Conference Proposal By

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Topic
The Trending Human Organ Trafficking: how enlightened are Nigerian youths of this phenomenon?

Background
From the academics, social and political commentators, there are different views, perceptions or opinions on what is and what constitutes human trafficking. Organ trafficking is an aspect of human trafficking which is mainly perpetrated by organized criminals. While human trafficking (slave trade) is as old as history of humanity, organ trafficking is a new phenomenon, an emerging trend which some still doubt its reality. Writers like Jordan (2016) opined that it may sound like a fiction, but this phenomenon is an unfortunate fact in the contemporary global criminology.

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery (Rutgers University, 2011) is the third largest criminal industry in the world today after criminal arms industry and criminal drug industry. The industry is estimated to worth billions of dollars. It is a global criminal industry which respect no race, religion, ethnic or social background. Human trafficking comes in many forms ranging from force labour, sex trafficking (Nigeria is reported to be a major source of this), child labour, organ movement (organ trafficking) etc. Human trafficking is the procurement of individual(s) by illegal means either through coercion, scam, deception with the sole aim of exploiting them for material gains (UNDOC, 2017).

This modern-day slavery affects almost every country in the world as reported by UNDOC (2014) that between 2010 and 2012 there were 152 victims from different citizenships been identified in 124 countries. These figure is a token representation of the trafficking phenomenon and UNDOC acknowledged the fact that these figures are probable to be far higher than reported. World Health Organisation (WHO, 2017) corroborated this fact by saying that there is no reliable data on organ trafficking but it is extensively believed that the crime is on the increase and this is because of the growing demand as well as crooked traffickers.

It is important to clarify here that there is a difference between organ donation and organ trafficking. While the former involves a voluntary donation of an organ(s) for free, the latter involves an exchange of organ(s) for a fee.

Traffickers always take advantage of the high-level poverty in many third world countries like Nigeria. Traffickers mostly deceive potential victims by convincing them that they will sponsor them to abroad for a greener pasture and since a potential victim does not know anything about the suppose destination abroad, they in most cases have no choice than to succumb to traffickers. Only on arrival to the destination that victims get to find out that they are in for a terrible life changing experience which sometimes can lead to death.

Statement of the Problem
There are debates on what really is an organised crime, transnational crime and even the concept of crime itself. I don’t intend to go into these debates. Simply put, an organised crime involves a network of two or more criminal individuals whose main motive is usually material gain and they specialise in one or more aspects of what the law has designated as
crime e.g. selling of human organs. Such individuals usually have a broader network either within their immediate locality or across the border of a nation and where such network exist, it becomes a transnational organised crime. Even the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) has never given a comprehensive definition of transnational crime.

According to Hughes (2014), a new form of human trafficking which involved global trade in kidneys emerged in the early 1980s in Latin America, Asia and Middle East. Hughes further opined that this form of trafficking was to supply the demands of ‘transplant tourists’ which became rampant in the 1980s.

The head of NAPTIP (Nigerian federal anti-trafficking agency), Julie Okah Donli was reported to have said that this emerging trend of organ trafficking has gone beyond prostitution now because those involved believed it is easier to make more money, (Donli, 2017). Nigeria has unfortunately for long been on the news for human trafficking especially prostitution in European countries like Italy. Despite the many efforts of NAPTIP, there is no meaningful progress in reducing this crime as many Nigerians are regularly falling prey to traffickers in the name of taking them to Europe for greener pasture.

It is a common knowledge in Nigeria that there are always cases of innocent individuals especially children been stole or kidnapped and have parts of their organs removed mainly for spiritual purposes. There are even documented cases of dead bodies been exhumed from their graves and organs removed from such bodies. Nigerians are aware of this crime but are they aware of being deceived for greener pasture abroad only to go and get part of their organs traded?

Ungift.org (2016) identified students and teachers as vital stakeholders in the fight against this phenomenon and education is the most powerful tool to use. But how enlightened are youths (most especially Nigerian students) of this crime? This paper seeks to provide answer to this question.

Sample
The sample for this paper compromised of 1500 educated Nigerian youths who were drawn from Universities of Abuja and Kaduna State University. A simple random sampling was used to select respondents among both undergraduate and postgraduate students of these two universities. It is my assumption that students in Nigerian universities are youths and educated since they are in a learning environment.

Data Collection
Data would be from primary source which will be collected using a carefully worded close ended questionnaire. In other words, quantitative means.

Conclusion
Perry (2014) said that organ trafficking is a reality in many parts of the globe with documented evidences in countries like Brazil, China, India, Indonesia among many others. The demand for organs are very high and it is being alleged that an average of 25 die each day because of this crime.

References
