

Human Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation: The Nigerian Sex Trafficking Industry

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Abstract:- The incidence of trafficking in persons for commercial sexual exploitation or other forms, either within or across national borders can be said to be spurred by the desire to amass material wealth cum financial benefits on the side of the traffickers and desperation on the side of the prospective or to be victims to access a better standard of living, escape poverty, uprising, political instability, socioeconomic instability, access to gainful employment amongst other factors as the case maybe. Though trafficking is not peculiar to any single region but can be argued to be more prevalent in developing countries, where unemployment rates are usually high and living conditions are poor, incessant political crisis amongst other numerous factors. This study seeks to interrogate the interplay between neoliberal globalization both as an economic theory and a policy stance and trafficking in persons for commercial sexual exploitation, with emphasis on the Nigerian sex trafficking industry.

I. INTRODUCTION

The illicit trade in humans as commodities, either for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labor, servitude, child labor, and the likes may vary contextually; however they are geared towards exploitation on for the victims and amassing of financial or material benefits for perpetrators. The continuous growth of the sex trafficking industry can be linked to the high demand for cheap labor and sex in advanced nations and the availability of such cheap labor and commercial sex in less developed nations, where desperation to escape poverty and access a quality standard of living have created persons vulnerable to trafficking. This is not to say however that commercial sex trafficking or other forms of trafficking are alien to advanced countries, as human trafficking if not given due diligence is likely to persist anywhere. According to Bales (1997), trafficking is not a new phenomenon, either in the form of slavery or for labor purposes. Origin of trafficking policy dates back to the end of the nineteenth century when white slavery or trafficking of white women for forced prostitution received wide media coverage in the Western part of Europe and the United States respectively. Olujuwon (2008) asserts trafficking in persons to be a global demand driven business with huge market for cheap labor and commercial sex, which involves exploiting vulnerable people, needy women, children and young men with promises of employment and better life abroad. The shadow nature of the trafficking industry makes it somewhat impossible to ascertain an accurate figure of the victims of commercial sex trafficking, as prospective victims are either lured, coerced or deceived usually upon arriving their various

destination countries are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation to the benefit of either their traffickers or whom so ever footed their migration costs. M'Cormack (2012) claims...it's difficult to accurately measure the impact of trafficking because of its clandestine nature and hidden economies of which trafficked people work. The nature of the industry also makes it difficult to readily identify trafficked victims, as they are in this context coerced or threatened into sex trade in a country where prostitution is legal, Italy where there are thought to be over 10, 000 Nigerian victims of sex trafficking. In attempt to curb the epidemic of sale of humans as commodities, various treaties have been signed between countries, international protocols established, notable amongst them is the Palermo Protocol, which prohibits trafficking in persons with emphasis on women and children, yet trafficking in persons continues to be a growing self-reproductive industry amidst the desperation to escape poverty, unemployment and harsh socioeconomic realities, more are likely to fall prey to prowling traffickers or willingly result to sex trade as an alternative means of livelihood, which in the scope of this study neoliberal globalization is argued to be a determinant of trends in trafficking of Nigerian women to Italy for commercial sexual exploitation.

Neoliberal globalization has brought about an enormous change in global economic interactions, amongst its numerous features which includes but not necessarily limited to, limited state interference in economic activities and encouraging more active private participation in the economic sector, privatization and financialization of state owned institutions, tailored structural adjustment policies SAP for the developing world, removal of state subsidies, downsizing of labor force brought about by privatization, incessant benefit cuts and most of all free movement of human and capital resources across national borders, with their unintended negative effect facilitated the trend in trafficking of disadvantaged and vulnerable Nigerian women and girls abroad for commercial sex exploitation, al-though they maybe multiple causal factors as to why trends in trafficking of persons has flourished and metamorphosed into what could be regarded as modern day slavery, this study seek to interrogate the correlation between trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and neoliberal globalization in the Nigerian context.

