DOHS
Femicide Research Hub

Femicide In Nigeria

Mapping The Crisis, Mobilizing For Justice



Every day, across continents, women and girls are being killed, not in of war, but in the supposed safety of their homes, on the streets, on transit, by strangers and by those they love and trust. These are not random acts of violence; they are targeted killings rooted in power structures and structural inequalities. Yet most of these deaths are treated as isolated tragedies and not as part of a larger, systemic war; a crisis that has stolen too many lives and still lacks a name in many of our laws, headlines, and databases globally.

FEMICIDE: The intentional Killing of Women and Girls by men who are usually their intimate partners, relatives or close acquaintances, because of their Gender.

Femicide is war, war against women's right to life, leaving lives tragically cut short in its wake,It is an extreme form of Violence and discrimination against Women and Girls, Motivated by hatred, contempt, pleasure or a sense of ownership of women. Femicide can aptly be described as a misogynistic killing of women by men.

WHY THIS MATTERS

THE GLOBAL INVISIBILITY OF FEMICIDE



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Every 49 hours in Nigeria, a Woman or Girl is killed in an act of Femicide, every 11 minutes, a woman or girl is killed globally by someone she knows.

Metric	Value
Global femicides (2023)	~85,000 women & girls
Intimate partner/family-perpetrated	~51,100 (≈60% of total)
Daily average killings	~140 per day
Region with highest rate	Africa – 2.9 per 100,000 women
Americas rate	1.6 per 100,000 women
Europe rate	0.6 per 100,000 women
Femicide victims in Latin America 2022	≥4,050 (≈1 every 2 hours)

1. Africa: Nigeria, South Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo have the highest rates of femicide in Africa.
2. Asia: Countries like India and Pakistan have high rates of femicide, often linked to dowry deaths and honor killings.
3. America: Countries like El Salvador and Honduras have some of the highest rates of femicide globally, often linked to gang violence and intimate partner violence.

FEMICIDE IN NIGERIA
From Silence to Visibility

In Nigeria, femicide remains hidden

underreported, and silenced. In 2024, DOHS Femicide Observatory tracked 150 cases of femicide in Nigeria and in the first quarter of 2025, tracked 52 cases, indicating over 240 % increase in cases, and by the first half, had recorded 88 Cases, which translates to a woman being killed every 49 hours in Nigeria.

Additionally,

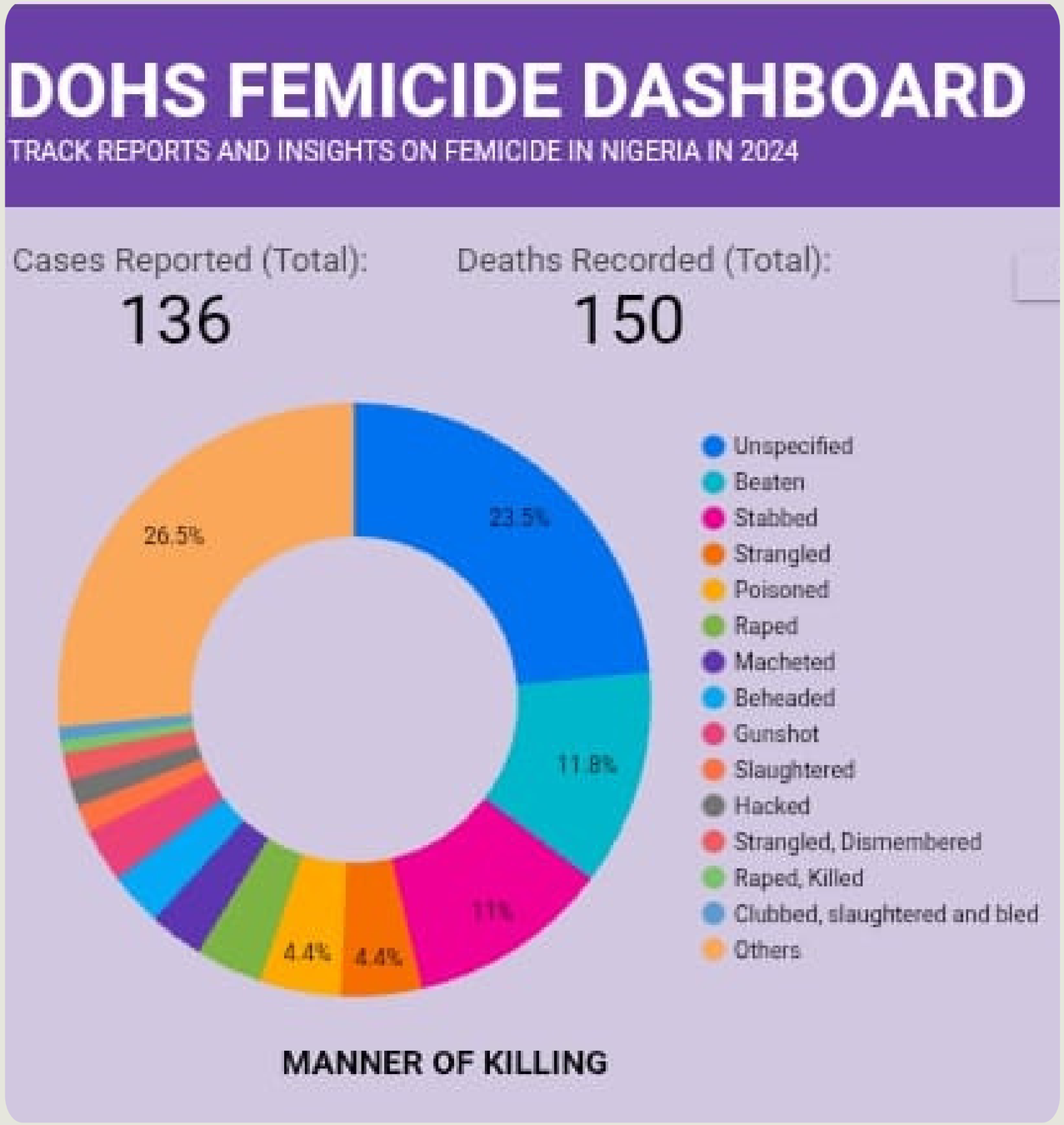
there is a growing community of InCels in Nigeria digital spaces that works actively to divert the attention away from the facts of femicide when it occurs.

