



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (CASS)**

**CENTER FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (CCM)**

**MA IN PEACE STUDIES & CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION**

**MUSANZE CAMPUS**

**THE JUVENILE & WOMEN CENTRE AND THE REDUCTION OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A CASE STUDY OF APO RESETTLEMENT IN  
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT)-ABUJA, NIGERIA.**

A dissertation submitted to the University of Rwanda, College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS),  
Center for Conflict Management (CCM) in partial fulfilment for the award of a degree of Master of  
Arts in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation.

By

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**Musanze, June 2019**

**DECLARATION**

I, GRACE ENOBONG LONGE, declare that this work “The JWC and the reduction of DVAW: Case study of Apo Resettlement Layout, FCT-Abuja” has never been presented to any university, college or institution for any award.

Signature .....

Date .....

GRACE ENOBONG LONGE

**APPROVAL**

This is to certify that this study has been successfully completed under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the academic board with my due approval.

Signed.....Date .....

Dr Furaha Umutoni Alida PhD

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research to my Prince Charming and Husband of my Youth, Pastor (Barr) Frank O. Longe for his unflinching all-round support and love during my sojourn in Rwanda for this program; to my first-fruit, Emmy boy who just graduated with a Second Class (Upper Division) degree in Media and Communication Studies, I'm proud of you Son. To my co-pilgrim, personal assistant and prayer partner, King-David Awesome Longe, thank you for lighting up my dull moments with those angelic smiles and laughter. I couldn't have asked God for more because these trio are simply the best!!!

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My heartfelt thanks goes to the Inspector General of Police of the Nigeria Police Force for nominating and facilitating my attendance of the Police Senior Command and Staff Course, Intake 07/28-19.

I also appreciate the Commandant, Senior Directing Staff and administrative staff of the National Police College, Rwanda for providing this platform for academic and career advancement.

I also express my immense thanks to all the lecturers who featured in this program from the University of Rwanda, especially those from the COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (CASS) and the CENTRE FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (CCM), for their commitment towards imparting valuable knowledge that has positively shaped my perspectives, attitudes and equipped me with pre-requisite skills to tackle emerging security challenges, negotiate and mediate during conflicts as well as the profound ability to transform conflicts and make the world a better place.

Special thanks to my thesis supervisor Dr Furaha A. Umutoni PhD for her painstaking and professional guidance and corrections that enabled me to carry out this research successfully.

I also thank the Commissioner of Police, FCT Command, CP Bala Ciroma and the management team as well as the DPO and personnel of Apo Divisional Police Headquarters Abuja for their invaluable assistance to this study during the data collection period. I acknowledge your robust participation and inputs in the study. My special thanks goes to the victims of Domestic Violence against Women in Apo Resettlement layout who sacrificed their egos to participate in this study, in order to contribute to the emancipation of women in Nigeria.

I will not forget Andrea and Matt Miller, the Proprietors of Virunga Valley Academy. Musanze, Momma Sue Bruce (Awesome's teacher) as well as the entire staff and parents community of VVA, Musanze. You made our stay here memorable. God bless you.

I also remember with nostalgia the Pastorate and members of the Restoration Church, Musanze and the Pastorate and parishioners of the English service of St John the Baptist

Cathedral, Anglican Church, Shyira Diocese, Musanze; for your spiritual support and love throughout our sojourn in this pilgrim land. God bless you.

I acknowledge specially Aunty Oluwatosin Ogunbiyi for your support, diligence and faithfulness in caring for my King-David in the times I had to obviously be away. I pray that the Almighty God who rewards better than men, will reward you with commensurate blessings as you desire in Jesus Name, Amen.

Finally, I give unending thanks to the Almighty God for granting me the grace, zeal, wisdom, strength, courage, patience and resilience to start and complete this program with honours. I do not take for granted the gift of life, a sound mind, journey mercies, knowledge, good health and the release of His unfailing daily HELPS to enable me complete this dissertation. Thank you Jehovah El-gibor. DOMINION all the way!!!

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

JWC	Juvenile and Women Centre
NPF	Nigeria Police Force
DPO	Divisional Police Officer
DV	Domestic Violence
DVAW	Domestic Violence against Women
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FCTA	Federal Capital Territory Administration
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children Emergency Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation
FSU	Family Support Unit
GBV	Gender Based Violence
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
DFID	Department for International Development
SLNP	Sierra Leone National Police
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015)
AMAC	Abuja Municipal Area Council
CFRN	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999)
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
LEDAP	Legal Defence Assistance Project of Nigeria

## ABSTRACT

*The study aims to assess the effectiveness of the JWC in reducing DVAW: a Case Study of Apo Resettlement Layout in FCT-Abuja, Nigeria. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used to gather data in order to evaluate the effect(s) of the independent on the dependent variable. Emile Durkheim's structural functionalism as well as the social exchange theories were engaged throughout the study to understand, analyse and interpret both variables and the interplay between them. The key findings in the study indicated that the JWC has been effective in ensuring the safety of women through arrests of male perpetrators and assisting in referrals for employment and economic empowerment of women. The JWC has significantly promoted collaborative activities denouncing violence against women among the local leaders as well as through the prompt arraignment of male suspects in court for trial. However, it has been ineffective in providing witness/victim protection services to enable the victims follow through the prosecution process which is their obligation, and to support the management, promotion of community collaboration to combat DVAW, provision of counselling and psychological care to DVAW victims and the arrangements for shelters for them as well. Finally the significant challenges encountered by the JWC in their work, identified during the study were; NPF institution's marginalization of the JWC, economic disempowerment of women, ineffective collaborative frameworks between line agencies and discriminatory socio-cultural norms, beliefs and attitudes. The study concludes that the NPF JWC in Nigeria needs institutional reforms in its activities which will increase reportage of DVAW significantly and reinforce existing social networks for greater impacts in combating DVAW. The general recommendation is that the Nigeria Police Force should reposition and strengthen the JWC to deliver more interventions that will combat domestic violence against women more significantly.*

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the background, the problem statement, research gap, research objectives, research questions, the scope, significance and limitations of the study. This Master's research is predicated upon the effectiveness of the Juvenile and Women Centre (JWC) to combating domestic violence against women (DVAW) in Apo Resettlement in FCT-Abuja, Nigeria. The study aims to assess the effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT, the extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into cases of DVAW by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT and to identify the challenges encountered by JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women.

Despite the ratification and subsequent domestication of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights by member nations, through relevant International, Regional and even Local frameworks to prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence; the trend continues to increase. The American Medical Association reports that approximately 2 million women internationally are abused by their domestic partner each year (Marwick, 1998, as cited by Ely, et al, 2004, pg 13).

The World Health Organization (2013), as cited by Alberto, et al, (2016) corroborates the above findings by estimating that more than one third of women in the world have been victims of either physical or sexual violence, with low income countries disproportionately affected.

According to the World Bank Country Income Groups classification of 2016, out of 31 (thirty one) countries in the world ranked as low income countries, 25 (twenty five) of them are African countries; confirming the African continent as a flashpoint where domestic violence perverts.

## **1.1 Background of the study**

Law enforcement agents' primary responsibility is to enforce the laws enacted by the state for the protection of its citizens. Violence against women including domestic violence is one of the social crimes abhorred by the law.

Walker (1994, pg 4) as cited by Hirschel & Dawson (2000) asserts that the police role in the United States is "extremely complex" and police duties are highly diverse. Although the words "to protect and to serve" have been commonly associated with the police, it has been unclear exactly how to translate these words into policy guidelines. Typically, the police role has involved taking action to prevent violence and, when violence has occurred, determining what has happened, attending to the needs of the victim, and taking appropriate action with regard to the offender(Hirschel & Dawson, 2000, pg 1).

However, the UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence Against Women and Girls online publication titled 'Roles and Responsibilities of the Police' cited the 2013 Human Rights Watch(HRW) report on the police response to sexual assault in the District of Columbia, United States; to say that although an estimated one in five women in the United States is a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime, only 16 percent of all rapes are reported to law enforcement. The HRW report also found that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in Washington, District of Columbia, frequently closed cases without pursuing an adequate investigation. The officers also did not document or report many cases and classified a number of other serious sexual assaults in ways that precluded investigation or minimized the assault.

Frequently, female victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV) are unwilling and unable to report the crimes to the police. This has been attributed to a variety of reasons ranging from fear of the assailant, fear of stigmatization, poor police response and handling of GBV cases amongst others. One initiative aiming to overcome this barrier has been the establishment of specialized police units dealing with GBV. In Africa, the above situation was the case in Sierra Leone, until the Sierra Leone National Police (SLNP) established the Family Support Units (FSUs) in police stations throughout the country. The FSU is a specialized unit of the SLNP composed of specially trained police officers with a mandate to work with victims of sexual

and gender based violence (SGBV). They provide sensitive and appropriate assistance to victims, refer them to cost free medical-legal care services, and educate the public on all areas of gender based violence. The FSUs, however, have been effective in enabling women to report cases of SGBV, through increased public awareness and public confidence in the FSUs. In 2003, FSUs received and investigated 3,121 (three thousand one hundred and twenty one) cases of sexual and physical violence, a significant increase over reporting in previous years was identified by the authorities of SLNP. Furthermore, a UNICEF assessment of the FSUs confirmed that the stigma associated with sexual exploitation and abuse has diminished, and people are more aware of the support services available (Moser, et al, 2007, pg 17).

Similarly, in Nigeria like in Sierra Leone, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), established the Juvenile Welfare Centre (JWC) in 1956; as a “centre where young sisters in trouble were dealt with in an atmosphere presumed more conducive than the ordinary police station” (Iyamabo, 1993, pg. 471 as cited by Muhammad, Abdullahi and Lawal, 2016). This initiative was meant to improve police response to cases of violence against women through a customized approach. The Centre, which was birthed after the recruitment of the first batch of women police officers into the NPF, has had its scope of operations expanded over the years to include attending to juveniles and children and the investigation of cases of missing persons. The JWC’s activities are decentralized with representation in every police division across Nigeria. Lagos state of Nigeria in conjunction with the Justice-for-All (DFID) program and UNICEF in Nigeria initiated some innovative approaches in addressing the issues of domestic violence in 2009. These approaches were executed through specialized trainings of police officers in handling cases of domestic violence and sexual assault, setting up of model police stations and the FSUs in Lagos state and the first of its kind, the Mirabel Sexual Assaults Referrals Centre (SARC) in Lagos, Nigeria (Buzawa & Buzawa, 2017). Consequently, the JWC in Lagos state police command was upgraded into a FSU.

The Nigerian FSU has the same terms of reference and purpose like its Sierra Leonian counterpart. However, the operations of the Nigerian JWC/FSU are constrained by a lack of budget to sustain its operations since the expiration of the international aid counterpart agreement which established the FSU. Seemingly, the Lagos state government has adopted the FSU as a government initiative and therefore it is responsible for funding its operations. Hence

the department is designated as FSU only in Lagos state of Nigeria. Other state commands are still designated as JWC and their operations are largely constrained by lack of funding.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 propagates freedom and equality in dignity and rights for all human beings, women all over the world, Africa and in Nigeria particularly are victims of dehumanizing treatments, torture which sometimes lead to loss of lives, by their intimate partners or spouses, as a result of the desire to exercise control over the women.

