

# "Without Women, Nothing Can Succeed': Yoruba women in the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Nigeria"

Nolte, Margrit

DOI:

[10.3366/E0001972008000065](https://doi.org/10.3366/E0001972008000065)

License:

None: All rights reserved

*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Citation for published version (Harvard):*

Nolte, M 2008, "'Without Women, Nothing Can Succeed': Yoruba women in the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Nigeria", *Africa*, vol. 78, no. 1, pp. 84-106. <https://doi.org/10.3366/E0001972008000065>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

**Publisher Rights Statement:**

Africa / Volume 78 / Special Issue 01 / February 2008, pp 84-106 Copyright © International African Institute 2008 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3366/E0001972008000065>

**General rights**

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

**Take down policy**

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact [UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk](mailto:UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk) providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

**‘WITHOUT WOMEN, NOTHING CAN SUCCEED’: YORUBA WOMEN IN  
THE OODUA PEOPLES’ CONGRESS (OPC), NIGERIA**

*Insa Nolte*

**ABSTRACT**

My paper examines the role of women in the politics of the Oodua People’s Congress (OPC), a militant ethno-nationalist movement of the Yoruba people in southwest Nigeria often understood as associated with the politics of Yoruba 'youth'. Case studies of women’s roles in Lagos, Ibadan, Osogbo and Ago-Iwoye suggest that while women play important roles within the association, primarily by enabling and supporting the vigilante activities of male OPC members, the particular roles and experiences of female OPC members differ greatly according to locality. Yet despite its strong local roots, the OPC aims at the creation of a united Yoruba nation, and within the OPC’s revalidation of traditional practice, women’s support is widely perceived as crucial. As a result, the pan-Yoruba politics of the national OPC leadership are associated with the expansion of women’s scopes of action. Although this takes place within complementary rather than egalitarian gender roles, women’s participation in OPC politics far exceeds their participation in the public sphere of the Nigerian state. Thus the OPC enacts an alternative nation not only in terms of ethnicity but also in terms of gender relations.