



Title: Perceived Effectiveness of Gender Desk Officers in Tackling Domestic Violence in Rivers State

Authors: Lawson, Rosemary Akudo

¹ Dr. Dinebari Badey

² Prof G. H Nsirim-Worlu

Abstract

Domestic violence (DV) occurs in all countries, rich or poor, developed or developing, with no regard to caste, creed, colour, social status, wealth, urban or rural residence, or the ages of victim and aggressor. This study assessed the responsiveness of security agencies to domestic violence. In addition, it carried out a review of the police gender desk policies and how effective it was in addressing domestic violence. To achieve this, the study explored the existing mechanism used by Nigerian Police; Rivers State command in checking domestic violence in the state it also examined the procedures used by security agencies in the prosecution of domestic violence cases, explored the challenges encountered by the gender desk and identified the best strategies of addressing these challenges. The study used survey research design. It was conducted in Rivers State. Purposive sampling was used; the sample population comprised of survivors of domestic violence and gender desk officers (GDOs). The data was collected using the interview, questionnaires. Quantitative data was analysed using the SPSS. The study found that 77% of domestic violence cases were pending, 15% were resolved, while 8% were ongoing. Furthermore, 50% of domestic violence survivors though the gender desk unit were not effective in responding to domestic violence complaints while 50% claimed they were effective. Meanwhile, 66.6% of GDOs were satisfied in their ability to respond to domestic violence cases. Results also showed that though gender desks were expected to prevent and respond to domestic violence, they were not effective; 55% of GDOs claimed they did not take sufficient action against perpetrators of domestic violence. The study highlighted the challenges facing the gender desk and best strategies for addressing these challenges were identified. The study recommended an increase in the funding and equipping the gender desks units by the government and deployment of more police officers and establishment of special courts for quick adjudication of cases.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Gender Based Violence, Rivers State, Gender Desk Officers.

Introduction

Domestic Violence (DV) is a prevalent problem in the entire world, violence against women particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence is a major public health problem

and a violation of women's human rights. According to estimates made by WHO, around one in three (30%) women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual intimate relationship violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lives. (WHO, 2021) These are taking place in all culture and communal group. It has disturbing bodily, psychological, economic, and social effects on the victims, relations, and societies. Domestic Violence is a substantial socioeconomic and public health concern, despite scholarly disagreement on a wide range of themes related to it. Numerous organizations, including those involved with criminal justice, health, housing, and education, as well as society at large, have sought strategies to avoid and better manage abuse in intimate relationships. And maybe most importantly, thousands of abuse victims' lives can be greatly improved. In that regard, some have attempted to reframe domestic violence as a matter of gender parity and human rights(Tracy Wilcox, 2021)

Despite a sizable body of academic work, there are still plenty of unsolved or at least controversial questions in the area of domestic violence. What is the best way to explain "Domestic violence," for instance, and what actions and behaviours does it involve? How common is it? Who are the victims and the perpetrators? The absence of consensus among researchers, policymakers, and professionals regarding essential issues creates a challenging situation for front-line practitioners who are responsible for addressing domestic violence. In reality, there is no clear definition of the problem, no conclusive answers or tests of solutions, and the mistreatment of individuals in intimate relationships may be viewed as a symptom of various other interpersonal, social, and structural factors.

According to a report from Hanoi in 2011, females are the primary victims of domestic violence and often encounter difficulties in receiving legal and protective support. Societal gender inequality and the prevalence of male-dominated cultures can cause women to accept, tolerate, or justify domestic violence, leading them to remain silent about their experiences. Recognizing the complexity of this issue, international efforts have emphasized the importance of a multi-sectoral approach that involves law enforcement and justice sectors playing crucial roles (Hanoi, 2011).

It is unacceptable to tolerate domestic violence and it should not be considered a private issue anymore. To address this problem, different government agencies and mass organizations must work together to create a comprehensive and coordinated response. The law enforcement and justice sectors have a critical role to play in protecting victims, putting an end to impunity, granting access to justice and compensation, and responding to the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women victims in the justice system (Kumiji, 2014; Hanoi, 2011)

According to (Kunnuji, 2014), domestic violence is prevalent not only in Nigeria but also in other parts of Africa. The culture in Nigeria has a deep-rooted belief that it is acceptable to hit a woman and discipline a spouse, regardless of their age, tribe, religion, or social status (Friday et al., 2019; Amnesty Nigeria, 2013). Despite the Nigerian government's efforts to prosecute men who abuse women in some states, domestic violence cases remain high and show no signs of decline. Incidents of domestic violence in Nigeria include various forms of abuse such as beatings, torture, acid baths, rape, and even death, as noted by Kunnuji (2014). OBAGBOYE's (2020) estimation indicates that approximately one in every three women in Nigeria suffers from domestic violence and intimate partner violence, but many victims remain silent due to insensitive and negative responses from their immediate family and society, as stated by Noah (2000). Agbedo et al.'s (2021) report in *The Guardian*, Nigeria, confirms that domestic violence cases, especially physical abuse, are on the rise. They revealed that at least once a week, a case of a man beating, maiming, or killing his wife occurs, and sometimes, a woman also deals with her husband in a similar manner. Hence,

there is a growing demand in Nigeria for federal laws and a more robust national response and support to address the issue of domestic violence.

The physical and mental health of victims of Gender-based violence (GBV) are greatly impacted, and it is considered as a global human rights abuse and public health issue with far-reaching and severe short-term and long-term consequences (UNFPA, 2012). Thomson (2009) states that the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (1993) outlined various forms of Gender-based violence (GBV) which include physical abuse, sexual and psychological violence within the family, child sexual abuse, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), rape and sexual abuse, sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions, trafficking in women, and forced prostitution. The enforcement and existence of Anti-Gender Based Violence laws vary significantly worldwide, with some countries establishing women police stations and others creating gender desks. As per UN Women (2011), gender desks could be specialized focal points, desks, or units concerning gender issues and violence against women, which can be established within relevant ministries, national headquarters of police services or armed forces, sub-national level police departments, or specific military battalions.