Globalization and regional integration as claimed by Nagle (2008) have contributed to trafficking in persons been the fastest growing and third most wide spread criminal enterprise

in the world after drugs and weapons. Bales (2005) claims that at first instance slaves are cheaper today than ever before. For some cases human beings may be bought for as little as 10\$, therefore creating a disposal feature in the case of a modern slave considering the relative peanuts paid for such persons, another transformation he observed is length of time a person remains in servitude, though slaves are been held for relatively shorter periods of time than in the past, sometimes a couple of months or years, he finally argues that today slavery is globalized.

In concurring this claim a UNODC (2010) report on trafficking in persons though published in 2010 claims that it is one of the most lucrative illicit businesses in Europe, where traffickers rake in around 2.5 billion United State Dollars a year through sexual exploitation and forced labor. Thus, human trafficking isn't a new phenomenon it has flourished over time and metamorphosed into a more worrisome enterprise aimed at exploiting the vulnerability of disadvantage persons for financial benefits, coupled with the relative ease at which persons are bought and sold is likely to make the sex trafficking industry in this context a self-reproductive one as victims can be easily disposed of. The above listed figures as to the amount generated globally from proceeds of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor, gives an insight into the magnitude of the illicit trade in humans as commodities.

II. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Human trafficking as a concept can be argued to mean the recruitment, harboring and subsequent movements of a person or persons, through deceit, coercion or in some cases with the consent of prospective victims due to desperation and notion of better standard of living abroad, from a country of origin to a destination country, where they are made to work in slave like conditions for the benefit of their traffickers or 'owners'. Though these paper does not intend to delve into the concept of human smuggling, there is need to highlight on it as it is somewhat related to trafficking as they both involve the movement of persons from a point of origin to that of the final destination, through means that are likely to contradict various migration laws, making such movements illegal migration. Smuggling typically can be said to involve the procurement of the services of a human smuggler for a said amount of fee or other material gains as the case maybe to assist or be an accomplice of a sort in the movements of a person or persons illegally across national borders, such agreements or contracts per say are usually terminated upon arrival of an earlier agreed destination, thus there's less room for exploitation.

For the purpose of this study the definition of human trafficking as stipulated in the Palermo Protocol of the United Nations (2002:2) will be adopted, as it has been largely retained as a universal definition of human trafficking. It argues human trafficking to mean; the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of threat or the use of force or other means of coercion,

abduction or fraud of deception, of the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include at a minimum prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organs. Nigerian has signed and ratified among other anti-trafficking policies and treaties, the United Nations UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, often referred to as the Palermo Protocol, domestic legislation and legal practices in the area of trafficking however remains erratic. Subsequently, global outcry spurred by the inhumane incidence of procurement and sale of persons in other words human trafficking could be informed by obvious degradation that comes with services similar to slavery of which victims of trafficking are either deceive and in other cases coerced into rendering, at the benefit of their traffickers. This could have informed the initiation of numerous global, regional, bi-lateral treaties and agreements, domestic legislations, all geared towards curbing the epidemic of humans as commodities to be bought and sold, modern day slavery in other words human trafficking. Neoliberalism in this context is will be theorized both as an economic theory and policy stance. As a theory it can be claimed to favor largely uncontrolled capitalist structure or free market economy, which does not only entrenches the notion of free individual choice, but can be said to be most likely to bring about maximized economic performance in relations to efficiency, economic growth, technical and technological advancements, in other words it breaks barriers and connect the world economies, thus limiting state influence on the economy, which is controlled by the owners of means of production. These can be said to be a welcomed development, as it encourages private ownership of property and active private participation in the economy, it has been however been accompanied by an adverse negative effect, further enhanced the disadvantaged position of persons in Nigeria as in most developing nations, where income inequality gap has continue to grow and women unfortunately have continued to occupy the peripheral positions.