In fulfilment of the provisions of various International covenants and conventions on human rights, discrimination against women/persons etc, the Federal Government of Nigeria has reformed policies and legislations like the Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act of 2015, initiated multi-sectoral partnerships as well as programs at all levels to respond to DVAW and ensure violent partners are held accountable for their behaviour(s). The JWC is one of such initiatives established by the NPF, as a specialized unit to prevent, respond and ensure the safety of women and other populations at risk of violence.

Despite these interventions, statistics from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command CrimeRecords Registry, as at June 2018, indicate a significant rise in cases of domestic violence against women in FCT-Abuja, Nigeria between 2017 and June 2018. 42 percent out of the 68 percent being total cases reported, were recorded in Apo Resettlement layout of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC). Curiosity therefore necessitates an enquiry into the outcomes of the investigation of those cases and why they continue to reoccur. Therefore, this study seeks to assess the effectiveness of the JWC desk in fulfilling its mandate towards combating violence against women, with particular reference to Apo Resettlement, FCT-Abuja.

While theoretical and policy interventions are weak to significantly impact the thriving of domestic violence and abuse against women, as well as service provision for women, there is a paucity of research in Nigeria on the effectiveness of the Juvenile and Women Centre (JWC) and domestic violence against women (DVAW) in Apo Resettlement in FCT-Abuja, Nigeria; hence this study will bridge this gap.



### **1.3 Research gap**

Domestic violence against women by their spouses or intimate partners' is severe and statistics have shown the prevalence. Physical, sexual, economical and psychological assaults occur at alarming rates. In this regard, WHO (2005) states that the highest prevalence of domestic violence is "beyond imagination" in the 21st century. Nigeria is one of the countries with the highest prevalence rates of both physical and sexual violence. According to a WHO fact sheet publication, global estimates indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime (WHO, 2017). In spite of its high prevalence rate in the country, violence against women, especially domestic violence has been well reported and documented but the effectiveness of the response, preventive mechanisms has never been evaluated. This study sought to assess this in relation to the JWC vis-a-vis mitigating DVAW.

### **1.4 Research Objectives**

#### **1.4.1 General Objective**

This study will be assessing the effectiveness of the JWC to the fight against DVAW

#### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

1. To find out the effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT.
2. To ascertain the extent to which the conduct of professional investigations of DVAW cases by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT.
3. To identify the challenges encountered by the JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women

### **1.5 Research questions**

1. How effective is the JWC desk officers response to complaints of DVAW in the Apo Resettlement Division Police Station in FCT?
2. To what extent does the conduct of professional investigations into cases of DVAW by the JWC improves service delivery to its victims in the Apo Resettlement Division Police Station in FCT?

3. What are the challenge(s) encountered by the JWC in its efforts to combat DVAW?

### **1.6 Scope of the study**

Contextually, the study covered the effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement-FCT, the extent to which the conduct of professional investigations by the JWC into DVAW cases improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement-FCT and to identify the challenges encountered by the JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women. The time scope of the study was done within a period of one (1) year, which is from 2017-2018. The researcher considered this time to be important because of the available robust statistics about domestic violence which was sufficient to draw valid conclusions. The geographic scope of this study covered the Apo Resettlement layout in the FCT-Abuja in Nigeria; a semi-congested layout occupied by middle income earners and hosts a reasonable number of private sector operated temporary shelters for traumatised women and children in the FCT. The study population was pooled from the JWC officials representing the government and victims of DVAW.

### **1.7 Study Significance**

This study to the best of my knowledge, is a novel community-based thesis, which hopes to address DVAW issues in Apo Resettlement locality in FCT-Abuja Nigeria. It will further contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the field of DVAW, particularly in the specific area of study (FCT). Existing literature on penultimate surveys conducted in Abuja have addressed Intimate Partners Violence (which is a new and evolving area of research, especially on community-based studies) against women in military and civilian communities. The recommendations may also serve as an advocacy tool for increased sensitization and response to DVAW, especially by the NPF JWC officials population, and to develop alleviation programs. (Chimah, et al, 2015). Also results of findings of this work will possibly influence NPF policies and practices regarding dealing with DVAW, with a view to repositioning it for enhanced service delivery to Nigerian citizens.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter of the dissertation presents a review of literature on the roles and responsibilities of the JWC as an agent of the government in mitigating cases of DVAW as well as situate DVAW as potential causes of conflict, where adequate measures are not emplaced to address it. A redefined role for the NPF JWC as a peacebuilding initiative will be explored. An overview of the concept of coercive control and domestic violence will be discussed and theories explaining both variables in the study will be identified and explained. Some key concepts used in the study will also be defined and contextualized here.

The rationale of the literature review is to provide an overview of what has been done and possible gaps which need to be covered on the subject. Ndenje citing Boot & Beile, (2005) explains that literature review sets the broad context of the study, clearly demarcates what is and what is not within the scope of the investigation, and justifies those decisions. It also situates an existing literature in a broader scholarly and historical context (Ndenje, 2014).

#### **2.1 Definition of Key Concepts**

##### **2.1.1 Juvenile**

A juvenile is defined as ‘a child or young person who, under the respective legal systems, may be dealt with for an offence in a manner which is different from an adult’ (United Nations (UN) Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules) as cited by Abdulraheem-Mustapha, 2016)

##### **2.1.2 Women**

A woman is a female human being. The word woman is usually reserved for an adult, with girl being the usual term for a female child or adolescent (Jones et al., 2014). The plural women is also sometimes used for female humans, regardless of age, as in phrases such as "women's rights. The word *woman* can be used generally, to mean any female human or specifically, to mean an adult female human as contrasted with *girl* (UNICEF, 2005).

### **2.1.3 Juvenile and Women Centre (JWC)**

Juvenile and Women Center is a social intervention that was conceived to promote charitable and social activities for women and children by pooling together professional resources from doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, business persons etc. The activity focused on the empowerment of women and youth to achieve gender equality and deal with the cases of domestic violence. The Juvenile and Women Centre was established as a result of increased reports of violence against children and women and the need for the police to sensitively and professionally handle the violations (Sanjay et al., 2013).

Even though the JWC nomenclature in Nigeria suggests that they attend specifically to juvenile and women issues, the centre's primary responsibility is the investigation of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) cases against women and children as well as other cases involving women as suspects and children in conflict with the law. It also investigates cases of missing persons and lost and found children. In practice, female police officers are typically more disposed to understanding how to relate with children and fellow females, therefore a substantial proportion of JWC officials are females. Similarly, some male officers who express interest in working with women/children and have acquired the professional proficiency also provide formidable support to the centre. The JWC also dispenses preventive interventions to combat violence against women and maintains a statistical record of its activities as a policy to regulate its activities. Therefore, references will be made interchangeably in this study, between the JWC officials and NPF female officers as the case may be.

### **2.1.4 Violence Against Women (VAW)**

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as “any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”. It encompasses, but is not limited to, “physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and

violence related to exploitation (WHO, 1997). The later part of this definition describes domestic violence which is the focus of this study particularly against women.

### **2.1.5 Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence (also called domestic abuse or family violence) is violence or other abused by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or co-habitation. It may be termed intimate partner violence when committed by a spouse or partner, and can take place in heterosexual or same sex relationships, or between former spouses or partners. It is presented in a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape to violent physical abuse such as choking, beating, female genital mutilation, and acid pouring that result in disfigurement or death. Globally, the victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly women, and women tend to experience more severe forms of violence (Moosa, 2012).

Interestingly, the gendering of domestic violence is disputed. Some scholars say, it is primarily men's control over women (Dobash and Dobash, 1992; Schechter, 1982; Stark, 2007, 2010), others see it as a gender symmetrical phenomenon (Archer, 2000 and Straus, 1979) while some others consider domestic violence as a blend of the two schools of thought (Johnson, 1995, 2008; Myhill, 2015). Although it is clear from the above analogy that victims of domestic violence are not restricted to a particular gender, this study will be focused on physical violence in the domestic setting against women.

### **2.1.6 Domestic Violence Against Women (DVAW)**

This is violence against women in the home and other places of habitation, by a male partner who is either an intimate partner in the case of co-habitation or a husband in the case of a lawful marriage contract between them. This phenomenon is also known as "Intimate Partner Violence" (IPV) and will also be used interchangeably in the course of this study.

In a multi-level study carried out on Intimate partner violence against women in Nigeria, the effect of women's status and community norms was investigated. Results indicated that almost one in four women in Nigeria reported having ever experienced intimate partner violence. The study concluded that community norms that promote IPV besides the status of women are positive indicators of the possibility of prevalence of IPV. It advocated for community wide

approaches aimed at changing the norms among men concurrently while improving the status of women. (Benebo, et al, 2018)

A study recently commissioned by the ministry of women's affairs and social development and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) Nigeria with support from the Norwegian Government found out that 28% of Nigerian women aged 25-29 have experienced some form of physical violence since age 15. The study also reports that 15% of women experienced physical violence within 12 months preceding the survey. Furthermore, the level of exposure to the risk of violence varied based on marital status, and that "44% of divorced, separated or widowed women reported experiencing violence since age 15, while 25% of married women or those living with their spouses have experienced violence". The most common acts of violence against women in Nigeria include sexual harassment, physical violence, harmful traditional practices, emotional and psychological violence, socio-economic violence and violence against non-combatant women in conflict situation (Heise, 2018).

## **2.2 Coercive Control and Domestic Violence**

Gender-based violence (GBV) reflects power inequalities between women and men. Women and girls are more commonly the victims of GBV, a manifestation of power imbalance tilted in favor of men that characterize many, mostly patriarchal cultures around the world. Collectively shared norms about women's subordinate role in society and violence against them can also perpetuate the power imbalance. In the upcoming World Development Report 2017 discussions on how norms can reinforce existing power inequalities in society and how change can happen dominate the discussions (Confortini, 2006).

The understanding of domestic violence as patriarchal control was developed in the works of Schechter, Dobash and Dobash, and Stark among others: as repeated acts of violence, along with various kinds of threats, used predominantly by men to control their partners. Coercive control is manifested in a web of tactics designed for controlling another human being. Some of these tactics include physical violence, psychological violence, structural violence usually predominant in cultural practices and traditions, emotional abuse and economic control. Significantly, in the United Kingdom, the definition of domestic violence has been expanded to include coercive control (Taylor. 2013).

Feminism contributes to Galtung's theory by seriously tackling issues of power and gender, which are essential to an understanding of violence as a complicated process through which social relations of power are built, legitimized, reproduced, and naturalized (Sutherland & De Paul, 2015). By viewing gender as a social construct, a gender-sensitive theory of violence dispels the myth of a peaceful or peace-prone femininity (and correspondingly a warrior, or war-prone masculinity) (Confortini, 2006). We are then able to see that a variety of masculinities and femininities exist, which experience violence in different terms and from different positions of power. Moreover, relations of gender permeate all other social forms of organization, which therefore depend on hierarchical gender notions to exist and be justified. Gender as a symbolic construct allows us to break down gendered dichotomies such as violence/peace, victim/perpetrator, and subject/object and focus on continuities, complexities, and contestations when looking at social phenomena and social relations. The dismantling of binary categories also lets us envision avenues for change and empowerment.

