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**ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN NIGERIA – A REVIEW OF
CRIMINAL LAWS AND LEGISLATIVE POLICIES.**

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In **Annals of Biomedical Sciences**, College of Medicine, University of Benin, Nigeria Vol. 2
No.1, 2003, 1 – 10.

ABSTRACT

Abortion has been defined as the “*deliberate destruction of an unborn child*”, or it’s “*intentional expulsion or removal from the womb other than for the principal purpose of producing live birth or the removal of dead tissues*”¹. It has also been described as the expulsion of the foetus from the uterus before it has reached the stage of viability². The termination of a pregnancy can be either spontaneous when a miscarriage occurs without a direct intervention, or induced when there is a direct physical intervention to terminate the pregnancy. This article examines the legislative policies and criminal laws restricting abortions and their implications for reproductive rights. It concludes by proposing a rights-based legal response to terminations that would effectively control and regulate safe abortions and protect women’s reproductive rights in Nigeria.