

Sen. Oluremi Tinubu

First Lady of Nigeria
Aso Rock Villa, Three Arms Zone
Abuja 900103
Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

CC: Imman Sulaiman-Ibrahim

Honorable Minister
Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
Shehu Shagari Wy, Asokoro
Abuja 900103
Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

July 1, 2025

Collective Petition to End Forced Marriage and Conversion of Girls in Nigeria

Dear Mrs. Tinubu,

We, the undersigned, represent a group of diverse individuals deeply disturbed by the prominence of forced marriage and religious conversion in Nigeria. This practice robs thousands of Nigeria's young Christian girls of their dignity and innocence.

As a mother, wife, and Christian, you understand the sanctity of childhood and the responsibility that parents, communities, and governments share in protecting our most vulnerable.

Our concern centers on the rising cases of young Christian girls being abducted, coerced into forced marriages, and subsequently converted to Islam, often against their parent's knowledge.

Here are just a few examples:

- **In January 2020**, 15-year-old Sadiya Amos was [kidnapped in Kaduna State](#) and forced to convert to Islam by her captors. She had been taken from her family and subsequently married to one of her abductors.
- **In October 2023**, Dorcas Adedayo Adekanola, a 20-year-old Christian student at Kaduna State University, was abducted and [forced to convert to Islam](#).
- **In March 2024**, 15-year-old Cecilia Matthews was [abducted by an Islamic cleric](#) and forcibly married and converted to Islam in Yobe State.
- And most recently, in **March 2025**, a 16-year-old girl in Adamawa State was [secretly coerced](#) by Muslim leaders to convert to Islam.

These terrible acts violate fundamental human rights and inflict severe emotional and psychological trauma on these young girls. The impact of these crimes is devastating, not only to the young victims but also to their families and communities. Forcing a young girl into marriage and conversion undermines her fundamental right to education, self-determination, and personal dignity. It stifles her potential and strips her of the opportunity to live a life of freedom, peace, and purpose, as God intended.

As Christians from across the world, we appeal to your Christian faith and your leadership as First Lady to take a stand against this injustice. We urge you to:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Use your voice and influence to draw attention to the plight of these young girls. Through advocacy, media campaigns, and partnerships with relevant organizations, we can raise awareness of this issue and bring it to the forefront of national discourse.
2. **Support Legislative Action:** Work with lawmakers to ensure that the laws protecting young girls from forced marriages and religious conversion are strengthened and enforced. Advocate for legal reforms, especially in Nigeria's 12 northern states that practice Sharia law, provide clear safeguards for the rights of minors and offer stronger penalties for perpetrators.
3. **Create Safe Spaces:** Advocate for the establishment of safe havens and rehabilitation programs for young girls who have been victims of forced marriage and conversion. These spaces would provide the necessary emotional, physical, and spiritual healing while empowering these girls to reclaim their future.
4. **Collaborate with Religious and Civil Society Groups:** Partner with Christian organizations, like International Christian Concern, and human rights advocates to amplify the voices of the victims.

Your Excellency, we humbly request that you lend your voice and leadership to protecting these young Christian girls from the horrors of forced marriage and conversion. Your intervention in this matter can bring about the change that is so desperately needed.

May God continue to bless you and guide you in all your endeavors. We look forward to your support and the positive change your intervention will bring.

Sincerely,
International Christian Concern

And the undersigned: