



A DISCOURSE ON ALTERNATIVE SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN SCHOOLS  
AND HOMES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this paper is to present the current problems confronting gays and lesbians in Nigeria in view of the new legislation forbidding homosexuality in the country. The paper attempts to advocate the alternative approaches in dealing with homosexuals that will not blatantly impinge on their rights. Many African countries are not favourably disposed to alternative sexual orientation. Nigeria has taken concrete steps in criminalizing same sex marriage and all such relationships. While Christians abhor it the “offence” can attract as much as a death penalty among the Muslim faithful. Thus politically, religiously and culturally Nigeria is highly homophobic. But globally there is an upsurge in the recognition of the increasing number of persons outside mainstream sexual orientation. As part of the global village, Nigeria obviously has persons with these tendencies whose number also may be on the increase, particularly among the more adventurous group –the youths. Yet, not even as a starting point is sexuality education taught either in school or at home to enable this group to handle their sexuality. The paper concludes that human rights should not be diminished by national legislation.

*Keywords:* Lesbians, Gay, Transgender, Bi-Sexual, Sexual Orientation.