

Historical Analysis of Criminalizing Homosexual Relationships in Nigeria: A Historical Approach

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims basically at examining the menace and the criminalization of homo-sexual relationships in Nigerian society. Gay and lesbian couples are categorized as same-sex relationships. Though they are not easy to identify, they possess peculiar traits which set them apart from ordinary persons. Their activities are generally condemned by most countries on religious and moral grounds. This work has succinctly examined the various causes of homosexuality and its effects on our society. The study adopted a multi-disciplinary approach in its analysis. It employs a historical, expository, interpretative, and analytical method. A secondary source was extensively used in the course of this study. It also evaluates the role or views of different sections in society as regards the activities of homosexuality in our society. Besides, the concepts and analytical tools of economists, sociologists, and theologians were employed throughout the analysis. This ensured that the paradigmatic tool that was used melded perfectly into the overall body of the paper. This was adopted because of the historical nature of the study. It was discovered that homosexuality is largely due to the environment in which one is raised. In other words, homosexuality is induced by a disordered environment. People equally engaged in homosexuality as a result of freedom of association. They feel it is one of their fundamental human rights. To some of the practitioners, it is more economical. There is no fear of pregnancy and some other related expenses involved in a normal relationship.

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1. Introduction

One of the major functions of the family is reproduction. This function allows for the survival of society by replacing older generations with new ones. But this function cannot be carried out without mating between two opposite-sex males and females. But it is rather interesting to note that people of the same sex are now getting married to each other. This act is what is called homosexuality. Thus, homosexuality means a sexual relationship between two adults of the same sex which could be between a man and a man woman, and a woman. Homosexuality is simply a normal variation in the human condition.¹ It occurs in every culture, in, every age, and although a majority is heterosexual, just as some people are left-handed, a minority is homosexual in their

orientation. Is this true, or is homosexuality a disorder, a sign that something has gone wrong in an individual's development? Is homosexuality inevitable for a certain percentage of the world's population, and therefore should simply be accepted, or is it a distortion or dysfunction that should be resisted, and if possible, cured?²

Several countries, particularly in the West, have legalized this act while some countries are still frowning at it. Again some cultures accept this act while some cultures do not accept it. The problem now is that we all have our rights to association and by virtue of this right; we are free to choose whoever we like as a partner.³ But despite the establishment of this right, why is this act still being criminalized in some countries? Should it be legalized at all in spite of the health implications surrounding it? Is there any justification for criminalizing it? These and many more are the issues that are going to be addressed in the course of this write-up.

Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people can become parents through various means including current or former relationships, co-parenting, adoption, donor insemination, and surrogacy.⁴ Scientific research has been generally consistent in showing that gay and lesbian parents are as fit and capable as heterosexual parents, and their children are as psychologically healthy and well-adjusted as children reared by heterosexual parents.⁵

From a research stone on the topic "GAY CULTURE GAINS GROUND ON NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES" by Deep Zone 9:14 am on August 26, 2008, which was posted to the web; Tuesday, August 26, 2008, Sunday Ojeme, Kemi and Obasola and Abimbola Adelokun Analysing the activities of the group. They interviewed a student from one of the universities in far eastern Nigeria a 200-level student who claimed to be gay and proudly said, *"It really helps to be TOP in a gay relationship, the top is the Male in the relationship. He Is also the "KING" while the 'BOTTOM" is the female or the "QUEEN"*⁶ *He went further to explain that the Tops are scarce, unlike Bottoms which are uncountable and less valued in the booming gay market. If you are a "TOP" you get better patronage and you are valued. That is where the big bucks come from. If you are a queen, chances are that you are looking for love, affection, or something like that. You have to spend a lot of money to get a "TOP" that wants you.*

Another student in one of the federal universities in the 'South West who confessed to being involved in the practice under the condition of anonymity, said, *"Most of the successful men we see and hear of in Nigeria today are gays. The promiscuity rate is even higher than that of male and female intimate relationships, so, you tend, to get more patronage as a gay prostitute. If you get a call now to meet so and so in Abuja or even Dubai on an all-expense paid trip won't you be tempted. Sometimes you get as much as 50,000 or 100,000 naira depending on how big the man is."*⁷

According to him, there are causes for gays to meet regularly at, parties, clubs, and other places networking helps any gay male student who is interested in getting to meet clients, and a number of "gay-friendly" clubs have sprung up in some parts of Ikeja and Victoria Island, Lagos State.⁸

