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PRINT: ISSN 0971-8923 ONLINE: 2456-6756

*J. Soc. Sci.*, 6 (4): 241-246 (2002)

DOI: 10.31901/24566756.2002/06.04.02

## The Federal Character Principle and Gender Representation in Nigeria

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**KEY WORDS** Federal character; gender representation; quota system; affirmative action; ethnicity; defined territorial zones.

**ABSTRACT** In this paper we examined the utility of the federal character principle as a vehicle for promoting gender representation and equity in Nigeria. We contended that the principle holds great promise in this direction in that, it will help to mitigate the unfair representation of women in the political process; a situation which was engendered by long period of discriminatory practices against women. We further argued that, in spite of the useful potentials of the principle, the effective and rapid promotion of gender equity demands a multi-faceted approach in its implementation as it affects the women in Nigeria. To this end, we suggested additional ways of facilitating the achievement of this objective.