

## **NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE: ARE FEMALES SUITABLE FOR POLICE DUTY?**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Police force is a masculine job that needs physical strength and force and thus it is a male-dominated working environment in Nigeria as in other countries. Under gender mainstreaming, Nigeria's society has gradually adhere to the basic female human rights for equitable employment, with one example being that the Special Examination for Police canceled limits on quotas for females in order to offer equal opportunity employment. However, police duties often times have to face uncertain dangerous situations and so under real operation conditions. If policewomen are exposed to dangerous situations, does this meet the requirements of "protection of maternity" in the Police Act and Police Regulation which prohibits policewomen from strenuous drilling and beat patrol? This study observes that females generally perform less in physical examination and hence the number of Nigeria's policewomen is set not to significantly increase in the future. If this situation continues, then the fact that policewomen request equal employment opportunity on one hand and request being protected on the other hand may affect the operations of police authorities. This study is aimed to explore: Whether or not women are suitable to engage in police duties?