Though they are not easy to identify they possess peculiar traits which set them apart from ordinary persons. Just like gigolos, men who indulge in the act are generally fashionable and possess the carriage of women. They are usually meticulous about their looks. Some of them wear earrings, fanciful plaited wristwatches, and some finger rings. Also, some of them use make-up as eye pencils and even apply lipstick. They roll one leg of their pants up; they also have their jeans hanging down.⁹

They use a feminine voice (emotional) whenever they are making overtures. What thrills them in their fellow men are guys with robust backside. Lesbians Some of them prefer to look like a Tomboy. They dress like men but at the same time stay away from men oftentimes, they go in pairs and belong to one social club or the other. They are usually society women who are into big-time business. Musicians and politicians fall prey to such advances. Their meeting points: they meet at clubs, parties, campuses, and churches.¹⁰

2. The Various Concepts or Views of Homosexuality

Like all other phenomena in sociology and social sciences, homosexuality also has many views from different perspectives which include socio-cultural views, religious views, and so on. These views are explained below.

2.1. Socio-cultural view

African sexuality is predominantly heterosexual and devoid of the 'negative' influence of homosexual behavior and fantasies. Even from the view of the major cultural tribes in Nigeria, none agreed with homosexuality but they rather rejected it as anti-Africa, anti-social, and anti-human; hence, this position was further substantiated by David Mark, former Senate President who said "If there is any country that wants to stop giving us aids because we want to pass the bill on same-sex, that country can go ahead (Weeks, 1985) He commented further by saying that we are a sovereign nation and we love the rights to decide for ourselves because no country can interfere in the way we country' and he cited the fact that it is against our culture and social way of life.

Also Ogochukwu Ikeje, a columnist with the Nation newspaper of Saturday, June 29 2013 in an article titled "Again, Cameron hits Nigeria substantiated the comment made by Mark by saying that should we now embrace sodomy and allow man to marry their kind, and women to tie the nuptial knots with women just because we want British aid?

By what strand of logic should that be allowed to stand for us as African Homosexuality and Religion: Islamic Perspective. In Islam, homosexuality is condemned in the story of Lot's people in the Qur'an (7:80-82, 26:165) and in the last address of the Prophet Muhammad, though, attraction of men to beautiful male youths has been a part of the culture of some Muslim societies and the attraction is not generally condemned in itself. With regard to lesbian homosexuality, some have argued that since penetration is not involved, female homosexual acts should be less severely punished. Moreover, Shari'a (Islamic law) is most concerned with public behavior and outward appearances.¹¹

2.2. Homosexuality and the Qur'an

The following passages are taken from the Abdullah Yusuf Ali translation of the Qur'an. "We also sent Lut: He said to his people: Do ye commit lewdness such as no people in creation (ever) committed before you? For ye practice your lusts on men in preference to women: ye are indeed a people transgressing beyond bounds. And his people did not answer but this: they said, "Drive them out of your city: these are indeed men who want to be clean and pure!" (Qur'an 7:80-82),¹²

"Of all the creatures in the world, will ye approach males, And leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your mates? Nay, ye are a people transgressing Call

limits)! They said: "If thou desist not, Lut! Thou wilt assuredly be cast out!" He said "I do detest your doings: "O my Lord! Deliver me and my family from such things as they do!" So we delivered him and his family, all Except an old woman who lingered behind. But the rest we destroyed utterly. We rained down on them a shower (of brimstone): and evil was the shower on those who were admonished (but heeded not)! Verily in this is a Sign: but most of them do not believe. And verily thy Lord is He, the Exalted in Might, Most Merciful." (Qur'an 26:165-175).

"If any of your women are guilty of lewdness, Take the evidence, of four (Reliable) witnesses from amongst you against them; and if they testify, confine them to houses until death do claim them, or Allah ordain for them some (other) way. If two men among you are guilty of lewdness, punish them both. If they repent and amend, leave them alone; for Allah is Oft-returning, 'most Merciful." (Qur'an 4:15-16) ¹³

2.3. Homosexuality in the Sharia

While there is a consensus that same-sex intercourse is in violation of Islamic law, there are differences of opinion within Islamic scholarship about punishment, reformation, and what standards of proof are required before physical punishment becomes lawful.

