

Nigeria president says wife belongs in the kitchen

16th October, 2016



Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari is in hot water over sexist remarks he made about his wife Aisha. He was replying to reports that his wife may not support his bid to be re-elected to power. He stated during a news conference in Berlin that: "I don't know which party my wife belongs to but she belongs to my kitchen and my living room and the

other room." President Buhari was standing next to German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the time. Ms Merkel did not express an opinion on Mr Buhari's words but did give him a shocked, stern look. Mr Buhari went on to add fuel to the fire, telling reporters that he can "claim superior knowledge" over his wife after running for president three times.

Nigeria's first lady Aisha Buhari warned her husband that she would not campaign alongside him in future elections unless he reformed his leadership. Mrs Buhari said her husband's government had been hijacked. The first lady has a master's degree in International Affairs and Strategic Studies. She is a successful entrepreneur. In 1995, she opened northern Nigeria's first beauty parlour. She also published a book called, 'The Essentials of Beauty Therapy: A Complete Guide for Beauty Specialists'. In addition to her business-related activities, she is a human rights activist and has campaigned for the release of the 250 girls kidnapped by the militant group Boko Haram in 2014.

Sources: cnn.com / hrw.org / bbc.com

Writing

Leaders who make sexist remarks must resign immediately. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

hot water / sexist comments / reports / power / kitchen / living room / opinion / fire / husband / campaign / leadership / hijacked / successful / entrepreneur / human rights

True / False

- Nigeria's president fell into a bath of hot water. T / F
- The president's wife may not support him in a future election. T / F
- The president said his wife belongs in his kitchen and living room. T / F
- The president has run for office three times. T / F
- The first lady said she hijacked her husband's government. T / F
- The first lady finished her education up to bachelor's level. T / F
- The first lady opened a successful beauty parlour in southern Nigeria in 1995. T / F
- The first lady campaigned for the release of 250 kidnapped girls. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. remarks | a. more advanced |
| 2. replying | b. next to |
| 3. bid | c. altered |
| 4. stern | d. responding |
| 5. superior | e. businesswoman |
| 6. alongside | f. attempt |
| 7. reformed | g. fought |
| 8. entrepreneur | h. comments |
| 9. campaigned | i. abducted |
| 10. kidnapped | j. unsmiling |

Discussion – Student A

- How damaging might Mrs Buhari's comment be for her husband?
- What more can Mrs Buhari do to highlight sexism?
- What other sexist leaders do you know of?
- What do you think the Buharis said to each other regarding this?
- How much sexism is there in your country?
- What is the most important thing to do to combat sexism?
- What can Mr Buhari do to make amends?
- What questions would you like to ask Mrs Buhari?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Buhari is in hot water over sexist | a. his leadership |
| 2. his wife may not support his bid | b. belongs to |
| 3. I don't know which party my wife | c. related activities |
| 4. give him a shocked, | d. to the fire |
| 5. Buhari went on to add fuel | e. remarks |
| 6. she would not campaign alongside | f. activist |
| 7. unless he reformed | g. by the militant group |
| 8. In addition to her business- | h. to be re-elected |
| 9. she is a human rights | i. stern look |
| 10. the release of the 250 girls kidnapped | j. him in future elections |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How sexist do you think the president's words were?
- What arguments are there for the president to resign?
- Some people said his comment was just humour. Was it?
- What does the president's comment mean?
- What do you think Angela Merkel was thinking?
- What do you think Mr Buhari's wife thinks of the comment?
- What advice do you have for Mrs Buhari?

Spelling

- sexist arkrmes
- during a news ecnefencro
- sxsrpee an opinion
- a shocked, trsne look
- add uefl to the fire
- oeriupsr knowledge
- maapcnig alongside him
- in future tilsneceo
- her husband's government had been ecdakijh
- a successful rupeneeertrn
- she is a human rights taiscvit
- kidnapped by the nimttial group

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. j	5. a
6. b	7. c	8. e	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – World leader

You think it is worst for a world leader to be sexist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others why it is also bad for them to be sexist and how to overcome sexism. Tell them who among these has the biggest responsibility: religious leader, teacher or company CEO.

Role B – Religious leader

You think it is worst for a religious leader to be sexist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others why it is also bad for them to be sexist and how to overcome sexism. Tell them who among these has the biggest responsibility: world leader, teacher or company CEO.

Role C – Teacher

You think it is worst for a teacher to be sexist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others why it is also bad for them to be sexist and how to overcome sexism. Tell them who among these has the biggest responsibility: religious leader, world leader or company CEO.

Role D – Company CEO

You think it is worst for a company CEO to be sexist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others why it is also bad for them to be sexist and how to overcome sexism. Tell them who among these has the biggest responsibility: religious leader, teacher or world leader.

Speaking – Sexist

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst people to be sexist at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • teacher | • world leader |
| • rock star | • company CEO |
| • mother | • religious leader |
| • police officer | • father |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.