

MANAGING GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURAL NORMS: IMPACT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LEGISLATION ON STATE AUTONOMY

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Abstract

The foundational role of heterosexual unions in human society is undeniable, serving as the origin of human existence and the family structure. This study addresses the imperative of upholding traditional heterosexual relationships within the context of the contemporary push for same-sex marriage (SSM) rights, which challenges established norms. The significance of the heterosexual partnership as the fundamental principle of human society, as espoused by Udokang (2000:154), underscores the potential societal consequences if this principle is violated or distorted.

In this landscape, where Western societies and their allies advocate for the global acceptance of same-sex marriage, the need to safeguard citizens' United Nations human rights is paramount. Nigeria, like many other nations, staunchly opposes same-sex marriage. The Anti-gay (Prohibition) Act of 2013, signed into law by Nigeria's former President, Goodluck Jonathan, reflects this stance, imposing severe penalties for contravening the legislation.

However, criticisms from international entities, such as Ms. Navi Pillay, assert that Nigeria's position on same-sex marriage is inconsistent with international law. This paper contends that the internationalization of human rights places limitations on states' autonomy to regulate the treatment of both citizens and aliens. The struggle between upholding cultural and traditional values and adhering to evolving global standards of human rights is a central theme in this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

There is no gainsaying the fact that human society arose and remains through the family or the natural appetite between opposite sexes. It is the heterosexual union between man and woman, male and female, not the reverse that gives birth to human beings including advocates of same-sex marriage (SSM) relationship. Udokang (2000:154) conceived this arrangement as “the first and original principle of human society” which can never be violated or distorted without potential tragic consequences. Therefore, the call to evolve more proficient ways of guaranteeing and appropriating the UN human rights of citizens could not have come at a time better than now

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that the West and their allies are canvassing for support to globalize the entire human race with same-sex marriage practice.

Nigeria, like most countries of the world, is 99 percent anti-gay or same-sex marriage. Consequently, Nigeria's former President, Goodluck Jonathan, on January 13, 2014 signed into law the Anti-gay (Prohibition) Act 2013 with 14 years of imprisonment and/or death penalty for anyone flouting the legislation. Uganda followed suit the succeeding month with tougher penalties; even the US Arizona State same month abhorred gay union as does Russia without President Obama raising eye brows. But due to the poor socio-political, economic, scientific and technological status of their target countries, Ms. Navi Pillay said Nigeria's position on homosexuality or same-sex marriage laws contravened international law and must be resisted, fought and ended (Etimette, 2014; Ogundele, 2014; Uwalaka, 2014). Invariably, the assertion that due to the internationalization of human rights, a state is no longer free to treat its nationals and aliens the way it pleases, is indeed what this paper articulates and will yet do.

Notably, pro-gay have argued that so long as governments and leaders who oppose them are members of the UN and as signatories of various human rights laws in the UN treaties, they are bound to oblige the US position. This they say with little consideration for the fact that no international law, with respect to state sovereignty can function in any state without it being domesticated through legislative processes by the National Assembly of a given country (Adebambo, 2014). Another argument seeking to justify gay laws is that homosexuals are capable of no other sexual activities – being born so. Meanwhile scientists and medical experts refute in entirety, the existence of such gene (Muanya, 2014). They rather reveal a lot on health implications of same-sex marriage to include Anal Cancer, Genital Warts, HIV/AIDS and other serious health risks constantly ignored by homosexuals. Really this is where globalization as the extension, expansion and intensification of interests of world powers to places and people for good or for bad speaks volumes.

Advocacy for same-sex marriage in the current world system appears to have grossly undermined not only the sovereign status of states but, also the first and original principle of human society called “family”. Similarly, the basis of their argument that the gay “having been created by nature as such, it is unfair for the society to discriminate against their sexual preferences” is devoid of the needed cogency (Agbiti 2007:15). One wonders why the advocates would not proffer the same arguments for “the kleptomaniacs, nymphomaniacs and those with obsession to kill without justification, who all claims (sic) to be victims of instinctive compulsion”. Refuting this claim, the Nigeria Coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) posited: “There is no such gene as a homosexual gene! Therefore we reject born that way fallacy” (Muanya (2004).

In the same vein, Natural law thinkers, Robert George and John Finnis revealed that “People with homosexual or heterosexual tendencies who really intend to use their sexual appetites in morally right ways will not engage in homosexual acts” (Ukachukwu, 2014:13). It is the contention of this paper that the state-based ethical cum domestication provisions in the UN charter for rights of sovereignty, dignity of human person and their allies are untenable due to human rights pursuits without traditional or God's kind of morality.