In Sunni Islam, there are eight madhhabs, or legal schools, of which only four still exist: Hanafi, Shafi'i, Hanbali, and Maliki. The main Shia school is called Ja'fari, but there are Zaidi and Ismai'ili also. More recently, some groups have rejected this tradition in favour of greater ijihad, or individual interpretation. Of these schools, according to Michael Mumisa of the Birmingham-based Al Mahdi Institute.¹⁴

- The Hanafi School does not consider same-sex intercourse to constitute adultery and therefore leaves punishment up to the judge's discretion. Most early scholars of this school specifically ruled out the death penalty, while others allowed it for a second offense.
- Imam Shafi'i considers same-sex intercourse as analogous to other zina; thus, a married person found to have done so is punished as an adulterer (by stoning to death), and an unmarried one, as a fornicator, is left to be flogged.
- The Maliki School says that anyone (married or unmarried found to have committed same-sex intercourse should be punished as an adulterer.
- Within the Ja'fan schools, Sayyid al-Khoi says that anyone (married or unmarried) found to have committed same-sex intercourse should be punished as an adulterer.¹⁵

It should also be noted that the punishment for adultery requires four witnesses; by analogy, all schools, require four witnesses to the physical act of penetration for the punishment to be applied. But if otherwise any other proof is found through modern methods such as DNA testing or so, the punishment can be implemented.

According to the modern Islamic scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi's summary:

"The jurists of Islam have held different opinions concerning the punishment for this abominable practice. Should it be the same as the punishment for *Zina*, or should both the active and passive participants be put to death? While such punishments may seem cruel, they have been suggested to maintain the purity of the Islamic society and to keep. It cleans of perverted elements."

2.4. Homosexuality and the Bible

Christian views on homosexuality sometimes differ between denominations, but they are more commonly seen between liberal and conservative branches of each denomination. As with many Christian debates on ethical issues, the discussion hinges on how the Bible ought to be interpreted, taking into account the historical context and the meaning of specific word.¹⁶

The Bible is the Christian sacred text, regarded as the ultimate authority, by all denominations. It consists of the Old Testament (roughly equivalent to the Jewish Tanakh) and the New Testament. While the New Testament is the specifically Christian part of the Bible, both parts are regarded as authoritative. The following passages are those that are generally considered relevant to the Christian discussion of homosexuality, quoted from the NIV translation in the order they appear in the Bible.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. (Genesis 1:28)¹⁷

The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. "My Lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning."... Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-both young and old-surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.".... They kept putting pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here-sons-in-law, Sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it".... By the time Lot reached Zoar. The sun had risen over the land. Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah-from the LORD out of the heavens. (Genesis 19). Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. (Leviticus 18:22).¹⁸

If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death, their blood will be on their own heads. (Leviticus 20:13).

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men, committed

*indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion (Romans 1:25-27)¹⁹
Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders (1 Corinthians 6:9)²⁰*

Similarly, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the Punishment of eternal fire. (Jude 7)²¹

2.5. Homosexuality and Science

Like religions and cultures, science has also been able to contribute to the issue of explaining homosexuality and scientists have also been able to pass their verdicts on whether it is normal or abnormal for people of the same sex to come together in marriage.

2.6. The Physics of gay marriage

To start with, physics is one of the most important fundamentals of all tensile, and two bar magnets were used in the research. A bar magnet is a horizontal magnet that has the North Pole and the South Pole and when you bring two bar magnets and you bring the North Pole together you find that the two North Poles will not attract. They will repel, that is, they will push away themselves showing that a man should not attract a man. If you bring two South Poles together you find that the two South Poles will not attract indicating that same-sex marriage should not hold. A female should not attract a female as the South Pole of a magnet does not attract the South Pole of a magnet. But, when you bring the North Pole of a magnet and the South Pole of a magnet they will attract because they are not the same, indicating that a man will attract a woman because of the way nature has made a female. Even 'in' physics when you study what is called electrostatics, you find that when you particles together they don't attract each other but when you rub particles in another medium they will attract each other For example, if you use your biro and rub it on your hair, after rubbing, try to bring small pieces of paper they will attract because one is charged while the other one is not charged. But if both of them are charged they don't attract, which means that a man cannot attract another man because they are the same, and a woman should not attract a woman because they are the same²²

2.7. The Chemistry of gay marriage

In Chemistry, chemical reactions were observed and they gave different types of reactions. We have a double decomposition reaction, decomposition reaction, neutralization reaction, and reduction-oxidation reaction. But in chemistry, they use a simple one known as neutralization reaction which is a reaction where an acid reacts with a base to give you salt and water. For example, when you bring sulphuric acid and you react it with sodium hydroxide which is a base you are going to have salted water. That tells you that the acid is a different body, the base is a different body and they will react. But if you bring an acid and you pour it on top of an acid (chemistry) there will be no reaction, if you bring water and pour it on top it shows that there will be no reaction.