(Goodson & Hayes, 2021) examined help-seeking behaviours of victims of intimate partner violence in developing nations. Results showed that victims are more likely to seek help from family and friends than from formal sources such as police or healthcare providers. Victims of domestic violence most times may feel shame or embarrassment, fear repercussions from the abuser, be unaware of their rights, or lack faith in the justice system. They may also fear that the police will not take their situation seriously or that the police may even make matters worse. Additionally, when the police become involved, victims may feel that they have lost control over the situation. Victims may have difficulty leaving their abuser because of financial dependence, fear of the abuser, lack of support, or lack of knowledge about available resources and services. In many cases, victims may have also been subjected to emotional, physical, and/or sexual abuse that has caused them to feel powerless and unable to leave the situation. Furthermore, victims may fear that they will not be believed or supported by family, friends, and authorities. They may also fear that they will be blamed for the abuse and that their children will be taken away from them.

Furthermore, Nigeria has several laws addressing sexual violence, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPPA) and the Criminal and Penal Codes. VAPPA has made improvements in the definition of rape and the sentence imposed on offenders. However, the punishments for sexual violence offenses differ greatly between the Criminal and Penal Codes. The judiciary has also been criticized for watering down punishments for offenses. The Childs Right Act is also an important legislation, but some states are yet to enact their Childs Right Law, which would enable them to prosecute paedophiles in their states. Overall, there is a legal framework for prosecuting domestic violence in Nigeria, but there are concerns about the enforcement of the laws and the need for a review of some of the laws that are considered obsolete.

The Nigerian Police Force (NPF) is the primary law enforcement agency in the country. It is responsible for the protection of lives and property, the preservation of law and order, the prevention and detection of crime, the enforcement of all laws and regulations with which it is directly or indirectly concerned, and the rendition of assistance and cooperation to other law enforcement agencies whenever called upon to do so (Nigeria Police Force Act, 2020). As such, the NPF is expected to provide a safe and secure environment for all citizens, regardless of their gender.

However, gender-based violence (GBV) remains a major challenge in Nigeria, and it is particularly prevalent in domestic settings. While the NPF has taken steps to address this issue, such as the establishment of the Gender Desk Policy (GDP), the effectiveness of this policy in addressing domestic violence incidents is still unclear. The GDP is an important step towards improving gender security in Nigeria and promoting police responsiveness to domestic violence incidents. The establishment of Gender Desks in all police stations across the country is a positive development, as it provides victims of GBV and domestic violence with a place to seek help and support. The policy is also in line with the international conventions on the elimination of discrimination against women and the rights of the child, which further reinforces its importance.

However, the effectiveness of the Gender desk policy in addressing domestic violence incidents is still unclear. While the policy has provided a mechanism for victims to seek help, the policy lacks clear guidelines for the referral of victims to appropriate support services, which could be improved to ensure that victims are provided with the necessary help and support.

A 2018 report from PIND (Foundation for Partnership Initiative in the Niger Delta) between January to March showed that 50% of Violence against Women and Girls cases in River's state were of domestic violence, and in that 50%, 32% were physical assault, 29% verbal abuse, 29% economic abuse, while 7% was sexual assault (PIND, 2018). The research conducted by Benebo et al. (2018) revealed that sexual violence committed by husbands was a frequent occurrence, and women who were left without any financial support to take care of their families was a related issue. According to (Huecker et al., 2022), the majority of reported incidents of sexual assault and murder involved perpetrators who were familiar with the survivor, or even worse, were trusted by the survivor or their family or community. A similar report by the Partners 4 Peace map in 2018 showed widespread reports of physical abuse by male figures perpetrated against female family members. In addition, women in households have reported incidents of violence from their husbands and sons, including beatings and threats of violence. (PIND, 2018)

Statistical records from PIND (2018) reveals that there has been a rise in reports of wife battering in recent years. The data suggests that the problem is severe and the number of victims documented by police statistics only represents a fraction of the total number of abused women in Rivers State, as many cases remain unreported. Despite the prevalence of domestic violence, some people view it as a private matter that should not be disclosed outside the home. Nevertheless, the increasing number of reported cases suggests that women are becoming more aware of their right to be free from violence. (Benebo et al., 2018; Palermo et al., 2014)

A gender policy for the Nigeria Police Force is necessary due to Nigeria's adoption of the National Gender Policy (NGP). The NGP's key strategies include gender education and capacity building, legislative reforms, and economic reforms, with the aim of mainstreaming gender concerns at all levels and promoting gender justice and respect for human rights. The Gender Policy for the Police aims to address gender issues related to national security, such as achieving equality between men and women and various social, religious, and ethnic groups. It also aims to affirm the equal rights of all individuals to participate in the Police Force and similar institutions. Additionally, the policy emphasizes the importance of addressing gender-based violence as a critical internal threat to security and outlines strategies for preventing, responding to, and punishing such violence with adequate resources.

The Police Force has the mandate to protect all interests and groups, including women and other vulnerable groups, not just those of the most visible and privileged groups in society. A gender-blind legislation and policy could directly or indirectly condone gender-based violence against women, boys, girls, gender inequality, and exclusionary practices.

Even though, the police system is necessary to the effective response to domestic violence, it fails to provide adequate and a much needed covering to domestic violence victims (Burman & Brooks-Hay, 2018). The police system's failure to recognize domestic violence as a social problem, in addition to the common perception that it is not a criminal act, hinders the effectiveness of legislation and causes past incidents to remain relevant for longer periods of time. As a result, victims of domestic violence will rather engage non-governmental organizations like International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria and other Civil Society Organizations.

This paper explores the effectiveness the Gender Desk Policy/Officers of the Nigerian Police Force in responding to domestic violence cases. It begins by examining the current state of the policy and how it is implemented. It then examines the research available on the effectiveness of the policy in terms of its ability to prevent, detect, and respond to domestic violence. It also looks at the challenges that hinder the effectiveness of the policy and presents recommendations for improvement.

Literature Review

(Hoyle & Sanders, 2000) in an article, entitled "Police Response to Domestic Violence" examined the role of police in responding to domestic violence. The study had two main objectives. The first was to explore the police response to domestic violence incidents as reported by victims, and the second was to determine if there were any differences in police response based on the demographic characteristics of the victims. The study design was a cross-sectional survey. The population was comprised of survivors of domestic violence in the United States. The sampling technique used was convenience sampling. The data collection instrument was an online survey. Descriptive statistics and logistic regression were used for data analysis.