FEMICIDE IN NIGERIA

persists because the root cause has not been addressed and there has been no consequences due to lack of specific legislation on Femicide in Nigeria, delayed trials, failure in the protection of women and girls, lack of adequate official data on the phenomenon and lack of support systems. Neither the Nigerian criminal/penal codes nor the VAPP act acknowledge the gender relative motives behind the crime of Femicide, therefore the impunity of these misogynists acts persists.
The persistence of femicide demonstrates how gender-based violence escalates to the most extreme form when prevention fails.



Some of the faces we have lost so far, each death a more brutal blow than the last.



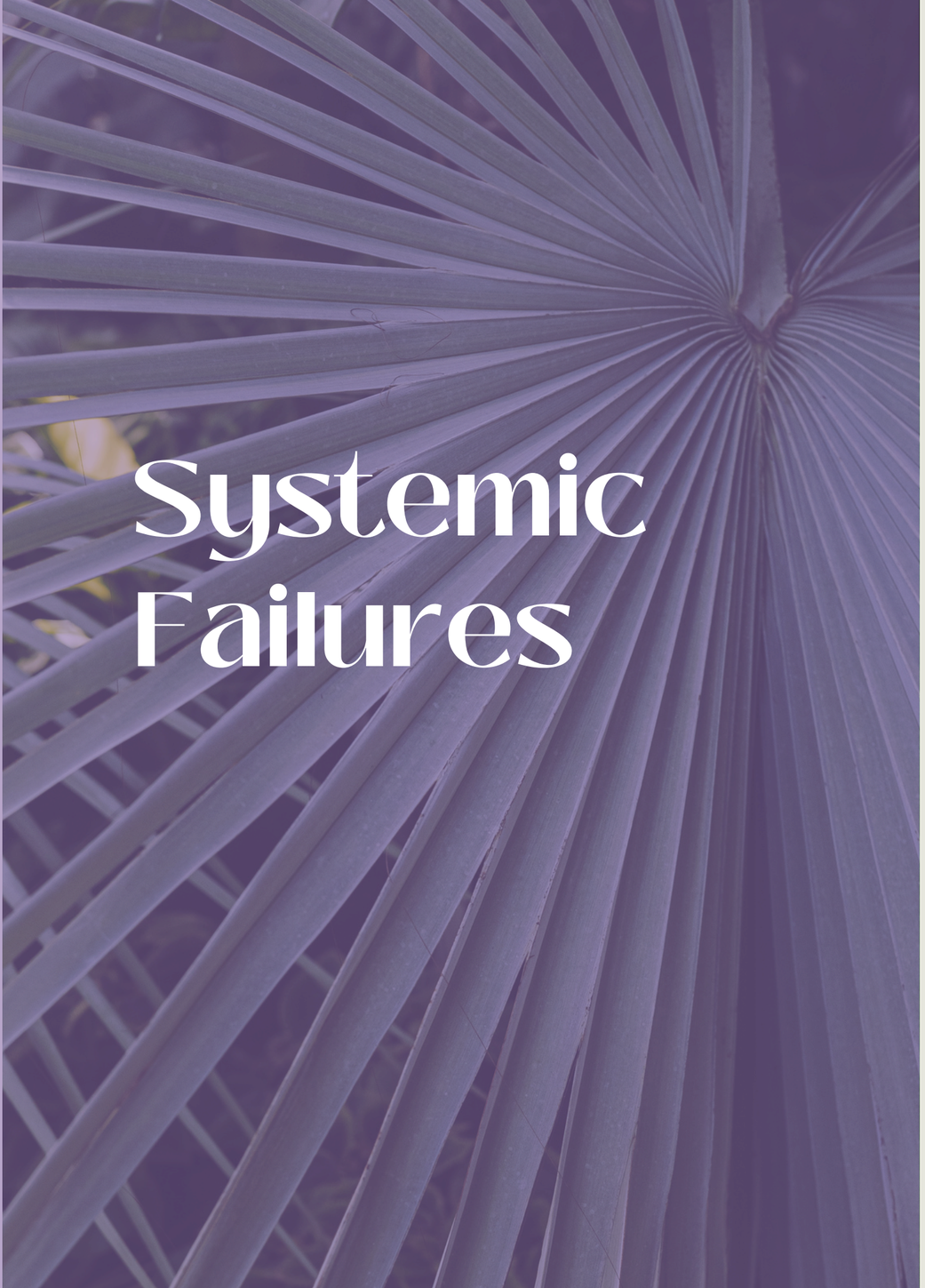
Femicide in Nigeria for 2024, as recorded by the DOHS Femicide Dashboard, the only femicide watch in Nigeria.