Globalization on the other hand has brought about an increase in the volume of inter border economic interactions and resource flow both in the forms of human, capital, technological, military expertise amongst numerous other resources, it brought about what can be claimed to be a relative shift in the interactions and relations between national economies. These interactions between states have perforated barriers between borders, bringing about the ease in movement of human capital resources across national border, this welcomed development has however been exploited traffickers, even stringent visa procedures has somewhat proven not to be barrier to human trafficking, as victims of these illicit trade could be found across the globe. According to Stoecker (1998) there are...at least four factors that

facilitate the growth of this phenomenon i.e. human trafficking the globalization of the economy, the increased demand for cheap and personal services in the advanced West, continuous rise in unemployment among women and rapid unregulated enticement of human capital via the net. As Vayrynen claims in M'Cormack (2012), closed nature of borders has presented greater opportunity for transnational criminal groups, who take advantage (increased dependence on trafficked and exploited labor services and consumer seeking cheaper goods and services including sexual services) and supply (spurred by the desire to access better standard of living) have resulted in a consistent increase in human trafficking activities.

Thus, this study claims that neoliberalism has resulted in the commodification of humans to be bought and sold with relative ease, while globalization also with its unintended negative effect have provided traffickers a medium that facilitates the movements of prospective victims under different guises, where they exploited subsequently.

Whilst commercial sexual exploitation in this context amounts to trafficking of a person or persons for the sole aim of subjecting such person or persons into commercial sex trade, to the financial benefit of another, usually their traffickers or owners. Thus, trafficking in person for commercial sexual exploitation connotes exploiting the vulnerable and disadvantage position of women and girls, recruiting, harboring and subsequently transporting them across or within national borders, for exploitation sexually at the benefit of another. According to a UNODC (2014) report the many different types of human trafficking means there's no single typical victim profile, cases are seen in all parts of the world and victims are targeted irrespective of gender or background. Another report by the same organization though dated back to 2010, largely claims the most prevalent form of human trafficking as detected by national authorities is trafficking for sexual exploitation, as at 2006 it accounted for an estimated 79% of all cases globally; the remaining 21% is thought to include forced labor amongst varying forms of exploitation. The above reports goes a long way in concurring the claims of this study that human trafficking is not alien to any single region and occurs in varying degrees and forms, but trafficking for sexual exploitative purposes remains the most prevalent amongst other forms of trafficking. Thus, it can be said that women are girls are most vulnerable to traffickers, hence they unfortunately account for the highest population targeted and exploited by human traffickers globally.

III. BACKGROUND OF COUNTRY IN FOCUS

Olujuwon (2008) asserts, Nigeria been the most populous black nation in the world houses a population estimated at 200 million, largest producer of crude in Africa, has an average of 5.3 annual growth rate, but its estimated that 70% of Nigerians live in poverty. Despite its vast reserve of oil amongst other natural resources Nigeria is rated one of the poorest countries in the world, with hug income distribution

gap, though this is not the focus of this study it is of paramount importance to highlight such details, as the study revolves around why the Nigerian sex trafficking industry and why it has continued to flourish over time. Odigie et al (2008) have identified poverty as the principal driving force behind this trade and the most visible cause of vulnerability of women and children to trafficking in Nigeria. Also ...perhaps, the nefarious activities of traffickers in Nigeria would have remained hidden and uninhibited despite general concerns for the office of the then wife of the vice president in collaboration with wife of Edo state governor in 1999. As the treatment meted out to trafficked victims in the process of transporting them and at their various destinations, especially those abroad had become a huge source of embarrassment to Nigeria's integrity as a nation Odigie et al (2008). As acknowledged by Carling (2005) the most important European destination for Nigerian victims is Italy, where there are thought to be around 10,000 Nigerian prostitutes supposed to be victims of sex trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Thus, it can be argued that Nigeria like most of the developing world endowed with enormous resources, be it human, capital or natural, yet most of its population live in abject poverty, in desperation to escape poverty coupled with the notion of a better standard of living abroad, gainful employment amongst other factors, has created a position of vulnerability and desperation amongst women and men alike which is exploited by traffickers usually through deceit, coercion or offers of better employment and improved standard of living abroad.