Significant findings of the research included a lack of knowledge by police of the dynamics of domestic violence and a lack of consistency in police response. The findings also showed that victims who were minorities, younger, and had fewer resources were more likely to receive a less favourable police response. The authors recommend that police training should be improved, and that police should be encouraged to better understand the dynamics of domestic violence in order to respond more appropriately

(Yalley & Olutayo, 2020) sought to understand how gender, masculinity and policing interact to influence the policing of domestic violence in these Ghana and Nigeria. The paper raised two objectives: to explore the dynamics of masculinised policing culture in Ghana and Nigeria and to understand how these dynamics influence police responses to domestic violence. The study design used was a qualitative approach which involved semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis.

The population and sampling technique included interviewing 45 police officers across the two countries, as well as focus group discussions with police officers and community members. Data collection instruments used included open-ended questions, field notes, and observations. The data analysis procedure and technique included content analysis and thematic analysis. The most significant findings of the research were that police masculinised culture was a major hindrance to the police's ability to effectively respond to domestic

violence in Ghana and Nigeria. This was primarily due to the male-dominated culture of the police, which led to gender biases and an unwillingness to take domestic violence seriously. Additionally, the findings revealed that police officers in both countries struggled to understand and adequately address the complexities of domestic violence.

The paper made a number of recommendations, including the need for increased training and education for police officers on domestic violence and gender-based violence, as well as more effective policies and procedures to address domestic violence. Additionally, the authors suggested the need for greater collaboration between police and community members to ensure that domestic violence victims receive the support they need.

(Ndenje, 2014) in a paper titled “Assessment of the effectiveness of Tanzania police gender desks in protecting women from gender-based violation”, a case study at Kinondoni municipality. The study had two objectives; to find out the perception of the community on the effectiveness of the police gender desks and to assess the effectiveness of the police gender desks in protecting women from gender-based violation. The study adopted a qualitative research design. The population for the study was composed of the volunteers of gender-based violence, police officers, civil society organization and local government authorities in Kinondoni municipality. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The data collection instrument used was an interview guide. The data collected was analysed using content analysis. The findings of the study revealed that the police gender desks were not effective in protecting women from gender-based violation. It was further revealed that the police gender desks lacked resources, had inadequate staff and training, and were not responsive to the needs of women. The study recommended that the Tanzania police force should provide resources and training to the gender desk officers and ensure that the gender desk officers are responsive to the needs of women.

(Bankole & Urhere, 2021). A study conducted by Babalola and Lawson, examined the contextual influences and statutory laws that impact the attitudes of police officers towards domestic violence against women in Lagos State, Nigeria. Through a qualitative study that included interviews and focus groups of police officers and victims of domestic violence, the authors sought to uncover the ways in which contextual influences and statutory laws shape police attitudes towards domestic violence. Results indicated that police officers generally had a negative attitude towards domestic violence and viewed it as a private matter, not a criminal matter. However, the study also found that statutory laws, such as the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, had an impact on police attitudes towards domestic violence, leading to greater empathy and a greater willingness to intervene. The authors conclude that while there is still a need for greater education and training of police officers on the issue of domestic violence, contextual influences and statutory laws can be important catalysts to foster positive attitudes among police officers. The authors also recommend that more research be conducted to explore the impact of contextual influences and statutory laws on police attitudes in other parts of the world.

(Wanjohi, 2016) sought to assess the effectiveness of police gender desks in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in Nyandarua County, Kenya. The author conducted a quantitative survey to measure the effectiveness of gender desks in Nyandarua County in addressing GBV. The survey found that gender desks have helped to reduce GBV cases in Nyandarua County, as well as increase public awareness on the issue. However, the survey also found that gender desks are largely underutilized in the county, due to lack of resources and proper training of police officers. Based on the findings, the author recommends that the government of Kenya increase funding for gender desks, and ensure that police officers are

adequately trained on how to handle GBV cases. Additionally, the government should create more gender desks in the county, in order to reach more victims of GBV.

(Segrave et al., 2018) examined the attitudes of police in Victoria, Australia towards policing of intimate partner violence (IPV), and considered the potential of specialisation in this area. Surveys were conducted to assess police confidence, attitudes and training needs, and semi-structured interviews with police officers and other relevant stakeholders were conducted to gain further insights into IPV policing. The findings revealed that police are generally not confident in responding to IPV cases and that there is a need for increased levels of training and specialist support. The study concluded that specialisation in IPV policing has the potential to improve responses and outcomes, and recommended further research in this area.

In a similar study in Liberia, (Medie, 2015) examined the police response to domestic violence in Liberia, a post-conflict nation. It utilised qualitative interviews and focus group discussions to assess the perceptions of police officers, female victims of violence and community members. The findings revealed that police officers were often ill-equipped to provide adequate protection to female victims of domestic violence, with a lack of training, resources, and knowledge on the issue. Moreover, there was a lack of trust between victims and the police, with victims feeling that their complaints were rarely taken seriously. In addition, the study found that police officers were often reluctant to respond to domestic violence as they viewed it as a family issue. The study recommended that the Liberian government should invest in training and resources for police officers to better equip them to respond to domestic violence, as well as increase public awareness of the issue.

Another study which (Dowling et al., 2018) aimed to review the evidence on policing domestic violence and provide recommendations for policy and practice. The methodology used included a systematic review of the literature and data from police forces, police and crime commissioners, and domestic violence and abuse (DVA) services in England and Wales. The findings showed that the police have a limited capacity to respond to incidents of domestic violence, that they are not responding to some incidents, and that they are not using all available legal powers. The study also identified areas where police practice could be improved, such as increasing the use of early interventions, increasing training and awareness, and improving the support available to victims of domestic violence. The study concluded with recommendations for policy and practice, such as increasing resources and developing a national strategy to reduce domestic violence.

(Blair & Jassal, 2022) conducted a police reform experiment in India aimed at improving women's access to justice for crimes of violence against women. The experiment involved the establishment of "women's help desks" within police stations, where female officers would interact with female complainants. The outcomes of the trial were varied: there was an increase in incident reports filed, and some police officers exhibited changed attitudes towards violence against women. However, the likelihood of women reporting crimes did not improve, and the arrest rate remained unaffected. The article underscores the challenges associated with studying access to justice, particularly in distinguishing whether observed effects are driven by an increase in citizens attempting to access justice or by changes in law enforcement practices. Blair and Jassal (2022) concluded that while the reforms may have led to an increase in police filings and arrests, the establishment of women-only stations in India resulted in regular police stations referring survivors to alternate sites, thus necessitating victims to travel longer distances to seek justice.

