



The Grace Uzoma Okonkwo Foundation

In collaboration with

Institute of African Studies &
Department of English and Literary Studies
University of Nigeria

invites scholars and the general public to the conference

Theme:

Migration And Neo-slavery As Significant Features Of The 21st Century



Even though migration and slavery are probably as ancient as man, they are significant issues in

the twenty-first century. As regards migration, recent studies have shown that the twenty-first century has the highest migration rate in history. But the field which has crystalized as migration studies is very vast and contentious, involving many disciplines and refusing exhaustion, making it imperative for scholars to always examine and rethink issues in the area in the light of emerging realities. Many developed countries find themselves in the delicate dilemma of negotiating the requirements of territorial/cultural integrity and humanitarianism. Some are rethinking immigration policies to cope with security and socio-economic challenges, and the 'wall rhetoric' of the Trump Administration is just one popular instance. From time to time, the media are awash with news of migrant casualties in boat mishaps in the Mediterranean Sea. The Libyan Desert has become a notorious route of death where many African nationals have perished in their quest to get to Europe. There is also Africa-Africa migration, together with the motivations and results of this. In Africa also, there is the intra-border and extra-border migration of herders and the socio-political implications of this reality to twenty-first century African states. As regards slavery, that old familiar brand in African racial history, there is the transmutation of that social reality into institutionalized and normative practices, some of which are backed and executed by governments and many of which are perpetrated by individuals and the private sector. Years after slavery was officially outlawed, people still suffer the phenomenon in various ways – sex slavery, debt bondage, forced labour, child labour, etc. This sort of slavery – characterized in the media and modern scholarship as neo-slavery, contemporary slavery or modern-day/modern slavery – is predominant in Africa, according to a February 2019 report by *The Guardian* of UK.

In this conference, therefore, we are interested in researches that deal with these realities, either as they relate to each other or as independent discourses. We are interested in papers that deal with the emergent issues in the discourse of migration and neo-slavery, particularly as it concerns Africans in Africa, Africans in Europe, Asia, and America or, to paraphrase Martin Heidegger, wherever they settle their existence. We also welcome researches on the experiences of non-African migrants/neo-slaves and countries, insofar as these researches contribute significantly in the apprehension of the nature of migration and neo-slavery as twenty-first century phenomena.

In addition to other unnamed related areas, papers should capture any of the following areas:

1. Politics, Economy, Culture and Migration/Neo-Slavery in the Twenty-first Century
2. Identity, Humanitarianism, Border-Crossing & Border Security in the Twenty-first Century
3. Historicizing Migration and Neo-Slavery in the Twenty-first Century
4. Migration, Neo-Slavery and Language/Linguistics/Communication
5. Migration, Neo-Slavery, Human Rights and Legal Studies
6. Religion, Neo-Slavery and Migration in the Twenty-first Century
7. Migration, Neo-Slavery and the ICT
8. Labour Migration and Neo-Slavery in the Twenty-first Century
9. Farmer/Herder Crisis, Intra-border Migration and National Security
10. Images of the Migrant and the Neo-Slave in the Mass Media/Social Media and Political Discourse
11. The Discursive Representation (in literature, Theatre and film etc.) of the Migrant/Migration and the Neo-Slave/Neo-Slavery in the Twenty-first Century
12. Appraisal of Policies on Migration and Governments' Anti-Neo-Slavery Efforts
13. Post-colonizing Migration and Neo-Slavery
14. Africa-Africa Migration and Xenophobia in the Twenty-first Century
15. Neo-Slavery, Migration and the Female Being
16. Migration in the Age of COVID-19
17. #ENDSARS/Protests, Asylum/Asylum Shopping and the Politics of Diasporic Power

Keynote Speaker

Hon. Justice Centus Chima Nweze,
Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria

Guest Speakers

Hon. (Barr.) Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Spokesman of the House of Representative
Topic: Debt forgiveness, Poverty and Post-Covid; Fresh Perspectives to an old dilemma.

Hon. Engr. Chris Azubogu,
Member, Federal House of Representatives, FCT, Abuja.
Topic: Techno-Economic Development as a Viable Tool in Reducing Illegal Migration and Slavery'

Lead Paper Presenters:

1. Migrating for Freedom, Migrating into Slavery: 21st Century Ironies'
Professor Ike Odumegwu,
Director, Centre for Migration Studies, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
2. Migration and Neo-Slavery in the 21st Century: The Role of Education and Mothers'
Dr. Lady Pat O. Okeke,
Principal and Proprietress, Supreme Knowledge Comprehensive Schools, Nkpor/Onitsha

Date: 27-29th April, 2021

Arrival: Tuesday 27th April 2021

Opening Ceremony: Wed. 28th April, 2021

Time of Opening Ceremony:

10:00 am Prompt

PARTICIPATION

To participate, submit an abstract of not more than 200 words to one of the following emails:
graceuzomaokonkwofoundation@unn.edu.ng OR
florence.orabueze@unn.edu.ng.
Due to general appeal, we shall accept abstracts until March 15, 2021. Authors of accepted abstracts should submit their full finished papers electronically by June 30, 2021 through the emails indicated above.

Virtual presentations are also available

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

National – N15, 000 (Fifteen thousand naira)
International - \$100 (One hundred dollars)

Participants can pay into the Conference Account in **Access Bank**, Name on Account: **The Grace Uzoma Okonkwo Foundation**; Account Number: **0805649376**.

PUBLICATION

The most suitable papers from the conference will be collated and peer-reviewed for publication in the foundation's international journal – **OGBAZULUOBODO: University of Nigeria Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies**.

PS: PILLARS OF PEACE AWARDS would be conferred by the Foundation on very deserving and eminent members of the public

Professor Victor Ukaogo
08035603571
Chairman, LOC

Mr. Onyemuche L. Ejesu
07062093090
Secretary, LOC

Chairman of the Conference

Hon. Justice Chukwunweike Ogbuabor,
Judge of Enugu State High Court

Special Guest of Honour

Dan-Mallam Mohammed,
Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Department of Training and Development, Nigeria Police Force

Hon. Abike Dabri-Erewa
Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM)
Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Annex 1, Abuja

Chief Host

Professor Charles Igwe,
Vice Chancellor, University of Nigeria

Co-Host

Professor Sam Onuigbo
HOD, Department of English & Literary Studies
University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Host/Convener

Professor Florence Onyebuchi Orabueze
Director, Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria
Chairman of the Board, The Grace Uzoma Okonkwo Foundation