As a polarized global phenomenon, the Western states divide are the US, UK, Canada and, the non-Western states - Africa and others. The West are promoting and over-liberalizing individual rights, as opposed to Africa and others' conservative – collective right of the society. The West couldn't be any less formidable owing to a number of collaborators among which are Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, governmental and other nongovernmental agents currently engaged in threats, pressure, lobbying and advocacy-drives in poor countries like Nigeria. Historically speaking, it could be recalled that twenty-four years ago, the cureless dreaded disease, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) started in the US as a result of sexual promiscuity involving man and animal. Ironically, the same America is spearheading the spread and legalization of another form of bestiality (same-sex marriage) in all countries of the world.

It is imperative to note at this point that as at 2007, no fewer than “67 of the then 192 member countries of the United Nations including all the European Union member states and the United States” supported the proposal co-sponsored by Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay to stop anti-gay or same-sex marriage laws. Conversely, Syria initiated counter proposal “signed by 57 member nations, including all 27 nations of the Arab League as well as Iran and North Korea”. In Africa, South Africa, as lately as 2006 signed into law the freedom for homosexuals to

contract same-sex marriage. In February 2014, President Yoweri Museveni, who, to many (due to America's threat), seemed gullible and vulnerable, suddenly, like his Nigeria's counterpart, President Goodluck Jonathan, proved his worth by signing the anti-gay law with death penalty. In the meantime, Uganda reportedly goes tougher than Nigeria, as women wearing miniskirts are stripped naked publicly by the Police. As at 2011, homosexual behaviour was illegal in 76 countries and punishable by execution in seven others ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) April, 2014).

The paper's attempt at understanding the pulse of international society on globalization and same-sex marriage laws is limited to examining issues and prospects for states' sovereignty using the UN human rights laws as the basis. In doing this, the paper considered some selected case studies on same-sex marriage laws in the United States of America, Nigeria, China, and Britain. Consequently, the paper sought to answer some vital questions, viz: To what extent is same-sex marriage related to globalization and state sovereignty in contemporary international system? What could be responsible for the US moral/ethnic decline after it had attained unprecedented scientific/technical heights? These questions constitute the major thrust of this paper. Therefore, their answers will aid in recommending possible ways to checkmate the excesses of the US team and advise targeted vulnerable countries on the way forward.

Conceptual Clarification

Globalization

Globalization as a process is better described than defined if its essence and practices are to be fully grasped. Marshal (1998, in Engwemi and Usman, 2010:187) itemized the description to include among others: existence of a world satellite information system; the emergence of global patterns of consumption system and consumerism; the decline of the sovereignty of the nation state; the emergence of world political systems such as the League of Nations and the United Nations; the development of world-wide health problems such as AIDS; extension of human rights and the complex interchange between world religions, inter/intra cultural groupings and ethical or moral issues. These and lots more constitute emerging issues and/or factors towards global consciousness.

According to Kessler (cited in Ikpe, 2010:284), globalization "is the expression and shrinking of the world in terms of time, space and distance; manifesting in the way in which, and the speed with which money and communications generally move round the world. Through this process, the world has been compressed into a "television screen". In other words, globalization, as exemplified by (Ikpe, 2010:384-385) anchors on speedy communications in that:

In 1776 it took 50 days for news of the English reaction to the American Declaration of Independence to get back to the United State. In 1950, British reaction to the outbreak of the Korean wars was broadcast in America in 24 hours. With advances in satellite broadcasting, reports filmed in Britain now take a mere 25 seconds to reach American TV screens and vice versa. We now take for granted the almost immediate transmission of newsworthy events around the world.

Same-sex Marriage

Same-sex marriage is a legally recognized relationship between two people of the same sex. The concept, like most others in social sciences, not only lacks a universally accepted definition due to its newness, absurdity, strangeness, abrasive and embarrassing disposition. Descriptively, Same-sex marriage is the marriage relationship between persons of same sex (man to man, woman to woman). Same-sex marriage is homosexual in nature and structure. It is institutional like its heterosexual opponent. It is made up of branches such as: Lesbianism, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Homosexuality, Alternative sexual orientation among others. While Lesbianism involves women only, Homosexuality and Gay involves men in particular. Gay is more synonymous with same-sex. The "Alternative Sexual Orientation" as Etimette (2014:19) explained, is an act of "a man poking his genital" or male organ "into a fellow man's anus, and a woman sucking a fellow woman's" vagina to satisfy sexual urge or just for the fun of it. Again, this forms the basis and essence of Same-sex marriage which America and her allies are determined to indoctrinate the rest of the world with.

