THE ANATHEMA OF GAY MARRIAGE IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Before November 2011, gay marriage was a controversial issue in Nigeria. That was so because, there was no law, which prohibited it, thus the involvement of parties in this type of marriage was not illegal although it was seen to have flowed from moral depravity. Yet, supporters of gay marriage claim authority from the constitutional provisions, which guarantee the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and the right to freedom from discrimination. This paper aims at highlighting current position of the law on gay marriage in Nigeria. In doing so, it draws substantially from available legal literature, case law and statutes. This paper finds as a fact that in Nigeria, gay marriage was an aberration as well as a bitter pill to swallow and concludes that Nigeria, has recently streamlined the position of the law on it by enacting a domestic criminal statute as a legal framework to officially and formally outlaw it.

Keywords: Homosexuality, Marriage, Rights, Union, and Benefits.