If you bring a base of either sodium hydroxide and pour it on top of a sodium hydroxide you will find out that there will be a reaction showing that a man on top of a man will not react.²³ A woman on top of a woman will have no reaction, which is what chemistry shows.

Even in chemistry when you also use a process called electrolysis, which is if you use electrolysis of acidulated water, that is water you drop some droplets of acid on it, you find that the negative ions will be attracted to the positive ones while the positive ions will be attracted to the negative ones, So the negative ones are not attracted to their peers, they are all attracted to the positive electrode and the positive ones are not attracted to the positive electrode. Instead, the negative ion is attracted to Positive electrodes and why is it that the negative is attracted to the positive? It is because they are not the same. Likewise, a man cannot be attracted to a man as the negative ion is not attracted to the negative electrode instead negative ion is attracted to the positive electrode. That is what electrolysis is showing us “that gay marriage is wrong in the area of chemistry.”

2.8. The biology of gay marriage

In Biology, simple experiments are used in order to make the whole process understandable to a layman. We have seen that the female of a fowl is called hen and the male of a fowl is called a cock. We have never seen where a cock is having sex with a cock and we have never seen where a hen is having sex with another. Even among lions when you go to the zoo you find out that a lion does not mate with a lion instead a lion will mate with a lioness showing that a lion being a male will mate with a lioness being a female. Now if animals that are of even lower creatures understand so much, how come human beings made in the higher image of God that even of higher creatures will be thinking of a man having sex with another and a woman having sex with another woman? That shows that it's a misnomer and when you come to real biological standards when you see a lady you love 'there is what is called the follicle-stimulating hormone. The follicle-stimulating hormone in a man rigger what is called spermatogenesis through your brain which is called the hypothalamus. It will send a message to your brain when you see a lady you love and through the hypothalamus, you will go after the lady. It will trigger your spermatogenesis and the lady's host follicles stimulating hormone will be triggered by the hypothalamus and it will stimulate her ovarian follicle. So in the man is then spermatogenesis, in the female it's the ovarian follicle. You find out that the sperm alone does not produce a child and the ovary alone in the female does not produce a child. They need each other for reproduction to occur and the follicle-stimulating hormone in the man and that of the female promote different things. The sperm in the man alone doesn't produce a child and the ovary in the female alone does not produce a child, they need each other for reproduction to occur. So that shows how biology proves that gay marriage is wrong.²⁴

3. Methodology

The study adopted a multi-disciplinary approach in its analysis. It employs a historical, expository, interpretative, and analytical method. Besides, the concepts and analytical tools of theologians, sociologists, and economists were employed throughout the analysis. This ensured that the use of paradigmatic tools melded perfectly into the

overall body of the research. Secondary sources were extensively used in the course of this study.

Secondary sources involved extensively using published books, unpublished works, dissertations, and journal articles. These materials were obtained from the libraries of the University of Lagos, Akoka; Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Administrative Staff College of Nigeria, Badagry; Lagos State University, Ojo; Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, Lagos; University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Ibadan, Ibadan and the College of Theology, Yaba, Lagos. It also includes newspapers, magazines, and electronic materials.

4. Theories of Homosexuality

4.1. Freudian theories of homosexuality

As the founder of the psychoanalytic school of psychology, Freud made numerous references to homosexuality. Taken out of context, Freud can be portrayed as either virulently anti-homosexual (Nicolosi, 1991) or as a closeted friend of gays (McWilliams, 1996). This contradiction has been used to promote both sides of the polarized debate on the theory and treatment of homosexuality.²⁵

Freud's view on homosexuality was certainly tolerant for its time. In 1930, Freud signed statements calling for the decriminalization of homosexual acts in Germany and Austria. When asked whether one ought to undertake to cure homosexuals or make their lot easier by increasing society's tolerance, he replied, "Naturally, the emphasis ought to be put on social measures" (Wortis, 1954, p. 56). Freud understood the burden to be lifted from homoeroticism primarily as a burden society had itself placed there.