### **2.3 Conflict and VAW**

Conflict is prevalent at all levels, within a person and between individuals, communities, countries and cultures (Al-Abedine, 2017). Conflicts are natural experiences by people of every background, culture, class, nationality, age and gender every single day. It may be constructive (+) or destructive (-) depending on how it is dealt with. Conflict exists whenever people share incompatible goals (Jeong, Michael, & Kurtz, 1973).

The eruption of violence consequent upon unresolved latent conflict portends grave danger in to physical and human security. Whether in armed or unarmed conflicts, throughout history, women have been veritable targets of violence, especially sexual violence. They are either held in captivity as sex slaves, (Ćerimović, 2019), prisoners of war etc. A WHO fact sheet report indicates that situations of conflict, post conflict and displacements may aggravate existing violence such as by intimate partners, as well as non-partner sexual violence and may also lead to new forms of violence against women like psychological, emotional etc.

India provides a classical example of SGBV and conflicts as it has been ranked the fourth most dangerous country for women (Thomas Reuters Foundation, 2014); resultant upon its gender inequitable cultural ethos and political structures which subject women to indignity and increases their vulnerability to gendered and sexualized violence. India ranked 143 of 162

countries in the Global Peace Index in 2014 based on the number of internal and external conflicts that rocked her stability (Chatterji and Liberte, 2017). Particularly, in August 2017, at least 38 people were killed during protests in Haryana and Punjab led by supporters of a popular spiritual guru, after he was convicted of raping two female followers in June of the same year (Human Rights Watch, 2018). The above scenario demonstrates the nexus between violence which can be a direct and/or indirect source of conflicts and the concomitant effects on the society.

#### **2.4 The JWC as a Peace building initiative**

The International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research 2007-2008 Report on Women, Gender and Peace building processes points out the strong concerns about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during and after conflicts, arising from gender analysis reports bares the experiences of men and women during conflict and peace. The continuation of this form of violence in post conflict settings can strongly and negatively affect other sectors in peace building. Consequently, girls may be dissuaded from enrolling in and attending schools and women participating in political activities, running domestic chores, engaging in business, owning property etc. Therefore, strong judicial and security sector reforms are advocated for by all actors in order to accomplish a gendered approach to transitional justice (International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research Report, 2007-2008). The Juvenile and Women Centre is a laudable initiative in the security sector reforms that promotes the peace building process in post conflict situations.

#### **2.5 The Nigeria Police Force**

The Nigeria Police Force was created by Section 194 of the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN), with exclusive jurisdiction throughout the country. In practice, it is the lead law enforcement agency dispensing and administering internal security to the civil populace as well as government properties (Nigeria Police Force website, 2018). Section 4 of the Police Act 1967 and amended by Act No 23 of 1979 states that “The police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged, and shall perform such military

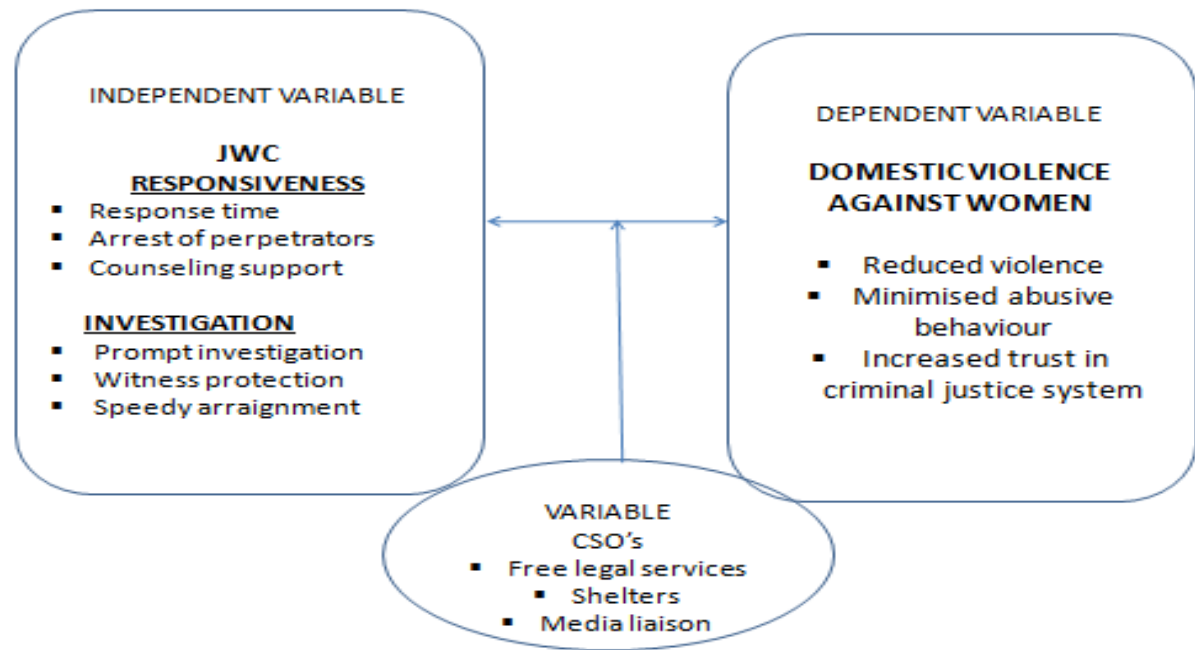


duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of them by, or under the authority of this or any other Act (Section 23 of the 1999 CFRN).

Domestic violence against women has been recognized as a public health problem with far-reaching consequences for the physical, reproductive, and mental health of women. The ecological framework portrays domestic violence against women as a multifaceted phenomenon, demonstrating the interplay of factors at different levels: individual, community, and the larger society such as family poverty, culture etc. The Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics Report of November 2016 proves that women constitute about half of the population of the Nigerian State i.e. 49.5 percent (NBS Report 2016). Women are also known to play vital roles as mothers, producers, managers, community developers/organizers etc. Their contribution to the socio-economic development of societies is also more than half as compared to that of men by virtue of their dual roles in the productive and reproductive spheres (Allanana, 2013). Therefore, the socio-economic development of Nigeria is threatened if the significant proportion of its contributing force is constantly traumatised by violence.

Furthermore, the Nigerian government has emplaced various mechanisms to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) issues nationally. These mechanisms are domiciled in the criminal justice systems comprised of law enforcement agencies, the Judiciary and its appurtenances, relevant government agencies, CSOs, NGOs etc. The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in turn established the JWC with an expanded mandate to include the investigations of criminal complaints against women and children as well as crimes committed by women and children in conflict with the law amongst other responsibilities.

## 2.6 Conceptual Framework



**Source: Author's model**

## 2.7 Theoretical Framework

This section identifies and explains relevant theories to be used in order to explain the relationship between the independent and dependent variables in this study. According to Gabriel (2013), the theoretical framework is the structure that provides support for a theory in a research study. The theoretical framework also introduces and describes the theory that explains why the research problem under study exists (Jarvis, 1999).

### 2.7.1 Structural Functionalism Theory

This study was based on Emile Durkheim's structural functionalism theory proposed in 1893. It emphasizes a societal equilibrium (Thurston, & Howell, 2018). Taking this example, the state provides public education for children. But a disruption or disequilibrium in the system occurs - perhaps the education is sub-standard, and the children drop out and become criminals. The system adjusts to improve the education and attempts to rehabilitate (through jail or other means) the criminals for them to become law-abiding and taxpaying citizens. Durkheim actually viewed crime and delinquent behavior as a normal and necessary occurrence in the social system. He proposed that crime led to reactions from society about the

crime. These shared reactions were used to create common consensuses of what individuals felt were moral and ethical norms by which to abide. These commonly held norms and values led to boundaries and rules for the society. So, in this study the police JWC officials will represent the government whose responsibility is to provide all the human and material resources required to fight against domestic violence against women and its related crimes and will try to teach gender equality as it is one of the goals of this theory.

### **2.7.2 Exchange Theory**

The exchange theory was initially developed by George Homan, a socio-psychologist in 1961. This theory suggests that all relationships are based on calculated exchanges (Seifart, Kathryn, 2012, p.50). Each partner provides the other with desired needs in exchange for the priorities of the other partner. In the event of a clog in this chain of exchange, the affected partner resorts to violence in order to restore the flow. This school of thought propagates that the ability of social institutions and instruments to punish and/or reward such behaviours causes it to thrive or diminish as the case maybe.

Human beings for the most part, engage in behaviours that reward them and avoid behaviors that have high cost. Violence and abuse will continually thrive in social settings and situations where the rewards are higher than the costs. Historically, it has become an acceptable phenomenon and cultural approval for males to use violence to maintain authority in their relationships with women. The seemingly lack of institutional sanctions portrays that there is no heavy penalty for unacceptable anti-social behaviours. Even with changes in institutional response like legislations, until those changes are made very real people and they actually carry a higher cost than rewards, society will not change. In addition, until the costs for choosing to leave an abusive relationship are lower than staying; victims will continue to stay with abuse perpetrators amidst the imminent dangers.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the methodology which is employed in the study, that is, the effectiveness of the JWC in the struggle to combat domestic violence against women in Apo Resettlement Abuja-Nigeria. It highlights the design, sampling procedure, study population, data collection methods and instruments, procedure used in the administration of the instruments, data analysis techniques that were used for the data collected during the study and the study questions in order to draw valid conclusions in the study.

#### **3.1 Study Location**

The location of this study was in Apo Resettlement area hosting the Divisional Police Headquarters, Apo FCT; where the highest percentage of cases of domestic violence was recorded between January 2017 and June 2016 (FCT Command crime statistics records, 2018). The area called Apo Resettlement layout today was initially invaded by squatters from 1976 to 2003, who were displaced as a result of the Federal Capital Territory Development Authority (FCTA) massive infrastructural development activities, to give the FCT a befitting Nigeria country capital outlook. According to Jibril (2006) “squatters all over the world tend to receive little sympathy from government circles. Many of these settlements are perceived as problem areas – areas prone to crime and lot of vices. For instance Neuwirth in his work on squatters quoted one of the local press in India of having the impression that ‘several things are common in squatters all over the world, high crime rate, congestions, neglected kids, refusal to move out’ (Jibril, 2006, pg 15). This about sums up the general views about squatters the world over.

In Nigeria, the Government holds the same views about such settlements as crime infested, polluted areas inhabited by low class people, therefore an eye sore that deserves to be removed at all costs. Successive government policies has transformed the settlement overtime with the provision of modern infrastructures. Subsequently, a sizeable percentage of those squatters eventually became bonafide property owners and residents of the layout.

It has a population of approximately three million, eight hundred and eleven (3,811,000) middle and low income residents as at November 2017 (FCTA population review study 2017). The location is further sectorized into Zones numbering A-E with emerging extensions due to on-going developments.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The design of this study is descriptive cross-sectional (Grünig *et al.*, 2009). It also engaged the qualitative and quantitative methods to collect empirical data. A purposive sampling strategy was used to elicit information from selected respondents (Bryan, 2012). It is also a non-probability form of sampling which sought to ensure that those sampled respondents are relevant to the research questions that are being posed (Salleh, Bakar, & Memon, 2018). This study assesses the effectiveness of the JWC in combating DVAW, in a chosen area (Apo Resettlement, FCT-Abuja). The researcher assessed the effect of the independent variable (effectiveness of the JWC desks, professional investigations and challenges encountered by JWC) and dependent variable (to what extent has the JWC worked solved domestic violence) (Crosswell, 2009; Bryan, 2012).

