



# Evaluating the depth of media reportage of women and girls in the Nigerian media

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# Executive summary



The need to make government accountable to its commitments to international and local agreements as it concerns the attainment of gender equality is the reason for Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ)'s many media monitoring reports, including this one which was conducted between May and July 2020.

Fourteen Nigerian publications (eleven print and three online) were monitored to map trends and analyse how well the media reported women and girls issues. A total of 5,620 stories focused on women and/or girls' issues were recorded, 5,132 of which were reported in the eleven print publications and spread across 35,182 pages. All the headlines were 3,074. Of these, 88 focused on women and girls. Similarly, 7,435 front-page stories were published out of which 416 were on women and girls accounting for 1,160 stories out of 3,329 story issues of access, representing 35 per cent and 1,163 stories out of 2,291 story issues of abuse, representing 51 per cent. The general focus stories accounted for majority of the women and girls' reports monitored. Other story issues accounted for 14 per cent of the stories covered.

The patterns and trends observed in the reportage of women and girls' issues show the need for most of the newspapers to be more intentional with what and how they report issues regarding women and girls. Also, media owners and managers need to be committed to mainstreaming gender to tell underreported issues affecting women, using more female sources as experts not victims, conducting more investigations and telling nuanced human angle stories.



## Context

This report assesses how well the news media is performing its constitutional role of informing, educating and holding the powerful accountable. It aims to highlight observed gaps and shortcomings in the reportage of issues affecting women and girls as part of efforts to increasing the quality and quantum of reports on women and girls. The basis for canvassing for improved coverage of women in the news is clear. Women are known to play a large role in planning, caregiving and in contributing to the development of the society. A 2021 data of the [World Bank](#) states that women account for 99.13 million of Nigeria's population representing 43.1 per cent of the national workforce. However, the reverse is the case in the number of reports done on this group of the population based on the analysis of the fourteen news publications monitored.

## Rationale

The monitoring was undertaken to map trends and analyse how the media reported women and girls' issues. The report infers the reality of the coverage of the gender issues from the data obtained and recommends possible interventions. The findings will also help to understand the quality and quantum of reports about women and girls in Nigeria as well as determine definite areas that may need strengthening in the media. Preliminary monitoring exercises carried out by WSCIJ since 2014 have continuously revealed a similar pattern in the reportage of women and girl issues with a gap in reporting key development issues affecting this demography. This report revealed a dearth of reports on women's health, education, economy and representation in political leadership. Data obtained across the fourteen monitored news publications—*Leadership, Tribune, Punch, New Telegraph, Guardian, BusinessDay, ThisDay, Daily Trust, Vanguard, Independent, The Nation, Daily Post, Sahara Reporters, and Premium Times*—on women's access to health and education was very poor, totalling 9 percent when compared to entertainment which was 16.6 per cent. Nigeria is a signatory to international and local efforts on gender equality such as the Sustainable Development Goal 5 which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ending all forms of discrimination against them. However, achieving gender equality and empowerment may be far-fetched if the quality of reporting is not in-depth and intentional to raise the bar for women.

## Monitoring approach

The methodology for extracting the required information and indices entailed a structured technique, using qualitative and quantitative assessment. The quantitative approach captured the frequency of each report index while the qualitative examined the content of individual newspapers on women and girls in relation to the highlighted thematic issues. The content monitoring covered the issues of access and abuse broadly. All story types about women and girls as identified in headlines, editorials, front page stories, editorials, cover photos, features, interview, opinions, adverts, photo, cartoon and letters were treated.

### Key facts about newspapers monitored



Publisher: Frank Aigbogun  
Editor-in-chief: Tayo Fagbule  
Date of Establishment: 2001  
Major coverage: National (with focus on business reporting)  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): BusinessDay daily & BusinessDay Sunday  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 2.86%



Publisher: James Bamisaye  
Editor-in-chief: Ali Adoyi  
Date of Establishment: 2011  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Online  
Title(s): Daily Post  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 3.35%



Publisher: Kabiru Yusuf  
Editor-in-chief: Naziru Mikailu Abubakar  
Media Trust Limited  
Date of Establishment: 1998  
Major coverage: National (with more popularity in Northern Nigeria)  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): Daily Trust, Daily Trust Saturday, Daily Trust Sunday  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 6.26%



Publisher: Maiden Ibru  
Editor-in-chief: Debo Adesina  
Guardian Newspaper Limited  
Date of Establishment: 1983  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): The Guardian, The Guardian on Saturday & The Guardian on Sunday  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 9.68%



Publisher: Independent Newspapers Limited  
Editor-in-chief: Steve Omanufeme  
Date of Establishment: 2001  
Major coverage: National (with more popularity in Northern Nigeria)  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): Independent, Saturday Independent & Sunday Independent  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 9.66%



Publisher: Leadership Group Limited  
Editor: Raliat Ahmed-Yusuf  
Date of Establishment: 2004  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): Leadership, Leadership Friday, Leadership weekend & Leadership Sunday  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 8.13%

## New Telegraph

Publisher: Uzor Kalu  
Editor: Ayodele Ojo  
Daily Telegraph Publishing Company Limited  
Date of Establishment: 2014  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): New Telegraph, Saturday Telegraph & Sunday Telegraph  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 9.41%

## PUNCH

Publisher: The Punch Newspaper Limited  
Editor-in-chief: Ademola Osinubi  
Date of Establishment: 1976  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): The Punch, Saturday Punch & Sunday Punch  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 10.55%

## THE NATION

Truth in Defence of Freedom

Publisher: Vintage Press Limited  
Editor-in-chief: Adeniyi Adesina  
Date of Establishment: 2006  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): The Nation, Nation Saturday, Nation Sunday, Nation Sport & NewsExtra  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 8.84%

## NIGERIAN TRIBUNE

WEBSITE WITH RICHEST CONTENT

Publisher: African Newspapers of Nigeria Plc  
Editor-in-chief: Edward Dickson  
Date of Establishment: 1949  
Major coverage: National (with more popularity in South-West Nigeria)  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): Nigerian Tribune, Saturday Tribune & Sunday Tribune  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 9.57%

## PREMIUM Times

Publisher: Dapo Olorunyomi  
Editor-in-chief: Musikilu Mojeed  
Premium Times Services Limited  
Date of Establishment: 2011  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Online  
Title(s): Premium Times  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 3.36%

## SAHARA REPORTERS

Publisher: Omoyele Sowore  
Editor: Eric Dumo  
Date of Establishment: 2006  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Online  
Title(s): Sahara Reporters  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 1.98%

## THIS DAY

AFRICAN VIEWS ON GLOBAL NEWS

Publisher: THISDAY Newspapers Limited  
Editor-in-chief: Nduka Obaigbena  
Date of Establishment: 1995  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): ThisDay  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 6.00%