Freud 'disputed degeneracy theories' pejorative views (e.g. Krafft-Ebing, as cited in Drescher, 2001), asserting that humans were by nature bisexual. He believed homosexuality to be a variation of the sexual function produced by arrest of sexual development, and attributed homoeroticism to insufficient repression of the original bisexual disposition. Freud argued that sublimated homosexuality was necessary for normal heterosexual function. Similarly, all homosexuals had some heterosexual feelings. Yet, despite his view of constitutional bisexuality as the origin of homoeroticism, and efforts to protect homosexuals from social malevolence, Freud never asserted complete parity between homoeroticism and hetero-eroticism (Wecks, 1985). Freud understood homoeroticism as undesirable sexuality when it was the primary erotic orientation in an 'adult (Drescher, 2001; Murphy, 1992) and believed heterosexuality and reproduction to be the goal of sexual maturation.²⁶

Freud recognized homosexuality in people whose efficiency is unimpaired, and who are, indeed, distinguished by especially high intellectual development and ethical culture such as Plato, Michelangelo, and Leonardo Vinci (Freud, 1905, 1935). He believed 'homoeroticism was not a pathological condition, stating, "I am of the firm conviction that homosexuals must not be treated as sick people... wouldn't that oblige us to characterize as sick many great thinkers and scholars whom we admire precisely because of their mental health?". His resistance to the pathological interpretation of homoeroticism is evident in the 'Dutch Psychoanalytic Association's inquiry about whether a homosexual man should be admitted to psychoanalytic training. Freud declared, "We cannot exclude such persons without other sufficient reasons, as we cannot agree with their legal persecution... a decision should depend upon other qualities of the candidate"²⁷

4.2. *Aetiological theories of homosexuality*

During his lifetime, Freud posed four different theories of the etiology of homosexuality (Lewes, 1988). In each, he addressed a different metapsychological issue to homosexuality, i.e. libido and bisexuality (1905), and narcissism (1910, 1914). Projective mechanisms (1911, 1922), or unsatisfactory Oedipal resolutions (1920, 1922). Each theory refers to a narrowly constructed 'hypothetical homosexual.

Freud used to hypothesize different psycho-developmental events possibility involved in the emergence of adult homosexuality (Drescher, 2001)

1. Homosexuality arises as a result of the Oedipus conflict and the boy's discovery that his mother is 'castrated. This produces intense castration anxiety causing the boy to turn from his castrated, mother to a woman with a penis.
2. In the Three Essays, Freud (1905) theorised that the future homosexual child is so over-attracted to his mother that he identifies with her and narcissistically seeks love objects like himself so he can love them as his mother loved him
3. If a 'negative' or 'inverted' Oedipus complex occurs, a boy seeks his father's love and masculine identification by taking on a feminine identification and reverting to anal eroticism.
4. Finally, homosexuality could result from reaction formation: sadistic jealousy of brothers and fathers is safely converted into love of other men.

While Freud believed the expression of homoeroticism had psychological origins, he did not believe psychoanalysis alone could solve the problem of homosexuality. He argued that explanation beyond this belonged to biology (Freud, 1920). As a result, Freud cautioned against seeing homosexuality as either unequivocally acquired or congenital.²⁸

5. **The Negative Health Effects of Homosexuality**

Reports at a national conference about sexually transmitted diseases indicate that gay men are in the highest risk group for several of the most serious diseases. Scientists believe that the increased number of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) cases is the result of an increase in risky sexual practices by a growing number of gay men who believe HIV is no longer a life-threatening illness.

Instability and promiscuity typically characterize homosexual relationships. These two factors increase the incidence of serious and incurable STDs. In addition, some homosexual behaviours put practitioners at higher risk for a variety of ailments, which include:

Hepatitis: A potentially fatal liver disease that increases the risk of liver cancer

- *Hepatitis A: The Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report published by the CDC reports:*
- *"Outbreaks of hepatitis A among men who have sex with men are a recurring problem in many large cities in the industrialized world."*
- *Hepatitis B: This is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The virus, which is called hepatitis B virus (HBV), can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death. Each year in the United States, more than 200,000 people of all ages contract hepatitis B, and close to 5,000 die of sickness caused by AIDS. The CDC reports that MSM is at increased*

risk for hepatitis B. Hepatitis C is an inflammation of the liver that can cause cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. The virus can lie dormant in the body for up to thirty years before flaring up. Although less so than with hepatitis A and B who engage in unsafe sexual practices remain at increased risk for contracting hepatitis C.

