

43rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Statement by Equality Triangle Initiative, Love Matters Naija, Education as a Vaccine (EVA) and International Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (INCRESE).

*Delivered by: Benjamin Nolan
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Distinguished Delegates, dear Madam Special Rapporteur,

I make this statement on behalf of Love Matters Naija, Equality Triangle Initiative, Education as a Vaccine and the International Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, four organizations working on issues regarding sexual and gender minorities in Nigeria.

We welcome the report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of the Right to Housing in Nigeria, and note with appreciation her thorough and inclusive consultation with national stakeholders.

In her report, the Rapporteur illustrates how lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) persons face extreme discrimination in Nigeria, including in the Right to Housing. They are denied housing, have their privacy infringed upon, and in certain cases have been dragged from their homes and attacked.

We echo the Rapporteur's urgent call to repeal of the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, as well as all other pieces of legislation that discriminate and criminalize based on a person's sexual orientation and gender identity in Nigeria. The right to privacy of LGBT persons in their own homes is an essential element of the right to housing and must be protected.

We would like to reiterate the Rapporteur's recommendation for the Nigerian government to address homelessness on a priority basis as a human rights crisis, as part of the country's housing strategy. As a step, the number of available emergency shelters for different populations at risk, including LGBT persons should be increased significantly.

Based on the other recommendation by the Rapporteur, we also call on the government and legislature to adopt comprehensive legislation (including by amending the federal and state tenant legislation) banning discrimination in the housing sector by public and private actors of any group, targeting LGBT persons.

I thank you