

## **Abstract**

Gender-based violence during armed conflicts is not a new phenomenon; it has been present in society for many centuries. It had its greatest impact during the 20th century, when it was just beginning to receive considerable attention not only from scholars but also from the global public. However, attention has focused only on its most well-known and common form – sexual violence. However, it was mainly thanks to the work of feminist scholars that other forms of violence were exposed in the second half of the 20th century, including psychological and physical violence, forced marriages, forced pregnancies or abortions, female genital mutilation, and the use of women as instruments of war and suicide bombers. This thesis examines gender-based violence against women and girls in northeastern Nigeria by Boko Haram. It aims to find out how Boko Haram has affected the level of gender-based violence in the country, whether it has brought about new trends in the phenomenon and how it has affected the lives of women and girls. In doing so, the thesis draws on strategic rape theory and feminist theory, the combination of which provides a framework for explaining gender-based violence by Boko Haram, which both uses women and girls as strategic objects, but moreover is inherently based on a strongly patriarchal society.