Gonorrhea: inflammatory disease of the genital tract Gonorrhea traditionally occurs on the genitals, but has recently appeared in the rectal region and in the throat. Although, easily treated by antibiotics, according to the CDC only “about 50 percent of men have some signs or symptoms, and “many women who are infected have no symptoms of infection.” Untreated gonorrhea can have serious and permanent health consequences including infertility and damage to the prostate and urethra.²⁹

A CDC report documents significant increases during 1994 to 1997 in rectal gonorrhea. Among MSM,” indicating seriously as the aids epidemic begins to slow, in 1999 the CDC released dis showing that male rectal gonorrhea is increasing among homosexuals amidst an overall decline in national gonorrhea rates. The report attributed the increase to a larger percentage of homosexuals engaging in unsafe sexual behavior.

The incidence of throat Gonorrhea is strongly associated with homosexual behavior The Canadian Medical Association Journal found that “gonorrhea was associated with urethral discharge ... and homosexuality (3.7 times higher than the rate among heterosexuals),” Similarly, a study in the Journal of Clinical Pathology found that homosexual men had a much higher prevalence of pharyngeal (throat) gonorrhea 15.2 percent compared with 4.1 percent for heterosexual men.³⁰

Syphilis: A venereal disease that, if left untreated, can spread throughout the body over time, causing serious heart abnormalities, mental disorders, blindness, and death. The initial symptoms of syphilis are often mild and painless, leading some individuals to avoid seeking treatment. According to the National Institute of Health, the disease may be mistaken for other common illnesses: “Syphilis has sometimes been called ‘the great imitator’ because its early symptoms are similar to those of many other diseases. Early symptoms include rashes, moist warts in the groin area, slimy white patches in the mouth, or pus-filled bumps resembling chicken pox. According to the CDC, “transmission of the organism occurs during vaginal, anal, or oral sex.” In addition, the *Archives of Internal Medicine* found that homosexuals acquired syphilis at a rate ten times that of heterosexuals.

The CDC reports that those who contract syphilis face potentially deadly health consequences: “It is now known that the genital sores caused by syphilis in adults also make it easier to transmit and acquire HIV infection sexually. There is a two of fivefold increased risk of acquiring HIV infection when syphilis is present.”

Women risk contracting HIV/AIDS through sexual relations with infected MSM According to the CDC, “HIV infection among U.S. women has increased significantly over the last decade, especially in communities of color cdc estimate that, in the United States, between 120,000 and 160,000 adult and adolescent females are living with HIV infection, including those with AIDS.” In 1999, for example, most of the women (40 percent) reported with AIDS were infected through heterosexual exposure to HIV. That number is actually higher, as “historically, more than two-thirds of AIDS cases among as heterosexual transmission.”³¹

Homosexuals with HIV are at increased risk for developing other life-threatening diseases. A paper delivered at the Fourth International AIDS Malignancy Conference at the National Institutes of Health reported that homosexual men with HIV have “a 37-fold increase in anal cancer, a 4-fold increase in Hodgkin’s disease (cancer of the lymph nodes), a 2.7-fold increase in cancer of the testicles, and a 2.5 fold increase in lip cancer.”

AIDS incidence is on the rise among teens and young adults. The CDC reports that “even though AIDS incidence (the number of new cases diagnosed during a given, time period, usually a year) is declining, there’ has not been a comparable decline in the number of newly diagnosed I-L-W cases among youth.

Anal Cancer: Homosexuals are at increased risk for this rare type of cancer, which is potentially fatal if the anal-rectal tumors metastasize to other bodily organs. Dr Joel Palefsky, a leading expert in the field of anal cancer, reports that while the incidence of anal cancer in the United States is only 0.9/100,000, that number soars to 35/100,000 for homosexuals. That rate doubles again for those who are HIV positive, which, according to Dr. Palefsky, is “roughly ten times higher than the current rate of cervical cancer.”³²

Gay Bowel Syndrome (GBS): The Journal of the American Medical Association refers to GBS problems such as proctitis, proctocolitis, and enteritis as “sexually transmitted gastrointestinal syndromes”. Many of the bacterial and protozoa pathogens that cause GBS are found in feces and transmitted to the digestive system: According to the pro-homosexual text *Anal Pleasure and Health*, “[s]exual activities provide many opportunities for my amounts of contaminated feces to find their way into the mouth of a sexual partner. The most direct route is oral-anal contact”.