### **3.3 Study Population**

The population of the study included female victims of domestic violence and government officials of the JWC. These women were selected because they are a part of the citizens for which government enacted laws to protect them against not just domestic violence but sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Besides the DVAW victims depend on JWC officials for help and counsel whenever they are traumatized by their assailants. In other words, as far as the DVAW victims are concerned, JWC officials are 'rescue' agents. A meticulous analysis of these interactions between both study respondents went a long way to provide answers to the research questions and enabled the researcher to make valid conclusions in the study. Government officials were selected because they are the law enforcers who by virtue of their work have knowledge of happenings in families and societies. They receive reported cases of DVAW daily and are involved in helping, counseling and solving the problems of DVAW victims frequently. They are also charged with the responsibility of ensuring social order in the society through administering constructive interventions to either prevent anti-social

behaviours and/or enforce enacted laws against offenders. Therefore, they are key stakeholders as far as the subject of this study is concerned.

### **3.4 Sample size**

The study selected the JWC government officials purposively to make a required sample size for the study, and then the DVAW victims who had reported cases of domestic violence were selected randomly and conveniently to make a required sample size. A total of 90 (ninety) JWC officials and 10 (ten) DVAW victims were chosen from the larger population by the use of the purposive and convenient sampling procedures as respondents in the study. The JWC officials respondents were engaged to seek answers to the research question about the extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases improve service delivery to DVAW victims in Apo Resettlement Layout; and the challenges encountered by JWC officials in its efforts to mitigate DVAW in Apo Resettlement Layout. The DVAW victims respondents were engaged to understand the effectiveness of the JWC Desks in response to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement Layout as well as procure suggestions as to how best the government through the JWC can intervene to combat DVAW in the society.

### **3.5 Sampling procedures**

JWC officers respondents were purposively selected across the strategic, operational and tactical levels of the NPF to ensure a balance amongst the ranking structure. According to Palys, (2008) purposive sampling allows the researcher choose specific persons in a specific location within a particular group (the NPF), viewed to be essential to the study. The consideration here is to address individual differences since some study participants are not created equal. One well placed, articulate informant will often advance the research far better than others. (Palys, 2008, pgs. 697-698). Moreover, this study is theory guided (structural functionalism and exchange theories) and criterion based (an assessment of JWC's effectiveness in the fight against DVAW), so the researcher chose to select its participants along these themes. Also, knowledge, skills and experience on the subject matter (particularly of JWC officials' participants) were prioritized during the sampling. They were grouped into a manageable sample size. The victims of DVAW were randomly and conveniently selected through a collection of case files accessed by the researcher in the police station. Ten (10) of them were chosen even though only seven (7) eventually participated in the study. These

respondents were able to recount their experiences with the JWC officials during their ordeal. Their responses were valuable in assessing the effectiveness of the JWC Desk in responding to DVAW in Apo Resettlement Layout. They as secondary respondents were engaged through semi-structured interviews, then the government officials were key respondents and involved through questionnaires.

### **3.6 Limitation of the Study and Mitigation strategy**

This study was about the effectiveness of the JWC in combating domestic violence against women. Study participants were sourced from the JWC officials who have the oversight function to regulate anti-social behaviours through law enforcement and other proactive interventions to prevent these behaviours. Victims of domestic violence against women, who reported their cases to the JWC department for investigation and prosecution where necessary, were also mobilized to participate in the study. During the data collection exercise, there was a huge challenge of getting the DVAW victims to participate fully. A proportion of them who had resolved the issues leading to the violence(s) with their husbands or intimate partners were wary about participating in order to avoid recalling the experiences. Some husbands and intimate partners of the DVAW victims bluntly refused to grant permissions to the study team. One of the DVAW victim respondents volunteered to be interviewed in her mother's house which was in another part of the city while another one was interviewed in her shop inside the municipal market; in order to avoid their husbands' wrath, because of their interests in participating in the study. The foregoing challenges as well as the limited time of collecting data, which also coincided with the festive season (December/January 2018) where families/couples travel to their communities to celebrate with extended families; posed huge limitations to the study. It also accounted for the limited number of DVAW victims respondents.

### **3.7 Methods of Data Collection**

The data was collected through semi-structured interviews and questionnaires.

#### **3.7.1 Survey Questionnaire**

A total of 90 (ninety) JWC government officials/respondents were administered using structured questionnaires to obtain quantitative data. The questionnaires were administered by

the Research Assistants engaged by the researcher being a serving police officer as well as a one-time Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Apo Resettlement Division. This strategy enabled the respondents to volunteer information without compulsion or 'eye service' and guarantee their confidentiality. The rationale of engaging the JWC officials through questionnaires was informed by the need to reach a large number of respondents easily, quickly and efficiently. Furthermore, a questionnaire is easy to standardize. For example, every respondent is asked the same question in the same way. The study, therefore, can validly deduct that everyone in the sample answers exactly the same questions, which makes this a very reliable method of research. Questions contained in the questionnaires sought to answers to the research questions which were: to find out the effectiveness of the JWC desk response mechanism to complaints of domestic violence the extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into domestic violence cases by the JWC can improve service delivery to DVAW victims and to identify the challenges encountered by the JWC in its efforts to combat DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT-Abuja.

### **3.7.2 Semi-structured Interviews**

Semi structured interviews were also used in order to get primary information from the victims of DVAW resident across the various zones in the settlement. This is a more technical method of data collection which partly solicits quantitative responses and then allows the respondent to provide as much details as possible as qualitative responses over the same question. A total of 7 (seven) respondents were interviewed by the researcher guided semi-structured interview schedule. The purpose of utilizing interviews as data collection instrument was basically because of its naturalness, spontaneity, flexibility and the control over the environment. This method of data collection was also employed in order to allow the respondents to freely express themselves and also to be able to explore in detail the topic under investigation. The interview questions comprised of open-ended and closed-ended questions. Questions also included items on their age, status, educational background, socio-economic details, domestic violence experience as well as their experiences during police interventions after reporting DVAW cases.



### **3.7.3 Documentary Review**

In the course of complementing raw data obtained through qualitative and quantitative techniques of data collection, the researcher also explored second hand information (secondary data) from different documents and reports relevant to the subject of this study. This was also informed by the non-availability of some of the study participants for either interviews or questionnaires administration. Some of documents obtained for review include case files of DVAW and crime statistics reports from the Apo Resettlement Division. Related newspapers and blog articles as well as some NGOs annual reports on DVAW were also reviewed.

### **3.8 Validity of Instruments**

To establish the validity of the questionnaire and the interview guide, they were reviewed by the assigned supervisor and then taken to an expert in the field of conflict studies and rank the relevance of each of the questions in the two instruments to the objectives of the study. The supervisor and expert made suggestions towards the improvement of the clarity of the instruments and which were effected.

### **3.9 Reliability of Instruments**

To ensure the reliability of the instruments, the researcher should have used the test/re-test method by giving an instrument to a group and then giving it to the same group after a week and comparing the scores. When scores will be highly correlated, the instruments will be declared reliable (French et al., 2018). However, due to paucity of time during the data collection period, this was not observed.

### **3.10 Data Analysis**

Data on survey questionnaires was analyzed through quantitative statistical procedures of frequencies and means (Creswell, 2003) using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) as a tool. Responses solicited and obtained as well as observations made during the semi-structured interview schedule were analyzed using thematic, qualitative data analysis method. Interviews were analyzed using qualitative approach of narrative analysis. In this case, the researcher transcribed the data, made codes by identifying similar views mentioned by the interviewees and categorized them into themes while editing them for grammatical correctness and clarity. The researcher finally made a write up of the quotations along with the results of

quantitative analysis to help to expound on some of the conclusions derived from the quantitative analysis.

The independent variables were measured based on a five point Likert scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree in the questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were analyzed using frequencies and percentages. The results were presented using tables and bar graph to ease understanding and interpretations. Pearson product moment correlation was used for the inferential statistics. The measures of association between the independent variables (effectiveness of the JWC, professional investigations and challenges encountered by JWC) and dependent variable (to what extent has the JWC worked solved domestic violence) were done using cross tabulation as illustrated by the correlation model below;

Correlation coefficient  $\rho_{X,Y}$  between two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  with expected values  $\mu_X$  and  $\mu_Y$  and standard deviations  $\sigma_X$  and  $\sigma_Y$  is defined as

$$\rho_{X,Y} = \text{corr}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y} = \frac{E[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)]}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y},$$

Where  $E$  is the expected value operator,  $cov$  means covariance, and  $corr$  is a widely used alternative notation for the correlation coefficient.

### **3.11 Research Ethics**

Ethical considerations for this study involved seeking and obtaining written approvals from the strategic head of the Force Gender Unit, tactical head of the Apo Divisional Police Headquarters (DPO) which has oversight function over the area of study. Information about the victims of reported cases of DVAW to be interviewed was gotten from their records. Letters of consent were also prepared for the victim directly prior to conducting the interviews. The questions which were semi-structured were reformulated to enhance respondents privacy, confidentiality and protection from stigmatization; to improve quality of data.

Another area of ethical consideration was a risk assessment to address how to access interviewees in the safest possible way, and how to ensure participants security and confidentiality during and after the interview. In this lies one of the limitations of this research

as some of the spouses/intimate partners of the respondents objected to their participation in the study.

In-depth interviews in peace research involves questions related to events that have taken place during or in the aftermath of a violent conflict, and it is important to decide carefully what needs to be asked to minimize the risk of doing harm. “Speaking of traumatic events is difficult and may in the worst cases lead to retraumatization; by treading carefully, including only the most essential questions for understanding the research question at hand, formulating these in an open-ended manner so the interviewee can decide how much to tell, and by gently leading the interviewee back to the focus and core questions of the interview, such risks can be minimized”(Brouneus, 2011, pg 141-142).

As a serving police officer, my experience assisted me to uphold the ethics of the research by keeping all the information obtained during the study, confidential. It was easy to obtain letters of approval to assess the police facilities and collect relevant data due to the working relationship with my fellow officers. However, the services of independent research assistants were engaged to eliminate involuntary responses to questionnaires by junior ranking police officers as well as DVAW victims who were ‘poorly treated’ by the JWC desk officers when they were in despair. These steps promoted the objectivity and originality of data gathered during the process and subsequently, in the research findings as much as possible.

Furthermore, the findings of this study were never manipulated in favour of the JWC officials or the NPF institution; by my position as a serving senior police officer. This also informed my decision to engage research assistants who were civilians to ensure objectivity.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE JUVENILE AND WOMEN CENTRE AND THE REDUCTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN APO RESETTLEMENT, ABUJA: STUDY FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study is to assess the contributions of the JWC to the fight against DVAW a Case Study of Apo Resettlement in FCT-Abuja, Nigeria. This chapter presents the research findings obtained during the study which was analyzed using the Scientific Package for Social Science (SPSS). It is laid out in such a way that the response rates was presented first, followed by the background information of the respondents, then a presentation of the descriptive and inferential statistical results as per the three study objectives.

#### 4.2 Response Rates of respondents

Response rate refers to the number of people who participated in the research survey divided by the number of people in the sample. It can be termed as the return rate or the completion rate of the survey questionnaires in the survey research. Usually it is expressed in the form of a percentage.

