

GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S RESPONSE TO BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

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Women and girls are often perceived as relatively weaker than men and as victims of violent conflicts, while men are considered stronger and combatants in same situation. Similar perceptions are prevalent about the Boko Haram insurgency. However, women are more than victims; rather, they continue to play strategic roles in the fight against Boko Haram insurgency. This however, has not been adequately investigated. This study investigated the response of grassroots women to the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews; and secondary data from documents, videos and transcripts from past interviews. Data were analysed using content analysis. Findings revealed that grassroots women responded to Boko Haram insurgency by protecting men from the insurgents; providing supplies to the hidden men; offering physical, material, and moral support; undertaking reconnaissance operations; and joining the civilian vigilante group as combatants against the insurgent group. This paper concludes that women's life experiences should be integrated into issues of security to help build sustainable peace at all levels in Nigeria.
