

# **Human and Sex Trafficking**

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# **Definition of Human Trafficking**

The illegal movement of people, typically for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sex.

# Definition of Human Trafficking

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other means of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”

*- UN General Assembly in 2000 and accepted by 159 countries under the Palermo Protocol*

# Interchange of Terminology

Also called “Sex Trafficking” or “ Human Sex Trafficking”, or “Human Trafficking” or “Trafficking in Persons”

It is the millennium discovery in sexual exploitation and Abuse of the human rights of women

It is a form of sexual violence (gender-based violence) directed against women.

Some people regard it as a form of modern-day slavery

# Prevalence of Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

- Although TIP involves both sexes, women are more likely to be trafficked than men – so it is gender-based crime.
- Nearly 27 million persons (especially women) live in TIP situations around the world, 50% of which are <18 years old
- Nearly one million children and adolescents are forced into prostitution each year

# HT – A Trans-border Crime

- Individuals tend to be trafficked between countries
- Often from low income to high income countries
- But trafficking can also occur within countries (from one part of the country to another).

# TIP in Nigeria

- TIP came into limelight in Nigeria in the 1980s
- And became an issue of national discourse in the 1990s
- Nigeria has been classified as a source, transit, and destination country for TIP
- It includes both internal and trans-border trafficking

# Internal TIP in Nigeria

- Internally, women and children (including boys) are trafficked from rural to urban areas for work and exploitation (including for rituals)
- Please, note that Kidnapping and Gboko Haram insurgency are forms of TIP



# External TIP

- Nigerian women and boys are trafficking annually in large numbers to North Africa, Saudi Arabia, and
- Europe – mainly Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Norway, etc.
- In small numbers to the USA, UK and Asia
- Mainly for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

# Nigeria as a destination for TIP

- Women, girls, and boys are trafficked from Chad, Niger, Benin Republic, Togo, Cameroon, and Ghana for:
  - Begging,
  - Prostitution
  - Domestic servitude
  - Armed Conflict
  - Labour exploitation

# Prevalence of TIP in Nigeria

- Nigeria has one of the most active trades in humans in the world
- It is estimated that between 750,000 and one million people are trafficked each year in Nigeria
- 75% are trafficked between the States, 23% are trafficked within the States, and only 2% are trafficked outside the country.

# External TIP in Nigeria

- Edo State has the highest number of externally trafficked persons in Nigeria
- Report from UNICRI/UNODC indicate the majority of persons trafficked from Nigeria for sexual exploitation are from Edo State

# Edo State – the External TIP Capital of Nigeria

- The first conviction secured by NAPTIP – Mrs Sarah Okoya, was from Edo State
- NAPTIP reports that 98% of victims rescued from external trafficking for sexual exploitation are from Edo State
- About 47% of convicted traffickers (by NAPTIP) are of Edo origin

# Why Edo State?

- Cultural relativity
- The “Push” and “Pull” factors
- The wealth transfer theory

# Causes of TIP

- Leaving a place of poverty to gain wealth
- Political conditions
- War
- Social and cultural practices

# Causes of TIP in Nigeria

- Structural Adjustment with devaluation of the Naira
- Worsening national economy
- Corruption and impunity
- Religious and cultural permissiveness
- Crave for wealth and the worship of materialism



# Summary of reasons for TIP

- For financial gains and exploitation
- For sexual exploitation
- Victims as war shields or perpetrators of criminality

# Characteristics of TIP

- Traffickers will compel their victims to accept a job through various means of deception, coercion or force
- They deprive their victims of the ability to consent
- They lure their victims into employment scenarios by making false promises
- They promise to help to obtain visas and they often swear to oaths.

# Characteristics of Traffickers

- In a study of traffickers in Germany, 78% were males, while 22% were females
- However, in Nigeria trafficking is mainly by women while men play secondary (facilitating roles)
- Former victims often turn to become traffickers

# Age of Traffickers

- Traffickers are often older than the victims, due to the ability of older persons to manipulate younger ones.
- In Benin, the reported age of traffickers range between 15- 51 years

# Family and marital status of traffickers

- There are several cases where family members connive or are oblivious of the involvement of their family members and spouses in trafficking
- Family networks, including husbands have been known to be involved
- The high rate of TIP in Edo State has been traced to families inviting their immediate/extended family members to join them abroad.

# Occupation, Education and Criminal history of traffickers

- Some traffickers have criminal histories or other crimes they have been involved – e.g. drug trafficking, etc.
- Others have legitimate jobs before they entered trafficking jobs – e.g. doctors, lawyers, etc.
- Most have a higher level of education than those they have trafficked

# Hierarchy of roles of Traffickers

- Master Trafficker
- Primary Traffickers
- Secondary Traffickers
- Grassroots Intelligence gatherers

# **Simplified terminology of Trafficking**

**Recruiters** – who recruit victims

**Transporters** – who transport victims to various locations

**Exploiters** – who exploit victims to the maximum



# Types of organised groups in TIP

- Rigid hierarchy
- Devolved hierarchy
- Hierarchical conglomerates
- Core criminal groups
- Organised criminal networks

# TIP as Commerce: The West African model

- Use of psychological as well as physical pressure
- Modern transport links are combined with traditional practices
- Significant financial resources
- Small profits are returned to the local operators of the criminal groups

# TIP as Commerce: The West African model

- Much of the profit flow to other illicit activities and are laundered
- There are huge supports from influential persons, who also benefit either politically or financially from the trade
- Attended with significant human rights violation

# Health consequences of TIP

- Have not been well investigated
- Psychological, physical or/and sexual abuse
- Forced or coerced use of drugs/alcohol
- Social restrictions and emotional manipulation
- Economic exploitation leading to inescapable debt
- Legal insecurities

# Sex trafficking and health

- Fatigue and headaches
- Immediate and long-term effects of rape – including unwanted pregnancy, STIs and HIV
- Significant weight loss and dis-orientation

**STOP  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**



# WHY TIP must Stop

- It is a violation of the human rights of persons
- It is an international crime that is associated with other forms of crime
- It is a total denigration of person-hood

# Prevention of TIP

- Awareness campaign
- Laws and legislations
- Prosecutions
- Rehabilitation and rehabilitation of trafficked persons
- Trans-national efforts, including international policing



# Prevention of TIP in Nigeria

- Nigeria passed the Trafficking in Persons law in 2003, and modified it in 2005
- NAPTIP was established to lead campaign against the practice and to bring perpetrators to justice
- Child trafficking is also a criminal act in 23/36 States
- Kidnapping have also been criminalised in almost all States

# Long term Solutions to TIP in Nigeria

- Investment in education
- Rural orientation and development
- Employment creation and skills acquisition for youth
- Resolution of conflicts in the country
- Good policing and the enforcement of laws

# Long term solutions to TIP in Nigeria

- Elimination of small arms and sophisticated weapons
- Proper monitoring of human movements across the border
- Use of social media
- Partnering with telecommunication companies
- Good governance and the elimination of impunity and corruption

# Some Research Questions

- What are the actual reasons for human trafficking, including kidnapping in Nigeria?
- What are the socio-economic and cultural determinant?
- What are the experiences of those who have been trafficked (or kidnapped) and how can such experiences be used to prevent future cases?
- Why is international sex trafficking so common in Edo State?

# Some Reading Materials

**Okonofua FE, Ogbomwan SM, Alutu AN, Okop K, Aghaghowa E.** Knowledge, attitude and experiences of sex trafficking by young women in Benin City, South-south Nigeria. *Social Science and Medicine* September 2004, 59:6, 1315 – 1327.

**THANK YOU**