notwithstanding the fact that the Draft National IDPs Policy restate all the right and freedom recognize under the United Nation Guiding Principles, Kampala Convention and the Nigeria constitution, the unreasonable delay in its adoption and eventual implementation by government also add to the issue of non-enforcement and compliance

²¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Op Cit, Principle 10 on Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Op Cit

²² Chapter IV of the Constitution Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

²³S. Ekpa and U. Hilah Md. *Legal Issues And Prospect In The Protection And Assistance Of Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) In Nigeria*: Journal Of Law , Policy And Globalization Vol 49 2016. ISSN 2224-3240 Papers, 2224-3259 (Online) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305474412_Legal_issues_and_prospects_in_the_protection_and_assistance_of_internally_displaced_persons_IDPs_in_Nigeria accessed on the 18th of Jan 2021

²⁴R. Adeola *Kampala Convention And Protection Of IDPs In Nigeria The PUNCH*. April 28th 2016 [Http://Punchng.Com/Kampala-Convention-Protection-IDPs-Nigeria](http://Punchng.Com/Kampala-Convention-Protection-IDPs-Nigeria) .accessed on 19th of Jan 2021. See Also Sec 12 Of The Constitution of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

²⁵ Ibid

of its set out standard even before domestic court in Nigeria.²⁶ This has significantly affected the protection given to the internally displaced persons.

The role of international actors is to reinforce, not replace, national responsibility. This requires a two-pronged approach of encouraging States and other authorities to meet their protection obligations under international law while also supporting the development of national and local capacities to fulfill these protection responsibilities. In Nigeria, the protection and assistance of victims of internal displacement who are technically called internally displaced persons has been incoherent, fragmented and on ad-hoc basis owing to absence of appropriate legal and institutional mechanisms geared towards betterment of this vulnerable group of persons. These gaps in their protection have worsened the intractable position they have found themselves as citizens.

3. Realities Faced by Internally Displaced Women in Nigeria

Internally displaced women face a range of protection issues on a daily basis. Sexual and gender-based violence particularly is an unfortunate reality to many women in the IDPs camp. Some women who have lost their husbands to conflict, also face additional challenges and responsibilities as heads of households, and often have to rely strictly on their effort for survival.²⁷ Women are also more exposed to gender-based violence in particular and face discrimination. Displaced women living in camps may have also experienced violence from camp administrators or humanitarian workers which aggravates their situations.²⁸ The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provides that:

Internally displaced persons, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, shall be protected in particular against rape, mutilation, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and other outrages upon personal dignity, such as acts of gender specific violence, forced prostitution and any form of indecent assault.²⁹

The Nigeria Policy Draft on IDPs on women right also states that:

Conscious of the fact that women are vulnerable group among IDPs and that some of them have been victims of different forms of indignity and abuse, the Federal Government, through this National Policy, without prejudice to the National Gender Policy, hereby provides as follows:

- That the sanctity of Nigerian womanhood shall not in any way be violated; Every woman in an IDP camp shall have the rights to her privacy;
- Women in IDP camps shall not be subjected to any form of indignity; including beating, forced labour, sexual abuse, or forceful stripping either for medical examination or other reasons whatsoever without her consent;
- Under no circumstance shall women and men be lumped together in a room except as husbands and wives or as members of the same family;
- It is the policy of government to protect Internally Displaced Women from forced marriage. Thus, nobody shall determine the partner of, or the period within which internally displaced women ought to get married;
- Women in IDP camps shall be entitled to hold any position of authority in the camp without any form of discrimination³⁰

The above provision in reality is the exact opposite of what is obtainable in IDPs camps in the country. In Nigeria, women have been targeted for abductions, forced marriages, rape and use as suicide-bombers. More than 70% of displaced persons in northeast Nigeria are women and children. Among

²⁶ The standard especially that of the Kampala Convention can only become binding and enforceable only when they are ratified and domesticated. See also section 12 of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

²⁷ T. Magaji, *Assessing The Legal Frameworks For The Protection Of Internally Displaced Person In North East Nigeria* December 2018 Asian Research Journal Of Arts And Social Sciences 7(4)1-10 DOI-10.9734/ARJASS/2018/45550.accessed on 15th Jan 2021

²⁸ *ibid*

²⁹ UN Guiding Principle 11Op Cit

³⁰ National Policy on Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) In Nigeria. Federal Republic Of Nigeria August 2012.pp.32

them, adolescent girls and child mothers are traditionally overlooked by humanitarian programs. Due to a decrease in food distribution within the IDP camps, girls are being married off at younger ages than ever as young as 12 and 13 to reduce the economic burden on their parents and generate revenue from the bride price.³¹ Inadequate humanitarian assistance in camps has also resulted in a high level of sexual abuse and exploitation. Many women are reportedly coerced into resorting to survival sex in order to obtain food for themselves and their children. A situation assessment on IDPs in the northeast in July 2016 by International Organization for Migration Polls, reported that 66 percent of 400 displaced people in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states said that camp officials sexually abuse the displaced women and girls.³² In 2016, Human Rights Watch documented sexual abuse, including rape and exploitation, of 43 women and girls living in seven internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Maiduguri, the Borno State Capital. The victims had been displaced from several Borno towns and villages, including Abadam, Bama, Baga, Damasak, Dikwa, Gamboru Ngala, Gwoza, Kukawa, and Walassa.³³ Human Right Watch also reported that Victims of rape and sexual exploitation may be less likely to seek health care, including psychological counseling, due to the shame they feel. Fewer than five of the 43 women and girls interviewed said they had received a formal counseling after they were raped or sexually exploited.³⁴ Also in camp which has 10,000 residents, the number of people requiring treatment for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections has risen sharply, from about 200 cases when the camp clinic was established in 2014 to more than 500 in July 2016.³⁵