Proctitis and Proctocolitis are inflammations of the rectum and colon that cause path, bloody rectal discharge, and rectal spasms. Proctitis is associated with STDs such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, and syphilis which are widespread among homosexuals. The Sexually Transmitted Disease Information Center of the Journal of the American Medical Association reports that “Proctitis occurs predominantly among persons who participate in anal intercourse.”³³

Enteritis: Is inflammation of the small intestine, According to the Sexually Transmitted Disease Information Center of the Journal of the American Medical Association, “enteritis occurs among those whose sexual practices include oral-fecal contact. “Enteritis can cause abdominal pain, severe cramping, tightened diarrhea, fever, malabsorption of nutrients, and weight loss. According to a report in *The Health Implications of Homosexuality* by the Medical Institute for Sexual Health, some pathogens associated with enteritis and proctocolitis (see below) “appear only to be sexually transmitted among men who have sex with men”.

HIV/AIDS: Among Homosexuals, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is responsible for causing AIDS, for which there exists no cure. Homosexual men are the largest risk category. The CDC reports that homosexuals comprise the single largest exposure category of the more than 600,000 males with AIDS in the United States. As of December 1999, “men who have sex with men” and “men who have sex with men and inject drugs” together accounted for 64 percent of the cumulative total of male AIDS cases.³⁴

At the Fourth International AIDS Malignancy Conference at the National Institutes of Health in May 2000. Dr. Andrew Grulich announced that the incidence of anal cancer

among homosexuals with HIV was raised 37-fold compared with the general population.”

Compulsive Behavior among Lesbians. A study published in *Nursing Research* found that lesbians are three times more likely to abuse alcohol and suffer from other compulsive behaviors: “Like more likely to abuse alcohol, 32 (91 percent) of the participants had abused other drugs as well as alcohol, and many reported compulsive difficulties with food (34 percent), codependency (29 percent), sex (1 percent), and money (6 percent).” In addition, “Forty-six percent had been heavy drinkers with frequent drunkenness.”

6. Alcohol Abuse among Homosexuals and Lesbians

The *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* (1994) reports that lesbian women consume alcohol more frequently, and in larger amounts, than heterosexual women. Lesbians were at significantly greater risk than heterosexual women for both binge drinking (19.4 percent compared to 11.7 percent) and for heavy drinking (7 percent compared to 2.7 percent).

Although the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* article found no significant connection between male homosexuals and alcohol abuse, a study in *Family Planning Perspective* concluded that male homosexuals were at greatly increased risk for alcoholism: “among men, by far the most important risk group consisted of homosexual and bisexual men, who were more than nine times as likely as heterosexual men to have a history of problem drinking.” The study noted that problem drinking may contribute to the “significantly higher STD rates among gay and bisexual men.” *Violence in Lesbian and Homosexual Relationships* (Liddle, 1996).

- A study in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (1997), examined conflict and violence in lesbian relationships. The researchers found that 90 percent of the lesbians surveyed had been recipients of one or more acts of verbal aggression from their intimate partners during the year before this study, with 31 percent reporting one or more incidents of physical abuse.

In a survey of 1,099 lesbians, the *Journal of Social Service Research* found that “slightly more than half of the [lesbians] reported that they had been abused by a female lover/partner. The most frequently indicated forms of abuse were verbal/emotional/psychological abuse and combined physical-psychological abuse.” In their book *Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them: Battered Gay Men and Domestic Violence*, D. Island and P. Letellier report that “the incidence of domestic violence among gay men is nearly double that in the heterosexual population.

