

Decisive Factors in Asylum Procedures of Trafficked Women from Nigeria - A Systematic Analysis

An Abstract of the Thesis By
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In 2016 social workers in Germany reported seeing an increase in the number of trafficked women from Nigeria within the asylum-seeking procedures seeking help at their counselling organisations (KOK e.V., 2016; p. 3). Furthermore, asylum decisions were reported to appear inconsistent and non-transparent (Idler and Mantel, 2016; p. 5). Given this background, this thesis examines the following research question: "Which factors are decisive in the asylum procedures of trafficked women from Nigeria and secondly are those factors transparent and consistent?". The research is conducted based on original data stemming from asylum documents (notifications and protocols) of 50 trafficked women from Nigeria from the years 2017 and 2018. To answer the research question, a mixed-method approach including quantitative analysis, as well as qualitative analysis of the asylum notifications and protocols has been implemented. In conclusion, robust and consistently significant evidence showed that the vocational training of the applicant decreases the likelihood of the same individual to obtain asylum. Another interesting finding is that trafficking has hardly been a decisive factor and that different experiences, such as trafficking or FGM/C¹, as well as the ability to get protection from persecution in Nigeria did get evaluated very differently, depending on the relevant decision-maker. The thesis closes with a discussion that contextualised the research findings within the field of social work as a human rights profession.

Keywords: Human Trafficking, Asylum, Nigeria, Women, Decisive Factors; Social Work

¹ FGM/C refers to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting. The term mutilation aims at highlighting that female circumcision is not analogous to male circumcision. Since this term entails judgement and condemnation of traditions and affected women, the term cutting has been added (UNICEF, 2013).