



# **Socio-economic Disparities and the Phenomenon of Modern Day Slavery in Nigeria**

**A. O. BABATUNDE**

Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies,  
University of Ilorin, Nigeria.  
Email: [bose\\_babatunde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bose_babatunde@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Abstract**

The prevalence of modern slavery in Africa is emblematic of the global social economic inequalities between the rich countries in the global South and the poorer countries in the global North. In Africa, Nigeria ranked among the countries with the highest number of people living in global slavery. Therefore this study examined the challenges of combating modern day slavery in Nigeria in the context of global inequalities. Drawing on extant studies, the study argued that the lack of effective measures and collaboration by global, regional and national governments and organisations, to deal with the challenges of ‘modern slavery’ linked to transnational organised crime groups, continue to aggravate the menace in Nigeria and other African countries. Modern day slavery may be difficult to combat unless there is restructuring of the current international order, along with increased international cooperation to tackle the menace and the negative implications for national, regional and global security.

**Key words:** Africa, Globalisation, Human trafficking, Modern Slavery, Nigeria, Socio-economic Disparity

## **Introduction**

In the twenty-first century, one of the greatest challenges confronting humanity is the phenomenon of “modern day slavery”. The Global Slavery Index of the Walk Free foundation, Australia, describes modern slavery as a hidden crime which includes slavery as customarily understood, human trafficking, forced labour and “slavery-like practices” such as debt bondage, forced marriages and sale or exploitation of children (Global slavery Index, 2014). The report, which covers 167 countries, noted that modern slavery contributed to the production of at least 122 goods from 58 countries. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), profits

from forced labour alone generated \$150bn yearly ((International Labour Organization 2014). The Global Impact (2019) also reported that an estimated \$150 billion is generated annually as profits from human trafficking, a form of modern day slavery.

Human trafficking constitutes the main form of modern slavery, as defined by United Nations Trafficking Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (2002) as the act of recruiting, harbouring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (106-386), as

amended, and the Palermo Protocol describe this compelled service using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labour.

The victims of modern slavery are the underprivileged people such as the poor, unemployed, refugees, illegal immigrants, illiterate persons, homeless persons, orphans and other disadvantaged people from the low-income countries of the world (Global slavery index, 2016). Therefore, this study examines the challenges of combating modern slavery in Nigeria in an era of global inequality and explores ways of enhancing the efforts to combat this inhuman phenomenon. Drawing on extant studies, the study argues that the lack of effective measures and collaboration by global, regional and African governments, Nigeria inclusive, to deal with the challenges of 'modern slavery' continue to aggravate the menace in Nigeria and other African countries facing similar challenges. The drivers, consequences and the responses of the government to tackle the menace of modern slavery have been the subject of numerous studies (e.g Adepoju 2005; Dave-Odigie 2008; Attoh 2009; Ngban, et al. 2012). While these studies have provide viable insights into the diverse nature of the modern day slavery phenomenon in Nigeria, the connections between global and local forces that shaped the menace of modern slavery in Nigeria and other African countries remain under-researched.

The Global Slavery Index (2019) reported that 9.2 million men, women and children are living in modern slavery in African. Thus, Africa has the highest prevalence rate among the world regions with 7.6 people living in modern slavery for every 1, 000 people in the region (Global Slavery Index, 2019). In Africa, Nigerian organised crime groups featured prominently in the human trafficking networks (Wannenburg, 2005). The Nigerian human trafficking network is considered one of the major law enforcement challenges confronting many countries in Europe (Craig 2012). It was reported that Nigerians ranked among the top five of non-EU trafficked victims and suspected traffickers from 2010 to 2012 (International Business Times, 2012). In the 2016 report of the

Global Slavery Index, it was estimated that 875,500 Nigerians are living in modern slavery.

