

Fast track: Nigeria to Denmark - a new trend among trafficked Nigerians in Denmark

HEUNI, April 2018

**By Ingrid Lüttichau,
The Danish Centre against Human Trafficking**



Nigerians the majority of identified trafficked persons in DK

From 2007 – 2016: 632 people has been identified as trafficked in Denmark. 50 % are Nigerian nationals.

Understanding the Nigerian network and relevant social assistance: fact finding missions to Nigeria and Italy.

A few general characteristics:

- Traditional Religion (Juju): a binding oath
- Debt: 30. – 70.000 Euros
- Threats against the family in Nigeria
- Great and widespread trafficking networks

The framework for identification and assistance

The EU directive on trafficking in human beings (2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004) is not applied in Denmark. Third-country nationals who are VoTs do not have the possibility of getting a residence permit in Denmark.

Instead they are offered a 30 day reflection period which can be extended to a 120 days on condition of accepting an AVR.

We come in contact with and identify most of the Nigerians, when the police bring them into custody in relation with minor offences in relation to the Aliens Act. If they are identified as trafficked they are released from prison and offered a protected place in a safe house.

The Danish Immigration Service has the mandate to make this decision and often it based on the interview made by the social workers with the potential VoT in custody. The police are not part of this process of identification and as such no evidence is collected or statements verified.

The trend before 2015

The majority of Nigerian nationals were originally trafficked to Spain, Italy or Greece.

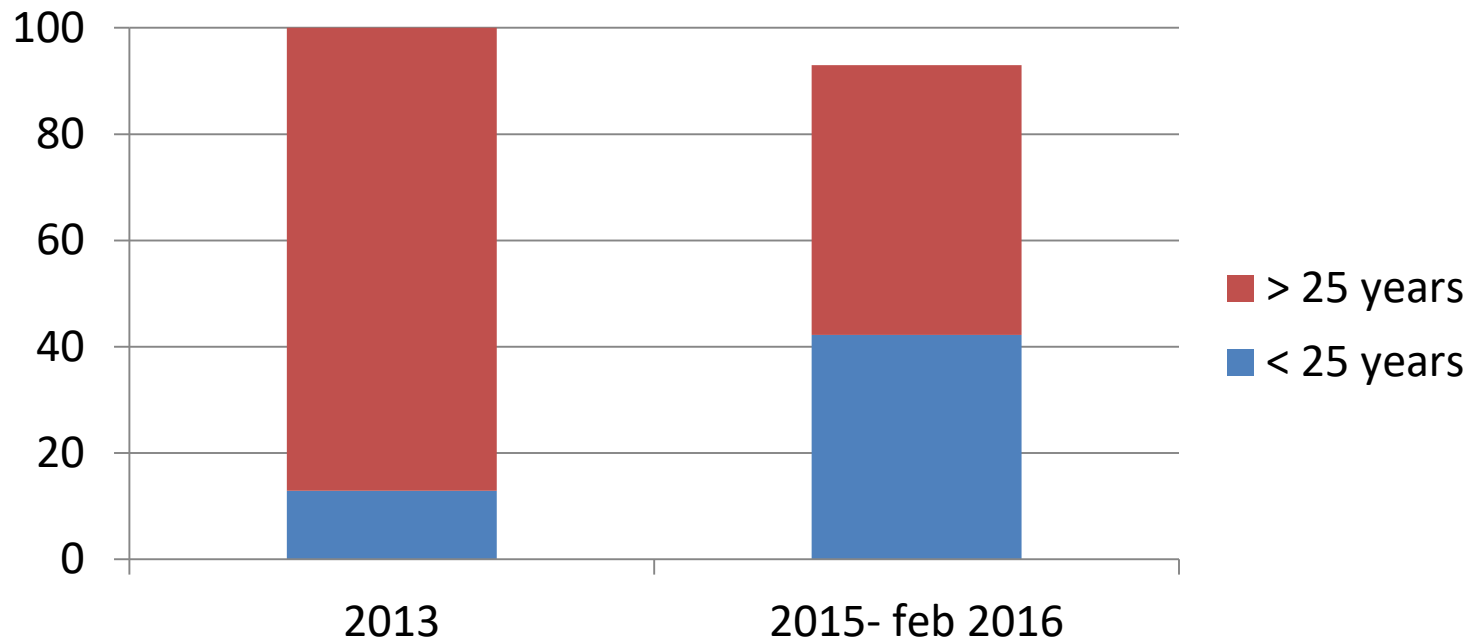
Had EU- residence permit and had spend several years in the EU and can speak the language.

