

## **Getting Apartments in Russia: A Policy Deficiency towards African Migrants**

### **Abstract**

Studies on the African migration to Russia has been under researched. Though the Africa community is the smallest among the different migrant communities in Russia, it is, however, growing. With the independence of many African countries in the 1960s, the diplomatic relations between these African countries and the Soviet Union with the later giving scholarship to many African students to study in any Soviet University, during the Soviet-era, Africans that are present within its territory are either students of government representative. However, the number of African immigrants to Russia has been increasing since the disintegration of the Soviet Union. In 2018, an estimate of 7,833 Africans arrived Russia either as tourists, labour migrants, refugees or to reunite with family. Understanding the dynamics of African migration to Russia is important because it fills the lacuna in the study of African migration and also contribute to the field of migration in Russia and the world. The purpose of the research was to investigate an aspect of integration of African migrants living in Moscow. It examined the discrimination of black migrants in obtaining accommodation and the strategies that the black migrants deployed that made them fit into the system. For the purpose of this research, the personal experiences of Nigerian migrants living in different parts of Moscow were conducted and analyzed to answer the research questions. The study reveals the presence of ethnic hierarchies in the quest for an apartment, which has put black people at the receiving end and has made it difficult for them to integrate into the Russian social setup. Despite formulating laws granting equal rights to people regardless of the origin, Nigerian migrants and particularly, the black community have experiences denials in getting apartment from owners who determine the kind of person they want.