Various reports on trafficking in persons have pointed to the fact that Nigeria has the largest number of victims in the organised human trafficking networks in Africa. For example, Nigerians were highly represented in the United Kingdom's National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in 2013 (National Crime Agency 2014). The 2019 United States human trafficking report indicated that Nigeria is one of the countries highly vulnerable to labour and sex trafficking. The report also highlighted that the Nigerian Government has made significant progress in prosecuting, and convicting traffickers; conducting anti-trafficking training for law enforcement officials; and repatriating some Nigerian trafficking victims identified abroad. Other efforts of the government relates to the implementation of the 2017 action plan between the government supported nongovernmental armed group, known as the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), and an international organization to end its recruitment and use of child soldiers. The report also acknowledged the prosecution of seven government officials allegedly complicit in human trafficking. Another progress made at the state level has to do with the Edo state government passage of a new anti-trafficking law and provision of additional resources to combat human trafficking. The establishment of anti-trafficking task forces in Delta and Ondo states seem to demonstrate the increasing efforts to combat human trafficking in Nigeria.

Yet, despite the progress made, the Nigerian government has not fully met the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, particularly in the areas of persecution, and conviction of government military personnel and the CJTF members complicit in exploiting the Internally Displaced Persons in sex trafficking and the past recruitment and use of child soldiers. In the areas of victim protection, the Nigerian government failed to provide female and child trafficking victims allegedly associated with the Boko Haram insurgency with adequate victim protections. Apart from this, the inability of the government to identify more trafficked victims was considered a setback to the previous efforts at

victim identification and protection. Despite the criticism regarding the limited funding of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the Nigerian government has been reluctant to fully disburse the budget allocated to the agency tasked with combating human trafficking. The constraints to the efforts to frontally tackle the menace of human trafficking in Nigeria necessitate a nuanced analysis of the interlocking national, regional and global issues that undergird the phenomenon of modern slavery.

Apart from the introduction which set out the background to the magnitude of the human trafficking phenomenon and the gains and challenges in the anti-trafficking efforts of the Nigerian government, subsequent sections provide an insight into the global dimension of modern slavery; the peculiar situation of Nigeria human trafficking network; the drivers of modern slavery and the plights of the victims; the responses of the Nigerian Government to modern slavery and; the extent of international collaboration to tackle the menace. The concluding section highlights the interlocking national, regional and global issues that undergird the phenomenon and the daunting task of combating the menace.

### **Modern Slavery in the Era of Globalisation**

Modern slavery remains rampant in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa. This constitutes one of the major continents confronted with the scourges. Modern slavery is considered a form of reinvention of man inhumanity to humanity that characterised the ignoble Transatlantic Slave Trade, when the Europeans forcibly uprooted millions of people throughout West Africa and Central Africa and shipped them across the Atlantic in conditions of grave cruelty (Curtin, 1969). About 12 million Africans were sold into the Atlantic slavery between the 16th and 19th century, and approximately 1.2 – 2.4 million died during their transport to the Western World (Manning, 1992). The African continent was bled of its human resources and transported across the Sahara, through the Red Sea, from the Indian Ocean ports and across the Atlantic (Stannard, 1993).

After the transatlantic slave trade, another reinvention of slavery in Africa emerged in the 1870s and 1940s and has turned to a major humanitarian crisis and threat to global security. Studies have paid limited attention to the role of the global forces and the interaction between global and local forces in the genesis and reinvention of slavery in the modern era. For instance, Aderinto (2012) reviewed the first major domestic and transnational prostitution in Nigeria between the 1920s and 1950s by tracing the colonial history of prostitution to what is esoterically designated in post-colonial studies and popular literature as “human trafficking”. He argued that the colonialists disguised domestic and transnational prostitution (widely referred to as white slave traffic in world politics) as domestic slavery, an action that depicts one of several ills of imperialism, in that it was largely a product of the social and economic permutations accentuated by alien rule.

Like the transatlantic slave trade, this 21st century slavery is a reflection of the broader global inequality and exploitation through human servitude in the Atlantic world which involved deprivation of freedom, forced labour, debt bondage, sexual violence, and exploitation of women and children in which victims were treated as items of trade (Aderinto, 2012). Most African countries are beleaguered by the challenges of modern slavery, while countries with the lowest victims of modern slavery are in the Western countries.