## Vanguard

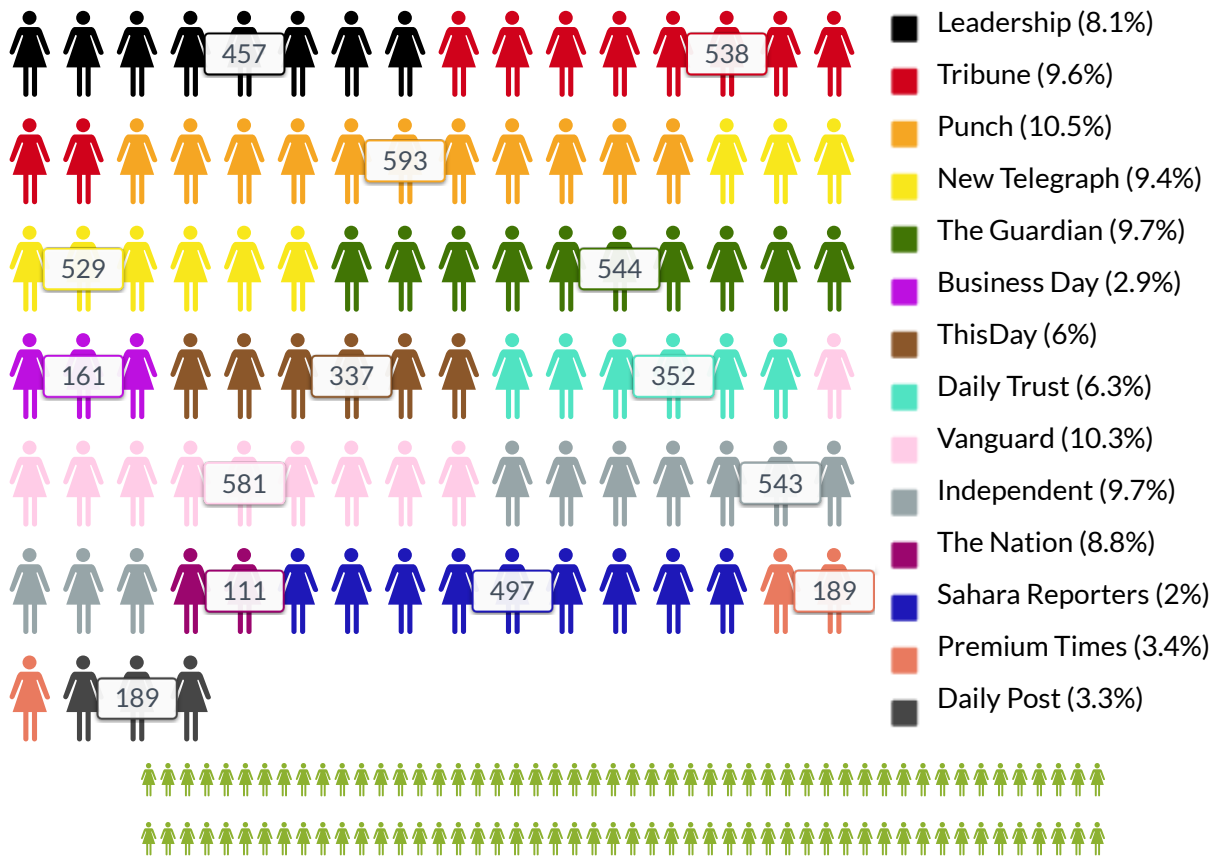
Publisher: Vanguard Media Limited  
Editor: Eze Anaba  
Vanguard Media Limited  
Date of Establishment: 1984  
Major coverage: National  
Media genre: Print  
Title(s): Vanguard, Saturday Vanguard & Sunday Vanguard  
Percentage of reports on women and girls: 10.34%





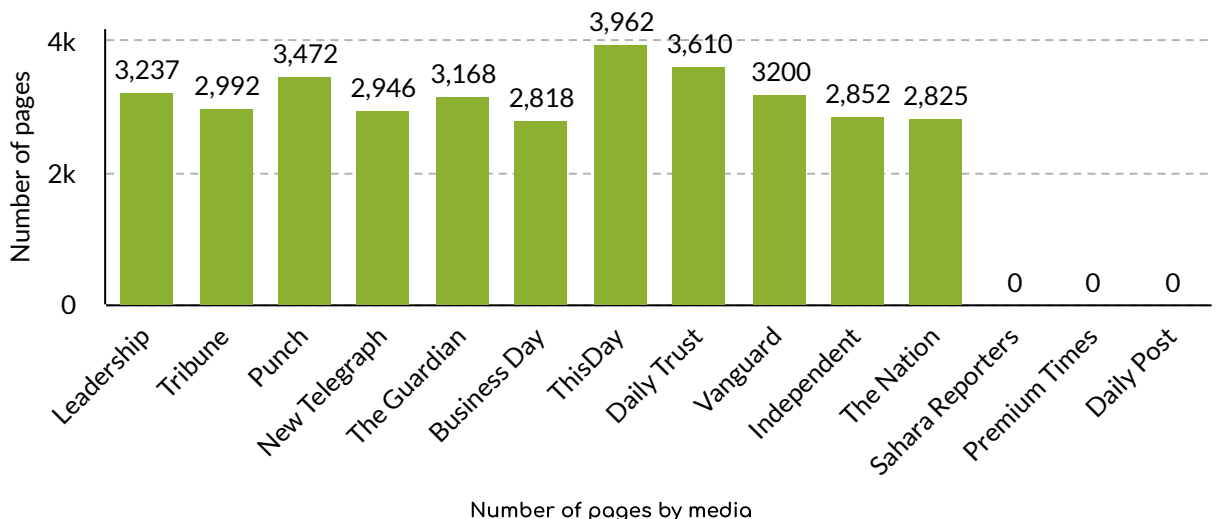
## Outcome of media monitoring

Across the fourteen newspapers monitored, we found a total of 5,620 reports focused on women and girls. *Punch* Newspaper had the highest number of reports on women with 593 reports accounting for 10.55 per cent of the total number. This was followed by *Vanguard* Newspaper with 581 reports, *The Guardian* with 544 reports, *Independent* with 543 reports, *Tribune* with 538 reports, *The New Telegraph* with 529, *The Nation* with 497, and *Leadership* with 457 reports. *Daily Trust* Newspaper, *ThisDay*, *Premium Times*, *Daily Post* and *BusinessDay* accounted for 352, 337, 189, 188 and 161 each. The lowest number of reports was from *Sahara Reporters* with 111 reports.



**5,620**

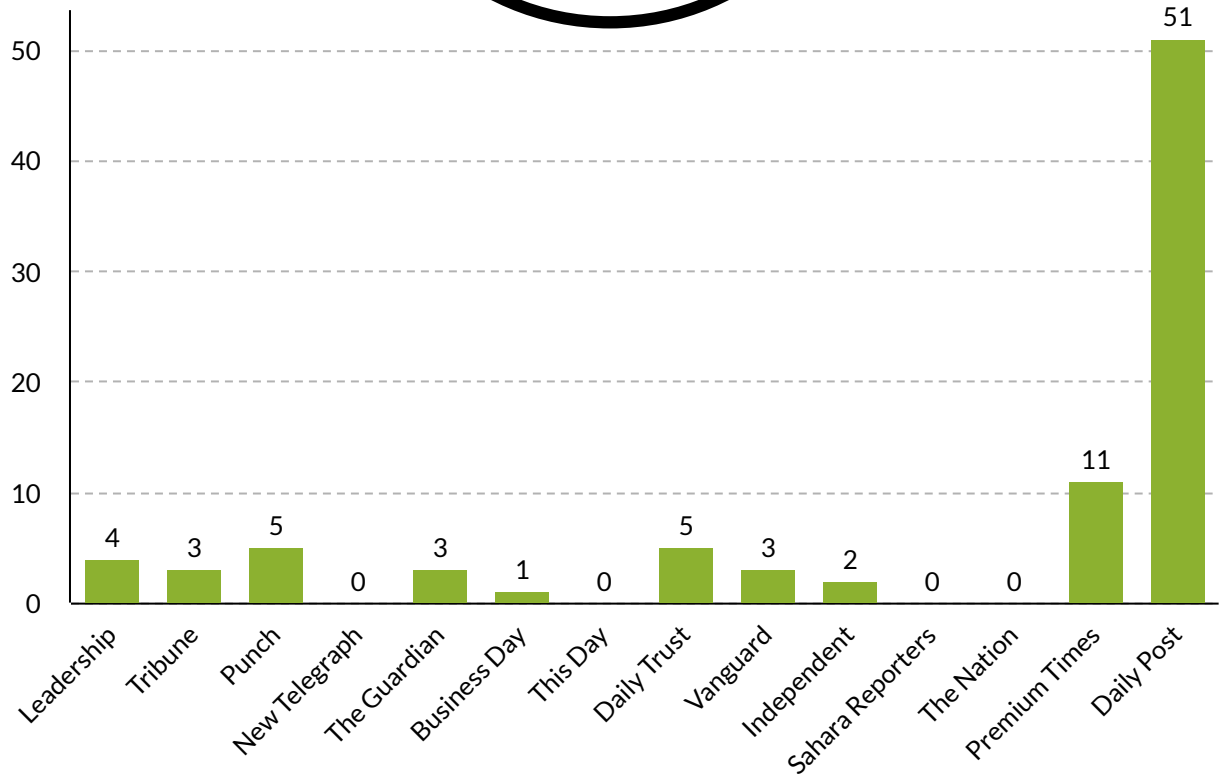
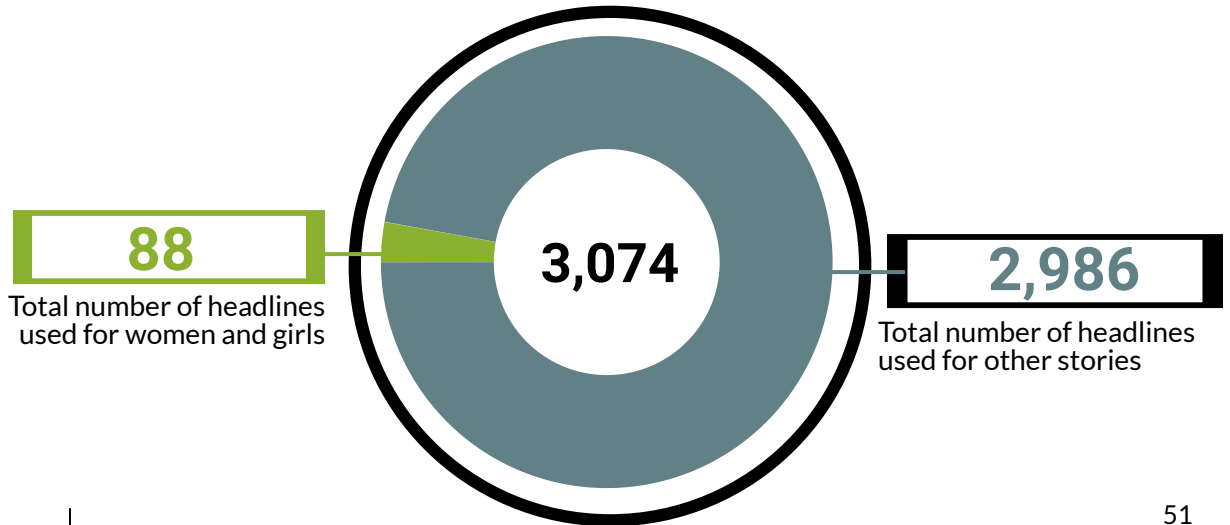
Number of women and girls stories