Human Rights Laws

Human rights are moral principles regularly protected as legal rights in national and international laws. They are supposed to be universal, egalitarian and persuasive, not forceful. In recapitulation, the laws though applicable everywhere, the same for everyone, no sovereign state can be forced to obey or apply any of them without first and foremost domesticating it as an act of the National Assembly.

According to John (2000:45), of the three major rights (Civil Rights, Legal Rights and Human Rights), human rights is the most problematic. To him, the first two rights vary from state to state while the last right is global, inalienable and claimable by man as a member of the human race or family. Shaw (2005:148), while linking human rights with ethics/morality see chances of their successful implementation only as they reflect values of the state or community. Otherwise the totalitarian collective Soviet Union would not have endorsed the UN Human Rights Treaties. The Westerners (America and Europe) value individual rights as opposed to Asian-Chinese value for honest, effective and efficiency government or collective society as does Africa. Be it also noted that virtually all matters that today would be classified as human rights issues were in the 19th century universally regarded as within the internal sphere of national jurisdiction.

State Sovereignty and International System

Sovereignty has to do with supreme authority. Its classical form implies supreme control of the state over its domestic affairs including its citizens at home or abroad, over aliens residing within the state except those enjoying diplomatic immunity. Contemporarily, sovereignty is limited to the rules and procedures for decision-making which admit of flexibility instead of rigidity or risk relevance in the current world system. To many, sovereignty of states died before the 20th century while others still believe in its existence as the basis of interaction. The above views could be supported by the frowning of the United States, European Union, and United Nations on the signing into law anti-gay marriage with death penalty by Nigeria and Uganda, and the fact that “constitutional arrangements of Japan and Germany were directed by the United States after World War II. The United Kingdom, despite its rejection of the Euro, is part of the European Union” (Eminue, 2001:144).

On the other hand, international system could be defined as the study of the interactions among the various actors that participate in international politics, including states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, sub-national entities, and individuals. It was the concept of globalization that shaped and brought about the system in its contemporary form (Shrinkage of the World) through advancement in modern technology, the source added. Comparatively, the law is above individuals in domestic system, but international law exists as between the states. Individuals only have the choice to obey it or not. Legal structure and authority in states are hierarchical and vertical while the international system is horizontal, consisting of over 190 independent states legally sovereign and equal (Shaw, 2005). For instance, it was the impact of the Second World War and its aftermath which necessitated the drive for adequate international system to maintain international peace and protection of human rights.

Be it noted at this point that in spite of Article 2(7) which provides that “nothing contained in the present charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state, this has over the years been flexibly interpreted, so that human rights issues are no longer recognized as being solely within the domestic jurisdiction of states” (Shaw, 2005:258-259). Accordingly, Owugah (2003:253) contended that:

We are now in an international system in which the United States, as the only super power, bestrides the world like a colossus, supported by the European Union and Japan with their transnational corporations (TNCs), the IMF/WB and the WTO as the agents or institutions of globalization charged with the responsibility of imposing and supervising the effective implementation of the principles of free market system on the weak, underdeveloped and dependent economies in the South.

It is also worth noting that globalization policies have ostensibly turned from the promised development, technological advancement, peace, and high standard of living into exploitation, threats, suppression, poverty, confusion, sodomy and moral depravity.

Theoretical Framework

The paper adopted the cyclical (Rise-and-Fall) theory as the framework for analysis because apart from its ability to examine the apparent paradoxical moral decline surrounding the UN Human Rights laws and the US purportedly established morality, the theory adequately captures and explains most of the variables and dynamics that inform prospective effects of globalization on same-sex marriage, state sovereignty and other related issues. The cyclical theory was developed by Oswald Spengler and Theodore Caplow (Ikpe, 2010:446-447). The theory argues that societies grow, reach a peak and then inevitably decline. Ikpe joined historians and other social thinkers to observe the conformity of past civilizations - Egyptians, Babylonian, Cretan, Greek, Carthaginian, Roman and others to the cyclical process of birth, growth and decline within a span of five thousand years. Toynbee and Caplan (1972 cited in Ikpe, 2010) equated the noted societal tendency with the life cycle of man - birth, grow to maturity, aged and then die.

Therefore, protagonists of the cyclical theory see those social changes as normal and inevitable. Akpan (2003:296) corroborated the above position by observing that “in most cases, just as such nations reached the apogee of materialism and culture or consolidate the gains they already had, they declined and fell and were replaced by other power centres”. He cited Greek, Rome, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Britain, France and Russia as another set of case study of the theory.

