

**XENOPHOBIA AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS: A  
STUDY OF NIGERIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA (2008-2020)**

**ALAGA, ZAINAB OLAITAN  
(21PAH02320)**

**B.Sc, International Law & Diplomacy, Babcock University, Ilisan-Remo,  
Ogun State**

**JULY, 2023**

**XENOPHOBIA AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS: A  
STUDY OF NIGERIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA (2008-2020)**

**BY**

**ALAGA, ZAINAB OLAITAN  
(21PAH02320)**

**B.Sc, International Law & Diplomacy, Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo,  
Ogun State**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE  
STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.Sc.) DEGREE IN  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL  
SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COVENANT  
UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE**

**JULY, 2023**

## **ACCEPTANCE**

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

**Ms Adefunke F. Oyinloye**  
(Secretary, School of Postgraduate Studies)

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Akan B. Williams**  
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

**Signature and Date**

## **DECLARATION**

I, **ALAGA, ZAINAB OLAITAN (21PAH02320)** hereby declare that this research titled **“XENOPHOBIA AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS: A STUDY OF NIGERIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA (2008-2020)”** was undertaken by me under the supervision of Dr. Oluwakemi Udoh in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University. This research has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree award, the sources of scholarly information and all the opinions of others used in this dissertation have been duly acknowledged.

**ALAGA, ZAINAB OLAITAN**

**Signature and Date**

## **CERTIFICATION**

We certify that this dissertation titled “**XENOPHOBIA AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS: A STUDY OF NIGERIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA (2008-2020)**” is an original research work carried out by **ALAGA, ZAINAB OLAITAN (21PAH02320)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Oluwakemi Udoh. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science in International Relations.

**Dr. Oluwakemi D. Udoh**  
(Supervisor)

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Daniel E. Gberevbie**  
(Head of Department)

**Signature and Date**

**Dr. Ferdinard O. Ottoh**  
(External Examiner)

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Akan B. Williams**  
(Dean, School of Postgraduates Studio)

**Signature and Date**

## **DEDICATION**

To Almighty Allah and to my parents for this opportunity given to me. I appreciate all the support and encouragement.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This research was only achievable because of the significant contributions of some amazing individuals who have been in my life from the moment I began my degree in this institution.

My sincere gratitude goes to Almighty Allah, my protector and my provider. I deeply appreciate the Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, who has made it a mission to ensure we all get quality education in a holistic environment. I appreciate the Management of the Institution led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.H. Adebayo for their consistent commitment to the achievement of excellence and sound academic scholarship. I am thankful to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Olujide. A. Adekeye, and the Registrar, Mrs. Regina. A. Tobi-David. I am grateful to the Dean of the School of Post-Graduate Studies, Professor. Akan. B. Williams, for his mentoring throughout the period of my postgraduate study. Again, to Professor. Charles Ogbulogo, Dean of College of Leadership Development Studies, and also Professor Daniel Gberevbie, Head of Department of Political Science and International Relations Department, for his firm stance on academic excellence in the department. I want to appreciate my Supervisor, Dr. Oluwakemi Udoh, who was meticulous about every detail of my work, ensuring that it comes out best. I am really grateful to you for starting and concluding the supervision of this dissertation, and for your warm, consistent supports and ideas.

Special appreciation to my fellow colleague, Udom Adaeze Charlyn, thank you for your support, encouragement and always being there.

Finally, to my amazing parents, Alhaji Prince Kolawole Balogun and Alhaja Bilikis Balogun, for their love, duas, encouragements and unending care. May Allah continue to bless you, grant you long life filled with good health and prosperity.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACCEPTANCE</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>DECLARATION</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>viii</b>

### **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Research Questions	5
1.4 Research Objectives	5
1.5 Propositions	6
1.6 Significance of the Study	6
1.7 Scope of the Study	7
1.8 Definition of Terms	7

### **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

2.1 Preamble	9
2.2 Literature Review	9
2.2.1 The Concept of Xenophobia	9
2.2.2 Xenophobia and Racism	10
2.2.3 Concept of Migration	11
2.2.4 Concept of International Migration	12
2.2.4.1 Causes of Migration	13
2.2.4.2 Consequences of Migration to the Host Countries	14
2.2.5 The Concept of Human Rights	15
2.2.6 Human Rights of International Migrants	18
2.2.7 The United Nations and International Migration	21



2.3 Conceptual Framework	23
2.4 Theoretical Framework	25
2.4.1 Relative Deprivation Theory	26
2.4.2 The Frustration-Aggression Theory	28
2.4.3 Application of Theory of Relative Deprivation	31
2.4.4 Application of Frustration-Aggression Theory	32
2.5 Gaps in Literature	33

### **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Preamble	35
3.2 Research Design	35
3.3 Population of Study	36
3.4 Sample Size	36
3.5 Method of Data Collection	37
3.6 Method of Data Analysis	38
3.7 Validity and Reliability	38
3.8 Ethical Consideration	38
3.9 Description of Study Area	39
3.9.1 Nigeria	39
3.9.2 South Africa	41

### **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSES**

4.1 Preamble	44
4.2 Data Presentation	44
4.2.1 Violence	45
4.2.2 Human Rights Abuse	46
4.2.3 Apartheid	47
4.2.4 Socio-Economic Factors	48

4.2.5 Government Policy on Social-Economy	51
4.2.6 Migrant Safety	52
4.2.7 Bilateral Relations between Nigeria and South Africa	53
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS</b>	
5.1 Introduction	56
5.2 Discussion of Findings	56
<b>CHAPTER SIX; SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION</b>	
6.1 Introduction	60
6.2 Summary	60
6.3 Contribution to Knowledge	63
6.4 Recommendations	63
6.5 Conclusion	64
6.6 Limitations to the Study	65
6.7 Suggestion for Further Study	66
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>67</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>FIGURES</b>	<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
Figure2.1	Conceptual Framework	25
Figure2.1	A 2023 reformulation of Berkowitz's (1990) frustration-aggression hypothesis	30

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>TABLES</b>	<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
Table 4.1	Themes	44

## ABSTRACT

Xenophobia has become a persistent immorality in Africa and it is more rampant in South Africa. The vulnerability of Nigerians to the maltreatment abroad and the immediate need to protect their fundamental human rights in this case, as migrants has been a subject of major concern. Due to this, the violence against immigrants and the violations of their fundamental human rights as migrants in South Africa calls for attention. This study examined xenophobia in South Africa as it impacts the human rights of immigrants specifically Nigerians. The relative deprivation theory as well as the frustration-aggression theory are embraced as the theoretical framework of this paper. How xenophobia continues to violate the fundamental human rights of Nigerian immigrants in South Africa with an attempt to understand the primary reason for the constant xenophobic attacks in South Africa. The cross sectional survey research method is incorporated as a methodology in this paper in order to give detailed events of xenophobia in recent years. To understand the human rights of immigrants, various legal provisions put in place by the United Nations on migrant rights are also addressed in the paper. This paper provide occurrences of human rights violation by South Africans against immigrants using secondary data. Data reveal that the violations of immigrants' rights such as: right to life, right to freedom of association, right to security amongst others in South Africa over the years continue to increase mostly due to xenophobia. This paper strongly suggests the need for the South African government to be held accountable for these violations. As a show of good faith, the South African government should establish human rights protection institutions for migrants residing in their region with deliberate intent of protecting these immigrants.

***Keywords: Human Rights, Migrants, Nigeria, South Africa, Xenophobia.***