

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Free and Compulsory Basic Education

Bill No: SB 823

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO MAKE FREE, COMPULSORY AND BASIC EDUCATION A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS UNDER CHAPTER IV OF THE CONSTITUTION; AND RELATED MATTERS.

Sections	Provision of the Constitution	Provisions of the Bill	Remarks
		<p>Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution</p> <p>The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (in this Act referred to as “Principal Act”) is amended as set out in this Bill.</p>	
18	<p>Educational objectives</p> <p>(1)..... (2)..... (3) Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy; and to this end Government shall as and when practicable provide- (a) free, compulsory and universal primary education; (b) free secondary education; (c) free university education; and (d) free adult literacy programme.</p>	<p>Clause 2 Alteration of section 18</p> <p>Section 18 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection “(3)” –</p> <p>“(3) Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy and provide qualitative education at all levels, and to this end every Government in Nigeria shall–</p> <p>(a) provide free, compulsory and universal basic education for every child of primary and junior secondary school age:</p> <p>(b) as and when practicable, provide –</p> <p>(i) free senior secondary school education in its different forms, including technical and vocational education, and</p>	

		<p>(ii) free functional literacy programme; and</p> <p>(c) promote access to qualitative higher education”.</p>	
42		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Insertion of new section 42A</p> <p>Insert, after section 45 of the Principal Act, a new section “42A”–</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Free, compulsory and universal basic education</p> <p>42A (1) Every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to free, compulsory and universal basic education and every government in Nigeria shall provide free, compulsory and universal basic education to every child from primary to junior secondary school.</p> <p>(2) It shall be the duty of every parent to ensure that his child or ward attends and completes his primary and junior secondary school education.</p> <p>(3) Every stakeholder in education shall ensure that every parent or person who has the care and custody of a child performs the duty imposed on him under this section.”</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 4 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as Constitution Sixth (Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to make free,</p>	

		compulsory and basic education a fundamental right of all citizens under Chapter IV of the Constitution.	
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2. Defining Acts that Constitute Torture, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment

Bill No: SB 824

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO FURTHER DEFINE ACTS THAT CONSTITUTE TORTURE, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

#	Provision of the Constitution	Proposed alterations to the Constitution	Remarks
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
34	Right to dignity of human person (1) Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly – (a) no person shall be subject to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment; (b) no person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and (c) no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.	Alteration of section 34 Section 34 (1) of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after paragraph (c), a new subsection “(1A)” – “(1A) For the purpose of subsection (1) (a) of this section, “torture, inhuman or degrading treatment” includes parading persons arrested by the police or any other law enforcement agency in the public”	
		Clause 3 Citation This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025.	

		<p style="text-align: center;">Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to expand the definition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment to include parading suspects and persons arrested by the Police or any other law enforcement agency.</p>	
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3. Right of an Unborn Child/Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment

Bill No: SB 825

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF AN UNBORN CHILD BEING CARRIED BY A PREGNANT WOMAN SENTENCED TO DEATH, PROVIDES FOR A THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF TORTURE, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS OF THE BILL	REMARKS
		ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria -	
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) is altered as set out in this Bill.	
33.	33. Right to life (1) Every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been guilty in Nigeria.	Clause 2 Alteration of the section 33 Section 33 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (1), a new subsection “(1A)” “(1A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, where a pregnant woman is convicted of an offence punishable by death and if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that she is pregnant, the court shall	

		<p>sentence her to life imprisonment instead of death sentence.”</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Insertion of new section 33A</p> <p>Insert after section 33 of the Principal Act, new section 33A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Right to a Clean Environment</p> <p>33A. (1) Every person has the right to live in a clean, safe, and healthy environment, which is free from harmful pollution, degradation, and hazards that could negatively impact their health, well-being, or quality of life.</p> <p>(2) This right includes the right to access information about environmental conditions, participate in decisions that affect the environment, and hold those responsible for environmental harm accountable.</p> <p>(3) The State shall adopt policies and take actions to promote sustainable development, ensuring that the environmental, economic, and social needs of present and future generations are met without compromising the integrity of ecosystems.</p>	

34.	<p>34. Right to Dignity of Human Person</p> <p>(1) Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly-</p> <p>(a) no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment;</p> <p>(b) no person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and</p> <p>(c) no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 4 Alteration of the section 34</p> <p>Section 34 (1) of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after paragraph (c), a new subsection “(1A)”-</p> <p>“(1A) For the purpose of subsection (1) (a) of this section, “torture, inhuman or degrading treatment” includes parading persons arrested by the police or any other law enforcement agency in the public.”</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 5 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to protect the right of an unborn child being carried by a pregnant woman sentenced to death, provides for the right to a healthy and clean environment and expand the definition of “torture, inhuman or degrading treatment.</p>	