IV. HISTORICAL TRENDS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

Agbu (2003, p.1) claims that the beginning of the 1980's was when Nigeria experienced reasonable increase in trafficking trends, especially of women and children. However it was not long before it was realized that the scourge was indeed a global phenomenon of extensive and diverse dimension. Trafficking activities in Nigeria is highly prevalent in Edo state located in the southern part of Nigeria, as concurred by a UNESCO report; "...Edo state from where contemporary human trafficking started, it is alleged that business transactions existed between natives and Italians, when the Nigerian economy was more robust. However when the sex business became more lucrative in Italy coupled with worsening economic situations in Nigeria women shifted to sex business and involved their relations in it and with time more people in it as the business began to boom. This explains why till date, over 80% of persons trafficked for prostitution to Europe especially Italy come from Edo state (in Odigie and Patience, 2008, p.68).

As regards as establishing a correlation between neoliberal globalization and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation in the Nigerian context, the then military administration of Retired General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida adopted the Structural Adjustment Program SAP tailored for developing countries by the International

Monetary Fund IMF for Nigeria as many other African states, which means privatization, commercialization, financialization, removal of subsidies on notably education, health care, downsizing of labor force and benefits cuts but to mention a few features of this program, aimed at developing and growing developing economies, curbing government excesses amongst other aims. Has largely failed to bring about the desired outcome intended, rather mismanagement, corruption and inappropriacy of SAP by these developing economies further compounded the already worsening living conditions and standards of the populace and brought about continuous dependence of country endowed with enormous natural and human resources on foreign aid from the West and International bodies. The evident negative effects SAP could be found across the continent till date as it failed to yield expected development in other countries as well, that adopted program in the 1980's. Though empirical evidence cannot be provided due to the clandestine nature of the sex trafficking industry in Nigeria and the complex nature of migration, it is no coincidence that upon adopting SAP the already disadvantaged position of women in Nigeria like most African countries where women are regarded as secondary to men was further reinstated. As the economy suffered from devaluation of currency, high inflation, more workers were laid off, compounding the already existing challenges of unemployment and access to affordable basic amenities as health care, education, housing etc. Women and men alike were forced by the policies adopted by the then government to seek alternative means of livelihood, in the absence of gainful technical or formal employment, which in this case is trafficking for commercial sex outside the shores of their home country, of which the legal Italian sex industry was and still is accommodative to victims alike. Though trends in trafficking of Nigerian women and girls abroad for commercial sex was thought to have emerged during the 1980's about the same period SAP was adopted, the inability of the Nigerian state to effectively eradicate poverty has become fuel upon which the Nigerian sex trafficking industry thrives. To further substantiate the claims of this study a global report in trafficking in person UNODC (2009, p.11) argued that, from victims identified by state authorities in 61 countries, where data was collected and aggregated for 2006, women accounted for 66% of total victims of trafficking, men 12%, girls 13% and boys 9% respectively. The just stated figures connotes the claim of this study, that claims women are most disadvantaged in the society and this in turns like a chain reaction increases their vulnerability to advances made at them by preying traffickers. This is however not to claim that trafficking is alien to men and boys.

V. TRAFFICKING DYNAMICS AND FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY IN NIGERIA

Hence there is no single universal method adopted by trafficker, trafficking activities could occur round the globe in different forms, thus making it paramount to highlight some of the known dynamics of cross border trafficking, whose

victims profile fits that of a disadvantaged person, mainly in developing countries where socioeconomic opportunities are thought to be limited. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNODC...Nigeria has been described as a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking for African countries such as but not necessarily limited to Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Cameroon amongst others are some destination points for trafficked women, whereas in Italy prostitution is the main work they usually end up doing in Fayomi (2009:62) [18]. Thus, Nigeria acts as much as a sending country as it does in receiving and harboring victims of human trafficking, from neighboring states. Having attempted to establish a negative correlation between neoliberal globalization and trafficking for commercial sexual purposes in the Nigerian context, which is intended to be further expatiated during the course of this study, it is important to give an insight as to what is meant by disadvantaged position of women in the society, which in this context results to sex trafficking as an alternative means of livelihood, in other words feminization of poverty.