Of the 3,074 headlines recorded, only 88 headlines, representing 2.9 per cent focused on the reportage of women and girls. *Daily Post* online newspaper, with 51 headlines, had the highest number of headlines.

■ Headlines used for women and girls stories - 2.9%   ■ Headlines used for other stories - 97.1%







Many of the front-page stories did not capture reports about women and girls. Of the 7,435 front page stories reported in the fourteen publications, only 416, representing 5.6 per cent was about women and girls' issues. *Punch* had the highest front-page reports with 67 front-page reports on women and girls followed by *Tribune* with 52 front-page stories and *Leadership* newspaper with 48 front-page stories.

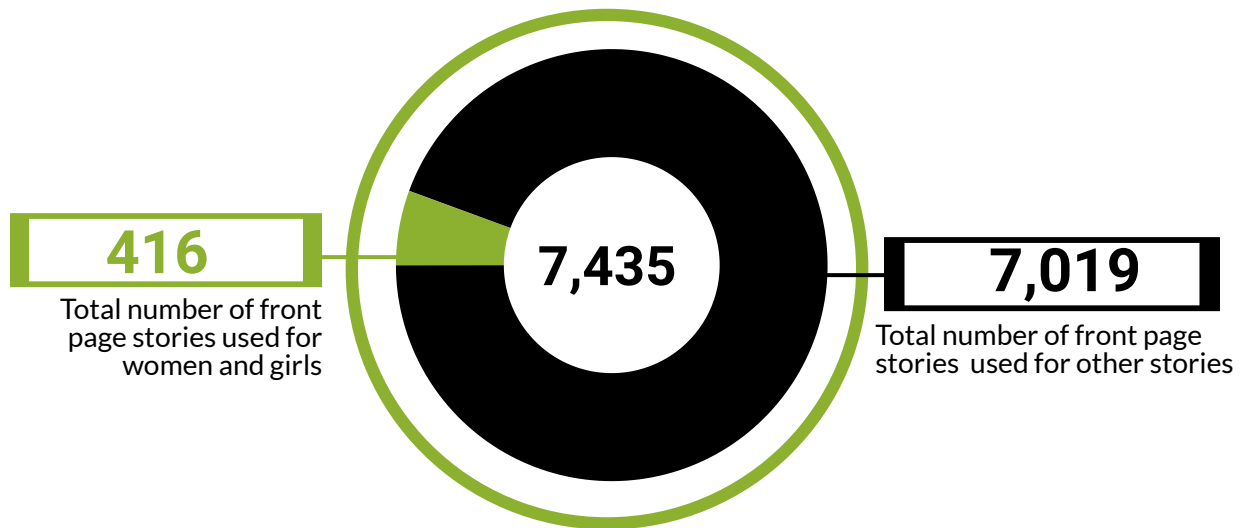
**Examples of frontpage stories:**

Driver, friend kill businesswoman, steal N400,000 in Ogun (page 4 of *Punch* May 6, 2020)

Police arrest 4 for allegedly killing 16-yr-old maid in Lagos (page 8 of *Tribune*, May 11, 2020)

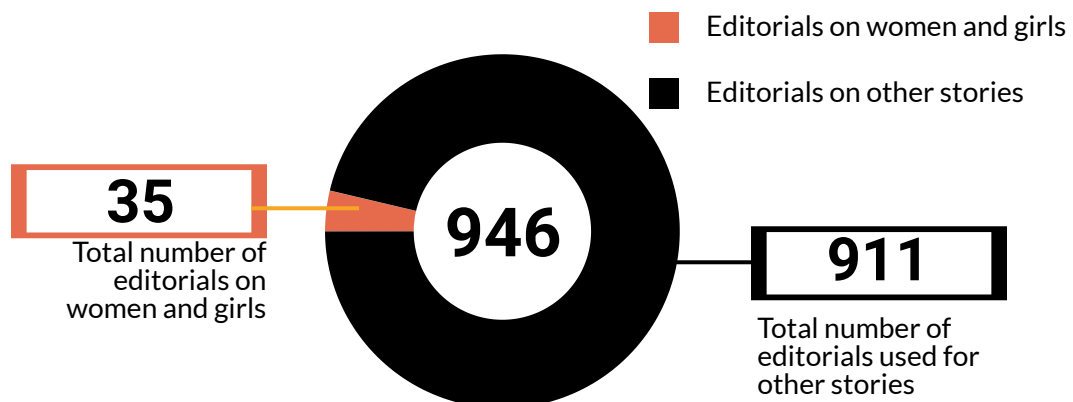
WTO Accepts PMB's Nominee For DG, Okonjo-Iweala (page 32 of *Leadership*, June 10, 2020)

■ Front page stories used for women and girls - 5.6% ■ Front page stories for other stories - 94.4%



**Editorials**

There were 946 editorials during the period of reporting. Only 35 of these focused on women and girls' issues. With eight editorials, *Tribune* had the highest editorials on women and girls. This was followed by *Independent*, *Vanguard* and *Leadership* newspapers with four editorials each. *New Telegraph*, *The Nation* and *Daily Trust* had 3 editorials, *Guardian* and *ThisDay* with two editorials and *Punch* and *Businessday* with one editorial each. There were no editorials for the three online newspapers: *Sahara Reporters*, *Daily Post* and *Premium Times*.