With regard to the West, cyclical theorist, Oswald Spengler blamed its decline, supposedly in the 70s, on the replacement of energetic social builders by entrenched minorities who rule by force (Andreson and Taylor, 2008 in Ikpe). Ikpe observed that though Oswald’s prediction of the decline and rise of the West and Asian countries respectively has not occurred in the envisaged forms, Asian countries such as China, Japan, India and the so called Asian Tigers are actually emerging as economic and technological powers. Owing to the above submission, and the fact that leadership (human factor), according to Akpan (2003:300), “not geography, population, natural resources, political structure or system, military strength etc. constitutes the greatest determinant of national power”, it is the contention of this paper that the same human factor constitutes the decline and fall in the same degree albeit negatively (Ojo, 2014:23; Isu, 2014:14).

Furthermore, another major cyclical theorist, Theodore Caplow (1991 cited in Ikpe, 2010) also analysed cyclical theory using three different cycles viz: (1) Idealistic culture, (2) Ideational culture, and (3) Sensate culture. In the idealistic culture, the society struggles with tension arising from what is considered ideal and practical (Ikpe, 2010). It is a period involving contradicting issues like same-sex marriage and state sovereignty with the society trying to establish, reconcile and legalize the controversies involving contesting groups. Again, Anderson and Taylor (2008) in the Ikpe uses America to illustrate idealistic culture thus: that as regards American situation, the constitution and other legal documents and protocols emphasizes “equality for all despite intractable racial class, and gender stratification in the American society”. This is followed by ideational culture which according to Caplow (1991), operates in the spiritual dimension. This is where several faith-based and religious groups claim solution to individual and societal moral decadence ostensibly and ironically propagated by America in the name of fostering equality and human rights laws globally.

In his sensate culture, a behavioural pattern of people in the society is hedonistic or pleasure-driven with indulgence in alcohol, drugs, music, sex et cetera. The culture, he added, “grows to a level where it becomes abhorring or unacceptable to a larger number of people and resulting in the society seeking solutions once again in the idealistic culture which completes and begin the cycle again”.

Homosexuality and Other Related Same-Sex Marriage Acts

In less than one month after anti-gay law in Nigeria has been signed by the President, the *Punch Newspaper* of February 11, 2014 reported the arraignment in Ibadan Magistrate Court of two NYSC members for engaging in homosexuality with a pupil. The culprits were reported by the prosecutor to have “procured and got hold of the male pupil, (themselves being males) took him into a room, laid him on a bed, caressed him and orally sucked his manhood until the minor ejaculated”. They were granted bail in the sum of ₦100,000.00 each with one blood relation as surety.

Relatively too, is the fact that while other people in other parts of the world celebrate the tying of marital knots, divorce is the most celebrated event in Japan now. The story reveals that requests for divorces have tripled (with

expensive average of 55,000 Yen) ceremonies to mark the transition of the couples to their former single status since the 9.0 magnitude earthquake of March 11, 2013 which set off a massive Tsunami. Divorcees confess after ceremonies of their feeling relieved to make clean breaks.

Femi (2008:16) reported of incest involving one of the former Nigeria's Presidents with his daughter in-law. Similarly, *The Sermon Newspaper* of July 29, 2008 carried on its front page picture of a man caught having sex with goat. The man, a Sudanese, was ordered by community elders to pay the sum of 15,000 Sudanese Dinass (\$50, about ₦18,250) as dowry for his goat-wife. The man pleaded for pardon as he claimed ignorant of what moved him to such an abominable act (Silas, 2008:1-3). As if those sexual abuses were not enough, a newspaper report with the caption "Sacrilege" carried the picture of a man of God, and a pack of used condom a worshipper gave as an offering in his church. The man of God wept over what he called "man's ingratitude to God". He saw this as a way of mocking God by the antiChrist. He particularly decried the approval of same-sex marriage by some countries of the world, "describing the constitutional recognition accorded to such couples as an indication of the reign of anti-Christ in the world" (Oti, 2013).

Oladinde (2010:40) sees homosexuality as being caused by pornography, masturbation and the like, not necessarily, generic, hormonal, congenital, and biologically pre-determined or mental illness as speculated by some scientists, biologists and social engineers. He went on to advice that any counselee should see the act as a sin against Allah's marital laws in the Holy Qur'an and make effort to repent and go through a process of deliverance or rehabilitation.