7. High Incidence of Mental Health Problems among Homosexuals and Lesbians.

A national survey of lesbians published in the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* found that 75 percent of the nearly 2,000 respondents had pursued psychological counseling of some kind, many for treatment of long-term depression or sadness:

Among the sample as a whole, there was a distressingly high prevalence of life events and behaviors related to mental health problems. Thirty-seven percent had been physically abused and 32 percent had been raped or sexually attacked. Nineteen percent had been involved in incestuous relationships while growing up. Almost one-third used

tobacco on a daily basis and about 30 percent drank alcohol more than once a week; 6 percent drank daily. One in five smoked marijuana more than once a month. Twenty-one percent of the sample had thoughts about suicide sometimes or often and 18 percent had actually tried to kill themselves... More than half had felt too nervous to accomplish ordinary activities at some, time during the past year and over one-third had been depressed.³⁵

8. Greater Risk for Suicide

A study of twins that examined the relationship between homosexuality and suicide, published in the Archives of General Psychiatry, found that homosexuals with same-sex partners were at greater risk for overall mental health problems, and were 6.5 times more likely than their twins to have attempted suicide. The higher rate was not attributable to mental health or substance abuse disorders.

Another study published simultaneously in Archives of General Psychiatry followed 1,007 individuals from birth. Those classified as 'gay, lesbian, or bisexual were significantly more likely to have had mental health problems. Significantly, in his comments on the studies in the same issue of the Journal, D. Bailey cautioned against various speculative explanations of the results, such as the view that "widespread prejudice against homosexual people causes such as unhappy or worse, mentally ill." Reduced Life Span. A study published in the International Journal of Epidemiology on the mortality rates of homosexuals concluded that they have a significantly reduced life expectancy.³⁶

In a major Canadian center, life expectancy at age twenty for gay and bisexual men is eight to twenty years less than for all men. If the same pattern of mortality were to continue, we estimate that nearly half of gay and bisexual men currently aged twenty years will not reach their sixty-fifth birthday. Under even the most liberal assumptions, gay and bisexual men in this urban center are now experiencing a life expectancy similar to that experienced by all men in Canada in the year.

9. Rejection of same-sex relationships in Nigeria

On 18 January 2007, the cabinet of Nigeria approved the Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act 2006 and sent it to the National Assembly for urgent action. The bill, however, did not pass. On 29 November 2011, the Senate of Nigeria passed the "Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Bill, 2011. It was passed on 30 May 2013 by the House of Representatives of Nigeria. If signed into law by President Goodluck Jonathan, the bill would:

- Make a marriage contract or civil union entered into between persons of the same sex "invalid and illegal and not recognized as entitled to the benefits of a valid marriage"
- make void and unenforceable in Nigeria a marriage contract or civil union entered into between persons of the same sex by virtue of a certificate issued by a foreign country
- prohibit the solemnization of any marriage or civil, union entered into between persons of the same sex, "in any place of worship either Church or Mosque or any, other place or whatsoever called in Nigeria" V
- prohibit the registration of "gay clubs, societies and organizations, their sustenance,

- “Processions and meetings”
- prohibit the “public show of same-sex amorous relationship directly or indirectly”
- make a person who enters into a same-sex marriage contract or civil union liable for
- make a person who “registers, operates or participates in gay clubs, societies, and organization, or directly or indirectly make public, the show of same-sex amorous relationship in Nigeria” liable for 10 years imprisonment make a person or group of persons that “witness, abet and aids the solemnization of a ‘V same-sex marriage or civil union, or supports the registration, operation and
- sustenance of gay clubs, societies, organizations, processions or meetings in Nigeria” liable for 10 years imprisonment
- Define “civil union” for purposes of this law to mean “any arrangement between persons of the same sex to live together as sex partners, and include such descriptions as adult independent relationships, caring partnerships, civil partnerships, civil solidarity pacts, domestic partnerships, reciprocal beneficiary relationships, registered partnerships, significant relationships, stable unions, etc³⁷

10. Conclusion

In conclusion, from the foregoing analysis, it could be rightly said that criminalizing homosexuality in Nigeria is highly welcome since no culture, tradition religion, or history in Nigeria supports it.

This work has succinctly examined the various causes of homosexuality. It was discovered that homosexuality is largely due to the environment in which one is raised. In other words, homosexuality is induced by a disordered environment.

People equally engage in homosexuality as a result of freedom of association. They feel it is one of their fundamental human rights.

Again, it was observed that some people are involved in homosexual activity for economic reasons. To the practitioners, it is more economical. There is no fear of pregnancy and some other related expenses involved in a normal relationship.

Finally, various punitive measures as well as several legal codes concerning homosexual issues were equally examined. Historical methodology was adopted in the course of examining this problem.

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