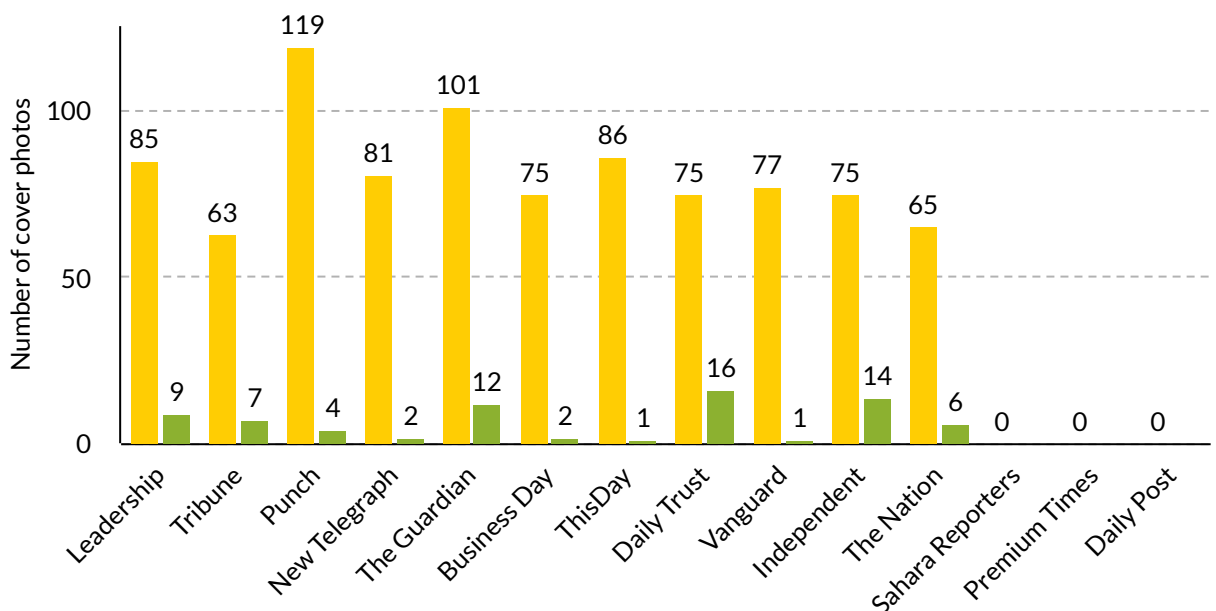
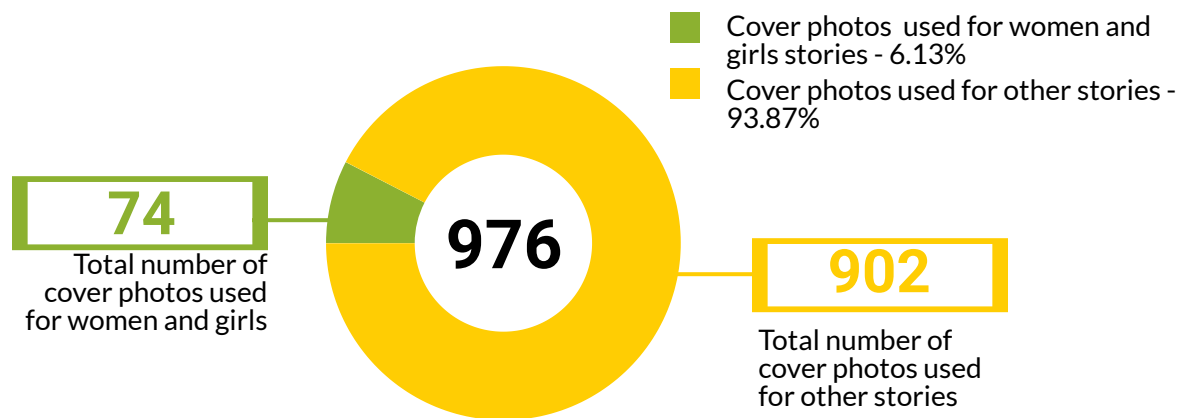


## Cover photos

74 cover photos on women and girls' issues were recorded out of the 976 cover photos. *Daily Trust* Newspaper reported the highest with sixteen cover photos followed by *Independent* newspaper with fourteen cover photos and *Guardian* with twelve cover photos. *Leadership* had 9, *Tribune* 7, *The Nation* 6, *Punch* 4, *New Telegraph* and *Businessday* 2 each and *Vanguard* and *ThisDay* with one cover photo each.

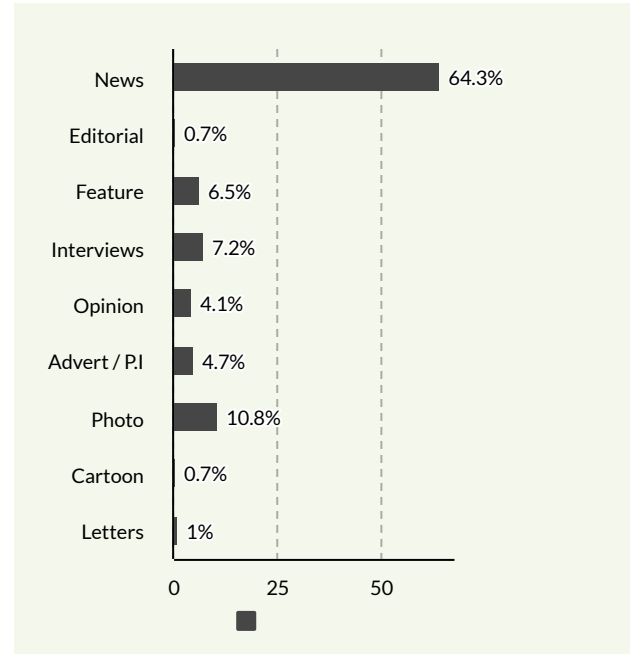
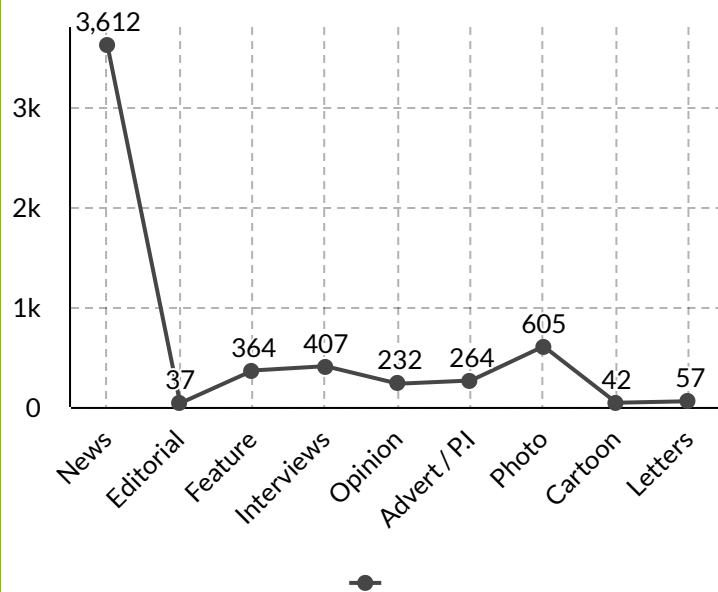
Examples of cover photos:

- Meet Kebbi's unique siblings (page 1 of *Daily Trust*, 23 May 2020)
- Wife of the President, Aisha Buhari (left); widow of former Governor of Oyo State, Mrs. Florence Ajimobi and Mrs. Abisola Kola-Daisi during Aisha's condolence visit to the late Abiola Ajimobi's residence in Lagos. (page 1 of *Guardian*, 3 July 2020)
- Luxurious Feyi Adeyemi, Breaking Career Boundaries (page 1 of *Independent*, 16 May 2020)
- Bandits kidnap bride-to be, sack Katsina villages (page 1 of *Daily Trust*, 24 May 2020)





## Analysis of story types



### News stories

On the basis of story types, a total of 3,612 stories (64.27 per cent) of the 5,620 stories recorded were news stories. Most of the news were diverse but news on rape and opportunities for women stood out.

#### Examples:

- Eighty-year-old man defiles ten-year old orphan in Yobe. (page 8 of *Guardian*, 19 June 2020).
- Police arrest man for defiling 9-year-old step-daughter in Calabar. (page 6 of *Vanguard*, 7 May 2020).
- I was repeatedly raped, forced to have sex with my brother – Ebonyi kidnap victim. (page 5 of *Punch*, 29 July 2020).
- Policeman dismissed for allegedly raping 14-year-old girl in Ebonyi (page 2 of *Independent*, 20 May 2020).
- Pastor's son arrested for allegedly raping five-year-old (*Premium Times*, 25 July 2020).
- Access Bank excites female SMEs across Africa with Womenpreneur edition (page 24 of *Leadership*, 30 July 2020) Women journalists take rape advocacy to Fika Emirate, calls for stiffer penalties for perpetrators (*Daily Post*, 27 June).