The disadvantage position of women in the Nigerian society, could be brought about by the inability of women to access basic education resulting from cultural or religious beliefs that seeks to restrain women to home managing and child bearing or due to high cost of education, socioeconomic constrains, high illiteracy level, soaring unemployment and continuous dependence on the man as the bread winner of the home could possibly result in feminization of poverty, a situation whereby women are at the periphery of poverty. It is no news that a chunk of the developing world live in abject or below poverty line amidst vast natural resources. Prior to adoption of SAP women were naturally considered secondary to men, a scenario most prevalent in the developing world, though changing has limited their active participation in both the formal and informal employment sectors respectively, and post adoption periods shows the gap in gender equality and the emergence of trends in trafficking of women from Nigeria to mainly Italy for commercial sexual exploitation.

Fayomi (2009:67) argues, in Nigeria where an approximate 70% of the population is thought to be living below income poverty line of 1\$ per day; women make up the greater percentage of the poor in Nigeria [19]. Gender inequalities in the social, economic and political spheres of development further marginalized women and reinforce their disadvantaged position in the society especially in the access to and control over resources. Same author further elucidated the above claim by providing statistical data to further substantiate her claims; she argues comparative data for adult literacy reveals a wide margin of 74.4% for males as against 59.4% for females respectively according to 2008 figures Fayomi (2009:67) [20]. As regards formal employment men fare better than women in Nigeria, their employment participation in the sector is a meager 11% compared to 30% for their male counterparts, likewise in the federal civil service, the single

largest employer of labor in Nigeria, 76% of people on the payroll are men compared to 24% of women, while less than 14% of management levels officers are women Fayomi (2009) [21].

In lieu of the above it can be argued that in socio-economic aspect, literacy and employment levels respectively men fare better than women. The disadvantaged woman created as a result of policies adopted by state institutions coupled with poor governance has left women at the periphery of poverty. This in turn like a chain reactions is likely to usher in thoughts of migrating abroad where the grass is supposedly assumed greener, ill-informed regarding the hazards of illegal migration or human trafficking, they are likely to fall prey to traffickers whom entice their victims with promises of employment abroad and better standard of living. In other words it can be argued that, adoption of the SAP a core component of neoliberalism an economic policy stance, a developmental policy tailored by the IMF for developing countries, with its unintended negative effects has further compounded the challenges of illiteracy as subsidy on education was cancelled, unemployment as privatization and commercialization of state owned entities lead to down-sizing of work force and cuts of social welfare, may have forced those affected into seeking alternative means of livelihood, hence sex trafficking in this context.

VI. THEORIZING NEOLIBERAL GLOBALIZATION AND TRAFFICKING FOR COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

This subsection will delve into the argument of this study, which seeks to ascertain if any, a negative adverse relationship between neoliberal globalization both as a theory and economic policy stance and trends in trafficking of Nigerian women and girls to Italy for the sole purpose of sexual exploitation. Economic structures of nation states leaned towards a system of finance based on neoliberalism, 1970's witnessed a new world order conceptualized by the hegemonic power as neoliberal globalization. It has subsequently been accompanied with profound restructuring of the global economy, with multinational corporations as the major policy influencers, the world most powerful state the United States of America, and a trait of international bodies as International Monetary Fund IMF, World Trade Organization WTO Peter and Valtmeyer (2000).