The yearly report of the Global Slavery Index provided copious evidence of the reality. In the 2014 report, for example, African countries including Nigeria, Mauritania, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Cape Verde, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, the Gambia and Gabon accounted for 71 percent of the total estimate of 35.8 million people living in modern slavery. Across the world, the regions with the lowest estimates of people enslaved are in Europe and North America. Within these regions, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, Taiwan and Australia have the lowest prevalence of modern slavery in the world (Global Slavery Index, 2014).

African countries are particularly characterized by such precarious challenges that make Africans prepared to take terrible risks in search of employment opportunities, better standard of living and security in richer countries. Thus, modern forms of slavery seem to remain intractable, perhaps because they are the result of growing inequalities between countries in the global south predominated by aging populations, and high demand for cheap labour, and the low-income developing countries in the Global North ravaged by poverty, overpopulation, unemployment and violent conflicts.

### **The Phenomenon of Modern Slavery in Nigeria**

Nigeria is a major source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Although Nigeria is not the poorest country in Africa, and in fact ranked as the largest economy in Africa in the 2018 Forbes Africa report, the prevalence of victims of modern slavery in Nigeria depicts a puzzle that necessitates a nuanced understanding of the drivers of modern slavery in the country. Nigeria, with a population of over 170 million is estimated to have 875,500 numbers of people in modern slavery (Global Slavery Index 2016). Nigeria is battling serious challenges of both internal and transnational human trafficking. In many European countries, particularly in Italy and Belgium, Nigerian women account for 60 percent of all sex workers (Eurostat, 2014). Craig noted that there are over 15,000 Nigerian victims of sex trafficking in Italy (Craig, 2012). Some of the Nigerian women forced into prostitution in Italy are trapped in a cycle of debt bondage, without the financial capacity to refund 50-60,000 Euro (\$US65-75,000) incurred for their trafficking (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, 2010).

Within Africa, Nigerian women and children are taken to other West and Central African countries, as well as to South Africa, where they are exploited for forced labour and sex trafficking (US Trafficking in Persons Report 2015). Although majority of the victims of cross-border trafficking from Nigeria are from Edo (Ngban, et al., 2012), trafficked victims are also taken from other states including Kano, Lagos, Borno, Ogun, Delta,

Ebonyi, Cross-River, Oyo, Imo, and Akwa-Ibom (Adepoju, 2005; Attoh, 2009; Babatunde, 2015).

In the case of internal trafficking, impoverished children, men, women and the disabled are trafficked into forced labour in the domestic sector, particularly agriculture, while mostly children are used for forced begging and girls for forced marriage (Dave-Odigie, 2008). In northern Nigeria, the *Almajiri*, who are young boys in Koranic schools are forced to fend for themselves through begging because of their impoverished condition, which inevitably make them susceptible to traffickers (Human Rights Watch, 2013). Many northern youth and women are vulnerable to trafficking because of the insecurity linked to Boko Haram acts of terror. A recent report of Amnesty International, disclosed that the terrorist group, Boko Haram, recruited and used child soldiers as young as 12-year-olds, and also subjected abducted women and girls to domestic servitude, forced labour, and sex slavery through forced marriages to Boko Haram militants (Amnesty International, 2014). The practice of child marriage is traceable to a traditional practice known as *wahaya*, in which young girls especially from Niger referred to as Touareg girls of slave status are sold by their masters to another master in Nigeria, which invariably exposed these girls to sexual exploitation. (Abdelkader & Zangaou, 2012). Of note is Boko Haram recent strategy of kidnapping school girls including the widely publicized abducted Chibok and Dachip girls in Borno and Yobe states, the stronghold of Boko Haram. This inevitably exposed the young girls to the risk of human trafficking.