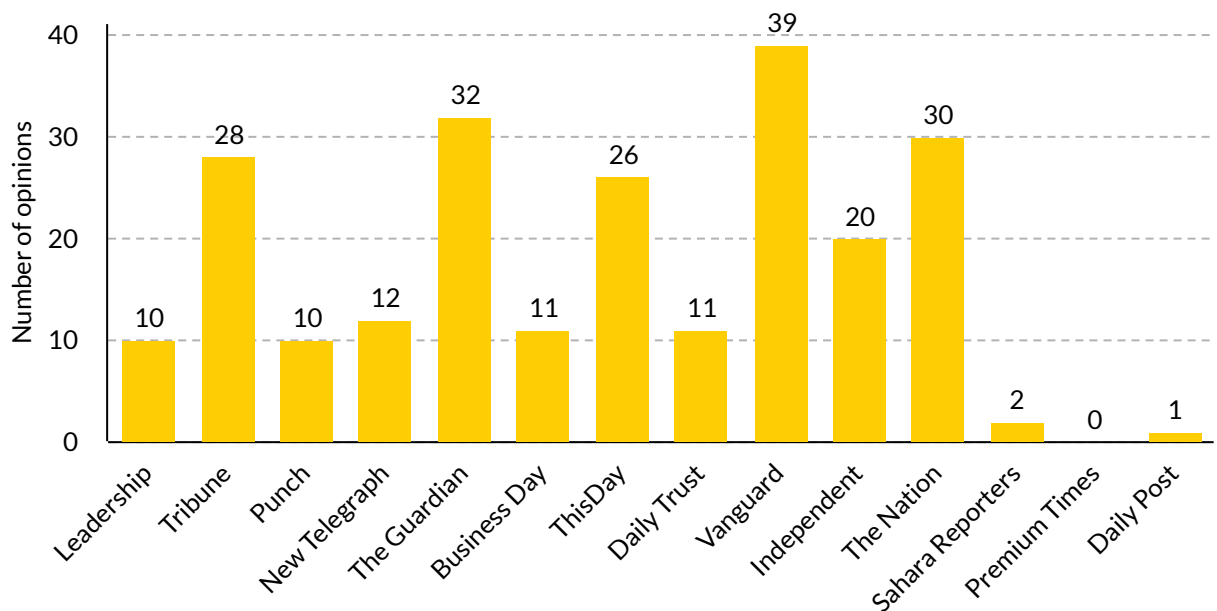
## Photos, interviews and features

After news, photos, interviews and features were next. 11 per cent of the content were photos, 7 per cent were interviews and 6 per cent were features. The photos reports highlighted palliatives distribution, to people including women and protests against rape cases which caused a spike in reports during this period. During this period also, many women featured in interviews and features to tell human angle stories on the reality of the pandemic. Many of these focused on issues of abuse.

- While alive, my daughter never went to the place where her body was found - Mother of Ekiti twin. (page 3 of *Punch*, 21 May 2020).
- Female Genital Mutilation: A horrendous practice still prevalent (page 21 of *Independent*, 2 July 2020).
- Let's join forces to end rape (page 4 of *Punch*, 6 June 2020)

## Opinions

Opinions accounted for 232 (4.1 per cent) of the 5,620 stories on women and girls. The highest was from *Vanguard* with 39, *Guardian* with 32 and *The Nation* with 30. *Tribune* had 28 opinions; *ThisDay* 26, *Independent* 20, *New Telegraph* 12, *BusinessDay* and *Daily Trust*, 11 each, *Leadership* and *Punch*, 10 each, *Sahara Reporters* 2 and *Daily Post* had 1.



## Adverts

264 adverts accounting for 4.70 per cent were recorded during the monitoring period. *Punch* Newspaper had the highest number of adverts with 133, *This Day* had 64, *Vanguard*, 25, *Daily Trust*, 15, *Tribune*, 14, *Guardian*, 5, *Leadership* 4, *New Telegraph* 2 and *Independent* and *The Nation* had 1 each. The adverts mostly featured congratulatory messages and celebrations of life and deaths.



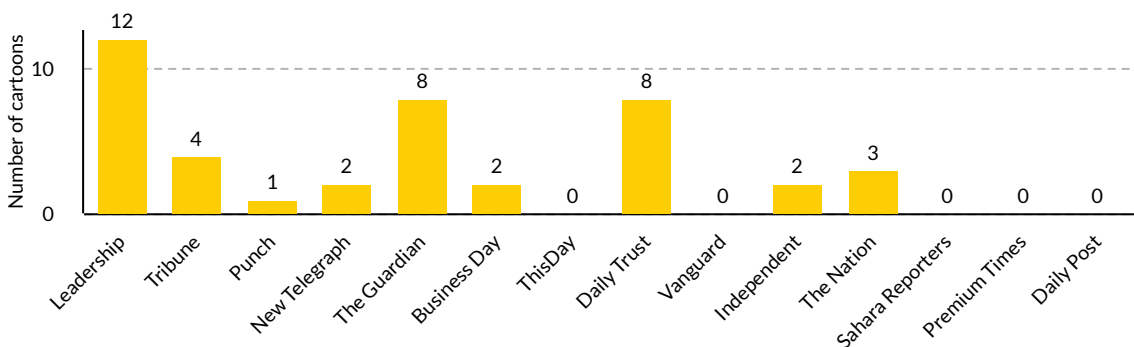
## Letters

The type of letters published during the monitoring phase addressed women icons and rising rape cases. There were 57 letters (1 percent) between May to July 2020 by nine newspapers, excluding *BusinessDay*, *Premium Times*, *Vanguard*, *Sahara Reporters* and *Daily Post*. *Daily Trust* and *Tribune* published 15 letters each on women. *The Nation* and *Leadership* published 7 each while *Guardian* published 6. *ThisDay* had 3 letters, *New Telegraph* 2 while *Punch* and *Independent* reported 1 each.

'Of rape and the way forward' on page 11 of *Daily Trust*, 16 July 2020 edition and 'Rape cases and the way forward' on page 12 of 22nd June edition of *Guardian* are some examples.

## Cartoons

There was sparse use of cartoons to illustrate and address critical issues related to women. There were a total of 42 cartoons representing 0.75 per cent. 'Former American VP, Biden, denies sexual assault of ex-aide' on page 32 of *Leadership*, 2 May 2020 and 'Okonjo-Iweala: What I'll tell Trump as WTO DG' on page 32 of *Leadership*, 17 July 2020.

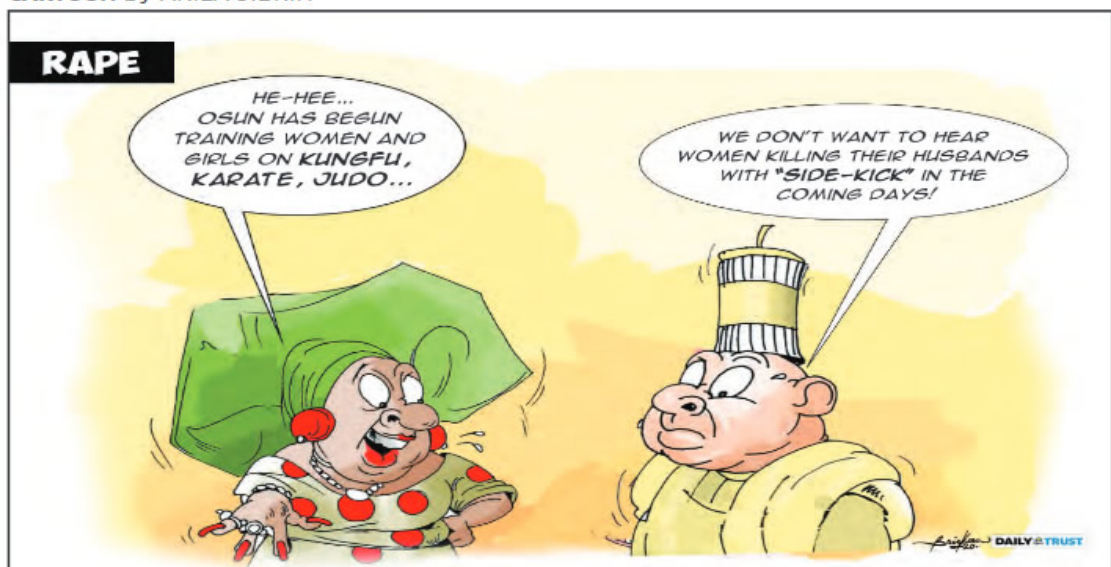


DAILY TRUST, Monday, July 20, 2020  
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## Letter to the Editor

