

Effectiveness of women's collectives in Nigeria and Malawi⁹

In Nigeria, the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women campaign contributed to the passage of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Bill in 2013. The new law includes a more comprehensive definition of rape, stricter sentences, compensation for victims of rape and other sexual offences, protection from further abuse through restraining orders, and a fund to support victim rehabilitation.

In Malawi, Let Girls Lead's Adolescent Girls' Advocacy and Leadership Initiative significantly contributed to the drafting and enactment of local bylaws to eradicate child marriage. The initiative included advocacy with village chiefs and traditional leaders. Adolescent girls interviewed after the bylaws came into effect reported cases of girls leaving marriages and returning to school, and they noted that the new penalties and associated community disapproval were deterring child marriage.

⁹ https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Gender/Voice_and_agency_LOWRES.pdf