Issues and Prospects for States Sovereignty in the Globalization and Same-Sex Marriage Laws Discourse

Globalization has led to internationalization of most issues in human and state existence. And due to the internationalization of human rights, a state is no longer free to treat its nationals and aliens the way it pleases; and the extent to which a sovereign state can use the human rights laws to treat its citizens and non-citizens seem unjustly grossly limited. On the front burner now is the much heated, debated and polarized issue of same-sex marriage laws. As earlier stated in the problem statement, the paper contends that same-sex marriage is a product of serious moral decay; and the UN Human Rights laws purportedly founded on morality have woefully failed. More so, western morality is paradoxically war against humanity and divinity. It does not require amendment but sincere restoration replacement of the philosophy of the founding fathers like George Washington with the motto: "In God We Trust". Outside this fundamentally therapeutic ethics/morality grounds, there remains little hope for America and its same-sex marriage allies. Oke and Esikot (1999:85) postulated that though ethics lack the capacity to make one moral, it offers the individual excellent mental training in the analysis and evaluation of moral problems and cases. In other words, with ethics, they added, the individuals are well equipped with requisite knowledge to objectively deal with vital moral issues and not to base judgment on emotion, sentiment and generally held opinions.

Undoubtedly, the current controversial gay or same-sex marriage advocacy is driven by contemporary Western morality. In January 2014, following the signing into law of the antigay law by Nigeria's President Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan with death penalty on culprits and 14 years imprisonment on their accomplice(s), the Western and European World Powers have been raising eyebrows. Some of their representatives, Robert Fitzpatrick, Head of Press and Public Affairs, William Hague, British Foreign Secretary, stormed Abuja to contend that Nigeria's position on the bill is a direct infringement "on fundamental right of expression and association which are guaranteed by the Nigerian International treaty obligations", and that they are concerned about the prospect of this action on homosexuals. They promised sanctions and increased pressure against Nigeria and indeed any country that is anti-gay until they succumb to their bid (Chukwu and Akinola, 2014). The envoy in their moral dilemma statement added that as far as issues of human rights are concerned, they are "not telling Nigeria what kind of legislation to practice, or advocating for homosexuality, or what same-sex marriage should be. We are not imposing our own morality or culture. Indeed, western morality, as opposed to the traditional, cannot be any less denied".

Obviously, these statements are not only ostensible and diplomatic; they are exhibits of minds full of guilt. Be that as it may, the position of this paper as earlier stated remains that advocates of same-sex marriage are morally bankrupt and fraught with over-liberalization of immoral issues such as incessant divorces, fornication and

adultery euphemistically called “fun” in the West; over-pampering of children etc., all in the name of human rights promotion and protection. Given the stated problems of the US on one side and, that of the economically vulnerable countries on the other, we observe that as a desideratum, America should retrace its steps back to the ethical/moral philosophies of their founding fathers or risk global relevance in the nearest future; and for economically vulnerable countries like Nigeria, Onwuka (2014) opined that the best way to resist America’s obnoxious amoral demands is to evolve means and explore all there is to achieve buoyant and enticing economy like China, Saudi-Arabia, Russia, among others, which have not only refuted gay practice but are totalitarian and dictatorial in many human rights issues like using undue force to detain dissidents on peaceful demonstrations; cutting of the limbs or killing of those found guilty of minor offences.

Evidently, China has not only fast-taken-over African market from them (Ogundele, 2014), it is the US largest creditor to the tune of \$1.317 as at November 2013, (Onwuka, 2014). Another example is Saudi-Arabia which the US would not like to be seen as anti-Islam or being ungrateful for Saudi’s highest patronage of their arms sales worth \$60 billion (largest anywhere till date) the source added. In sum, and indirectly, the main advantage of American ideologies ranging from democracy, economic policies, globalization et cetera is in the challenges it poses on countries to fight their way through or continue to suffer subjugation in many areas of their existence.

Possible Pathways to Same-Sex Marriage Practice

Although there may not be any known available causes of homosexuality or same-sex marriage, available reports and confessions point in the following directions:

Masturbation or Fantasy: In this sexual activity, the victim robs his penis while fancying on his mind a particular woman as the object of his affection to achieve stimuli or sexual satisfaction with or without ejaculation. Studies shows that many who indulges in masturbation are prone to either being homosexual, bisexual or the like. In the same view, the female folk use their fingers and/or artificial penis on their genital organ for same purpose.

Pornography: This has a lot to do with magazines, films etc. that show sexual acts and images in a way that is intended to make people feel sexually excited. There had been major campaigns in recent times against it because of its adverse effects on people and children in particular.