### **The Vulnerability Factors and the Plight of Victims of Modern Slavery in Nigeria**

The relative vulnerability of the population to modern slavery, according to the 2014 Global Slavery Index is determined by five factors which include level of economic and social development in a country; national policies to combat modern slavery; availability of human rights protections; level of state stability; and the extent of women's rights and levels of discrimination in a country. Nigeria is particularly vulnerable to modern slavery given the dismal state of these crucial factors in the country. Nigeria has been battling

numerous ethno-religious and communal conflicts, and of recent, the Boko Haram violent attacks which constitute a major security problem that increases the citizens' vulnerability to modern slavery. Aside the insecurity, structural problems of widespread poverty, high levels of social inequality, corruption, financial crisis, poor human rights records and gender discriminations are among the major push factors that compel people, particularly women and children, to migrate from poorer areas to wealthier regions within Nigeria, the African continent and most especially, to Western countries.

Although Nigeria has enormous natural resources, and has the largest oil reserves in sub-Sahara Africa, the country has been ranked as one with the largest number of poor people in the world. The 2014 World's poverty index estimated that 7% of the world poor are living in Nigeria, and ranked as the third countries in the world with highest number of people living in extreme poverty (World Bank, 2014). Other indices of development like the Annual UNDP Human Development Index painted a gloomy picture of the poor state of Human capital development in Nigeria. Apparently, the dismal state of socio-economic development in Nigeria, palpably contribute to the high prevalence of modern slavery in the country.

Another significant push factor is gender discrimination that is prominent in African culture. In Nigeria, traditional religious practices discriminate against women and children, exposing them to sexual and gender-based violence and under-age marriage. These discriminatory practices put young girls at risk of forced marriage and susceptible to other forms of modern slavery. Many improvised families, in their efforts to survive may resort to cajoling their young girls into early marriages or give out their young children as domestic servants to well to do people, which inevitably expose the children to risk of modern slavery (Agbu, 2003; Babatunde, 2015).

In Nigeria, girls' access to basic education, especially in northern states, has remained low. According to the UNICEF 2017 report, more than 50 per cent of girls in the northeast and northwest

states of Nigeria are not in school and the female primary net attendance ratio is 41.5 and 43.8 per cent respectively. The most recent statistics from the Federal Ministry of Education in 2017 estimated that 10.2 million children aged 5-14 years, of whom 8.7 million (4.98 million girls) are primary school-age (6-11 years), are not in school. The high rate of school drop-out is bound to undermine women empowerment, increasing their vulnerability to modern slavery. This, perhaps lends credence to Ellis and Akpala's postulation that the infringement on women and children's rights, coupled with the inadequacies of legal services for most victims of trafficking allows traffickers to exploit their victims without adequate deterrence measures (Ellis & Akpala, 2011).

In Nigeria, the threat of terrorism increases the risk of abduction and vulnerability to modern slavery, particularly for women and girls in rural communities. Recently, Boko Haram abducted more than 200 girls from a boarding school in Chibok, Borno State (The Vanguard, June 7 2014). The leader of Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, in a video threatened to sell the girls who were between the ages of 16 to 18 years, as 'sex slaves' or married them off to the militants. In the most recent attack in February 2018, over 200 school girls were kidnapped in Dapchi, Yobe State.

The porosity of Nigerian borders allowed human traffickers to cross borders with their victims undetected. Direct observation at Nigerian borders also showed that Nigerian immigration officers usually collect bribe and allow people without any mode of identification to cross border. The laxity in border controls, corrupt practices and lack of specialized training for police and border guards, allow trafficking to thrive with limited risks to their operations. While enroute to their countries of destinations, many of the trafficked victims are exposed to dangerous conditions that may lead to their untimely death before they reach their destinations, which not only cut short their lives but also erode any contribution they could have made to human capital development in Nigeria (Fitzgibbon, 2003). For those who survived the dangerous route, in their countries of destination they faced inhuman treatment from their traffickers who maltreated them mentally and

physically through rape, beating, drug abuse, starvation, confinement and seclusion so as to keep them in perpetual servitude (Babatunde, 2015). Narrating the plight of victims, a social worker assisting illegal migrants disclosed that "sex is traded just like money, to bribe border guards or police."