CARTOON BY AKILA JIBRIN

e-mail [letters@dailytrust.com](mailto:letters@dailytrust.com) text 08131800030

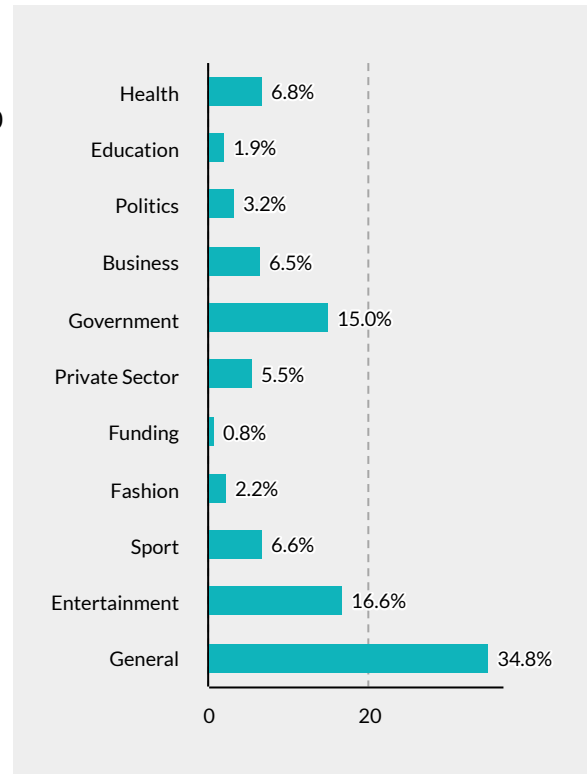
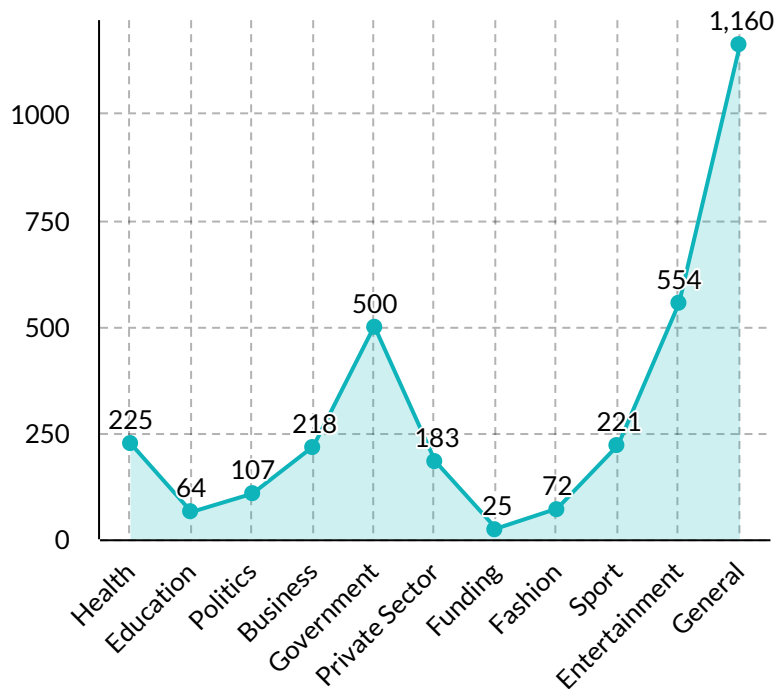




## Story Issue

Another block of reporting women and girls' issues focused on story issues of access and abuse.

### Access



Stories about access were reported under health, education, politics, business, government, private sector, funding, fashion, sports, entertainment, and general issues. There were 3,329 of such stories during the monitoring period.

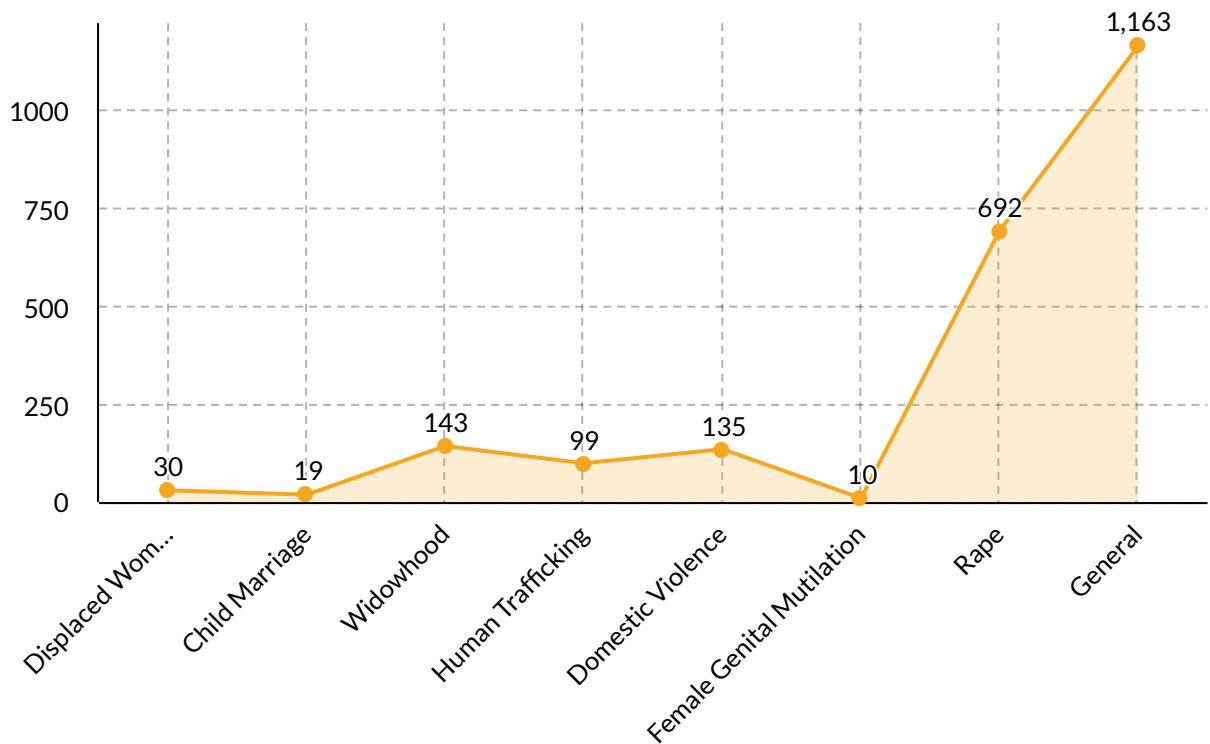
General stories under issues of access made up 1,160 (35.0 per cent) of stories. Entertainment constituted 554 (16.6 per cent) government 500 (15.0 per cent); Health, sports and business constituted 225,221 and 218 at 6.7 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 6.5 per cent respectively. Private sector with 183 stories accounted for (5.4 per cent). Politics had 107 (3.2 per cent). Fashion had 72 (2.1 per cent), education 64 (1.9 per cent) reports and funding had 25 at 1.0 per cent.

Aside the general stories, entertainment and government were largely reported with 16.6 per cent and 15.0 per cent of the total number of reports respectively. Entertainment was higher than key development issues such as education, funding and health. Most of the general stories and entertainment issues that largely dominated the report were related to celebration of life, congratulatory messages, achievements, and birthday messages.

- Judith Audu launches Instagram live version of 'Meet the actor/filmmaker' (page 26 of *New Telegraph*, 3 May 2020).
- Two years and forever in our hearts; Chief Mrs Marie Theresa Sojinrin ( page 45 of *Punch*, 30 July 2020).
- Arotile, patriot, worthy of emulation -Niger gov (page 6 of *New Telegraph*, 17 July 2020).
- About Bianca Ojukwu's Quiet Lifestyle (page 11 of *Independent*, 23 May 2020)



## Abuse



Abuse was monitored under eight issues including the general stories. They are displaced women, child marriage, widowhood, human trafficking, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, rape of minors and adults. A total of 2,291 issues of abuse were recorded in the fourteen publications. With 1,163 stories, general issues make up 51 per cent of the reports. *Punch* had the highest number of general stories with 142 stories, *Vanguard* 133, *New Telegraph* and *Tribune*, 121, *Leadership*, 113, *Independent* 111, *Daily Trust*, 101, *The Guardian*, 98, *The Nation*, 55, *Sahara Reporters*, 54, *Daily Post* 50, *ThisDay* 29, *Premium Times*, 24 and *BusinessDay* 11. Examples of general stories included stories of kidnap, child labour, banditry, murder and insecurity as shown below.

- Woman staged own kidnap for N20,000 (page 5 of *The Nation*, 30 July 2020).
- Woman escapes after buried alive by drunken neighbours (page 12 of *Punch*, 2 May 2020).
- Bruised, battered, destroyed by their madams (page 22 of *New Telegraph*, 17 July 2020).
- Man allegedly hacks wife, 2 children to death in Osun (page 29 of *Tribune*, 27 July 2020).
- Picture of three brothers arrested for the murder of Mrs Janet Ogonnaya (page 4 of *Daily Trust*, 5 June 2020).