The frightening threats that exist in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, was also recognized by the UNHCR, were they reported that:

In many IDPs situations, traditional behavioral norms and restraints may break down. In such circumstances internal displaced women and girls may be raped by workers in the camp, acting either individually or in gangs, and self-appointed leaders may thwart attempts to punish the offenders. In certain camp situations, unaccompanied women and girls have been known to enter what are called 'protection marriages' in order to avoid sexual assault. The frustration of camp life can also lead to violence, including sexual abuse, within the family.³⁶

Sexual violence and exploitation, which primarily targets women and children, has become one of the most disturbing and common features of contemporary armed conflict and displacement crises. Displaced women and girls are often forced to take on different and or additional responsibilities as a result of being separated from their families. During displacement, there is usually a dramatic increase in the number of women and children who head households and who, as a result, are at particular risk of rights violations. At the same time, because of existing and exacerbated, inequalities within the community, women and children might have even less social, economic and political power and are less represented in formal leadership structures, with the result that their rights and particular needs often are overlooked. Women in camps have fewer chances to access justice than men, in cultures or traditional settings where a woman's status is subjected or tied to a man's. Forced migration can increase discrimination against women and worsen the opportunities for satisfying their legal claims, leaving victims with no reparation.³⁷ There is absence of effective response from Nigeria government

³¹ Human Right Watch Nigeria: official *Sexually Abusing Women And Girl Displaced By Bokoharam* :displaced by boko haram and victim twice over October 31, 2016 12:00AM EDT [tps://www.hrw.org/news/2016/10/31/nigeria-officials-abusing-displaced-women-girls](https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/10/31/nigeria-officials-abusing-displaced-women-girls)

³² *ibid*

³³ *ibid*

³⁴ Human Right Watch Nigeria official; *Sexually Abusing Women And Girl Displaced By Boko haram* Op Cit. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Guidelines for Prevention and Response* (2003)

³⁵ *ibid*

³⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: (UNHCR), *Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls* (2008) first Edition www.unhcr.org . Accessed on the 15th of Jan. 2021; Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action* (2015) : <http://ingcommitte.org> Accessed on the 8th of an 2021

³⁷M. Obradovic *Protecting Female Refugees against Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Camp*9-11-2015 United Nation University licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. <http://unu.edu/Protecting/Female%20Refugees%20against%20Sexual%20and%20Gender-based.html>. Accessed on 15th jan.2021 p.5

to protect and assist IDPs specifically the women, there are no dedicated national instrument for the protection of women in the IDPs in Nigeria. Therefore, the women who find themselves within the IDPs camp suffer great injustice which is the consequence of lack of commitment by the Nigeria government to provide the basic assistance and protect the dignity of the IDPs.³⁸

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The scale and complexity of internal displacement in Nigeria particularly the North East means that significant efforts are required to provide an effective, large-scale and well-coordinated humanitarian response. Many organizations, including the ICRC, are supporting the Government to fulfill its responsibility to assist and protect IDPs displaced as a result of the conflict. However, key challenges remain in meeting the humanitarian needs. The obligation of states to respect and implement international human rights law does not just include the duty to prevent violations or investigate violations and take action against those responsible, it also includes the duty to provide effective remedies to victims of violations of human rights. Government in cases of IDPs should ensure that displaced women have full access to livelihoods programs, including working in the local labor markets, and that girls have the right to attend local schools. Governments should also provide personnel to serve as gender-based violence monitors as part of their involvement to ensure protection IDPs and particularly to women and girls in the IDP camps. Displaced women are rarely engaged as planners, implementers and beneficiaries of programs to address sexual violence, because they are generally viewed frequently only as victims and beneficiaries of protection efforts, but not as vital resources for designing and implementing projects. Participation of IDP women should be encouraged through provision of training, physical security, and stipend, the government should ensure that displaced women and the issues of concern to them are reflected in any government program designed for their protection and the women at all times should be involved in such programs.

The National Assembly and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should ensure speedy passage and signature of the Bill to domesticate the Kampala Convention, which is currently before the House of Representatives. And should domesticate the long waiting Draft Policy for the protection of IDPs. The Federal Ministry of Justice and the Law Reform Commission should take steps to ensure that acts of arbitrary displacement, as defined under the Kampala Convention, are criminalized under Nigerian law. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs should initiate a review of the National IDP Policy, to ensure that it takes into account the current coordination for the humanitarian response in the North East, and includes concrete means of implementation and review of implementation efforts. Relevant State and Federal authorities should take steps to promote awareness on the rights of IDPs and the obligation of national authorities to protect and assist IDPs. Certain internally displaced persons, such as children, especially unaccompanied minors, expectant mothers, mothers with young children, female heads of household, persons with disabilities and elderly persons, should be entitled to protection and assistance required by their condition and to treatment which takes into account their special needs

It is also very imperative in cases of sexual assault to enable access to justice, legal remedies and reparation. There is no international legal framework for the protection of the internally displaced persons. Nonetheless, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement was established in 1998, but it is a non-binding instrument and therefore not enforceable on states. The problem of internal displacement has not been directly addressed by any global legal framework. However, the Guiding Principles clearly state that the states have the primary responsibility to protect IDPs. However, there is absent of effective domestic response from the Nigerian government to protect and assist Nigerian IDPs. Nigeria government has signed and ratified the Kampala Convention, but it is yet to domesticate it. Nigerian government is therefore urged to do so.

³⁸ T. Magaji, *Assessing the Legal Frameworks For The Protection Of Internally Displaced Person In North East Nigeria* December 2018 Asian Research Journal Of Arts And Social Sciences 7(4)1-10 DOI-10.9734/ARJASS/2018/45550.accessed on 15th Jan 2021