

Overtime, many
groups that migrated.
the first

[Business](#), [Strategy](#)



Overtime, universities in Europe have also embarked upon a recruitment drive to attract Nigerian students.

Education has remained an important reason for Nigerian emigration, and labour migration from Nigeria has also become increasingly feminine (Adepoju, 2000: 386). A significant number of Nigerians yearly apply for refugee status in European countries. According to Carling 2004, in his work he noted that in 2004, Nigerians were the fifth largest group of asylum seekers in Europe. Because of its size and its current relative stability, Nigerians have less chance of obtaining asylum status than those of other ECOWAS countries which are directly affected by civil war.

The issue surrounding the trafficking of female Nigerian sex workers to Italy and other European countries has received substantial attention (Carling, 2006). Most of these prospective future sex hawkers are recruited from the southern Edo state. For these prostitutes, the most important country of destination is Italy, where it is believed that as many as 10,000 Nigerian prostitutes reside.

Other destinations these sex hawkers routes to include Spain, Netherlands and a range of other countries (Carling, 2006). As a response to Europe's high demand for low-skilled workforce in the 1980s in agriculture and services, Nigerians began migrating travelling to Italy; these women were only one of many groups that migrated. The first prostitutes tended had the propensity to work independently, but in the early 1990s, immigration restrictions made prospective potential migrants increasingly dependent on large loans in order to pay for their journey, of which this provided an

opportunity opening for traffickers (Carling, 2006). A potential sex hawker's initial contact with traffickers is often made through a relative, friend, or other familiar person, who puts her in contact with a 'madam' who organizes and finances the journey.

The costs charges may range from US\$40 000 to US\$100 000. The migrants and the madam conclude with a 'pact agreement', religiously sealed by a traditional chief priest, which obliges the migrants to repay their debt in exchange for a safe passage expedition to Europe. In Europe, the women are under the control of another madam, a counterpart of the madam in Nigeria.

Most of these women realize that they are going to work as prostitutes, but do not necessarily know about the arduous tough conditions under which (street) prostitutes have to work, nor the magnitude of their debt (Carling, 2006). However, this work does offer some 'career' prospects.

Within one or two years when they can repay their migration debt based on the agreement, these women are essentially free, and it is fairly common for them to become a supervisor of other prostitutes and, at the long run they may become "madam" themselves. According to Carling (2006), he highlighted that this prospect likelihood of upward mobility is an incentive to comply with the pact agreement, and that the strong element of mutual benefit between traffickers and trafficked women makes it difficult strenuous to reduce this form of trafficking.

According to a recent study, in Kano state, traffickers successfully exploited the advantage of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca to traffic children, men and women for different exploitative purposes; for prostitution, begging and

all kind of domestic work (Ehinderó et al., 2006). However, in light of bearing in mind the attention currently being given to trafficking, it is important to stress point out that, for Nigerian migration, trafficking seems the concession rather than the rule. The large majority of Most Nigerians migrate voluntarily, and even in the case of trafficking it is clear obvious that the line between voluntary and forced migration is blurred. It is also important to make a distinction discrepancy between trafficking and smuggling.

While many previously migrated on their own initiative, increasing restrictions have made more and more migrants depend more on the services of smugglers in crossing borders. Whereas until the 1990s migrants to Europe predominantly used aircraft links; visa requirements and increasing immigration controls at air- likewise and sea ports, seem to have led to an increasing reliance on trans-Saharan, overland routes to the Maghreb countries, and in particular to Morocco, from where Nigerians and other sub-Saharan Africans attempt to cross the Mediterranean to southern Europe. Another now-popular prevalent route is via the Atlantic Ocean and the Canary Islands (de Haas, 2006b). Scattered dispersed evidence on the origin of Nigerian immigrants in Europe and the US strongly suggests that the majority originate from the relatively developed and densely populated southern provinces. The Ibo from the southeast and the Yoruba from the southwest, and, to a lesser extent the Edo and the Ogoni ethnic groups, seem to constitute the majority of greater part of Nigerian migrants in the UK (Hernandez-Coss, et al. 2007). The majority bulk of the Nigerian trafficked to Europe seem to originate from Edo state, and Benin City in particular City. specifically.

Edo and, to a lesser extent, the Delta states are known as the main origin source areas of sex workers. The Hausa and other northern groups seem relatively more preoccupied with migration to the Gulf States. The predominantly Muslim character of the north as well as the position of the northern city of Kano as a major air hub in the hadj (the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca), might partially explain this connection. Reliable data on Nigerian migration is lacking not sufficient. Nigerian authorities do not register or estimate emigration, which presumably apparently reflects a low interest in the issue. Also, receiving country statistics are incomplete deficient, as many countries do not include naturalized and second-generation Nigerians in immigrant statistics, and because of the substantial presence of irregular migrants.

It was estimated in Nigeria's 2005 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) that more than four hundred thousand Nigerians (mostly highly educated) have emigrated to Europe and the United States (NNPC, 2004), but the empirical basis for this claim remains unclear. According to some embassies, at least 1 million Nigerians are living in the US and the UK, and another 500 000 in Germany and Canada. Hernandez-Coss et al. (2007) even claim that 5 million Nigerians are currently living abroad.

However, these estimates lack empirical underpinning.