Trafficked victims most often lack access to adequate victim protection services both in the countries of destinations and the countries of origin (Agbu, 2003). Vayrynen (2003) noted that in the countries of destination in the global North, security agencies most often treat victims of trafficking as illegal migrants, and they faced the risk of deportation or they are thrown into jails where they suffered human rights abuses and denied access to protective services and justice. In the country of origin, like the case of Nigeria, inadequate funding of the anti-trafficking agency undermine governments' capacities to provide sufficient victim protection services (Babatunde, 2015). It is noteworthy that in 2014, only \$US11.9 million was budgeted for combating modern slavery in Nigeria, despite the magnitude of the menace, while countries such as Liberia, Republic of the Congo; Zambia, Senegal, and Mozambique budgeted below a million dollar (Global Slavery Index, 2014).

### **Nigerian Government Response to Modern Slavery**

Although Nigeria has consistently remained a nucleus for internal and cross-border trafficking in persons, however, in recent times, the country has been identified as one of the few African countries that recently made stringent steps to curtail the menace of modern slavery (US Trafficking in Persons Report, 2017). The 2019 Global Slavery report noted that Nigeria is one of the first African countries to pass legislation criminalizing human trafficking in 2003. Nigeria passed a national law against trafficking, referred to as the "Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003" enacted by the National Assembly. Apart from being a party to the Transnational Organised Crime Convention and its Trafficking Protocol on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2000, in the efforts to decisively combat child trafficking, Nigeria implemented the child Rights

Act in 2003 after the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Babatunde, 2015). However, the implementation of the Child Rights Acts, according to the African Child Policy Forum (2013) was hampered by the failure of 12 of the 36 states in Nigeria to adopt the law prohibiting child marriage.

Most of the states that are yet to implement the law are in the northern region, where Sharia law is practiced. The poor implementation in the North is connected to the literal application of the Sharia law, which tends to treat child victims of commercial sexual exploitation as offenders (Bureau of International Affairs, 2012). A few northern states like Kano, may have addressed this practice through the Hisbah Board which now recognized the rights of women and their children under Laws regulating child abuse (Global Slavery Index, 2014). Evidently, the discrepancies between the common and customary laws of many states in Nigeria encumbered the effective implementation of the criminal justice system.

Some lapses have been identified in the provisions of the Nigerian trafficking law for victim and witnesses protections. The Global Alliance against trafficking in Women (2001), and the UNESCO (2006) report noted that the Nigerian trafficking law for the protection of trafficked persons and witnesses falls short of the recognized standard for human rights approach. The report noted that apart from the delay in the criminal trials, the law which allowed convicted traffickers to pay fines instead of imprisonment do not serve as commensurate punishment for the crime against humanity or sufficient deterrence measures to prevent trafficking.

In the efforts to frontally respond to the menace of modern slavery, the Nigerian government established an anti-trafficking agency, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP), in August 2003, empowered by Section 4 of the Nigerian Trafficking law to coordinate all the laws on trafficking in persons in the country. The efforts of NAPTIP, earned the Nigerian Government commendation in the recent US trafficking in Persons report for making a modest response to modern slavery in sub-Saharan Africa.

In recognition of the inadequacy of the trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act, in 2011 NAPTIP introduced some critical amendments to the anti-trafficking law, which eventually paved way for the passage of the amendments by the National Assembly in March, 2015. The passage of the amendments to the 2003 Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act in 2015 is a major accomplishment of NAPTIP in the fight against modern slavery because it increased the penalties for trafficking offenders and also prohibits all forms of trafficking. It prescribes a minimum penalty of five years imprisonment and a minimum fine of one million naira (\$5,470) for labour trafficking and sex trafficking offences. If the case involves a child, the minimum penalty increases to seven years imprisonment.

In recent years, NAPTIP has continued to make efforts to improve support for victims of human trafficking by implementing agreements with hospitals and clinics that provide victims with access to legal, medical and psychosocial services. However, the major handicap to the efforts of NAPTIP is the insufficient funding capacity to provide protection services for victims. The Nigerian government has also not put in place preventive measures that would frontally tackle the socio-economic drivers of modern slavery linked to poverty, gender disparity, and insecurity.