In a study conducted by (Zhao et al., 2018), the attitudes and responses of police officers towards domestic violence were examined in a southern Chinese city. The study involved

surveying 520 police officers who were presented with two vignette scenarios depicting husbands assaulting their wives. The findings indicated that husbands were more likely to be arrested than wives. Furthermore, officers who perceived their role as law enforcers were more inclined to arrest either husbands or wives. Those who considered domestic violence as a private matter were less likely to arrest husbands, whereas officers with pro-feminist attitudes were more inclined to do so. This study offers valuable insights into police responses to domestic violence within the Chinese context.

(Sani et al.,2018) aimed to explore police officers' beliefs regarding domestic violence against women and their potential influence on their actions. The study involved 453 police officers from the Metropolitan Police Command of Public Security Police of Oporto. The officers completed the Marital Violence Beliefs Scale and the Intervention Scale, which collectively formed the Police Attitudes Scales. The results indicated that higher levels of legitimizing beliefs about marital violence were associated with a more conditional police response. Notably, the study found no statistically significant difference in the type of police action taken in domestic violence situations between groups with higher or lower legitimizing beliefs about violence against women.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Rivers State, situated in the southern region of Nigeria known as the Niger Delta, was established in 1967 after being separated from the former Eastern Region (Rivers State, 2021). The state shares borders with Anambra and Imo to the north, Abia and Akwa Ibom to the east, and Bayelsa and Delta to the west. The bustling city of Port Harcourt serves as the state capital and is recognized as the commercial hub of Nigeria's oil industry. With a population of 5,198,716 according to the 2006 census, Rivers State ranks as the sixth most populous state in Nigeria. The state is characterized by its diversity, being home to various ethnic groups, with the Ikwerres, Ogoni, and Ijaw being the majority. Rivers State is renowned for its linguistic richness, with 28 indigenous languages spoken, predominantly Ikwerre, Ogoni, and Ijaw (Nigeria: Administrative Division, 2014).

Research Design

This study adopts a cross-sectional design and utilizes qualitative research methods. While survey research tends to oversimplify findings, facilitate hypothesis formulation, and rely on deductive reasoning, qualitative research takes a predominantly descriptive and interpretive approach (McGregor, 2018).

Population of the study

The focus of this study is on gender police officers and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), were also included to provide supplementary information and perspectives.

Sampling and sampling Technique

This research utilized purposive sampling as the sampling technique. Purposive sampling, also referred to as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling, is a non-probability sampling method in which researchers exercise their own judgment to select specific individuals from the population for participation in the study.

In this study, the target population consisted of Gender Desk Officers (GDOs). The participants were purposefully sampled, meaning they were deliberately chosen based on specific criteria.

The key informants for this research included four Officers Commanding the police stations (OCSs) that were under study. Two police officers responsible for the gender desk from each police station were sampled. Additionally, two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively involved in advocating for justice and two Children's officers were selected as key informants. Finally, three probation officers were sampled using a simple random sampling technique.

This study utilised primary data. The primary source comprised of questionnaires. The questionnaires were semi-structured and disseminated to 14 GDOs. The questionnaires were reliable since the respondents were encouraged to give honest answers due to their confidentiality. The Data collected using the questionnaire was subjected to quantitative statistics. It was edited, coded, and then processed. Extracted data from the questionnaire was cleaned appropriately for analysis. Descriptive statistical analysis was employed in analysis of data.

Results and Discussion

In assessing the responsiveness of security agencies in addressing domestic violence in the State, The survey respondents (GDOs) were asked to rate: their level of satisfaction in their ability in addressing domestic violence cases; their level satisfaction in their training received to respond to domestic violence incidents; how effective their response is to domestic violence incidents; their knowledge of domestic violence cases in the State; the support received from other security groups when responding to domestic violence incidents; the resources available in effective responsive to domestic violence incidents. However, the sample size is relatively small due to sensitive nature of the research and data this study aimed to obtain., The demographic characteristics of the respondents were collected since these factors could impact the validity and generalizability of the findings.

Respondent's Demographic

Table 4.1 Gender of GDOs

Gender	Frequency
Male	10
Female	4
Total	14

Researcher's Fieldwork 2023

Results indicates a significant gender imbalance among the Gender Desk Officers, with males comprising the majority (71.4%) of the group. It is important to note that this gender imbalance could have implications for the ability of the Gender Desk to respond effectively to domestic violence cases, as research has shown that survivors of domestic violence often prefer to speak with female service providers, and that female service providers may be better equipped to understand and respond to the needs of survivors.

It is possible that there are a variety of factors contributing to the gender imbalance among the Gender Desk Officers. For example, there may be gendered barriers to entering the

profession or biases in the recruitment and hiring processes. It would be important to conduct further research to better understand the reasons behind this gender imbalance and to identify strategies to address it, such as targeted recruitment and retention efforts or gender-sensitive training programs.

Overall, the gender composition of the Gender Desk Officers in this group is an important consideration when evaluating the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State, and efforts should be made to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with a diverse group of service providers who are equipped to meet the needs of all survivors.

Table 4.2 Age of GDOs

Age	Frequency
30-39yrs	3
40-49yrs	5
50yrs and above	6
Total	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

Results in table 4.17 suggests that the age distribution of the Gender Desk Officers are as follows:

- 21.4% of officers are aged between 30 and 39 years old.
- 35.7% of officers are aged between 40 and 49 years old.
- 42.9% of officers are aged 50 years old and above.

From this data, we can see that the majority of Gender Desk Officers are over the age of 40, with the largest group being those aged 50 years and above (42.9%).

It is important to note that age can impact the ability of service providers to effectively respond to domestic violence cases, as younger service providers may have different perspectives and experiences than older service providers. Additionally, older service providers may be more likely to have biases or attitudes that could impact their ability to provide effective and non-judgmental services to survivors.

Overall, the age distribution of Gender Desk Officers is an important consideration when evaluating the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. It is important to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with service providers who are diverse in terms of age, experience, and other factors, in order to ensure that all survivors can access services that are appropriate and responsive to their needs

Table 4.3 Marital Status of GDOs

Marital Status	Frequency
Married	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

While this data in table 4.18 does not provide much insight into the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State, it is interesting to note that all Gender Desk Officers are married. It is possible that this reflects a bias in the recruitment and hiring process, or that there are cultural or social norms that make it more difficult for unmarried individuals to serve in this role.

It is important to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with service providers who are diverse in terms of marital status, as this can impact the ability of service providers to effectively respond to the needs of survivors. For example, unmarried service providers may be better equipped to understand and respond to the needs of unmarried survivors, who may face different challenges and barriers to accessing services than married survivors.