**Table 4.1 Response rate**

<b>Data collection method</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Response rate (%)</b>
Survey questionnaire	JWC officials	90	88	92
Semi-structured interview	DVAW victims	10	7	95
Total		100	95	194
<b>Average response rate</b>				<b>81%</b>

Source: Field data (2018)

As shown in table 4.1 above, 90 questionnaires were distributed to the JWC officials and 88 questionnaires were fully filled and returned giving a response rate of 92%. This indicates that the response rate was favorable to bring a clear picture of the influence of study variables on one another. Still in table 4.1, 10 target respondents for the open semi-structured interviews (victims of DVAW) were considered and 7 of them were able to participate fully representing 95% of the response rate. The study's overall response rate stood at 81% as shown in table 4.1

### **4.3 Background Information of the Respondents**

The respondents were requested to provide information about their sex, marital status, age, education level and years of service; the results are presented in table 4.2.

#### **4.3.1 Age of the respondents**

The study respondents in the survey had varying age groups. The frequency distribution of age of the respondents in the study was as summarized in Table 4.3

**Table 4. 2 Age of the respondents**

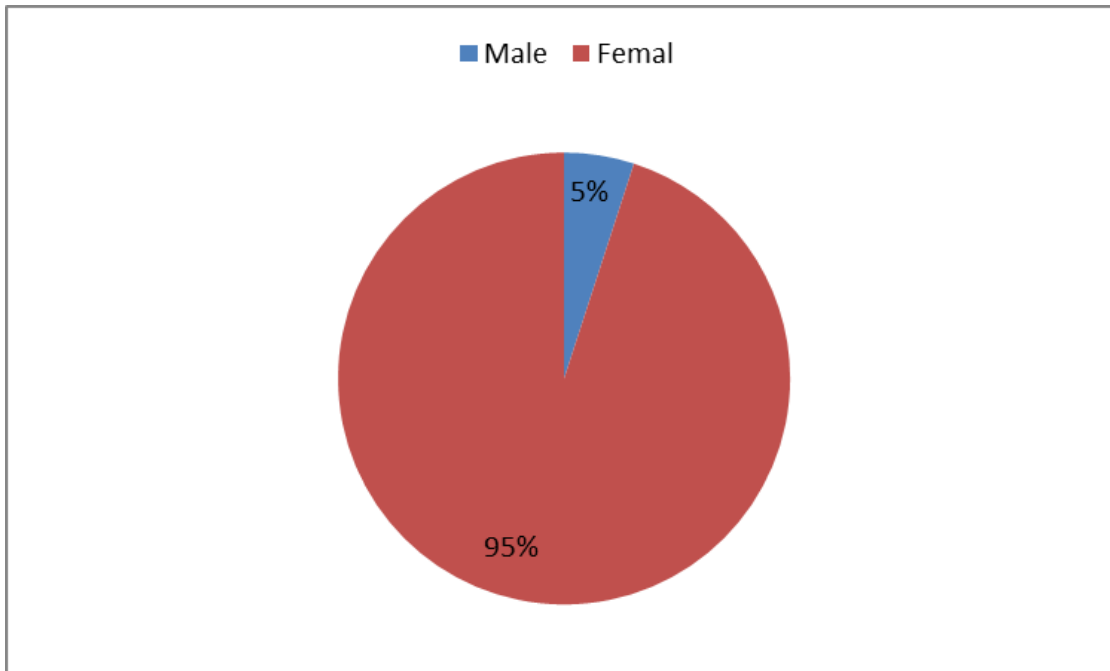
Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
26-31	13	17
32-37	34	27
38 & above	51	56
Total	95	100

**Source: Field data (2018)**

Results indicated in table 4.2 above shows that majority of the respondents were aged between 38 years and above represented by 56% which equals to 51 out of a total of 95 respondents; followed by those aged between 32-37 years represented by 27% which equals 34 out of a total of 95 respondents and the least category was those aged between 26-31 years represented by 17% which equals to 13 out of a total of 95 respondents. This is an indication that the study participants were matured age wise. While the a greater proportion of the JWC officials had substantial years of career experience to effectively attend to DVAW cases reported to the JWC Desk, the DVAW victims (married) also were experienced having been married for some reasonable years as observed during the interviews. Particularly, 3 of the

married victims of DVAW had been re-victimized a couple of times by their husbands before this study. Seemingly, both respondent groups had substantial knowledge on the subject matter in order to give informed responses to the questions posed during the study.

#### 4.3.2 Sex of the respondents



**Figure 4.1 Sex of the respondents**

**Source: Field data (2018)**

Results reflected in the chart above indicates that majority of the respondents (both JWC officials and victims of DVAW) (95%) are females. This implies that a significant proportion of the JWC Desk workforce are female police officers with barely a negligible number (5%) being male police officers who have undergone required training and are enthusiastic about working in the department. Similarly, victims of DVAW are all women. However, this study considered it vital to engage the men in order to have their perspectives on the subject matter being discussed and as provocative and change agents if significant impacts at eradicating violence against women is the goal (Kashyap, A., 2011, UN Resident Co-ordinator for Jamaica). Literature indicates that domestic violence spans across gender, age, sexual orientation, and religion, and it affects people of all socio-economic backgrounds and education levels. (Chartsbin, 2011). It has also been confirmed that globally, the victims of

domestic violence are overwhelmingly women, and women tend to experience more severe forms of violence (Moosa, 2012).

### 4.3.3 Level of Education

The level of education of respondents was also considered under this study and the results are presented in the table 4.3 below:

**Table 4.3. Level of Education**

<b>Level of education</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Primary	12	12
Secondary	56	58
University	18	18
Others	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2018)**

Majority of the respondents had a secondary education represented by 58% which equals 56 out of the total 98 respondents; followed by those who were university graduates who ranked 18% which equals 18 out of the total 98 respondents. The least category were primary 6 and 7 certificate holders as well as those who had other forms of education such as postgraduate studies, vocational training certificate and diplomas, who were grouped under the ‘others’ category. These two categories ranked 12% each which equals 12 each out of the total 98 respondents. The levels of education of the JWC officials were pre-requisite requirements for their enlistment into the NPF, depending on their point of entry. However, there is a possibility for change in level of education of the JWC officials if the officer concerned is capable of coping with further studies and the job in the course of duty. Here it can be deduced that the JWC government officials has a combination of academic and professional staff who can effectively and efficiently utilize their expertise, experience and professionalism to address cases of domestic violence with a view to procuring justice for the victims. It is also expected that they can introduce and dispense proactive interventions that can mitigate the scourge of DVAW.

On the other hand, the victims of DVAW were spread across the last three categories but in different proportions. As observed in figure 4.1 above that majority of the study respondents were females. The greatest proportion of them have a secondary education which implied that a significant number of them were averagely educated women who had a fair understanding of women rights and were financially dependent on their spouses/intimate partners. Subsequently, they're vulnerable to domestic violence and have to put up with the perpetrators because of their circumstances. Interestingly, a female medical doctor was one of the victims of DVAW and fully participated in the study. This also affirms the assertion that domestic violence is no respecter of academic qualification and/or socio-economic status.

#### 4.3.4 Marital status of the respondents

The marital status of respondents was also considered under this study and the results are presented in the table 4.4

**Table 4.4. Marital status of the respondents**

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	15	15
Married	60	61
Divorced	15	15
Widowed	8	9
<b>Source: Field data (2018)</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100%</b>

Results indicate that majority of the women facing domestic violence are married represented by 61% which equals 60 out of the total 98 respondents; followed by single women and divorced women which ranked equally and were represented by 15% each and constituted 15 each out of the total 98 respondents. The least category were the widows represented by 9% which equals 8 out of the total 98 respondents. The single women experienced domestic violence from intimate partners as they reported. Furthermore, four (4) out of the seven (7) victims of DVAW respondents were married, one (1) was single and two (2) were divorced. The overall results indicate that domestic violence is highly prevalent in married couples.



Culturally in the Nigerian context, marriage is evidenced not only by observing the appurtenances of the Marriage Act or a Christian/Islamic religious rite but fundamentally by customary and traditional marriage rites. Payment of bride price (in forms of cash or material gifts) from the groom’s family to the bride’s family has been an integral part of customary/traditional marriage rites in Africa and Nigeria particularly. Culturally, this symbolizes the ratification to the union. Sadly, in recent times, parents of young women have commercialized bride price payment and adopted same as an outlet from poverty. This trend, scholars argue, has led to the perception of women as exchange and purchased commodities by men thus promoting spousal battery and abuse (Forkuor, et al, 2018, pg 34).

Similarly, the exchange theory which this study is based upon suggests that all relationships are based on calculated exchanges (Seifart, Kathryn, 2012, p.50). Each partner provides the other with desired needs in exchange for the priorities of the other partner. Therefore, whether married, single, divorced or widowed, women are most susceptible to violence especially with their continuous economic dependence on their assailants for sustenance.

#### **4.3.5 Respondents by Years of service**

The number of years in service of the JWC officials’ respondents was also considered in this study and the results are presented in the table 4.6 below:

**Table 4.5 Respondents by Years of service**

<b>Years of service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1-10 years	40	45
11-25 years	20	23
26-33 years	28	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2018)**

Results in table 4.6 above indicates that majority of the JWC officials respondents represented by 45% which equals 40 out of the total 88 respondents had spent between 1-10 years in service. Similarly, 32% of them which equals 28 out of the total 88 respondents had spent between 26-33 years in service while 23% of them which equals 20 out of the total 88

respondents had spent between 11-25 years in service. Categorizing respondents by years of service rather than by rank was based on considerations for professional experience which enhances innovations in dispensing approaches while responding to DVAW victims/situations. However, there was a fair representation across the ranks to cover the strategic, operational and tactical strata of the NPF in the study. Respondents in the highest category of between 1-10 years in service were basically patrol officers, front desk personnel, call takers and first responders. Respondents in the second category of 26-33 years in service were the secondary investigators and supervisors. The last category being that of 11-25 years in service were support staff of the JWC which include dispatchers, liaison officers etc. Here, it can be deduced that the JWC personnel is comprised of a variety of professionals who can effectively and efficiently utilize their expertise, experience and professionalism to address cases of domestic violence with a view to procuring justice for the victims. It is also expected that they should introduce and dispense proactive interventions that can combat the scourge of DVAW.

#### **4.4 Effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

**Table 4.5. Effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

		to what extent has the JWC worked solved domestic violence			Total	Corrcoef	P-value
		lesser extent	greater extent				
The JWC ensures safety of women through arrests of male perpetrators	strongly disagree	35	1	36	0.516	0.000	
	Disagree	0	41	41			
	Neutral	0	4	4			
	Agree	2	2	4			
	strongly agree	1	2	3			

The JWC provides counselling and psychological support to victims of DVAW	strongly disagree	7	4	11	0.033	.759 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	12	17	29		
	Neutral	8	12	20		
	Agree	5	17	22		
	strongly agree	6	0	6		
It offers referrals for economic empowerment to women	strongly disagree	36	1	37	.624	0.000
	Disagree	0	46	46		
	Neutral	1	1	2		
	Agree	0	2	2		
	strongly agree	1	0	1		
Receive and investigate reports of possible domestic violence	strongly disagree	1	4	5	.084	.439 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	11	14	25		
	Neutral	7	10	17		
	Agree	18	15	33		
	strongly agree	1	7	8		
Provide services to women who need assistance in the protection and care in terms of basic needs	strongly disagree	2	2	4	-.098	.362 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	7	12	19		
	Neutral	12	13	25		
	Agree	15	10	25		
	strongly agree	2	13	15		

Refers victims for medical-legal care and evidence collection	strongly disagree	3	7	10	.650	0.01
	Disagree	0	2	2		
	Neutral	13	12	25		
	Agree	9	8	17		
	strongly agree	13	21	34		
Arranges for temporary/permanent shelters for DVAW victims	strongly disagree	4	6	10	.106	.366 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	14	11	25		
	Neutral	10	14	24		
	Agree	6	14	20		
	strongly agree	4	5	9		

Results in table 4.5 above indicates that the JWC has significantly ensured safety of women through arrests of husband perpetrators and this is evidenced by a high Pearson correlation coefficient of .516 at P=0.000. This is imperative to say that the effectiveness of JWC cannot be under looked in the case study area owing to its significant contribution to the safety of women.