Another critical challenge to the effort of the Nigerian government to combat trafficking is the endemic corruption that is rife in the country. Agbu (2003) enunciated on the corrupt practices of police and other security agencies who usually collect financial inducement from traffickers to procure fake documentation for them and other criminal practices. It is not surprising that Nigeria has consistently been ranked among the most corrupt countries on the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index despite the efforts of the Nigerian government to fight corruption through the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC). These agencies have achieved minimal success, largely due to the lack

of political will by successive Nigerian government and administrations.

The government efforts are complemented by the intervention of Nigerian NGOs, notably the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), Committee for the Support of the Dignity of the Women (COSUDOW), International Federation of Women Lawyers (IFWL) among others. In response to pressure from NGOs, human rights groups and the international community, in July 2014, the Nigerian Government agreed to introduce anti-trafficking curricula to primary and secondary schools, which are yet to be implemented. The NGOs efforts are geared towards prevention through public sensitization programmes, and protections services to alleviate the plights of victims.

### **International collaborations to tackle Modern Slavery**

It is indisputable that trafficking in persons is a complicated and multidimensional phenomenon. As such, no country acting alone can successfully combat it. It requires the cooperation of individuals, families, communities, security agencies, local and international NGOs, development partners and donor agencies, and the international community at large. In this regard, Nigeria has been collaborating with countries such as Finland, Norway and United Kingdom in the effort to combat trafficking. NAPTIP personnel were seconded to UK police to assist in identifying and investigating transnational trafficking and in 2014, Nigerian government signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Dutch Public Prosecution Service to strengthen cooperation between the two nations (Oghenekaro, 2014). Within the West Africa Sub-region, NAPTIP has been providing technical training and support to its sister agency in the Gambia (Akor & Umeaku, 2012).

In the area of victims protection in the Western countries of destination, one needs to take cognisance of the fact that the inadequate attention given to the challenges of modern slavery by the international community, portends grave danger to

the victims of the inhuman trade. The Global Slavery Index in its recent report noted that most countries even in high income developed nations have patchy, basic victim support services, with the exception of countries like Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, Australia, Switzerland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Georgia, and Austria which have comprehensive services for men, women and children, covering both emergency support and long term reintegration services. The efforts of these high-income countries, though commendable, may not be deemed significant when viewed from the prism that they have the economic capacity to do significantly more to end modern slavery.

It appears that many countries seem to have piecemeal responses which are grossly inadequate to tackle modern slavery as the menace still persists. This may largely be attributed to the poor and uncoordinated responses and inadequate implementation measures by both national, regional and global community, complicated by the widening socio-economic disparities between the low and high income countries of the world.

## Conclusion

The phenomenon of modern slavery in the contemporary era is exacerbated by the inequality between the developed countries in the Global North and the low-income countries in the Global south. In Africa, in particular, the underprivileged Africans continue to be highly vulnerable to modern slavery as a result of the inadequate capacity of African governments to eradicate the scourge.

Nigeria is one of the countries with serious challenges of modern slavery despite abundant oil resources and ranking as the most advanced economy in Africa. The situation of Nigeria necessitates nuanced analysis of the driving forces that make the people vulnerable to modern

slavery. The study explores the structural challenges that drive the phenomenon of modern slavery in Nigeria. It also demonstrates that the Nigerian government has made some moderate efforts in terms of victim's protections. However, there are still many lapses in the area of preventive measures and prosecutions of human traffickers. It is therefore very crucial that the government put in place adequate preventive measures to address the root causes of modern slavery relating to high rate of poverty, unemployment, gender discrimination, insecurity and corruption.

In terms of protective service for victim, providing adequate training for law enforcement agencies and sufficient funding are vital to efforts to protect trafficked victims. All states in Nigeria should be compelled to adopt and enforce the Child Rights Act. With respect to corruption, it is suggested that the government should establish anti-corruption units within relevant government agencies to monitor, arrest and prosecute corrupt officials that aid and abet human traffickers.