Overall, the marital status of Gender Desk Officers is an important consideration when evaluating the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State, and efforts should be made to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with a diverse group of service providers who are equipped to meet the needs of all survivors, regardless of their marital status.

Table 4.4 Educational Qualifications of GDOs

Educational Qualifications of Gender Desk Officers	Frequency
HND	1
BSC	3
MSC	1
NEC & OND	5
HND & BSC	4
Total	14

Results indicates that the educational qualifications of Gender Desk Officers are as follows:

- 7.1% of officers has an HND qualification.
- 21.4% of officers have a BSc qualification.
- 7.1% of officers has an MSc qualification.
- 35.7% of officers have NEC and OND qualifications.

- 28.6% of officers have both HND and BSc qualifications.

From this data, we can see that the educational qualifications of Gender Desk Officers are diverse, with a mix of lower-level and higher-level qualifications. While higher-level qualifications like BSc and MSc may be beneficial for service providers in terms of their ability to understand and respond to complex issues related to domestic violence, it is important to recognize that lower-level qualifications like OND and HND can also provide valuable skills and knowledge for service providers.

Overall, the educational qualifications of Gender Desk Officers are an important consideration when evaluating the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. It is important to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with service providers who have a diverse range of educational backgrounds and experiences, in order to ensure that all survivors can access services that are appropriate and responsive to their needs. Additionally, ongoing training and professional development opportunities can help to ensure that Gender Desk Officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to provide high-quality services to survivors of domestic violence.

Table 4.5 Number of years in Service

Number of years in service	Frequency
15-24yrs	7
25-34yrs	6
Above 34yrs	1
Total	14

Researcher's Fieldwork 2023

Results revealed that the number of years in service of Gender Desk Officers are as follows:

- 50% of officers have been in service for 15-24 years.
- 42.5% officers have been in service for 25-34 years.
- 7.1 of officers has been in service for above 34 years.

From this data, we can see that the majority of Gender Desk Officers in the group have been in service for a relatively long period of time, with over half having been in service for 15 years or more. It is possible that this reflects the dedication of Gender Desk Officers to their work, or the challenges of turnover and recruitment in the service provider sector.

However, it is important to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with service providers who are diverse in terms of years of service, as service providers with different levels of experience may have different strengths and weaknesses when responding to domestic violence cases. For example, service providers who are relatively new to the field may have more up-to-date knowledge and skills related to technology and social media, while more experienced service providers may have developed more specialized knowledge related to certain populations or types of abuse.

Overall, the number of years in service of Gender Desk Officers is an important consideration when evaluating the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State,

and efforts should be made to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with a diverse group of service providers who bring a range of skills and experiences to their work.

Table 4.6 Perceived satisfaction in GDOs ability to respond to DV cases

How satisfied are you with your ability to respond to DV cases in Rivers State?	Frequency
Neutral	4
Satisfied	4
Very satisfied	4
Total	12
Missing	2
Total	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

Out of the 12 respondents who provided a rating, 28.5% respondents each responded with neutral, satisfied, and very satisfied.

From this data, we can infer that the majority of Gender Desk officers who responded to the survey are at least satisfied with their ability to respond to domestic violence cases in Rivers State, with no respondents indicating a low level of satisfaction.

Overall, the data suggests that Gender Desk officers in Rivers State are at least moderately satisfied with their ability to respond to domestic violence cases. However, it is important to note that this survey is just one piece of information and should be used in conjunction with other data sources and perspectives to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the issue. Additionally, it is important to continue monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of domestic violence response efforts to ensure that the needs of survivors are being met.

The survey respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction on a scale from neutral to very satisfied. Out of the 14 respondents who provided a rating, 28.5% each responded with neutral, satisfied, and very satisfied.

From this data, we can say that there is an equal number of respondents who are neutral, satisfied, and very satisfied with their ability to respond to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. However, it is important to note that the sample size is relatively small, with only 12 respondents providing a rating. Overall, this data provides a starting point for understanding how one group perceives their ability to respond to DV cases in Rivers State. However, further research and analysis would be needed to draw more robust conclusions and inform actions to improve the response to domestic violence in the region.

Table 4.7. Perceived satisfaction in GDOs training to respond to domestic violence cases

How satisfied are you with the training you have received in response to DV cases?	Frequency
--	-----------

Very dissatisfied	1
Dissatisfied	3
Neutral	2
Satisfied	4
Very satisfied	4
Total	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

Results revealed that the satisfaction levels with training received in response to domestic violence cases among the Gender Desk Officers are mixed. While a significant number of officers (57.1%) reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their training, a non-trivial proportion of officers (28.5%) reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

It is important to note that the effectiveness of training in response to domestic violence cases can have a significant impact on the quality of services provided to survivors. Service providers who receive high-quality training are more likely to have the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to respond effectively to the complex issues associated with domestic violence.

Overall, the results of this survey suggest that there may be room for improvement in the training provided to Gender Desk Officers in response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. It is important to take into account the feedback of officers who reported feeling dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their training, and to work to identify areas where training can be improved in order to ensure that all officers receive the training, they need to provide high-quality services to survivors of domestic violence.

Table 4.8. Perceived effectiveness in GDOs response to DV cases

How effective do you think your response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State has been?	Frequency
Ineffective	2
Neutral	2
Effective	2

Very effective	8
Total	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

Result indicates that the majority of Gender Desk Officers in the group being analysed (57.1%) reported feeling that their response to domestic violence cases has been very effective. However, there is a small proportion of officers (14.2%) who reported feeling that their response has been ineffective, and an additional 14.2% reported feeling neutral about the effectiveness of their response.

It is important to note that assessing the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases is complex, and can depend on a range of factors, including the resources available, the training and support provided to service providers, and the broader social and cultural context in which domestic violence occurs.

Overall, the results of this survey suggest that many Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State feel that their response to domestic violence cases has been effective or very effective. However, the small proportion of officers who reported feeling that their response has been ineffective, and those who reported feeling neutral, highlights the need to continue to monitor and evaluate the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State, in order to identify areas where improvements can be made and ensure that survivors receive the high-quality services, they need to stay safe and heal from the trauma of domestic violence.