Illegal Human Trafficking: From the United States estimation, human trafficking worth US\$5-7 billion annually and having over four million persons moved from one country to another and within countries for sexual purposes have led to more than 500,000 females being trafficked or exported to Western Europe alone - a serious violation of human right (Raymond, 2002 in Ifeayichuhwu and Titus, 2014).

Bad Company: Many gay escapees testify to the above biblical fact. In terms of homosexuality involving two males, this paper is yet to know how long the one playing the female role maintains such status in the union, or do they exchange roles and act accordingly? If so, the introduced wife today would possibly become the husband, the following day; ridiculous!

Forced Celibacy: Using the Catholic Church as case study Onwuka (2014:25) observed that “stories of Catholic Priests sexually molesting male and female children have been on the increase in recent times” due to forced celibacy upon the Catholic Clergy. Besides making Catholic Priests appear unique with less financial need arising from no family upkeep-bills, Onwuka, sees celibacy in the Catholic priesthood as a failure which will never succeed because like its contemporary abomination in gay marriage, it is against natural law. Onwuka went on to posit that “if it is subdued forcefully, it brews like a latent volcano, exploding one day in a destructive and embarrassing manner”. It needs to be channelled to a fruitful venture (family) via marriage. The safest outlets are neither fornication, masturbation, paedophilia (someone sexually attracted to young children) nor homosexuality. Regrettably, the embarrassment is beyond the Catholic Church (for which the Pope has recently apologized to the mass public), it is one on the faces of all the stakeholders in Christendom. However, with the coming of radical revolutionary Popes like Pope Benedict xvi and his successor Pope John Paul II who broke the tradition of dying in office and prefer to retire and be called “Pope Emeritus” the present Pope Francis can change the celibacy policy if he so wishes. This is the prospective view of Onwuka which we also affirm at least for the sake of homosexuality and same-sex marriage affinity. In the same vein, the Attorney General of Federation of Nigeria, Adoke (SAN) looks forward to seeing the appellate courts come up with rulings that will put all issues of international treaties and Nigeria’s constitution clear and beyond all doubts (Adebambo, 2014).

The Positives and Negatives of Same-Sex Marriage

Like forced celibacy, same-sex marriage makes one appear unique, and since there is no possibility of pregnancy (wanted or not) there is no emotional trauma or temptation to commit abortion as it is the case with their heterosexual counterparts. Some people see homosexuals and the gay or same-sex marriage folks as saviours or potential parents of abandoned babies. And they are reported to be in the habit of celebrating their adopted babies with pomp and ceremony.

From the above seeming merits, demerits cry out to say, the so called uniqueness, is that of aberration, abomination and sin against God and man. Their union being prone to short-live, their parenting and celebration of abandoned or adopted children do more harm than good at short or long run to those children and society for their bad examples. Once again, if all peoples were to be gay how would we have had the George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Helen Sir Leaf or the principal advocate of same-sex marriage Barrack Obama? More so, if their argument that gays are born with such sexual preferences or orientation were to be valid, why are they not in support of the kleptomaniacs, the nymphomaniacs (i.e. stealing instinct, insatiable sex-driven women respectively) and those with obsession to kill without justification, who all claim to be victims of instinctive compulsion? Same-sex marriage and its allies are socially confusing, strange and, stigmatizing to most countries of the world; legally artificial and ambiguous; spiritually prone to curses and divine judgement as in the time of Noah; psychologically, traumatic and suicide prone; scientifically untrue; morally animalistic and depraved; medically unhygienic, health hazardous as highlighted below:

Health Implications of Same-Sex Marriage

Muanya (2014) corroborates the report of the Coalition of Civil Society Organization (CSOs) of Nigeria that illness, chronic disease, psychological problems and early death are the legacies of homosexuals. The author quoted Dr. Nkechi Asogwa of the Foundation for African Cultural Heritage as having profoundly stated that “Although homosexuality is presented to society as a healthy and sometimes even superior alternative to heterosexuality, the truth is that homosexual behaviour represents a serious threat to individual and public health”. Apart from the homosexual being more HIV/AIDS prone (due to their reckless sexual tendency and multiple sex partners) diseases such as “Anal cancer, Genital Warts and other known 34 ones are prevalent among them” (Muanya, 2014).

Statistically, in 2005 the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that homosexuals accounted for 72 percent of all HIV infections among men and 53 percent among all individuals hence their being banned from donating blood. Moreover, psychiatric and psychological illnesses associated with homosexuality include depression, loneliness leading to suicide tendencies, addiction and violence due to the overtly exploitative nature of such relationship. Between 1994 and 1997 the Center also reported an increase of anal sex in the US from 57.6 percent to 61.2 percent while those using condoms declined from 69.6 percent to 60 percent. Most homosexuals engage in unprotected oral, anal and vaginal sex.