*During the interview, one of the government officials reported “through methods like training advocacy for women emancipation and gender roles, the JWC has tried to indirectly ensure the safety of women in FCT-Nigeria”(Apo Div. Hqtrs, Abuja, Dec.2018)*

The NPF JWC was found to significantly assist in referrals for economic empowerment to women evidenced by the higher correlation coefficient of 0.624 at P=0.000 at 95% level of significance. This is achieved through a liaison with the Happy Women Micro-finance Company, Abuja, a private sector initiative with women empowerment as its core mandate.

*“Interview findings indicated that; we as the JWC have always encouraged women to start up small self-help projects in order to support their partners/spouses arguing that it is poverty that generates aggression which in turn provokes violence against women”, said the government official.(Apo Div. Hqtrs, Abuja, Dec.2018)*

Results also indicate that the JWC does significantly receive and investigate reports of possible domestic violence against women evidenced by a higher Pearson correlation coefficient of .084 at  $P=.439$  at 95% level of significance. It can be deduced from here that the JWC officials who are police officers are under obligation as the prime agency in the criminal justice system, to promptly intervene in the best possible way on the receipt of the complaint of violence. This may be before the violence is committed or shortly after it has taken place. Adversely, the NPF which includes the JWC officials have always been condemned by the members of the public for ineffective responses and general apathy towards the discharge of constitutional roles. A onetime Inspector General of Police, M.D.Abubakar gave this scorecard on his assumption of office:

*“The Nigeria Police Force has fallen to its lowest level and has indeed become a subject of ridicule within the law enforcement community and among members of the enlarged public”(Vanguard Newspapers publication of 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012).*

Intense pressure and advocacies from women groups, NGOs, CSOs, the press etc has compelled the JWC to ‘deliver’ on its mandate by providing required services to DVAW victims. Although there are allegations of bribery before receiving and investigating DVAW cases, they are reportedly minimal.

Regarding DVAW victims’ referrals for medical-legal care and evidence collection, study results evidenced by a higher Pearson correlation coefficient of .084 at  $P=.439$  at 95% level of significance, confirmed that this was a consistent practice by the JWC officials. On the contrary, narratives from DVAW victims’ respondents revealed that referrals for medical-legal care did not translate to enjoying the services because they are not free. However, respondents confirmed the existence of the reference procedure which required that a victim/survivor be accompanied by a member of the DV response team on duty at the time of the report of the incident with a police medical form to the Police Medical Centre, Garki-Abuja. This procedure

did not guarantee service delivery. Unfortunately, most DVAW victims are financially disadvantaged, so they end up with fragmented care due to the exorbitant costs of treatment. Therefore a multi-disciplinary collaboration between service providers to sexual and domestic violence victims is highly desirable. Localising medical, counseling, forensic, investigations and temporary shelter services in one location presents great opportunity for a comprehensive, improved, affordable and available care for survivors/victims.

According to Zijlstra, et al (2016), medical-legal care is a recommended multi-disciplinary care in the field of sexual and family violence, prescribed by scholars for victims of domestic and sexual violence. It offers a comprehensive and coordinated system response preferably in a sexual assault response centre (SARC) by trained caregivers, which requires a sensitive, respectful and integrative approach. On 1st July 2013, the first sexual assault referral centre (SARC) designated “The Mirabel Centre” was established in Lagos-Nigeria with a mission to provide holistic and high quality medical and psychosocial services to survivors of sexual assault and rape. The centre is a private sector initiative managed by the Partnership for Justice, where rape and sexual assault victims can access free forensic, medical and counseling services. Advocacies for the establishment of similar projects have yielded positively through the birthing of the TAMAR SARC Centre in Enugu (Eastern Nigeria), managed by Women Aid Collective (WACOL), a non-governmental organization and funded by J4A. This is a laudable initiative in the right direction. Sadly, these facilities which are not government establishments, are grossly inadequate considering the prevalence of gender based violence, including DVAW across the country and the huge population and landmass of Nigeria (J4A Impact Report, 2015).

Regarding the provision of temporary and/or permanent shelters for DVAW victims, the NPF JWC is deficient in view of its lack of infrastructure. This is evident in the study findings low correlation coefficient of 0.106 at  $P=0.366$ . However, through liaison with relevant NGOs who operate shelter homes, they are able to offer limited services to victims who are in dire need. Due to the insufficient shelters, the duration of stay is shortened to accommodate other victims. This is grossly inadequate compared to the prevalence of cases in the study area. The process becomes a “cycle of doom” where they have to return to their perpetrators for want of a safe shelter. Scholars, Tutty, et. al. 2009; Radhika Coomaraswamy, 2000, as cited in Cohre, 2004) advocate for states to undertake careful risk assessments to include the safety and security

needs of women who are fleeing violence during the planning, implementation stages and/or during expansion of available ones (UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence Against Women and Girls Publication, 2012).

Then the results continue and show that the JWC does not significantly provide counselling and psychological support to victims of DVAW, as this was evidenced by a low Pearson correlation value of .033 at  $P=.759$ . Literature on this defines counseling as a structured conversation between two or more persons that assists one of the participants (usually the victim/survivor) to work through specific personal problems (Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service). This suggests that counseling transcends mere discussions between persons but requires a systematic approach and a combination of environmental and psychological preparation to deliver. Although, the JWC supervisors and investigators which constitute about 11% of the study respondents confirmed to have received training as DVAW victims counselors at one point or the other in their career, other JWC officials in Apo Resettlement Division had no prerequisite counselling skills. Furthermore, the JWC office environment in the Apo Division is grossly unhelpful for effective counselling of DVAW victims. However, a respondent had this to say during the survey:

*“The JWC lacks the capacity to implement basic support programs beyond providing verbal advice to family members on how they should mind about the wellbeing of their fellow family members. It is believed that follow up actions beyond verbal advice will further reduce the cases of domestic violence” (Apo Div. Hqtrs, Abuja, Dec.2018)*

Nevertheless, another JWC respondent acknowledged the primary goal of the centre during an interaction in the process of this study, with this remark:

*“The primary goal of JWC is to receive and investigate reports of possible domestic violence against women”(Apo Div. Hqtrs, Abuja, Dec.2018)*

The JWC does not significantly provide services to families who need assistance in the protection and care in terms of basic needs signified by a low Pearson correlation coefficient of  $-.098$  at  $P=.362$  but UNICEF assessment of the FSUs in Nigeria found that the stigma associated with sexual exploitation and abuse has diminished, and people are more aware of the support services available (Chartsbin, 2011)

**4.5 Extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

Under this objective, the extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases improves service delivery to victims of domestic violence was also explored. The dependent variable which is the extent to which JWC conducts investigations into DVAW cases has improved service delivery to DVAW victims was cross tabulated with the independent variable (JWC) through its activities in that regard. The results are indicated in table 4.6 below:

**Table 4.6 Extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

		to what extent has the JWC worked solved domestic violence				
		lesser extent	greater extent	Total	Corr. Coef.	
Carries out crime scene investigations	strongly disagree	2	5	7	.014	.901 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	6	6	12		
	Neutral	8	15	23		
	Agree	11	14	25		
	strongly agree	11	9	20		
It promotes community collaboration to fight DVAW	strongly disagree	1	1	2	-.148	.167 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	9	13	22		
	Neutral	4	10	14		
	Agree	13	22	35		
	strongly agree	11	4	15		



Provides witness/victims protection services to enable witness to testify in court	strongly disagree	5	3	8	.119	.269 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	9	20	29		
	Neutral	17	10	27		
	Agree	6	9	15		
	strongly agree	1	8	9		
Arrestment of male suspects in courts of promptly	strongly disagree	31	1	32	.424	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	1	44	45		
	Neutral	3	2	5		
	Agree	3	1	4		
	strongly agree	0	2	2		
Promotes collaborative activities against women violence among the local leaders	strongly disagree	11	7	18	0.345	.036 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	19	25	44		
	Neutral	2	4	6		
	Agree	4	11	15		
	strongly agree	2	3	5		

The correlation coefficient was used to test the significance of the JWC activities as shown in the table 4.6. Results indicated that the JWC has been carrying out crime scene investigations evidenced by a positive lower Pearson correlation coefficient of .014 and a higher P-value of .901<sup>c</sup> higher than the set critical value of 0.5 at 95% level of significance. This implies that the JWC painstakingly procure credible evidence at DVAW crime scenes which facilitates prosecution of male suspects in court. This demonstrates its resolve to fight domestic violence and secure justice for victims. The study continued and explored the effectiveness of the JWC in the promotion of community collaboration to fight DVAW and results indicated that the JWC has also insignificantly promoted community collaboration to fight DVAW (correlation

coefficient=-.148 and P-value=.167<sup>c</sup>). The JWC in the study area manages to promote small scale activities at the community level with the community leaders as focal persons to sensitize them of the dangers of propagating discriminatory practices against women. Female leaders in the community are also charged with responsibilities of mentoring younger women to explore their potentials and speak out. But there is no established structure for sustainance due to lack of funds and intermittent movement of JWC personnel on transfers to other locations.

Results on the JWC's provision of witness/victims protection services to enable witness to testify in court was also insignificant as evidenced by Pearson correlation coefficient= .119 and P-value= .269<sup>c</sup>. This apathy resulted in the dismissal of most cases in court due to lack of protection and confidence on the part of victim/witness to follow through their initial resolve to press charges against the assailant. Sometimes, the fear of being attacked by the assailant and/or his family members also discourages them where there's no protection. However, a male respondent who is a JWC official asserted in his narrative that witness/victim protection was not within the JWC scope of duty. But in the opinion of this researcher, being a serving senior police officer too, the JWC officials are obligated to liaise with the Special Protection Unit (SPU) of the NPF which is responsible for witness/victim protection (where the need arises) for the provision of such services. Reviewed literature also indicated that the JWC, being the frontline social institution to deal with incidents of domestic violence, have a vital role in assisting victims of domestic abuse to follow through on their decision to seek recourse for the abuse (Corcoran, Stephenson, Perryman & Allen, 2001; Glanz & Spiegel, 1996). The JWC not only represent state policy but also act as an important link to both the prosecution process and to the provision of services to victims in a community. Although for many victims of domestic violence, the JWC police department has been reported as the last resort when the victim decides to take that bold step towards seeking redress (Corcoran et al., 2001)

Another significant finding in this study revealed that the JWC facilitates the prompt arraignment of male perpetrators of DVAW in courts of law (correlation coefficient= .421 and P-value= 0.000). However, narratives from two DVAW victims' respondents acknowledged the significance of the NGOs/CSOs in the DV victims' services delivery value chain. They revealed that their assailants would have been released by the JWC officials who collected

bribes for their bail, but for the intervention of an NGO (Women for Change in Nigeria), who liaised with the local media to project their cases to prominence. These organizations were earlier identified by the researcher in the conceptual framework of this study as intervening variables that can impact positively on the independent variable (JWC) to produce the desired effect on the dependent variable (DVAW). Literature on the roles of police specialized domestic violence units shows that beyond investigation and detection of the crime, these units should act as liaison officers between service and treatment agencies to prevent further violence and to assist victims and community members. (Friday, et al, 2006, pg 10).