Controlled through the juju and threats towards the family in Nigeria.

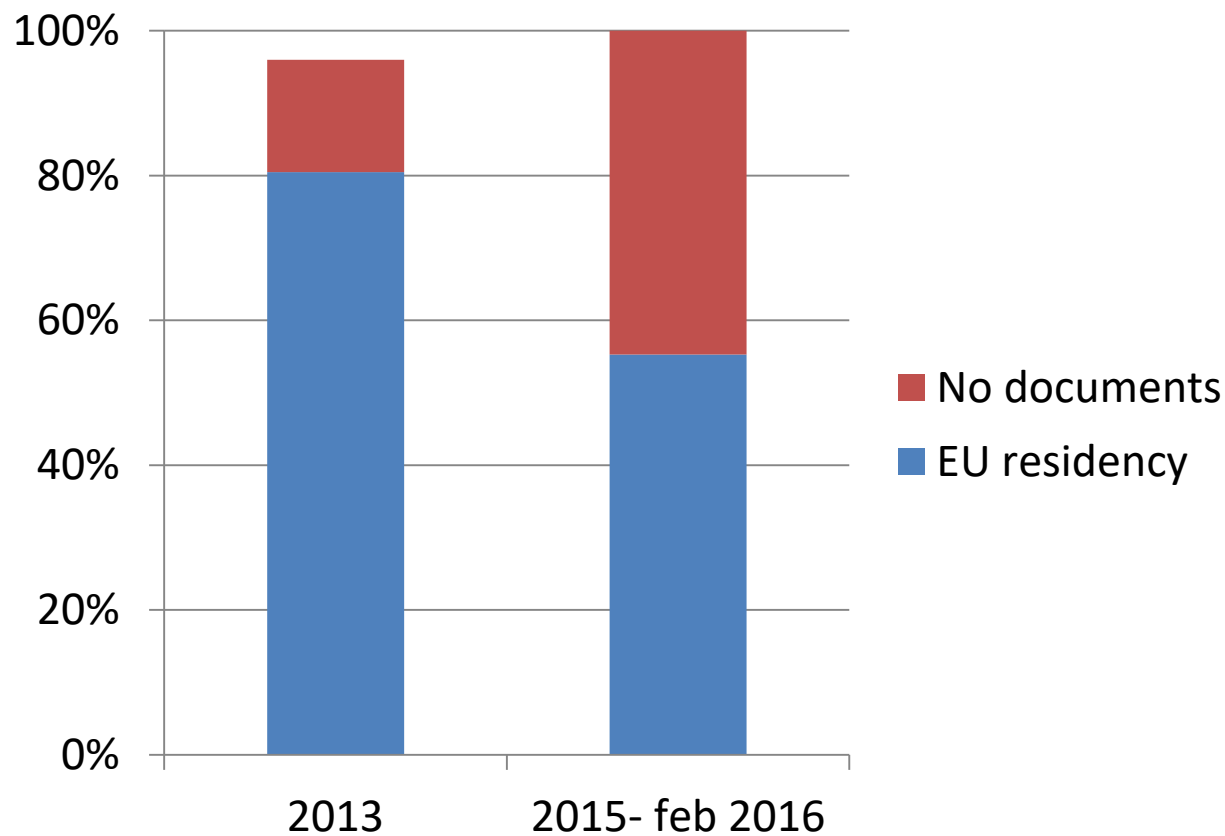
Entered Denmark as a tourist and tried to pay the money off faster and to distance themselves from their trafficker (who is in another country).

Our primary focus has been to assist the family in Nigeria and to help them access help in the country of origin.

