

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**TIT-BITS** vol. 6

## PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BILL, 2019

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AFRICA | LONDON | NEW YORK | SYDNEY

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# SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recently sponsored the Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Educational Institutions Bill, 2019 (the “**Bill**”). The Bill, which has now passed its third reading, seeks to prevent (and protect students against) sexual harassment by educators in tertiary institutions; and provide redress for complaints of sexual harassment of students<sup>1</sup>.

The Bill prohibits, among others, sexual intercourse between students and educators. For example, educators may not grab, hug, kiss, rub, stroke, touch, or pinch any sensual part of the body of a student<sup>2</sup>. It is intended that, in determining a complaint of sexual harassment, the provisions of the Bill will supersede all existing policies and regulations of an institution for internal administrative discipline of its staff and students<sup>3</sup>. Educators found guilty of sexual harassment will be liable to imprisonment of up to 14 years<sup>4</sup>.

The Bill is expected to be forwarded to the Clerk of the House of Representatives (the “**House**”), for the concurrence of the House. In our view, the Bill represents a firm step in the right direction as it seeks to uphold ethics in Nigerian institutions of higher learning.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1 of the Bill.  
<sup>2</sup> Section 4(4) of the Bill  
<sup>3</sup> Section 15(2) of the Bill.  
<sup>4</sup> Section 11 and 12 of the Bill.