The JWC has significantly promoted collaborative activities amongst the community leaders towards stopping violence against women (correlation coefficient= 0.345 and P-value= 0.036). Literature indicates that the enactment of the Violence Against the Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act (2015) which “aims to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence against persons, provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punish offenders” heightened the hope for the emancipation of Nigeria citizens particularly women from violence (J4A Impact Report, 2015). The VAPP Act criminalizes spousal battery (s.19); forceful ejection from home (s.9); forced financial dependence or economic abuse (s.12); harmful widowhood practices (s.15); female circumcision or genital mutilation (s.6); harmful traditional practices (s.20); substance attacks (s.21); political violence (s.23) and violence by state actors (s.24). Although the above initiative is highly commendable, the implementation of the provisions of the VAPP Act as well as other legislations is still sluggish, as confirmed by this remark:

*In a statement published in the Nigerian newspaper, Premium Times, the Chairman of the Nigerian National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stated that domestic violence laws, in the states that have them, are "still quite poorly implemented". A telephone interview with the representative of the Research Directorate of the Legal Defence Assistance Project of Nigeria (LEDAP), a non-governmental organization of lawyers that provides free legal assistance to "poor and vulnerable victims of human rights violations," reported that amongst all the states with domestic violence legislation, Lagos State, is the "most organized" and the "only state where the state-level domestic violence law is being applied in practice" (Premium Times 25 Nov.*

2013). In a telephone interview with the Executive Director of Project Alert, a non-governmental women's rights organization that promotes and protects the rights of women and young girls and that founded Nigeria's first women's shelter, Sophia's Place, in Lagos, she confirmed that legislations are not being enforced in the states with domestic violence laws, but stated that it is "being used in court" in Lagos State, although there are still "problems with enforcement" (Punch Newspaper of 16 Oct. 2014). (Home Office CIG, 2016)

#### **4.6 Challenges encountered by the JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against children/juvenile.**

Under this objective, respondents were asked to identify the challenges, experienced by the JWC in its efforts to mitigate domestic violence against women in Apo Resettlement Layout, Abuja. The challenges were cross tabulated with dependent variable that is; the extent to which the JWC has tried to fight against domestic violence. The table below indicates the challenges they identified as impediments to the JWC making remarkable impacts in their strides as far as mitigating DVAW is concerned. The results are indicated in table 4.7

**Table 4. 7 Challenges encountered by JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women**

		To what extent has the JWC worked solved domestic violence			Corrcoef p-values	
		lesser extent	greater extent	Total		
Poor collaborative frameworks between line agencies/CSOs/ NGOs	strongly disagree	33	0	33	.466	0.000
	Disagree	0	42	42		
	Neutral	2	1	3		
	Agree	2	2	4		
	strongly agree	1	5	6		

Discriminatory socio-cultural norms, beliefs and attitudes	strongly disagree	29	0	29	.340	0.001
	Disagree	0	40	40		
	Neutral	3	2	5		
	Agree	5	4	9		
	strongly agree	1	4	5		
Economic disempowerment of women	strongly disagree	30	0	30	.391	0.000
	Disagree	1	42	43		
	Neutral	3	1	4		
	Agree	3	3	6		
	strongly agree	1	4	5		
Low awareness among women of their rights	strongly disagree	4	2	6	-.075	.489 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	6	12	18		
	Neutral	7	15	22		
	Agree	13	15	28		
	strongly agree	8	6	14		
Limited availability and coverage of training	strongly disagree	2	3	5	-.184	.086 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	6	17	23		
	Neutral	12	12	24		
	Agree	11	14	25		
	strongly agree	7	4	11		
Narrow scope of JWC mandate.	strongly disagree	2	3	5	.079	.469 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	12	15	27		

	Neutral	14	12	26		
	Agree	3	11	14		
	strongly agree	6	9	15		
Lack of budget support and related limitations on available services	strongly disagree	11	23	34	-.238	.026 <sup>c</sup>
	Disagree	16	23	39		
	Neutral	6	0	6		
	Agree	4	4	8		
	strongly agree	1	0	1		
	Institutional marginalization	strongly disagree	18	20	38	.134
Disagree		4	4	8		
Neutral		9	7	16		
Agree		4	14	18		
strongly agree		3	5	8		

Owing to results of analysis, it can be seen that there is a significant poor collaborative framework between line agencies which includes the JWC/CSOs/NGOs in the fight against domestic violence (correlation coefficient= .466 and P-value= 0.000). The complex and dynamic nature of violence against women, which includes DVAW, requires a holistic approach with concerted efforts to combat. Efforts by responsible line agencies in Nigeria to respond and prevent the phenomenon have not been harmonised hence the impacts have been marginal. Particularly, law enforcement and justice sector collaborations is pivotal to avoid re-victimization and procure the safety of women through effective investigation and prosecution of DVAW cases. (JAD Learning Resource, 2016). Securing convictions for male perpetrators of violence destroys impunity and ensures they pay the high cost of violence, as propagated by the exchange theory which this study was based upon.

The study also identified a gap between the socio-cultural arena and the law & policy arena that needs to be bridged in order to avoid a contradiction in the response approaches. Discriminatory socio-cultural norms, beliefs and attitudes stood at correlation coefficient= .466 and P-value= 0.000. Deliberate and consistent interventions to engage with identified community leaders, traditional institutions, youth bodies and other informal networks to eradicate discriminatory norms, beliefs and attitudes, through restructured patterns of lives has the potential address this challenge in the short term. However, discriminatory customary laws that adversely relates to the rights of the adopted child, rights of spouses, primogeniture rule to mention a few, which still holds sway in some Nigerian localities requires to be codified, unified and harmonized with the principles of natural justice, for a sustainable effect (Onuoha, 2008).

The results also indicate significant economic disempowerment of women which increases their odds to accessing services or facilitate their escape from the assailant to the JWC desk to report cases , the bribes that are supposed to be paid before the case can be handled among others (correlation coefficient= .391 and P-value= 0.000). Guarnieri and Rainer (2018) suggest a consideration of economic empowerment of women from two theoretical perspectives which presents the pros and the cons. On one hand, they cited Aiser (2010) confirming the household bargaining model which posits that increased economic empowerment of women will reduce IPV by balancing power between the partners. Conversely, they also point out that the phenomenon can be a catalyst to violence in the event of a redefinition of gender roles and power relations. These theories of male backlash reinforce the culturally prescribed norm of male dominance and female dependence as analyzed by Macmillan and Gartner (1999) cited in Guarnieri and Rainer (2018 pg 1). In the same vein, Rees & Wilson, 2011; OSCE, 2009 as cited in the UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence Against Women and Girls Publication, (2012) opine that the economic disempowerment of women is a significant challenge to help them escape abuse, especially where they are financially dependent on their abuser. Physically challenged and the elderly women may also be dependent on abusive caregivers and maintain the culture of silence for fear of loss of basic care, affection, and sustenance.

Considering the problem of Low awareness among women of their rights, the results indicate an insignificant relationship with the dependent variable others (correlation coefficient= .391

and P-value= .489<sup>c</sup>). Women's rights education, which is a component of the rule of law and fundamentally the responsibility of law enforcement and judiciary function, should be prioritized. Apart from the JWC officials respondents in this study who were very conversant with the law as a result of their profession, some of the victims were completely ignorant of their constitutional rights and others entrenched in other legislations.

Limited availability and coverage of training was insignificantly related to the fight against domestic violence and this implies that this problem has nothing to do with JWC in its struggle to fight domestic violence (correlation coefficient= -.184 and P-value= .086), then Narrow scope of domestic prevention services also insignificantly affect the JWC in struggle to fight domestic violence (correlation coefficient= .079 and P-value= .469<sup>c</sup>).

Inadequate budget support and related limitations on available services was significantly (correlation coefficient= -.238 and P-value= .026<sup>c</sup>). Also literature indicates that budget allocation to support the sustainability of the daily routines of service agencies has to be given priority. There is also a need for careful considerations regarding the composition of personnel involved within daily management of service agencies addressing domestic violence. To bridge the gap between the legal systems and traditional cultural values, culturally adjusted alternative justice systems could be developed to increase women's access to legal support.

Finally, the institutional neglect of the JWC (correlation coefficient= .134 and P-value= .212<sup>c</sup>) was identified as a major source of demoralization for the JWC officials. This was reported by a senior JWC official who confirmed that the department needs a reposition through a renewed commitment by the NPF management to combat SGBV. Adequate financial provisions and institutional support is required to make significant impact.

In conclusion, inferences drawn from a triangulation of data which is obtained through the questionnaires, interview guide, observations and documentary reviews, some expressed in narratives on this research topic. The NPF JWC demonstrates commitment towards combating DVAW in the study area, but requires reinforcing collaborations with existing social networks in the short term to maximize its impact.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter gives a summary, conclusion and recommendations of the main findings in relation to the research questions and results presented, analysed and interpreted in chapter four.

#### **5.2 Summary**

The summary of the results is aligned with the specific objectives of this study which were:

1. To find out the effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT;
2. To ascertain the extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT;
3. To identify the challenges encountered by the JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women.

#### **5.3 Social demographics**

Response rate for this study stood at 81% which demonstrated great interest in the subject matter of the research by the respondents. 95% of the respondents were females corroborating the choice of purposive sampling technique engaged for the study. Representation for male respondents stood at 5%. Although their representation is small, the study still considers their opinions in the study very valuable. Respondents were aged between 38 years and above represented by 56% followed by those who were aged between 32 and 37 represented by 27%, then the least were those aged between 26 and 31 represented by 17%. The educational qualifications of the respondents showed that 58% of the respondents were secondary school leavers, while 18% were first degree holders and 12% were primary and other certificate holders. The ages and educational qualification of the respondents signifies that they had substantive knowledge on the subject matter which were reflected in their responses. Finally, 63% of the female respondents were married women, confirming the prevalence of DVAW

cases amongst married couples. Single and divorced female respondents ranked 15% respectively and widows were represented by 9%.

#### **5.4 Effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

The JWC desk has been significantly effective in ensuring the safety of women through the prompt arrests of male perpetrators evidenced by correlation coefficient of 0.516 and a higher P-value of 0.000<sup>c</sup>, referrals for economic empowerment of women evidenced by correlation coefficient of 0.624 and a higher P-value of 0.000, referrals for medical-legal care and evidence taking evidenced by correlation coefficient of 0.650 and a higher P-value of 0.01, arrangement for temporary shelters to DVAW victims evidence by .106 and .366 correlation coefficient values.