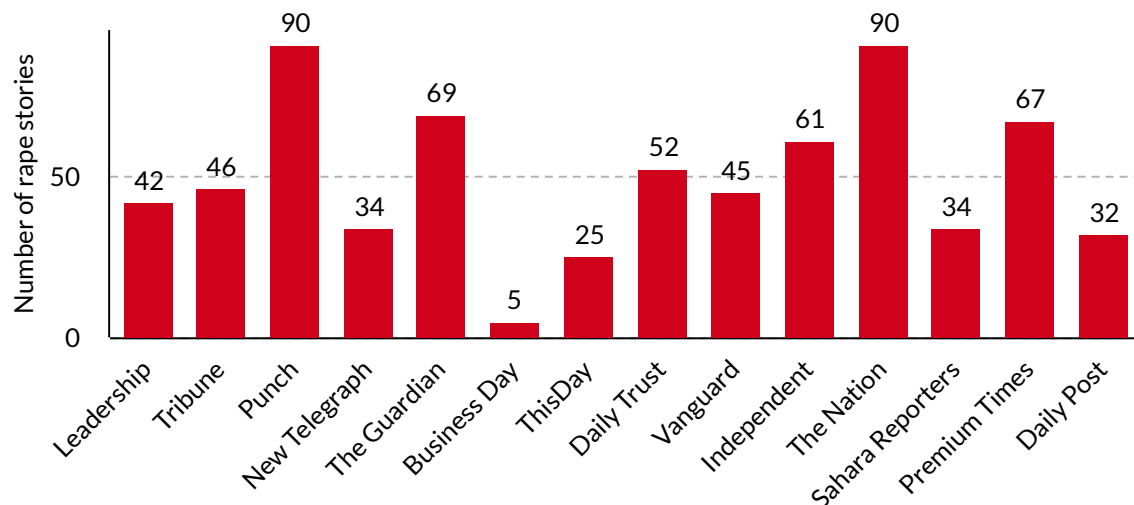
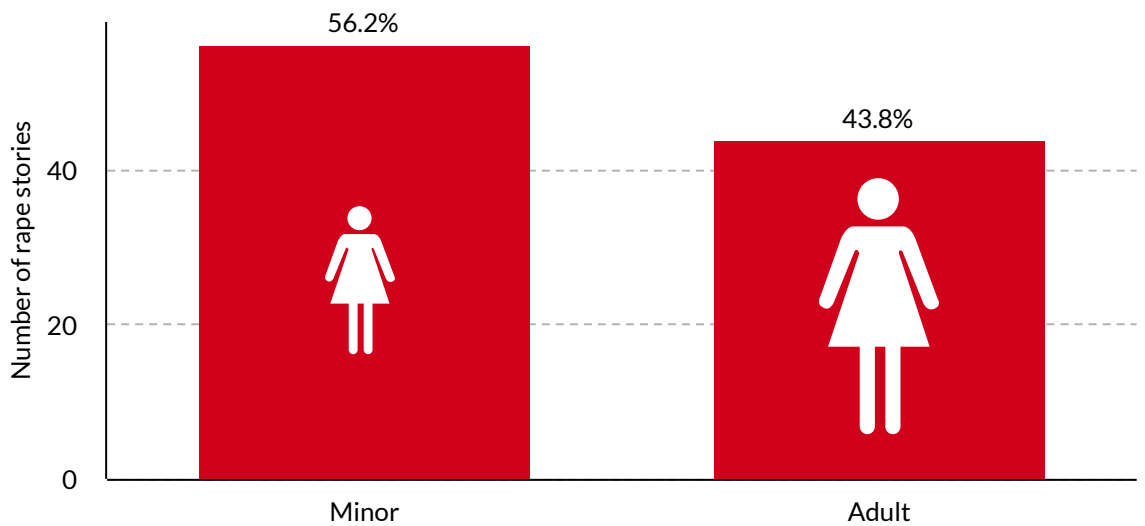




## Rape

Reports on rape of minors and adults were relatively high. They accounted for 30 per cent of the total number of stories. This may be attributed to the prolonged lockdown necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic from March to May 2020, resulting in an increase in the number of reports about sexual based violence, assault and abuse of minors.

For instance, the story 'Pastor impregnates daughter, procures abortion thrice' on page 8 of New Telegraph, 8th July 2020, '80-year-old man defiles 10-year-old orphan in Yobe' on page 8, *Guardian*, 19th June 2020, 'Police arrest 11 men for raping 12-year-old girl in Jigawa' on page 36 of *This Day*, 1 June 2020, 'Police arrest man for defiling 9-year-old step-daughter in Calabar' on page 6 of *Vanguard*, 7 May 2020, Two 65 Yr Old Men Allegedly Rape Eight Year-Old Girl on page 8 of *Independent*, 24th June 2020, Septuagenarian Bags 30-year Jail Term for Raping Eight-year-old Girl Twice In Niger State' in *Sahara Reporters*, 23 July 2020, Police parade pastor for defiling 3 siblings, one other child in Edo in Daily post of 8th May 2020 and 'Widow arrested for violation of face mask, raped' on page 5 of *The Nation*, 30th July 2020.



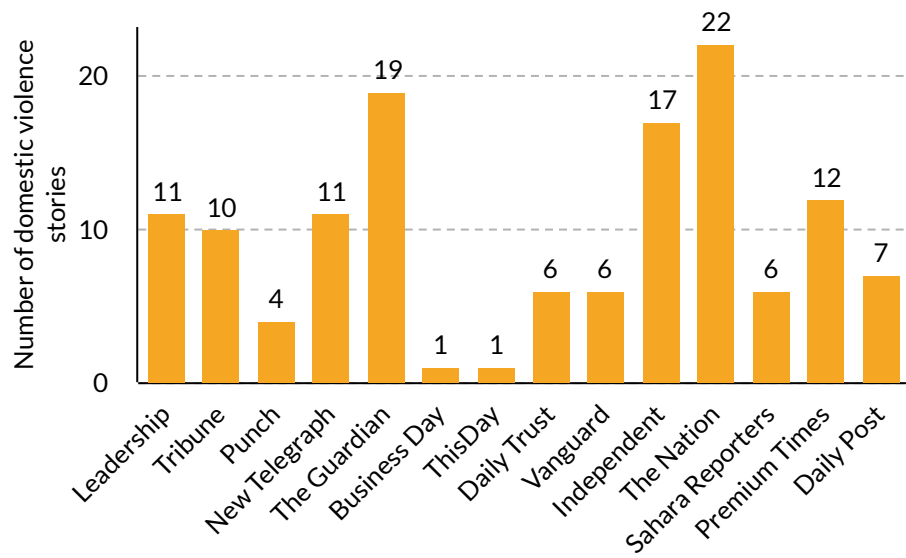


## Domestic violence

5.8 per cent of the total number of stories were about domestic violence. Like rape, there were quite a number of reports on domestic violence during the period the monitoring was conducted. Reports reveal both sexes as perpetrators of domestic violence. *The Nation*, *The Guardian* and *Independent* recorded the highest number of domestic violence stories with 22, 19 and 17 stories respectively.

### Examples are:

- 'Woman nabbed for stabbing husband to death in Nasarawa' and 'Jealous man pours hot water on sleeping wife' (page 4 of *The Nation*, 8th May 2020).
- 'Court remands man for allegedly burning mother-in-law's house' (page 7 of *Independent*, 8th May 2020)
- 'Covid-19 lockdown: Husband bites off wife's fingers for refusing sex (page 6 of *Vanguard*, 5th June 2020).
- '17-year-old teenage wife kills her husband in Bauchi.' (page 11 of *Leadership*, 22nd May 2020).
- 'Mum from hell: burns stepson two hands' (page 27 of *The Nation*, 10th May 2020)
- '17-year-old housewife stabs husband to death, blames lack of sex education' (page 8 of *Guardian*, 22 May 2020).





## Unique trends

We highlighted the peculiarities of each newspaper regarding how they report girls and women. These are attributed to specific number of pages, days of publication or frequency of reporting key issues concerning women.



The *Guardian* newspaper report more news that concern women on various subjects such as fashion, entertainment, health and beauty tips, leadership in the public and private sector, birthdays, obituaries, abuse (rape, molestation or domestics violence), business, entrepreneurship, women in tech, and the home makers in its Saturday edition. Also, a special feature which ranges between 8 to 10 pages titled 'Guardian Woman' is regularly published in celebration of women in leadership positions either in the private or public sector. Stories of women in sport are reported in the sport section. On Sundays, too many of the stories published focus on women. The Sunday paper comes with a magazine called "The Guardian Life Magazine" with various issues that cut across art, fashion, entertainment, health and beauty tips for both men and women (but with more focus on women), sport, young entrepreneurs, celebrity gist and business. Between Monday and Friday, a number of stories on women and girls are published but not as much as those published on weekends.



'Flair' is a weekly section in *The Nation* on Sunday. It comprises flair fashion and flair female and a profiling or feature story on women. 'Flair fashion' is a one-page female fashion subsection. 'Flair female' is a one-page interview or feature story about women who are successful in their careers or businesses. The cover story focuses on female entertainers. Also, 'Girls club', a column with the tagline, 'raising a voice for the Nigerian girl' appears towards the back page. *The Nation* newspaper reports women in its Wednesday publication tagged 'Women World' which portrays activities about women in politics. Other stories on women, including interviews, fashion, entertainment, and politics are featured in the Saturday edition of the publication.



