

"Attaining Gender Equality in Nigeria through Constitutional Reform: The Kenya

Abstract

The paper examines the purpose of the law in a democratic society which is to allocate the resources of the earth in an equitable manner. It also examines how well Nigeria has allocated its resources between the sexes. To do this, a conceptual definition of gender and equality was given. The paper gave a brief historical analysis of constitutions in Nigeria and observed that constitutions and processes in Nigeria have been gender insensitive. It noted that there is perpetuation of customary and religious practices which negatively affect systems in Nigeria. Furthermore, it noted that the operation of three legal international and regional treaties hampers the growth of women. There is also the problem of domestication of treaties after their ratification. The paper noted that though the constitution of Nigeria prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, discrimination abound in the country, e.g. tax laws, inheritance laws, property right of a woman in the matrimonial home, settlement of defilement of girls, under representation of women in political offices and decision making processes and the lack of a legal framework to back the affirmative action. Finally, the paper makes recommendations for constitutional reform towards attaining gender equality and equity, protection and promotion of the human rights of women in line with the Kenya Constitutional review.