By 2015

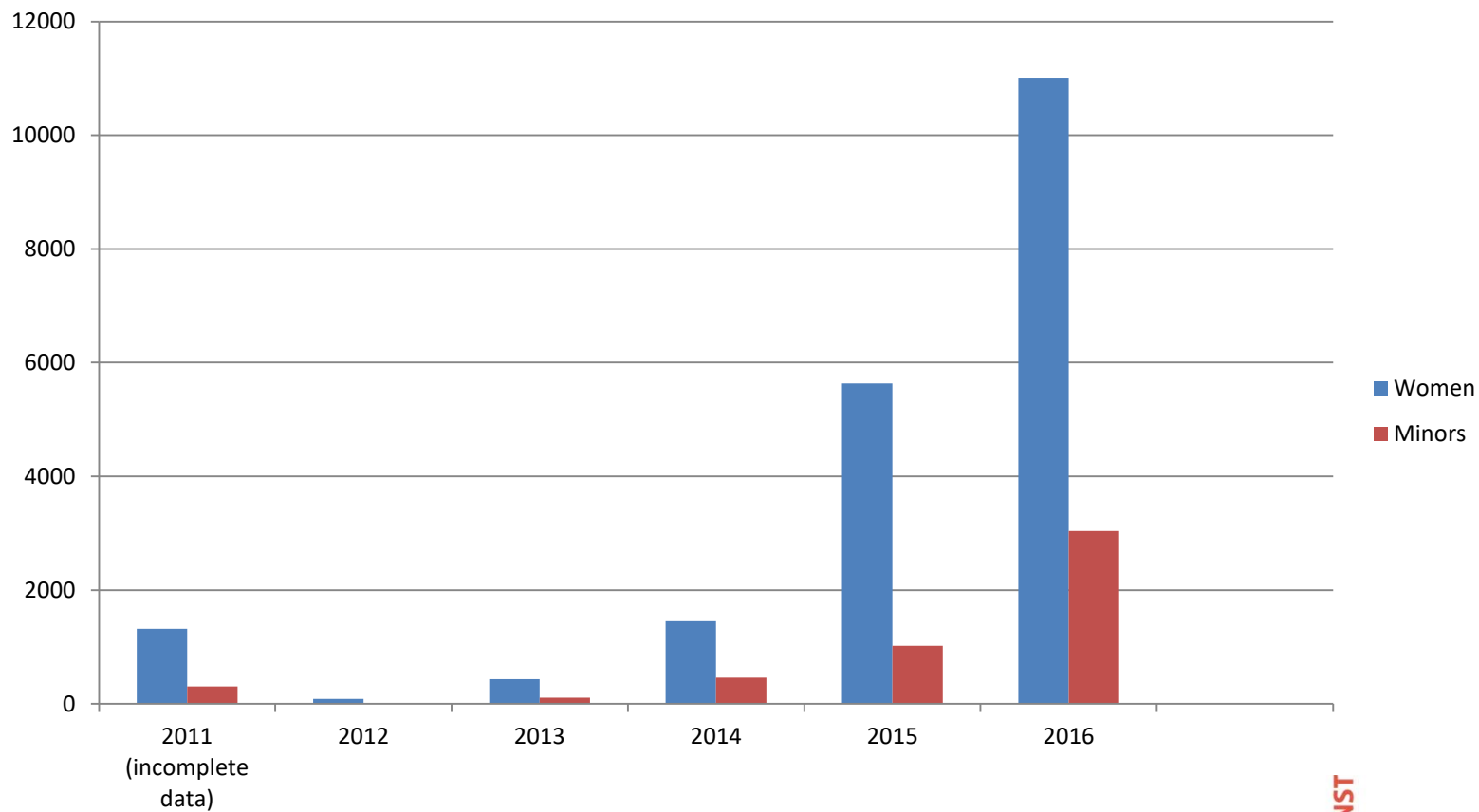


By 2015



By 2015

Nigerian women entering Italy (IOM 2017)



What is their situation – how to assist them?

Young and have only been a short time in Europe – difficulty understanding their possibilities in Europe.

Difficulties understanding their debt and how long time it will take to pay it off. It takes time for them to understand the level of deception.

They are frightened.

Little knowledge of sex work.

It seems like the traffickers are well aware of how the system work and how to work with it (e.g. Fingerprints and Dublin). The traffickers are now operating in Denmark, but are still anonymous – the challenge for social workers is to understand in what way they use the system of assistance.

Concluding remarks

The Nigerian network is consolidating itself in DK.

Is the Danish system of assistance relevant for the need of this new group of young Nigerians?

The Danish model: identified by social workers and not prosecutors – pros and cons.

Continual work and contact with the women also when they choose to leave the safe house.