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“Vulnerable people are exploited – shipped around the world as merchandise; poor people are lured with promises of well-paid jobs; people are drugged, raped and beaten... This has become a terrible scandal, an abominable evil in human society and the source of so much suffering.”

-- South African Bishops' Conference
Pastoral Letter, February 8, 2015



Responding With Action Against Human Trafficking in Africa and Around the World

By Annah Theresa Nyadombo, HOLMC

The world is calling for action against human trafficking and is also working to combat trafficking in persons. The Carmelite NGO has since been raising awareness in different countries through its members. Human trafficking is now commonly known as the modern-day slavery where human dignity is no more respected. In Africa, there are two main reasons for exploitation namely for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation -forced into prostitution. The most affected people in these categories are women and children. Women work as domestic servitude and this is sometimes accompanied by sexual violence if they are young girls.

In Zimbabwe, the Government has recently developed a National Plan of Action (NAPLAC) 2016-2018 that is guided by different principles to stop trafficking and also to support victims of trafficking. These principles are as follows:

A. Evidence-based Approach- this is to collect data, carry out research that shall be monitored and is evident through regular evaluations.

B. Coordinated and Multi-Sectoral Approach

The existing knowledge and regular monitoring and expertise of different institutions in the field of trafficking in persons and their respective methods shall be harnessed in the development of anti-trafficking in person's strategies.



Sr. Annah Theresa Nyadombo, HOLMC joins Zimbabwean taxi drivers in their demonstration against human trafficking.

C. Right based and victim centred approach

Children shall be afforded special protection and well-being regardless of their legal status. In all actions concerning those at risk and victims, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration. At the core of the response is the consideration of the dignity, confidentiality and respect, inclusive of the right to choose of the victim.

D. Non-discrimination and gender sensitive approach

The procedures to help victims does not discriminate against and amongst victims of trafficking in persons on the basis of

their nationality, race, colour, tribe, place of birth, ethnic or social origin, language, class, religious belief.

It is important to be able to identify victims of trafficking in any given situation by:

Stage one: Pre-interview assessment indicators: based on specific indicators and interviewing process

Stage two: Interviewing schedule: best practices and a list of question to ask potential victims of trafficking

Stage Three: Accurate decision: whether the person has been trafficked or not.

AGAPE Leona Charity a local Carmelite organization in Zimbabwe working together with the Carmelite NGO has since raised awareness through posters, flyers and workshops. It has extended its help with food to victims of trafficking from Kuwait who returned to Zimbabwe with the help they received from the Carmelite NGO. AGAPE is working to respond to the **7Ps** namely, **Prayer, Prevention, Protection, Participation, Partnership, Policy and Prosecution**. These **7Ps** are meant to counter trafficking in persons through active involvement, action, education and prayer. Therefore, each of the seven Ps is being addressed in a different way. (See chart on page 4.)

Human trafficking has also developed challenges to the young boys and girls in the context of culture. There are numerous cases of reports in Zimbabwe were girls are forced to marry and become second or third wife. Due to poverty children (boys and girls) are becoming more vulnerable some parents are exchanging children for different goods and money.

Among the girls and women involved in prostitution most of them had been victims of rape. The dignity of the person is removed and continuous torture, trauma is experienced every day. Children in schools and in other institutions have received flyers with relevant knowledge to equip themselves to **say NO!** to trafficking in any form. There is need to continue to educate children in whatever level to be on guard to know the tricks of traffickers (who *act generously to school going children by offering transport, sweets, books, pens, food and even advertise for good colleges outside their own countries, cities, rural areas, and urban areas.*)

In Zimbabwe recruitment of victims is very easy due to socio-economic status as of many countries in Africa. Some countries are growing in poverty, unemployment and violence which makes it very easy for traffickers to win victims due to inequality

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Websites Related to the Issues in this Publication:

Zimbabwe: 1016 Trafficking in Persons Report

www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2016/258895.htm

Govt acts against human trafficking

www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit-m-govt-acts-against-human-trafficking/

UNODC in Eastern Africa

www.unodc.org/easternafrika/en/human-trafficking/index.html

UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto

www.unodc.org/unodc/treaties/CTOC

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Guiding-PrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf

Ariel Foundation

ariel-foundation.org



The Role of Business in Combating Slavery and Human Trafficking

Many businesses directly or indirectly condone slavery and trafficking through their labor policies, supply chains and unethical practices. The use of child labor, forced labor or other forms of exploitation is attractive to many businesses, as it means lower production costs, less responsibility for those doing the work and higher profits. Some businesses or employers may take advantage of gaps in legislative frameworks, and exploit vulnerable workers.

Sometimes, businesses can be unknowingly involved in the crimes of slavery and human trafficking. In our modern world, characterized by the phenomenon of globalization, supply chains are often very complex. They involve multiple suppliers, partners, subcontractors, and it is not always easy for a business to identify the fact that some materials or products are produced as a result of slavery or trafficking. In such an environment, monitoring of the supply chain has become very challenging, especially those of large corporations. However, this must not be seen as an excuse for ignoring the problem. Businesses should be proactive in the development of mechanisms and policies that prevent exploitation, help to identify cases of human trafficking and support timely and effective help for victims.

There are usually two types of risk for businesses involved directly or indirectly in human trafficking and exploitation. First of all, if a business is violating national civil and/or criminal requirements or regulations, there can be

“ **Businesses have an important role in combatting slavery and human trafficking.**

a legal risk. In this case, the result can be custodial sentences, civil claims, or other means of punishment.