Considering the transnational nature of modern slavery, it would undoubtedly be difficult for any single country to effectively combat the enormous challenges of this heinous crime, particularly developing countries like Nigeria where there is inadequate economic capacity, insecurity and other vices. This situation necessitates substantial partnership and support from the international community given that the prevailing global inequalities between the low-income and high-income countries not only accentuate the menace of modern slavery, it is also linked to the genesis of the scourge. This necessitates interlocking and innovative national, regional and international strategies embedded in inclusive collaboration to effectively combat the menace of modern slavery which continues to adversely affect national, regional and global wellbeing, security and development.

## Reference

Adepoju, A.(2005). Review of Research and Data on Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa. *African International Migration*, 43(1/2), 75-98.

Abdelkader, G.K., &Zangaou, M.(2012). *Wahaya: Domestic and Sexual Slavery in Niger – 10 Personal Stories*. Anti-Slavery International, 2012:6



- Aderinto, S. (2012). "The Problem of Nigeria is Slavery, not White Slave Traffic": Globalization and the Politicization of Prostitution in Southern Nigeria, 1921–1955. *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 46 (1), 1-22.
- Agbu, O. (2003). "Corruption and Human Trafficking: The Nigerian Case". *West Africa Review*, 4 (1), 1-11.
- African Child Policy Forum. (2013). *Minimum Age of Marriage in Africa*. African Child Policy Forum. Retrieved from <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Minimum-age-of-marriage-in-Africa-June-2013.pdf>
- Amnesty International. (2014). Nigeria: More Than 1,500 Killed in Armed Conflict in North-Eastern Nigeria in Early 2014. London, United Kingdom: Amnesty International Publications. Retrieved from [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org).
- Akor, O., & Umeaku, P. (2012). "Gambia: NAPTIP Partners Gambia". *Daily Trust*, May 30, 2012. Retrieved from <http://allafrica.com/stories/201205300549.html>
- Attoh, F. (2009). Trafficking in Women in Nigeria: Poverty or Value or Inequality? *Journal of Social Sciences*, 19 (3), 167-171
- Babatunde, A.O. (2015). Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime: Implications for Security in Nigeria. *Peace Research: The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, 46 (1), 61-84.
- Bureau of International Affairs. (2012). Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. United States Department of State. Retrieved from <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/childlabor/finding/s/2012TDA/nigeria.pdf>
- Craig, J. (2012). Nigerians Become Most Trafficked Into Italy's Sex Trade. Turin, Italy.
- Curtin, P. (1969). The Atlantic Slave Trade. United States: University of Wisconsin Press. (pp. 1–58).
- Dave-Odigie, C.P. (2008). Human Trafficking Trends in Nigeria and Strategies for Combating the Crime. *Peace Studies Journal*, 1, 65.
- Ellis, T., & Akpala, J. (2011). Making Sense of the Relationship between Trafficking in Persons, Human Smuggling, and Organised Crime: The Case of Nigeria. *The Police Journal*, 84(1), 22.
- Eurostat. (2014). Trafficking in Human Beings. EU Eurostat, October 18. Retrieved from [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2013/docs/20130415\\_thb\\_stats\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2013/docs/20130415_thb_stats_report_en.pdf).
- Fitzgibbon, K. (2003). Modern-Day Slavery? The Scope of Trafficking in Persons in Africa. *African Security Review*, 12 (1), 81-89.
- Global Slavery Index. (2014). Walk Free. Australia.
- Global Slavery Index. (2016). Walk Free. Australia.
- Global Slavery Index. (2019). Measurement, Action, Freedom 2019: An independent assessment of government progress towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.7. Retrieved from [https://downloads.globalslaveryindex.org/ephemeral/walk-1570010544.free\\_-1570010544.MAF\\_190717\\_FNL\\_DIGITAL-P-1570010544.pdf](https://downloads.globalslaveryindex.org/ephemeral/walk-1570010544.free_-1570010544.MAF_190717_FNL_DIGITAL-P-1570010544.pdf)
- Global Impact. (2019). Human Trafficking Fund. Retrieved from [https://traffickingfund.charity.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwrMHsBRCIARIsAFgSel0vZrLQzSe2TiQi3-r8ufaVBr3tH-wKO9ijmE57eBkslOmeoYGTA5gaAvH6EALw\\_wcB#.XZCpm2ZIDIU](https://traffickingfund.charity.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwrMHsBRCIARIsAFgSel0vZrLQzSe2TiQi3-r8ufaVBr3tH-wKO9ijmE57eBkslOmeoYGTA5gaAvH6EALw_wcB#.XZCpm2ZIDIU)
- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women. (2001). Human Rights Standards For the Treatment of Trafficked Persons. (3rd edition).
- Human Rights Watch. (2013). Nigeria: Boko Haram Abducts Women, Recruits Children. Retrieved from