Reports around women and girls appear in the Saturday edition of the publication although there is no dedicated section for women. Usually, the stories cut across entertainment, business, beauty and fashion. No single story made it to the front-page or as a headline. Surprisingly, there were more male reporters writing about women than female reporters.



## LEADERSHIP

NIGERIA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER

*Leadership* Newspaper has a number of sections focused on women and girls. 'The Fashion Essentials' section in *Leadership* covers female fashion. 'Women's world' is another section that is dedicated to women's wear and accessories. Every Friday, a section called 'Exclusive Woman' features the achievements of women who have distinguished themselves in their various sectors. 'Goodlife', a weekend section on Saturday has subsections dedicated to women, kid's health and parenting. Also, on Saturdays, there is a page titled 'Woman of Substance' that gives insight on relationships, parenting and marriage from accomplished women. 'My Secret life' is a one-page interview with female entrepreneurs.

## NIGERIAN TRIBUNE

SINCE 1949  
WEBSITE WITH RICHEST CONTENT

Two dedicated sections are for women in *Tribune's* Wednesday and Saturday publications. The Wednesday column titled 'Wondrous World of Women' focuses on relationship tips, interviews with women from diverse fields as well as gender issues. The Saturday publication features parenting issues, relationship matters and interview of women in different sectors – fashion, food and lifestyle.

## Vanguard

*Vanguard* Newspaper reports stories of women especially those in leadership and in the entertainment industry. Columns like 'Diary of a city girl', 'Love Zone', 'Weekend Woman' and 'Love & Life' are about women related issues and relationship. 'Woman's Own' is a page dedicated to women on Thursdays. On Fridays, there is a page titled 'Home Makers' on various issues relating to women and girls. There is also 'Celebrity Diary' which tells celebrities stories, a lot of which are usually about women. 'Weekend Woman' is a special feature published every Saturday to report stories/interviews/news of women doing excellently well in various fields. 'E-Daily' is a compilation of celebrities' stories with more focus on women. Stories of women in sport are reported in the sports section whenever sports activities are taking place in Nigeria and other parts of the world.

## New Telegraph

*New Telegraph* Newspaper has a dedicated page tagged 'Feminique' for interviews and special reports on women who hold leadership positions in their careers in both private and the public sector. There is also a section called 'Mom & Parenting'. The Saturday showbiz page features interviews and news stories on women, entertainment interviews, travel and tourism while the Sunday 'Soul page' focus on general entertainment stories.



The reports and stories covered by *ThisDay* are all encompassing. They touch on various issues with politics given more attention than others. Reports about women are covered sometimes on Thursdays with focus on health and lifestyle. Fridays cover entertaining stories, sport, politics and economy which sometimes feature women. Saturdays features a fashion file segment mostly about women and Sundays is usually packed with '*ThisDay Style*' magazine included as an insert in the paper with more women being featured.

## PUNCH

*Punch* newspaper has no dedicated page for women, but thrives on news reportage. The Monday publication features politics, business/economy, sport and adverts. Tuesdays have a record of education stories, politics, business, sport and health. Wednesdays, report on politics and health, Thursdays report business, health and energy and Friday reports education, health, business, women, and the economy. Saturdays and Sundays are filled with entertainment stories, interviews, fashion and some news.

## BUSINESS DAY

*BusinessDay* newspaper has pages dedicated to reporting women in its Friday publication. 'Leading Woman' and 'Women in Business' reports women in leadership and business respectively. Other issues about women are highlighted as features, news, adverts and photos. On Sundays, a section titled 'MindBody & Soul' talks about relationship issues. Some of its comment pages feature women who write comments on topics discussed. There are also pages on technology, property and lifestyle and career journals that are written by women.

'Tambari Extra' is *Daily Trust's* specialised section mostly women focused. It also has many general news stories focused on issues affecting women's health, fashion, sports and entertainment. On Thursdays, 'Women in Business' a one-page section which focuses on women and issues that affect them in business is featured. Its Saturday '*Physician diary*' and 'Sunday Magazine' features health talk, culinary, lifestyle, and interviews celebrating women. 'Healthy living' is a weekly quarter page section which gives tips on how to live a healthy life. There is a weekly medical expert opinion column that proffers answers to health-related questions. Also, on Sunday, *Daily Trust* has a one-page health news section.



## DAILY POST

*Daily Post* is an online newspaper that is developed and written for Nigerians. It is packed with up-to-the-minute local and national news, politics, metro, business, entertainment, sports, and opinions. It features most of its gender focused stories on the 'Metro section' of its publication.

## PREMIUM Times

*Premium Times* reportage are all-inclusive. It basically reports stories that cut across every aspect of the economy; from stories on health, education, agriculture and politics. It reports stories, news and trends as they are happening, however, with more focus on politics. *Premium Times* also reports stories of abuse on women. It however does not have a dedicated page or section for women.

## SAHARA REPORTERS

Like *Daily Post* and *Premium Times*, *Sahara Reporters* does not have a dedicated section for girls and women. It reports a varied array of subjects including politics, health, sports, entertainment, education, lifestyle with a section for news and opinions. In some of its reporting, reports on women and stories of abuse are quite highlighted.



## General observations

A common trend among the fourteen news publications monitored is the use of news stories which focus on health issues. This is because the monitoring was carried out during the coronavirus pandemic. Also, there were regular reports about rape cases (both of minors and adults) and domestic violence during the monitoring phase. Aside the general issues which accounted for 50.7 per cent of reports, reports on rape were as high as 30 per cent.



While entertainment was 16.6 per cent, health and education was only 9 per cent when combined.



A total of 7,435 front-page stories were reported with only 416 (6 per cent) focused on women and girls



There was no front-page story, editorial or cover photo with women as main subjects from the three online newspapers, *Sahara Reporters*, *Premium Times* and *Daily Post* indicating gaps in reporting on women.



· More news stories about women and girls were reported. 3,612 (64 per cent) of the 5,620 stories were news, indicating the ease of reporting news stories compared to other story types like features, opinions, interviews and editorials.



There were 2,879 reports with male bylines, representing 49 per cent, there were 1,109 reports with female bylines. These represent 19 per cent of the reported issues on women and girls. Also, 1,892 stories which represents 32 per cent were without by-line



Two critical issues that affect girls and women—access to education and funding—represented only 1 and 2 per cent of reports about women.



A large number of headline stories was reported by *Daily Post* with a total of 51 headlines on report women. This is followed by *Premium Times* with 11 headlines.



About 1,163 stories, representing 51 per cent relate to general issues of abuse such as murder, kidnap, robbery, killings, torture, fraud and banditry.

Women are presented more as victims or in negative light than as heroes. 1,128 (49 per cent) of story issues of abuse which focused on displaced women, widowhood, child marriage, human trafficking, rape of minor and adult, female genital mutilation and domestic violence.





## Recommendation

1. The editorial departments of media houses should pay more attention to issues of access, especially access to health and education as it relates to girls and women.
2. As readers can relate more with photographs and cartoons than words, editors should make deliberate efforts to include more of these to tell the stories of women and girls.
3. Media houses should increase the number of dedicated pages used for reporting women and girls through front pages, editorials and headlines. This will ensure the issues that affect this demography gets the attention of relevant stakeholders.
4. Investigative reporting covering child marriage, female genital mutilation, displaced women, domestic violence and other issues affecting the development of women should be more reported and at par with general news stories. This will also show the consistency in violence against women and girls and point stakeholders to the red alert situation of the issue.

## Conclusion

The media monitoring report highlighted the key areas where the media needs to pay more attention in the reportage of women and girls. The need to increase the depth and quantity of reports on development issues regarding women and girls, and to produce more editorial contents on issues affecting women and girls is paramount. Aside the online newspapers, some of the newspapers made efforts in dedicating pages which focused on and were written by women. Reports covered indicate the need for story issues covering health, education, funding, and business, which promote the development of women to be given prominence just as other soft beat like entertainment, fashion and sports. Reports on rape and domestic violence should not only be prioritised during a crisis or pandemic, but continuously be on the front burner. Media owners and managers should make conscious efforts to intentionally report and dedicate more pages to key issues about women and girls. Reporters should endeavour to feature more solution-based stories on key issues that pertain to women by balancing reportage where male issues dominate. Women should raise their voices as interview sources, opinion experts by maximising the use of letters and opinion pieces to push their agenda on the pages of newspapers.

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