ABORTION AND THE RIGHT OF THE NIGERIAN WOMAN TO HER PRIVACY: BENCHMARKING THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

By

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Abstract
This paper examines the concept of right to privacy within the context of abortion and the sanctity of life on the one side and the role of the media in human rights education, especially in the face of extreme illiteracy and male-dominated polity on the other side. The questions asked are: Should the right to privacy of a woman override her unborn child’s aspiration to live? Should a woman in exercise of her constitutional right to privacy terminate her pregnancy, particularly in a patrimonial society like Nigeria where the woman and her unborn child are often seen as commodities owned by the husband? At what stage should the right of a woman to privacy give way to competing demands of equality of justice - justice for the woman, justice for the unborn child and justice for the society? To answer these questions, the paper did a comparative analysis of the right to privacy and the abortion question in other jurisdictions. The paper made use of primary research materials from relevant statutes and libraries. Secondary research materials such as textbooks and law journals, etcetera were also considered. The paper finds that while a woman should be allowed to enjoy her right to privacy without undue interference, granting her an untrimmed right to abortion under the guise of the right to privacy, is

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