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/11/29/nigeria-boko-haramabducts-women-recruits-children>.

International Business Times. (2012).The Plight Of Nigerian Girls Trafficked into Prostitution in Italy.

International Business Times. September 6. Retrieved from <http://www.ibtimes.com/plight-nigerian-girls-trafficked-prostitution-italy-780763>

International Labour Organization. (2014).Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182) – Uzbekistan (Ratification: 2008). Observation (CEACR) - adopted 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014). Retrieved from [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3149080](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3149080) ;

Manning, P. (1992). The Slave Trade: The Formal Demographics of a Global System. In E. Joseph Inikori & S. L. Engerman (Eds.).The Atlantic Slave Trade: Effects on Economies, Societies and Peoples in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. United States, Duke University Press,(pp. 117-44).

National Crime Agency. (2014).Human Trafficking: National Referral Mechanism Statistics – October to December 2013

National Bureau of Statistics. (2012). Nigeria Poverty Profile 2010.January (pp15).

Ngban, A.N., Maliki, A.E., & Asuquo, P.N. (2009). Demographic Variables and Perception of Human Trafficking in South-South zone of Nigeria. *Study Horne Community Science*,3(2), 127-130.

Oghenekaro, O. (2014).Fighting Human Trafficking via International Cooperation. *News Agency Nigeria*, January 9. Retrieved from <http://www.nanngroonline.com/section/features/news-analysis-fighting-human-trafficking-via-international-cooperation>

Olukoshi, A. (2001).West Africa's Political Economy in the Next Millennium: Retrospect and Prospect.

Dakar: CODESRIA Monograph Series.

Stannard, D. (1993).American Holocaust. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

The Vanguard. (2014).Boko Haram abducts 11 more girls in Borno.Vanguard, May, 7. Retrieved from <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/05/boko-haram-abducts-11-girls-borno/UNESCO>. (2006).Human Traffickingin Nigeria:Root Causes and Recommendations. Policy Paper Paris: Poverty Series 14 (2).

UNICEF(2017). Government of Nigeria Programme of Cooperation, 2018-2022 Programme Strategy Note: Education. Revised 4 April. Retrieved from <http://files.unicef.org/transparency/documents/UNICEF%20Nigeria%20Basic%20Education%20PSN%20-%20Revised%204%20April.pdf>

UNDP. (2016). Human Development Index. New York, United States: United Nations Department of Publications.

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. (2010).Trafficking of Nigerian Girls in Italy: The Data, the Stories, the Social Services. Retrieved from [http://www.unicri.it/services/library\\_documentation/publications/unicri\\_series/trafficking\\_nigeria-italy.pdf](http://www.unicri.it/services/library_documentation/publications/unicri_series/trafficking_nigeria-italy.pdf)

U.S. Department of State. (2014).Trafficking in Persons Report.Washington, D.C., United States: Government Printing Office.

U.S. Department of State. (2015).Trafficking in Persons Report. Washington, D.C., United States: Government Printing Office.

U.S. Department of State. (2019).Trafficking in Persons Report.Washington, D.C., United States: Government Printing Office.

Vayrynen, R. (2003).Illegal Immigration, HumanTrafficking, and Organized Crime. Helsinki, United Nations University, World Institute for Development Economics Research. Discussion Paper, 72.