Table 4.9. Knowledge of GDOs of domestic violence cases

How would you rate your knowledge of DV cases in Rivers State?	Frequency
Neutral	1
Knowledgeable	8
Very knowledgeable	5
Total	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

Result indicates that the majority of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State (92.8%) reported feeling knowledgeable or very knowledgeable about domestic violence cases in the state. Only 7.1% reported feeling neutral about their knowledge level.

It is important to note that self-rated knowledge level may not necessarily reflect the actual knowledge level of the officers, and that training and ongoing professional development can be important in ensuring that Gender Desk Officers have the skills and knowledge they need to provide effective services to survivors of domestic violence.

Overall, the results of this survey suggest that many Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State feel confident in their knowledge of domestic violence cases, which could be an important factor in their ability to provide effective services to survivors. However, ongoing training and professional development may still be important to ensure that officers are equipped with the latest information and best practices for responding to domestic violence cases.

Table 4.10 Perceived level of support received from other security agencies in responding to DV cases

How would you rate the support you have received from other police officers when responding to domestic violence?	Frequency
Unsupportive	1
Neutral	3
Supportive	5
Very supportive	5
Total	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

Result shows that a significant number of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State (71.4%) feel that they have received either supportive or very supportive support from other police officers when responding to domestic violence cases. However, 7.1% reported feeling unsupportive support, and 21.4% reported feeling neutral about the support they have received.

It is important to note that having the support of other police officers can be crucial in ensuring that Gender Desk Officers are able to respond effectively to domestic violence cases. Supportive colleagues can provide emotional support, practical assistance, and important expertise and knowledge to help officers navigate the often complex and challenging process of responding to domestic violence cases.

Overall, the results of this survey suggest that many Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State feel that they have received supportive or very supportive support from their colleagues when responding to domestic violence cases, which could be an important factor in their ability to provide effective services to survivors. However, it is also important to address the experiences of officers who feel unsupported or neutral, in order to ensure that all officers have the support they need to respond effectively to domestic violence cases.

Table 4.11. Perceived level of resources available for GDOs in responding to DV

How would you rate the resources available to you for responding to DV in Rivers State?	Frequency
---	-----------

Very inadequate	6
Inadequate	6
Neutral	2
Total	14

Researcher’s Fieldwork 2023

Results indicates that a majority of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State (85.7%) feel that the resources available to them for responding to domestic violence cases are inadequate. This could include resources such as equipment, personnel, training, and funding.

Having adequate resources is crucial in order for Gender Desk Officers to be able to respond effectively to domestic violence cases. Inadequate resources can create significant challenges and barriers that may limit officers' ability to provide the best possible services to survivors.

It is important for policymakers and law enforcement agencies to take these concerns seriously and work to provide adequate resources for Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State. This may include investing in additional training, equipment, and personnel, as well as providing sufficient funding to support these efforts. By doing so, agencies can help ensure that Gender Desk Officers are equipped with the resources they need to respond effectively to DV cases and provide support to survivors.

Discussion of Findings

Findings showed that the gender desk was able to collaborate with other actors in the GBV survivors’ justice system. They collaborated with the ministry of social welfare and rehabilitation for the placement of children survivor in Safe Home. Since the Safe Home was commissioned on the 15th of December 2021 with an objective of social safety for venerable persons. The Home has become a place of safety, justice, and rehabilitation for survivors of gender Based violence and it has been providing maximum protection and effective remedies for survivors. The Port Harcourt safe home provides victims with counselling and a safe environment to stay while their cases are in court. The home started with 17 residents (14 girls and 3 boys) and since has recorded 115 cases of different categories of abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional and mental abuse and trafficking. Out of 115 cases received by them, 10 has gotten justice from court and police, most have been reconciled, some have gotten compensation from the victims.

The home collaborates with police, schools, FIDA, NAPTIP and individuals. The NGOs provided counselling services, psycho-social support and safe-houses for the survivors and the Judiciary adjudicated the domestic violence cases. This was an indication that the gender desk was effective in networking with all the necessary stakeholders who gave specialized services to the survivors of domestic violence.

Furthermore, results indicate that there is a significant lop-sidedness among the Gender Desk Officers, with males comprising the majority of the group (table 4.1). This gender imbalance could potentially affect the ability of the Gender Desk to respond effectively to domestic violence cases, as survivors of domestic violence often prefer to speak with female service

providers who may better understand and respond to their needs. There could be various reasons behind this gender imbalance, including gendered barriers to entering the profession or biases in the recruitment and hiring processes. Further research is needed to better understand the reasons behind this imbalance and identify strategies to address it, such as targeted recruitment and retention efforts or gender-sensitive training programs.

It is crucial to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with a diverse group of service providers who can meet the needs of all survivors, regardless of gender. In addition, the majority of Gender Desk Officers are over the age of 40, with the largest group being those aged 50 years and above (table 4.2). It is possible that this age distribution reflects the length of time that the Gender Desk has been established, with more experienced officers continuing to serve in their roles over time. The distribution of age among Gender Desk Officers is a crucial factor to consider when assessing the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. To ensure that survivors have access to appropriate and responsive services, it is important that the Gender Desk is staffed with service providers who are diverse in terms of age, experience, and other relevant factors.

Regarding education qualification of GDOs, it is evident that the educational qualifications of Gender Desk Officers are varied, with a mixture of lower-level and higher-level qualifications. Although higher-level qualifications, such as BSc and MSc, may benefit service providers in comprehending and addressing complicated issues related to domestic violence, it's essential to acknowledge that lower-level qualifications like OND and HND can also equip service providers with valuable skills and knowledge.

Considering the educational qualifications of Gender Desk Officers is crucial when assessing the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. It is necessary to ensure that the Gender Desk comprises service providers with diverse educational backgrounds and experiences to provide suitable and responsive services to all survivors. Moreover, regular training and professional development opportunities can help Gender Desk Officers to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to provide high-quality services to survivors of domestic violence.

This study also found that a majority of Gender Desk Officers in the group have been in service for a considerable amount of time, with more than half having served for 15 years or more. This may reflect their dedication to their work or the challenges of turnover and recruitment in the service provider sector.

However, it is important to ensure that the Gender Desk is staffed with service providers who have diverse levels of experience, as those with varying levels of experience may have unique strengths and limitations when dealing with domestic violence cases. For instance, newer service providers may have more updated knowledge and skills related to technology and social media, whereas more experienced service providers may have gained specialized knowledge regarding specific populations or types of abuse.

Thus, the number of years of service of Gender Desk Officers is an essential factor to consider when assessing the effectiveness of the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. It is important to strive for a diverse group of service providers with different skills and experiences to ensure that survivors of domestic violence receive appropriate and effective services.