From the foregoing, it can be concluded that the JWC desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW has been significantly effective; a positive indicator of the research question “How effective is the JWC desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in the Apo Resettlement Division Police Station in FCT?”

#### **5.5 Extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

Under the above objective, it was confirmed that the JWC carried out crime scene investigations evidenced by .014 and .901 correlation coefficient values, arraigns male perpetrators in court promptly evidenced by .424 and .000<sup>c</sup> correlation coefficient values as well as promote collaborative activities against women violence among the local leaders evidenced by 0.345 and 0.36<sup>c</sup> correlation coefficient values . Conversely, the correlation coefficient values for the JWC’s ability to provide victim/witness protection services to facilitate their giving evidence during trial stood at .119 and .269<sup>c</sup> correlation coefficient values.

Summarily, the above results are indicative that conducting professional investigations into cases of DVAW carried out by the JWC officials improves service delivery to victims of DVAW. Although, it was confirmed that witness/victim protection was out of the scope of the JWC duties; it has a responsibility to liaise with the NPF Special Protection Unit (SPU) to facilitate the process of serving justice to DVAW victims. Thus, the research question “To what

extent does professional investigations into cases of DVAW improve service delivery to its victims in the Apo Resettlement Division Police Station in FCT?” has been answered in the affirmative.

### **5.6 Identify the challenges encountered by JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women**

The research findings on the above objective revealed some key challenges the JWC encounters in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women. Related qualitative data which was analyzed according to the responses, identified the following key challenges as inhibiting the efforts of the JWC towards making significant impact in their work. They are: the NPF institution’s marginalization of the JWC, economic disempowerment of women, lack of effective collaborative frameworks between line agencies and discriminatory socio-cultural norms, beliefs and attitudes. Other challenges identified are: low awareness among women of their rights, limited availability and coverage of training, narrow scope of domestic prevention services and inadequate budget support and related limitations on available services.

The above findings provides responses to the last research question “What are the challenges encountered by the JWC in its efforts to combat DVAW?”

Finally, it can be inferred that this research has achieved its objectives which were all confirmed. Ultimately, the JWC in Apo Resettlement Division Abuja demonstrates a strong commitment towards fulfilling its mandate albeit a myriad of challenges, as proven by the study findings.

### **5.7 Conclusion**

Generally, the prevention of violence against women has received far less attention than reaction through the treatment of survivors. This is evident in the results of this findings where it is obvious that the JWC is overwhelmed with reacting to domestic violence against women victims/complaints. Their responses during the survey indicates that there are no mechanisms/infrastructure in place to ‘convince’ the victims/witnesses to testify in court in order to secure conviction for the perpetrator where he eventually accounts for his violent behaviour. The manifestation of the exchange theory which positioned the women at a disadvantage perpetually made them stay with the abusive partner for want of provisions.

From the data findings and views of respondents of this study, it is worthy to conclude thus based on the research questions that were tested. The JWC desk response mechanism demonstrates a strong commitment to provide required services to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement against the odds they face in the process. The results of the findings on this research question showed 70% of the respondents attesting to that in the affirmative.

The result of the demographic analysis of the respondents revealed that domestic violence against women is prevalent in marriage relationships, and even though majority of the respondents had a secondary education which places them on the academic borderline in the Nigerian education system, 18% of them with degrees were still victims of domestic violence. This indicates that domestic violence cuts across every educational and socio-economic status.

Consequent upon the results of this study, the JWC has made significant strides, though in minimal proportions, in its efforts against domestic violence against women. However, there have been reported areas of failure. The areas of successes of the JWC in the fight to combat domestic violence included; the provision of basic care at the police station level to secure evidence for prosecution, ensuring the safety of women through arrests of male perpetrators and conducting professional investigations capable of securing the conviction of male perpetrators in the courts. The areas of failure of JWC in fight against domestic violence included; provision of witness/victim protection to enable them testify in the court, counselling and psychological support to traumatized victims of DVAW as well as to dispense interventions targetted at preventing violence in the communities rather than wait to react to them after occurrence.

The JWC's successes have been hinged on reactive approaches to ultimately punish offenders. Unfortunately, this approach only shortens the cycle of activities to end at the police station level, because most of the victims are interested in restoring their safety and wellbeing by stopping the violence. This has been attributed to factors like discriminatory societal norms, attitudes and beliefs as well as poor financial empowerment of women which makes them and their children dependent on their abusers for sustenance. These successes are recorded albeit inadequate logistics like toll free telephone lines and motorcycles and/or vehicles to ensure rapid responses to GBV especially in the rural areas with difficult terrains. This signifies

reasonable commitment on the part of the JWC to significantly reduce cases of violence against women.

### **5.8 Impact of the Intervening Variable**

Throughout the analysis of the study findings, the disconnections between line agencies and other non-governmental/civil society organizations in the discharge of their duties kept showing up. The necessity for a clearly defined, systematic and coordinated framework to prevent and respond to violence against women including DVAW cannot be over-emphasized. The services rendered by NGOs and CSOs in the areas of advocacies, media liaison, pro bono legal services, temporary shelters etc to victims of DVAW, was identified as an intervening variable in this study whose impact and follow through on other parts of the system, prosecution and court is fundamental to achieve a multi-sectoral effect. Literature in this regard affirm that “a police unit in and of itself cannot break the cycle of violence; it needs to be able to work in union with the rest of the criminal justice system to have its greatest impact.” (Friday, et al, 2006, pg 8).

### **5.9 Recommendations**

Based on the foregoing discourse and study findings, the following recommendations are proffered in the short and long term for the attention of the Federal Government of Nigeria, which has the responsibility to protect her citizens as well as the Nigeria Police Force, in consideration of its strategic position and significant role in the criminal justice system. This beams great hope for SGBV victims to get justice after being violated, where it reconsiders its approaches, policies, strategies and operational practices in responding to and preventing SGBV, which DVAW constitutes a part.

#### **Political will**

The Federal government of Nigeria has demonstrated a commitment to protect her female citizens from violence and discrimination through the various initiatives, policies and interventions established at various levels to achieve these goals. However, there’s a need to re-strengthen the existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for accountability which will yield commensurate benefits to the investments. Reinforcements to policy, justice/law and institutional reforms with a definite stance to eradicate the scourge of SGBV is desirable. The

Nigeria Bureau for Statistics have shown that women who constitute about 49.5% of Nigeria's population contributes significantly to the socio-economic development of the country. Therefore, women are a profitable resource to Nigeria's economic advancement.

### **Investment in one-stop centres**

Similarly, in the short term, Nigerian government should consider investing in one-stop centres which will promote a multi-sectoral approach in providing accessible service to victims under one roof. This will also strengthen cooperation between responsible agencies as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with similar mandates. This recommendation does not require fresh investments but a solid legal and policy framework to integrate existing resource with clearly demarcated functions as to their roles in the new initiative targetted at mitigating violence against women. Instituting sustainable budgetary allocations within the national budget to fund the associated activities and programs will facilitate the process.

### **Repositioning the Force Gender Unit, Family Support Unit/Juvenile and Women Centre**

The NPF deliberate efforts to enhance the status, importance and prestige of the above mentioned units responsible for addressing issues of SGBV, with access to enhanced training and tools and adequate infrastructure and logistics. The elevation of their function as an important one will boost the moral of the personnel to approach their responsibilities with enthusiasm and a resolve to deliver maximally. This initiative will attract funding to the department and more efforts will be channeled towards the prevention of GBVs rather than reacting to them and loosing valuable resource in the process to avoidable deaths. The department can also plan targetted training programs to improve the capacity of its personnel to unlock their potentials.

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**APPENDIX (1)**

**UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Questionnaire for research project on the effectiveness of the juvenile and women centre and the fight against domestic violence against women in Nigeria**

**Questionnaire number:**

Dear respondent, I am GRACE ENOBONG LONGE a master's degree student in the Center for Conflict Management at the University of Rwanda. As a requirement by the university, I'm conducting a research on **“The JWC and DVAW”**. All the information provided during this study will be used for purely academic purpose and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

**Section 100: Respondent's biography**

101. Name of the respondent (optional).....

102. Sex of the respondent. Male Female

1. Male  2. Female

103. How old are you?

104. What is your marital status?

1. Single  2. Married  3. Divorced  4. Widowed

105. What is your highest level of education?

1. Primary  2. Secondary  3. Tertiary 4. rs (specify)

**SECTION (B)**

**Effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT.**

**Please tick the given statements according to your level of agreement**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	<b>Strongly agree</b>

	<b>Statements</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>10</b> The JWC ensures safety of women through arrests of male perpetrators					
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> The JWC provides counselling and psychological support to victims of DVAW					
<b>11</b>	<b>11</b> It offers referrals for economic empowerment to women					
<b>13</b>	<b>11</b> Receive and investigate reports of possible domestic violence					
<b>11</b>	<b>11</b> Provide services to					

4	women who need assistance in the protection and care in terms of basic needs					
5	11 Refers victims for medical-legal care and evidence collection					
6	11 Arranges for temporary/permanent shelters for DVAW victims					



**SECTION (C)**

**Extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

<b>14</b>	Carries out crime scene investigations					
<b>15</b>	It promotes community collaboration to fight DVAW					
<b>16</b>	Provides witness/victims protection services to enable witness to testify in court					
<b>17</b>	Arraignment of male suspects in courts of promptly					
<b>18</b>	Promotes collaborative activities against women violence among the local leaders					

**SECTION (D)**

**Challenges encountered by JWC in its efforts to combat domestic violence against women.**

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>117</b>	Poor collaborative frameworks between line agencies/CSOs/ NGOs					
<b>118</b>	Discriminatory socio-cultural norms, beliefs and attitudes					
<b>119</b>	Economic disempowerment of women					
<b>120</b>	Low awareness among women of their rights					
<b>121</b>	Limited availability and coverage of training					
<b>122</b>	Narrow scope of JWC mandate					
<b>123</b>	Lack of budget support and related limitations on available services					
<b>124</b>	Institutional marginalization					

END

## **APPENDIX (2)**

### **INTERVIEW GUIDE**

#### **Interview for research project on the role of juvenile women centre and the fight against domestic violence in Nigeria (government officials or police officials)**

Dear respondent, am GRACE ENOBONG LONGE a master student at center for conflict management at the University of Rwanda. As a requirement by the university, am conducting research about the “**assessing the effectiveness of the JWC to the fight against DVAW**” All the information provided will be used for purely academic purpose and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

#### **SECTION (A)**

##### **Effectiveness of the JWC Desk response mechanism to complaints of DVAC in Apo Resettlement, FCT.**

1. What are the activities of juvenile welfare center?
2. What are the specific roles played by JWC in fighting against domestic violence?

#### **SECTION (B)**

##### **Extent to which the conduct of professional investigations into DVAW cases by the JWC improves service delivery to victims of DVAW in Apo Resettlement, FCT**

1. What are the roles played by JWC professional center in service delivery?
2. What categories of women have been helped who are undergoing domestic violence?
3. What services have been offered by professionals to women facing domestic violence?

## **SECTION (C)**

### **Challenges encountered by JWC in its struggle to fight domestic violence against women.**

1. Identify challenges encountered by the juvenile and women center in fighting domestic violence against women?
2. What can be the solutions to the challenges encountered by the JWC in combating domestic violence against women?
3. Any other comment?