TRENDS AND PATTERNS

1. Intimate partner violence:
Home is the most dangerous places for Nigerian Women and Girls. Majority of Femicides happen in between Intimate Partners, including killings of sex workers.
2. Ritual killings: Killings of Women and Girls in order to procure their genitals for ritual purposes amounts for the third most prevalent form of Femicide in Nigeria.
3. Armed conflict zones :Most parts of Northern Nigeria are experiencing forms of Banditry and Terrorism, Women and Girls in these zones get raped leading to femicide.

1. Increasing prevalence: Femicide cases are increasing globally, with Nigeria experiencing a significant rise in recent years.
2. Younger victims: Femicide victims in Nigeria are often younger than those in other countries, with many cases involving girls and young women.
3. Social media and awareness: The use of social media has increased awareness about femicide cases in Nigeria and globally, with many campaigns and initiatives advocating for an end to violence against women.
4. Underreporting & weak documentation: Resulting in Cases being rarely prosecuted



Systemic Failures

1

2

Strong Data Gaps: No national femicide database/registry.
No Legislation addressing Femicide and Weak enforcement of existing laws on Violence against Women and girls.
Victim-blaming & stigma.
Weak justice response
No means of syncing data between hospitals and police records. a lot of DV victims die in the hospital which are not recorded as Femicide

MOBILIZING FOR JUSTICE AND DOHS Cares Foundation's Response

Comprehensive prevention strategies, including legal reform, survivor-centered care, education, and cultural change, are urgently needed to stop these
killings.

1. Strengthen laws and policies: Governments should strengthen laws and policies to prevent and respond to femicide, including ensuring perpetrators are
held accountable.
2. Address cultural and societal factors: Initiatives should address cultural and societal factors contributing to femicide, including patriarchal norms and
stigma surrounding divorce.
3. Increase awareness and education: Awareness campaigns and education programs should be implemented to prevent femicide and promote gender
equality.
4. Provide support and resources: Support and resources should be provided for victims of violence and their families, including counseling and advocacy
services.
5. Encourage community involvement: Community involvement and collective responsibility should be encouraged in preventing femicide and promoting
gender equality







WOMEN FILLING THE FEMICIDE SURVEY PHYSICALLY AT INTL WOMEN'S DAY 2025 TO CREATE AWARENESS ON FEMICIDE



MOKOYA SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LAGOS





BOLA IGE MILLENIUM SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL



More Information: +234 703 653 5331



OUR FOUNDER AT NEWS CENTRAL TV
TO SPEAK ON THE PREVALENCE OF FEMICIDE IN NIGERIA



OUR FOUNDER AT WAZOBIA FM SPEAKING ABOUT OUR WORK



SIGNING OF THE MOU WITH NILDS



In June 2024, we marked a major milestone in our advocacy journey by officially signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS). This agreement signified our first major legislative breakthrough toward getting the Femicide Bill passed into law.

With this MoU, we solidified our partnership and took a significant step closer to criminalizing femicide in Nigeria—ensuring that the lives of women and girls are protected and that justice is no longer delayed or denied.



RUN FOR HER



THE BEGINNING OF A MOVMENT



Run for Her began as a symbolic way to protest femicide, a quiet yet visible public action that merges fitness, solidarity, and activism.
Held in November 2024, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the inaugural race attracted hundreds of participants from different walks of life.

Why a Race?
Running symbolizes resistance. It shows we're not standing still while injustice persists. It invites everyday people to become part of a solution and honors those who've lost their lives.

THEME: RUN FOR HER

GLOBAL RACE AGAINST FEMICIDE 2

Join this **5K Run** to raise global awareness about **Femicide**, with a focus on Femicide in Nigeria; ask for **justice** for victims, raise funds for **tracking femicide** and renting **safe shelter** for potential victims/survivors of femicide, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

REGISTER NOW!



SATURDAY

29 NOVEMBER 2025

AGEGE STADIUM, LAGOS

DOHS Cares foundation

FOR INQUIRIES:

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Our Challenges

Limited funding

Weak state collaboration

Survivors’ fear of reporting

High stigma in communities



CONCLUSION AND OUR CALL TO ACTION

Create a National Femicide Observatory

Adopt and Enforce the Femicide Bill

Invest in survivor services (shelters, legal aid, psychosocial support)

Engage men and boys in prevention