If, according to the Center, 43 percent of white male-homosexual (in the 90s) had sex with 500 or more partners and, with 28 percent having 1,000 or more sex partners, what would we say of the female? Statistically, according to Umoh (2010:5), HIV/AIDS in 1981 started among homosexuals in the US with few cases. By 1999 no fewer than 34 million people globally got infected and most of them live in sub-Saharan Africa. The big poser therefore is:

What is the prospect of same-sex marriage pandemic not following suit in Africa?

Selected Countries Study on Same-Sex Marriage

As earlier indicated in the scope of this study, Britain will represent the continent of Europe; China, Asia; Nigeria, Africa and, the last but not least the United States of America (USA), North America.

China

China recognizes neither same-sex marriage nor civil unions. A poll conducted in 2009 showed that over 30 percent of the Beijing population supports same-sex marriage while the rest were unsure or opposed. China does not have any sex union recognition laws. Beijing and Hong Kong currently provide dependent residency status to the same-sex marriage partners of legal residents (Wikipedia April 9, 2014). On January 13, 2010, China Daily published a front-page splash photo of a Chinese couple, Zenge Auquan, a divorced architect aged 45, and Pan

Wenjie, a demobilized PLA soldier aged 27, being married at a gay bar in Chengdu. The marriage is understood as having no legal basis in the country and the families of both men reacted negatively to the news of the union. The marriage law of the People's Republic of China explicitly defines marriage as the union between one man and one woman. However, "the attitude of the Chinese government toward homosexuality is believed to be three Nos: No approval; no disapproval; no promotion". Accordingly, China's Ministry of Health officially removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses in 2001. To most Chinese, same-sex marriage is not an issue to worry much about because many countries of the West (Principal advocates of the movement) have not recognized it (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/same-sex-marriage).

Nigeria

A working partner of US-based Gallup Poll, No. 1 Polls Limited, conducted a poll among Nigerians on the subject of same-sex marriage between 4 and 6 June 2013. The result showed that 92 per cent of Nigerians supported the bill to criminalized same-sex marriage. This means that less than 8 percent of the 170 million Nigerians are against same-sex marriage; and the US, European Union and, Canada have threatened to withdraw their supports to Nigeria in areas such as HIV/AIDS, research work and anti-malaria programmes. Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, cancelled President Goodluck Jonathan's scheduled visit to his country (<http://dailyindependenting.com/2014/03/same-sex-marriage-nigeria-vs-thewest>). In the same vein, no fewer than twenty-four leading Nigerian academics, researchers and journalists in Diaspora advocated strong diplomatic discipline on Nigeria for the prohibition. To them, Nigeria's problem is not same-sex marriage but corruption which Nigerian leaders have refused sincere fight (<http://nigeriasrenaissance.com.index.php/news/item/3600d-anti-gay-law...>).

United States of America

In fact, it is on the backdrop of the results of a recent opinion poll among those aged 18-29 which showed as high as 70 percent support for same-sex marriage that informed the decision of the US government in adopting same-sex marriage. Accordingly, as at May 9, 2014, sixteen countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom (Britain), Uruguay, and several sub-national jurisdictions (part of Mexico and the United States) allow same-sex couples to marry (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/same-sex-marriage).

United Kingdom

In May 2012, three religious groups (Quakers, Liberal Judaism and Unitarians) sent a letter to the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron asking for permission to solemnize same-sex weddings (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/same-sex-marriage). The government's consultation first came a month after on a permissive basis, and later on July 17, 2013 passed through the readings in The Houses of Commons and Lords (366 votes to 161 and 390 votes to 148 respectively). Reportedly, the above source adds that the first same-sex marriage took place on March 29 this year.

Popular Opinions on Same-sex Marriage

Opinions of the world public were sought by the researcher using the internet facilities on the polarized same-sex marriage laws between April 1 and May 15, 2014. The single question poll went thus: In view of the controversial same-sex marriage laws currently propagated by the US and its allies, do you support the practice? After one and a half months, the facilities (using 20 friends within and outside Nigeria to mount the opinion on their social media (using 2 platforms) got a total of 2,855 responses from which 2,500 representing 87.56% voted in the negative while 355 respondents representing 12.44% voted in the affirmative. The response rate, no doubt, is indicative that most people in the world are against same-sex marriage laws. The overriding proposition for this study was that threat and/or logic against anti-gay practices, without due respect for the first and original principle of the family poses serious challenge to effective implementation of human rights laws across states' borders. Going by the votes of respondents above, it is expedient to say that same-sex marriage advocacy is a product of serious ethical/moral depravity in our contemporary society; and stands being rejected by most people and countries of the world.