Moreso, based on the findings from this study, it can be inferred that the majority of Gender Desk officers who participated in the survey are satisfied with their ability to respond to domestic violence cases in Rivers State (table 4.7). However, it is important to consider this

data alongside other sources of information and perspectives to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the issue. It is also important to continue monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of domestic violence response efforts. It is important to note that the sample size is small and there is limited information available about the survey methodology and the characteristics of the respondents, which could impact the validity and generalizability of the findings. Overall, while this data provides some insights into the perceptions of Gender Desk officers regarding their ability to respond to domestic violence cases in Rivers State, more research and analysis would be needed to make more robust conclusions and inform efforts to improve the response to domestic violence.

This study found out that the satisfaction levels with training received in response to domestic violence cases among the Gender Desk Officers are mixed (table 4.22). This implies that there may be room for improvement in the training provided to Gender Desk Officers in response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State. It is important to take into account the feedback of officers who reported feeling dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their training, and to work to identify areas where training can be improved in order to ensure that all officers receive the training, they need to provide high-quality services to survivors of domestic violence. Most Gender Desk Officers in the analysed group felt that their response to domestic violence cases has been very effective. However, a small percentage of officers reported feeling that their response has been ineffective, while others reported feeling neutral about the effectiveness of their response (table 4.23). Based on the findings, it appears that a significant number of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State believe that their response to domestic violence cases has been effective or very effective. However, the fact that a small percentage of officers reported feeling that their response was ineffective or neutral indicates that ongoing monitoring and evaluation are necessary to identify areas where improvements can be made. This is critical to ensure that survivors of domestic violence receive the necessary support and services to recover from the trauma they have experienced and remain safe.

According to the findings, the majority of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State rated themselves as knowledgeable or very knowledgeable about domestic violence cases in the state, while a few felt neutral about their knowledge level (table 4.8). However, it is important to acknowledge that self-evaluation of knowledge level may not always be an accurate reflection of actual knowledge, and ongoing training and professional development can play a crucial role in ensuring that Gender Desk Officers possess the necessary skills and knowledge to provide effective services to survivors of domestic violence. This implies that many Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State have confidence in their knowledge of domestic violence cases, which may contribute to their ability to provide effective services to survivors. Nonetheless, continuous training and professional development may still be necessary to keep officers updated on the latest information and best practices for responding to domestic violence cases.

A major proportion of GDOs in River State felt that they have received either supportive or very supportive support from other police officers when responding to DV cases (table 4.25), this implies that many GDOs in the State have received supportive or very supportive support from their colleagues when responding to DV cases, which could be an important factor in their ability to provide effective services to survivors. However, it is also important to address the experiences of officers who feel unsupported or neutral, in order to ensure that all officers have the support they need to respond effectively to DV cases.

Moreso, findings revealed that majority of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State felt that the resources available to them for responding to DV cases are not enough (table 4.9). This refers

to resources such as equipment, personnel, training, and funding, which are essential for officers to provide effective services to survivors. Inadequate resources can pose significant challenges and barriers that may hinder officers' ability to offer the best possible support to survivors.

It is important for policymakers and law enforcement agencies to address these concerns and take measures to provide sufficient resources for Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State. This may include investing in additional training, personnel, and equipment, as well as providing adequate funding to support these efforts. By doing so, agencies can ensure that Gender Desk Officers have the resources they need to respond effectively to DV cases and offer the necessary support to survivors.

Summary and Conclusion

The effectiveness of the gender desk of the police in curbing domestic violence in Rivers State has been mixed. While the gender desk has made some progress in creating awareness about the issue and providing services to victims, it has been hampered by limited resources and a lack of understanding by the general public about the issue. Additionally, there is a lack of legal protection for victims, meaning that many cases go unreported and perpetrators are often not held accountable. The gender desk is, however, making progress in raising awareness and pushing for legislative change, and their efforts may eventually lead to a reduction in the prevalence of domestic violence in Rivers State.

Findings also revealed a significant gender imbalance among GDOs which could have implications for the ability of GDOs to respond effectively address Domestic Violence cases. In addition, majority of GDOs were over the age of 40 which could mean that this age distribution reflects the length of time that the Gender Desk has been established, with more experienced officers continuing to serve in their roles over time. The majority of Gender Desk Officers in the group have been in service for a relatively long period of time, with over half having been in service for 15 years or more. It is possible that this reflects the dedication of Gender Desk Officers to their work, or the challenges of turnover and recruitment in the service provider sector.

This study found out that GDOs and Domestic Violence survivors shared the same sentiment on the level of satisfaction in responsiveness to Domestic Violence cases in the State since both groups reported a great dissatisfaction in the level of response to Domestic Violence cases in Rivers State. Meanwhile, results revealed that the satisfaction levels with training received in response to domestic violence cases among the Gender Desk Officers are mixed. Overall, the results of this survey suggest that there may be room for improvement in the training provided to Gender Desk Officers in response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State.

This study found that the majority of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State reported feeling knowledgeable or very knowledgeable about Domestic Violence cases in the state. This suggest that many Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State feel confident in their knowledge of Domestic Violence cases, which could be an important factor in their ability to provide effective services to survivors. Also, a significant number of Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State felt that they have received either supportive or very supportive support from other police officers when responding to Domestic Violence cases. Findings revealed that an almost all GDOs in River State felt that resources available to them for responding to DV cases are inadequate. This could include resources such as equipment, personnel, training, and funding.

Recommendation

The study came up with the following recommendations to make the gender desk more effective. In trying to assess the services offered by the gender desk to the GBV survivors.

