

A HAND BOOK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THE NIGERIAN PERSPECTIVE



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FOREWORD

The issue of Domestic Violence is on the front burner and not restricted to a particular tribe, race, gender, age or religion. The most vulnerable are women and children. According to research and media reports in Nigeria and around the world, it has assumed a dreadful height and calls for concern. This handbook on Domestic Violence by Dr. (Mrs.) Glory Ada Ezems-Amadi has concisely delineated the multi-faceted nature of Domestic Violence. Though, not conclusively, she has highlighted the forms, causes and itemized some reasons why victims stay in abusive relationships, the extent and efforts made by individuals, government, non-governmental organizations and law enforcement agencies to curb the incidence of Domestic Violence in Nigeria.

The book is timely at this crucial period in our society, when the moral conduct has been eroded by societal decadence, drug abuse and deviate behaviour which are traceable to dysfunctional families and loss of moral values. Remarkably, women, young adults, parents, individuals in courtship, guidance counsellors, psychologists, religious organizations, teachers, care givers and other stakeholders will find this book rewarding in seeking assistance against Domestic Violence.

This is a laudable venture by the author. Her contribution to literature especially in Nigeria is commendable. Unequivocally, I recommend this handbook as a must read to all.

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PREFACE

This work was triggered by my great passion and burning desire to create awareness on the danger of domestic violence in our society with a view of helping the young ones especially the young couples understand the concept of domestic violence in order to guard against it.

The reason it is important for individuals to understand the danger of domestic violence is to help them take action against it because some people may not even realize that they are inflicting domestic violence on others.

On the other hand, victims will not also know to take action against their abusers if they do not realize that what is being inflicted upon them is domestic violence. Further, friends and loved ones of the victims who are in a better position to help can only do that if they understand what amounts to domestic violence. Hence it is important for people to understand this monster and the different forms it takes.

Dr. (Mrs) Glory Ada Ezems-Amadi
Port Harcourt, 2019.

INTRODUCTION

The home for many people means a refuge, a place where we feel safe and free. Also, a place where our private life is sacred and where the state has no right to pry. But for victims of domestic violence, home means just the opposite: a source of stress and torment. No wonder Domestic Violence today is seen as the number one health concern in most country today including Nigeria. Hence, understanding the definition of domestic violence can help you take action against it. Some people may not even realize that they are inflicting domestic violence on someone else. On the flipside, victims will not know to take action against their abusers if they do not realize that what is being inflicted upon them is, in fact, domestic violence. Likewise, friends and loved ones of victims are in a better place to help if they understand what domestic violence looks like. Therefore, it is important that people understand the definition of domestic violence and the many forms it can take.

CHAPTER

1

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?



Domestic violence can be described as the power misused by one adult in a relationship to control another. It is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through violence and other forms of abuse. This violence can take the form of physical assault, psychological abuse, social abuse, financial abuse, or sexual assault. The frequency of the violence can be on and off, occasional or chronic.