The following, among others, are the reasons adduced for this position:

1. Beginning with the issue of selected pressure by the US. Right from January 2014 which saw to the signing into law of the bill prohibiting same-sex marriage in Nigeria by President Goodluck Jonathan, the media have been awash with bullies from the US, EU and UN vowing that they will do everything to see that Nigeria has repealed the prohibition. Uganda joined Nigeria a month later to prohibit the shameful act with death penalty. Surprisingly, the US and its allies never say anything against China, Saudi Arabia or its own state Arizona which also joined the rest of the anti-gay world recently to abhor the practice, all because African countries are technologically and economically poor.
2. The US argument for gay, that they were born with sexual inclination toward same-sex hence homosexuality and same-sex marriage. The question is, if the pro-gays were to be that concerned for people born with natural tendencies, why are they not also fighting to legalize those with instinct to steal (kleptomaniacs), (nymphomaniacs) or a woman with instinct to sleep with many a man. Therefore, their message of equality is also driven on a vehicle of partiality and falsehood.
3. The US concept of individual rights as opposed to the collective (exemplified by Maslow's self-actualization) promotes homosexuality and same-sex marriage. To them, the intensity or the human sexual instinct is shaped more by sexual competition than maintaining a birth-rate adequate to survival of the species. Indeed, the difference or missing link between individualist and collectivist societies is the ethical/moral code. The former being western operates over-liberalized-indiscipline morality, while the rest of the world remains traditionally disciplined in terms of sex and marriage.
4. Although with the globalization, the superpowers have unlawfully penetrated virtually all sovereign states; weaker states are the most vulnerable. Meanwhile every state needs recognition and/or finance which cannot be accessed without membership and, submission to international laws. And in the system there are intrigues even in the globalization processes to maintain status quo by the Developed Countries worsening matters for the Less Developed Countries (LCDs). Indeed, due to the internationalization of human rights, a state is no longer free to treat its nationals and aliens the way it pleases as in the recent same-sex marriage controversies.
5. In spite of the fact that in 1981, HIV/AIDS started in the US through sexual promiscuity and Africa becomes the most infected, the same America is once again spearheading another sexual act considered abominable by most countries and people of the world with Africa as their main target.

CONCLUSION

Same-sex marriage (SSM) laws are violations of God's original principles for human society - the family. Moral decline and eventual depravity is worse than HIV/AIDS infection.

America's moral decay started some decades ago when divorce amongst legally marriage couples was not given a damn. It penetrated the church and graduated into the current infamy called same-sex marriage. Truly, if God allows America to continue to police the world, before the next century, the superpower might legalize boundless sexual practices where Plato's state of nature would return and the Bible's man of sin in the New World Order (Ukpe, 2013) would view America as veritable tool to fight godliness and promote lawlessness to the full. What Uwalaka (2014) considers as "Big things start small and small things turn big" with regard to same-sex marriage is the pivot around which most of the issues and prospects in this study revolve. Not as though the world had not been having cases of homosexuality and the like, but with the unprecedented dimension it is taking, the worst may ensue if stakeholders like the Christians, Muslims and other faith-based organizations will not rise to the occasion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to encourage the fight against same-sex marriage and its related abominable acts, the following recommendations are proffered:

The United Nations should not only recognize that developing countries and countries in transition face special difficulties in responding to globalization challenges, and that only through broad and sustained efforts to diversity can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable, but also to have the political will to compel America (and its allies) to, concessionally, promote development of African countries as in the Asian Tigers. Indeed, developing countries need sustained development not spread of immorality.

Developing countries, like Nigeria, needs to evolve buoyant and enticing economy in order to be freed from America's bullies, and threats of sanctions. With a strong economic base plus tyranny America would look the other way and do business with them; and the abominable advocacy would die a natural death.

Closely related to the suggestion for economic emancipation are those of science and technology. Developing countries, like Nigeria, should look inward and stopped being technologically dependent, as this would continue to make a mockery of their political independence and sovereignty. With good governance orchestrated by exemplary leadership devoid of corruption, brain drain would be checked, patriotism would be encouraged, homegrown science and technology would spring up in Less Developed Countries.

Going by the polarized and controversial nature of same-sex marriage and its allies, the UN charter should be amended to accommodate non-western morality.

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