- The Gender Desk Officers have a significant gender imbalance, with a majority of males, which could potentially hinder their ability to respond effectively to domestic violence cases as survivors may prefer to speak with female service providers. This gender imbalance could be due to gendered barriers to entering the profession or biases in recruitment and hiring processes. Further research is needed to identify strategies to address this imbalance, such as targeted recruitment efforts or gender-sensitive training programs.
- To ensure that all survivors' needs are met, the Gender Desk should have a diverse group of service providers who vary in age, experience, and other relevant factors.
- The majority of Gender Desk Officers are over 40, with the largest group being those aged 50 and above. It is crucial to consider the age distribution when assessing the response to domestic violence cases in Rivers State and ensure that the Gender Desk has staff who are diverse in terms of age and experience.
- The educational qualifications of Gender Desk Officers vary, with some having higher-level qualifications like BSc and MSc, while others have lower-level qualifications like OND and HND. Although higher-level qualifications may be useful in dealing with complex domestic violence issues, lower-level qualifications can also provide valuable knowledge and skills. It's important to have a diverse range of service providers with varying levels of experience as they may have unique strengths and limitations when dealing with domestic violence cases. For example, newer service providers may have more knowledge of technology and social media, while experienced ones may have specialized knowledge of specific types of abuse or populations.
- Policymakers and law enforcement agencies should take action to address concerns regarding the resources available to Gender Desk Officers in Rivers State. This could involve providing additional training, personnel, buildings/ private rooms for interviewing the victims and equipment, as well as adequate funding to support these efforts. By doing so, these agencies can ensure that Gender Desk Officers have what they need to respond effectively to domestic violence cases and provide support to survivors.
- To prevent domestic violence from happening, the gender desk should increase gender advocacy and community policing initiatives to raise awareness and encourage prompt reporting. The public can also play a crucial role in fighting domestic violence.
- The study found numerous challenges faced by Gender Desk Officers, and a task force should be formed by the minister in charge of security to address these challenges and establish policy guidelines. This would improve the effectiveness of Gender Desks in addressing domestic violence.

References

- Bankole, T. O., & Urhere, G. (2021). Are contextual influences and statutory law empathy impetuses to police attitude to domestic violence against women in Lagos State?. *Social Work and Social Welfare*, 3, 134-147.
- Benebo, F. O., Schumann, B., & Vaezghasemi, M. (2018). Intimate partner violence against women in Nigeria: a multilevel study investigating the effect of women's status and community norms. *BMC women's health*, 18(1), 1-17.
- Blair, G., & Jassal, N. (2022). Accessing justice for survivors of violence against women. *Science*, 377(6602), 150-151.
- Cotter, A. (2021). Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018: An overview. *Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*, 1-23.
- Dowling, C., Morgan, A., Hulme, S., Manning, M., & Wong, G. (2018). Protection orders for domestic violence: A systematic review. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice*, (551), 1-19.
- Goodson, A., & Hayes, B. E. (2021). Help-seeking behaviors of intimate partner violence victims: A cross-national analysis in developing nations. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 36(9-10), NP4705-NP4727.
- Hanoi, (2011). Preventing and responding to DV trainee's manual for law enforcement and justice sectors in Viet Nam (edition 2).
- Hanoi, (2011). Preventing and responding to DV trainee's manual for law enforcement and justice sectors in Viet Nam (edition 2).
- Hoyle, C., & Sanders, A. (2017). Police Response to Domestic Violence: From Victim Choice to Victim Empowerment?. In *Domestic Violence* (pp. 411-433). Routledge.
- Huecker, M.R., King, K.C. & Jordan, G.A. (2022). DV. [Updated 2022 Feb 10]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK499891/>
- Kunnuji, M.O.N. (2014). Experience of DV and acceptance of intimate partner violence among out-of-school adolescent girls in Iwaya community, Lagos state. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(4), 543-564.
- Medie, P. A. (2015). Women and postconflict security: A study of police response to domestic violence in Liberia. *Politics & Gender*, 11(3), 478-498.
- Ndenje, N. F. (2014). *Assessment of the effectiveness of Tanzania police gender desks in protecting women from gender based violation”, a case study at Kinondoni municipality* (Doctoral dissertation, The Open University of Tanzania).
- Noah, Y. (2000). Incidence and Dimension of Violence Against Women in the Nigerian Society. *Centrepont Journal*, 21 (2), 30-41.
- Obagboye, T. G. (2020). Entrenched Epidemic: Stemming the Tide of Violence Against Women in Nigeria and Africa. *International journal of comparative law and legal philosophy (ijoclep)*, 2(1).

- Palermo T, Bleck J, Peterman A. Tip of the iceberg: reporting and gender-based violence in developing countries. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2014 Mar 1;179(5):602-12. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwt295. Epub 2013 Dec 12. PMID: 24335278; PMCID: PMC3927971.
- PIND (2018, May). DV in Rivers State: A Threat to Social and Family Stability. Peacebuilding, Research/Study Reports. <https://pindfoundation.org/domestic-violence-in-rivers-state-a-threat-to-social-and-family-stability/>
- Sani, A., Gonçalves, M. J., Nunes, L. M., & Saint Arnault, D. M. (2018). Violence against the elderly: narrative of a case. *MOJ Gerontology & Geriatrics*, 3(2), 153-155.
- Segrave, M., Wilson, D., & Fitz-Gibbon, K. (2018). Policing intimate partner violence in Victoria (Australia): Examining police attitudes and the potential of specialisation. *Australian & New Zealand journal of criminology*, 51(1), 99-116.
- Thomson, A. (2009). 15 Years of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences (1994-2009) - A Critical Review. New York: United Nations.
- Tracy Wilcox, M. G., Alison Pullen, Anne O'Leary Kelly, Deborah Jones. (2021). Interfaces of DV and organization: Gendered violence and inequality. Wiley online library, 28(2), 701- 721. <https://doi.org/> <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.12515> (29 July 2020)
- UN WOMEN. (2011, December 29). Establish gender desks / focal points / units within security institutions. [Www.endvawnow.org](http://www.endvawnow.org); UN WOMEN. <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1061-establish-gender-desks-focal-points-units-within-security-institutions.html>
- UNFPA. (2012). Gender violence programmes in emergencies. E-learning companion guide. New York: UNFPA.
- Wanjohi, A. N. (2016). The effectiveness of police gender desks in addressing gender based violence: a case of Nyandarua County-Kenya. *Unpublished Master's project*. University of Nairobi.
- World Health Organization. (2021, March 9). Devastatingly pervasive: 1 in 3 Women Globally Experience Violence. [Www.who.int](http://www.who.int); World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/news/item/09-03-2021-devastatingly-pervasive-1-in-3-women-globally-experience-violence>
- Yalley, A. A., & Olutayo, M. S. (2020). Gender, masculinity and policing: An analysis of the implications of police masculinised culture on policing domestic violence in southern Ghana and Lagos, Nigeria. *Social Sciences & Humanities Open*, 2(1), 100077.
- Zhao, R., Zhang, H., Jiang, Y., & Yao, X. (2018). The tendency to make arrests in domestic violence: Perceptions from police officers in China. *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology*, 62(16), 4923-4941.