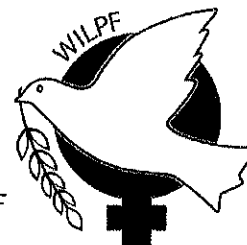


## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté

Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad

*Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF*



### **Statement of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom on the Report of the Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic Review of Nigeria**

The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill was drafted as a response to the consistent failure of Nigerian authorities to adopt and implement legislation to address and prevent sexual violence. The aim of the bill is to eliminate the occurrence of gender-based violence in Nigeria. The policy has been rejected twice in the past year.

Member states have recommended that the Nigerian Senate pass the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill. We welcome Nigeria's acceptance of these recommendations and we urge the Senate of Nigeria to promptly pass the bill.

The report also urges Nigeria to implement the newly created National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325. We welcome Nigeria's accepting this recommendation and we encourage a thorough implementation, including the allocation of a specific budget for this purpose.

WILPF had also suggested recommendations on the limitation of arms trade and the use of explosive weapons, as these are direct factors hindering the enjoyment of human rights in Nigeria. The Arms Trade Treaty recognises the link between gender-based violence and the international arms trade. Further, in its 24<sup>th</sup> session, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the impact of arms transfer on human rights in conflict.

For its commitment with the Arms Trade Treaty, Nigeria has become a leader on disarmament. We commend Nigeria to follow through on this and establish a national commission to oversee the application of the Treaty.

Despite these important milestones towards acknowledging the impact of arms on human rights, member states are yet to issue recommendations about this through the UPR mechanism. We encourage member states to be consistent with their previous efforts and to bear in mind the multiple factors causing gender-based violence and human rights violations, including arms trade, and to issue recommendations in this sense.