Harvey (2005:1) claims neoliberalism as the curbing of labor power, deregulation of industries, agricultural resources and extraction, and liberation of finance both internally and on the world stage [23]. As earlier stated for the purpose of this study neoliberalism is intended to be considered both as an economic theory and policy that encourages capitalism and also an economic policy stance enforced globally by leading world powers, multinational corporations amongst others, and how such policies as independent variable are more likely to have amongst other factors further enhanced the vulnerable position of women in Nigeria as it has in most developing

countries, which may have brought about a correspondence increase in the illicit trade in women as sex objects to be exploited. This study further claim that as embedded in the general philosophy of neoliberalism as an economic approach is that poverty of an individual or country is strictly related to their choices, but not to any sort of inescapable structural factors or policies. In other words individuals and countries can overcome poverty if only they pursue accurate macro-economic strategies, which is neoliberal. Contrary to such claims, the author argues that privatization, commercialization and financialization of the economies of most developing countries in the 1980's as specified by SAP, has left many unemployed, without access basic amenities as education, health where no longer subsidized and coincidentally that period demand for cheap labor in advanced countries in this case Italy as earlier stated during the course of this paper was on the increase and provided traffickers with the opportunity to exploit the vulnerable position of women, whom are lured into commercial sex trafficking with offers and promises of better employment, higher standard of living abroad and a better foreign exchange currency, thus the poverty of individuals in not by choice but a result of policies adopted by the system. According to Delgado and Marquez (2007:2), architecture of neoliberal globalization is based on the implementation of structural adjustment programs in southern nations. Such programs are centered on privatization, deregulation and liberalization [24]. Such policies bring about laying off of workers upon privatization in an attempt to cut cost and increase efficiency, a welcomed development, but those laid off are forced to seek alternative means to survive, in this context sell their bodies or services at instances marred by extreme exploitation. The influx of foreign capital is and would always be a welcomed development as it creates employment for the locals amongst other benefits, but it is unregulated and controlled by private individuals which means those already with sufficient financial capital resources benefit, owners of means of production and those in the periphery of economy continue to live in abject poverty. Gender comparative data for adult literacy level reveals a wide range of 74.4% for males as against 49.9% for females; their performance in the industrial sector is 11% for men as compared to 30% for men Fayomi (2009:77) [25].

Though but figures are relatively low as compared to what is obtainable in advanced nations, considering the vast natural resources Nigeria parades, its rather unfortunate that a vast population of Nigerians continue to live in abject poverty, which on its own has a defining influence on trafficking in persons. The economic freedom and curbing of state power as entrenched in neoliberalism has with its unintended negative effects has further enriched owners of the means of production, living a vast percentage as the beck and call of a few. In other words income equality gap has continued to widen. In a nutshell it can be argued that neoliberalism as an economic policy places unsubstantial amount of priority as regards individuals as long the owner of means of production continue to maximize profits, it's a perfect system. In this

context it has a negative correlation with the illicit trade of trafficking in persons for commercial sexual exploitative purposes, the unbalanced power evident in neoliberalism creates vulnerability and the natural instincts of survival, drives women to seek alternative means of survival, as some victims prior to been moved from country of origin to destination, already have a notion of the nature of job they are been trafficked for but not a clue or magnitude of exploitation they likely to face in their various destination, Italy in this context.

As for globalization, free movement of human and capital resources across national borders as embedded in globalization, which can be seen as a prosperous means of development as it facilitates economic interactions between nations and continents, traffickers have exploited the free movement of human capital resources across national borders to move prospective victims from origin to destination countries, as a plane ticket can easily be purchased via the internet so can applications and appointments for visas be made via the same medium, this however is not to say it has not made the world a global village and its contribution to development in many fronts cannot be over emphasized. It has been accompanied by adverse unintended negative features that has brought about a correspondence increase practices of trafficking in persons a modern day form of slavery as it has perforated or opened national borders worldwide, influencing and altering the current state of international relations for Albrow he considers globalization as active dissemination of values, practices, technology, human products, ideas etc. throughout the globe in Bales (2005:32) [26]. Kuhl (2011:16) further acknowledges that globalization has contributed to the growth of human trafficking as in the modern improvements which have affected international transport. It has become relatively easier for individuals to travel domestically and internationally [27]. Globalization has made the world a smaller place, in the sense that there is economic integration, free movement of human capital and ease as to which information can be assessed; these are positive developments that deserve to be applauded. But it has adverse negative effects on human trafficking as Aronowitz puts it; it's cumbersome to accurately ascertain the exact impact of globalization on human trafficking because of the clandestine and hidden nature of economies in which trafficked people work M'Cormack, (2012:2) [28]. Human trafficking irrespective of the nature result in loss of human capital, a United States US Department of State, trafficking results in tremendous loss of remittance to developing countries, as a result of the debt trafficked person are coerced or threatened to pay incurred upon been trafficked, which they are less likely to do, given annual remittance to developing countries is estimated \$135 billion, lack of remittance from trafficked victims may result in a loss to these countries development of approximately 60\$ billion in United States dollar value in M'Cormack, (2012) [28]. This funds could have gone a long way in providing capital flows, create employment, and bring about development in other forms if utilized effectively and

efficiently. In brief this study claims neoliberal globalization has brought about tremendous changes to the global economy and has redefined trading amongst other interactions between countries and continent, it was also accompanied with opportunities that allows for ownership of property and encouraged more private participation in the global economic, such miles- tones deserves nothing less of absolute commendations. Unfortunately, it has also been accompanied with numerous unintended negative effects previously discussed during the course of this study, which has paved the way for trends in trafficking in persons in the Nigerian context. It is noteworthy that this study does not necessarily seek to claim neoliberal globalization as the sole causal mechanism of the continuous growth of the trafficking industry in the Nigerian context, but it is no coincidence that trends in trafficking of Nigerian women to Italy for commercial sexual purposes sky rocketed about the same period, SAP a core feature of neoliberalism as an economic policy stance was adopted.

VII. CONCLUSION

According to claims of various scholars, organizations and other reputable references stated during the course of this essay, it is safe to say that human trafficking is the modern day form of slavery that deserves utmost and urgent attention from global leaders as it is not peculiar to any single region, and crisis globally has further enhanced trends both in human trafficking and smuggling as there have been countless cases of capsized boats resulting in deaths of thousand in recent time especially on the mideteranian sea. While this study does not in any way seek to condemn or disregard the positive effects neoliberal globalization has had in transformation of the global economy, its rather unfortunate that its SAP can be to an extent considered as a catalyst that facilitated trends in trafficking of Nigerian women and girls to Italy for the sole aim of commercial sexual exploitation. In the wake of the alarming rate at which Nigerians have fallen victims to traffickers, the federal government of Nigeria has ratified various international anti-trafficking protocols, such a Palermo Protocol aimed at curbing trafficking especially in women and children, regional treatise and has established a National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons NAPTIP. Yet human trafficking continues to thrive lucratively, thus there is need to reappraise and reevaluate such treaties, there is also an urgent need to sensitize the public on the imminent dangers of ill-informed migration. And most of all classification of women as secondary to men needs to be urgently reconsidered and a level playing ground established in terms of education, employment and socioeconomic spheres. Hence, this study proposes, more emphasis that more placed on female child education or skill acquisitions schemes, sensitization on the dangers of trafficking and most of all the justice system be strengthened, independent of any external influence and stiffer penalties prescribed for convicted human traffickers. Lastly, this study falls short of shedding a light on human trafficking for other

purposes, as it focuses mainly on trafficking of Nigerian women to Italy for commercial sexual exploitation. Further research could be carried out regarding other forms of human trafficking, considering the claim that human trafficking is the third most lucrative illicit industry after arms and drugs trade.

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