Another risk is reputational risk – even unproven claims can cause huge damage to a business’s reputation, e.g., loss of consumer loyalty, decreased demand for company’s services or products, low workforce morale, governmental disapproval and so on.

A range of documents and international instruments have been developed to tackle the problem of human trafficking and slavery. One of the most important documents is the *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* which set out main principles on how businesses must develop their human rights policies. A range of other documents, specifically targeting forced labor, child labor, other forms of trafficking have been developed e.g., *UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto* and the International Labor Organization (ILO) *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Right at Work*.

The UN Global Compact was also established as a strategic policy initiative for businesses, striving to align their operation, strategies and policies with the UN Global Compact’s ten universally accepted principles, including in the area of human rights and anti-corruption.

Non-governmental organizations working actively in related areas (anti-human trafficking, child labor) can be great partners and advisers when developing business’ human rights policy or setting criteria and mechanisms to identify and solve exploitative labor cases. Still, as the problem persists, it’s important to engage businesses more in the solution of the issue. It is paramount to establish international legally binding agreements for businesses to respect human rights so that they are held accountable.

Taken from the report on Human Trafficking and Slavery to the United Nation by the Ariel Foundation 2015.
by Jane Remson, O. Carm.



Wars in Our World

The number of countries involved in wars in 2016 is 67. The number of militias-guerrillas and terrorist-separatist-anarchic groups involved in these wars is 746.

AFRICA:

29 Countries and 221 between militias-guerrillas, terrorist-separatist-anarchic groups involved

ASIA:

16 Countries and 169 between militias-guerrillas, terrorist-separatist-anarchic groups involved

MIDDLE EAST:

7 Countries and 248 between militias-guerrillas, terrorist-separatist-anarchic groups involved

AMERICAS:

6 Countries and 26 between drug cartels, terrorist-separatist-anarchic groups involved

EUROPE:

10 Countries and 81 between militias-guerrillas, separatist groups and anarchic groups involved

Four conflicts caused 10,000 or more deaths in this current year. Ten other conflicts had between 1,000-9,999 deaths. The next 28 conflicts had between 100-999 deaths in one year. Thirteen conflicts had fewer than 100 deaths.

www.warsintheworld.com



Tweeting and the Carmelite NGO

We invite you to follow the Carmelite NGO on Twitter. It is another form of social communication which the Carmelite NGO uses to reach more people, promoting awareness in different areas of daily life such as environment, hunger, education, human rights, development, women, and religion.

This in order to create a new way of living among us and to defend the values of human life for every human being while we remain in contact with God. Our twitter account is "@CarmeliteNGO"

In November 2016, the Carmelite NGO had 167 tweets, 1441 profile visits, and number of people reached (Tweet impressions): 9646. Our "top twitter" with 424 impression was: "Agriculture and food security at heart of climate change action fao.org/news/story/en/... via @FAOnews.

7Ps	Response/Action Plan
Prayer	To pray for every person since all are vulnerable: children, boys and girls, men and women, Clergy, Religious men and women. We pray for traffickers as well as victims. Commemorations- 8 February: St. Bhakita day, and any other Feast days that are for protection, e.g. for justice and peace, care for creation and environment.
Prevention	At grassroots level: Education, workshops, alleviate poverty, advocate for food security, feeding school programmes, orphan care, provide employment to youths and school leavers.
Protection	Child Protection, enforce safe environments for everyone, capacity building, community support, to establish a sustainable national reintegration and rehabilitation programmed for identified victims of trafficking. Engage law enforcing agents - capacity building; offer counseling, <u>psycho-social</u> support especially for those with post-traumatic stress disorders and rehabilitation.
Participation	Raise awareness, help victims of trafficking, education, information sharing, assist victims who are homeless, hungry, need counseling, pray always For different groups to be concerned and to respond through identifying, educating, reporting cases. To work together to develop life-skills, <u>capacity building, to alleviate poverty, provide good health care.</u>
Partnership	Collaboration, networking with other organizations - it is necessary to share information. IOM, ILO, UNODC, Government, Faith-based, NGOS Take positive action towards addressing the needs to compact trafficking in persons, provide shelters, food, <u>education</u> health, sharing in communities.
Policy	Influence Policy -attend to <u>meetings</u> , carry out research (record cases) advocacy for good policies that protect human life.
Prosecution	Between January 2014 and May 2016, 10 cases have been prosecuted of which two have been completed (one conviction and one acquittal), while eight are still pending before the courts. A case is still pending with the National Prosecuting Authority. There is need to involve all levels of law enforcing agents to achieve the goals to end trafficking in persons. There is need for further capacity building of law enforcement, prosecution, and the judiciary on identification, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of the crime as well as on victim support and witness protection.

The 7 P's-- seven different strategies for addressing a situation which requires change.

in the distribution of resources. In big cities, there is an increasing number of street children begging, selling small objects. These children are exposed to harm. They can be abused in many ways either physically, sexually, through neglect, emotionally or can experience verbal abuse.

It is necessary to know that traffickers can be: close relatives, friends, peers, parents, strangers. These more often are promising good opportunities both locally or abroad to victims and sometimes they use force by abduction. Most victims originate from poverty stricken areas, where there's discrimination and lack of opportunities for development such as rural areas, mining and agriculture.

The Catholic Church in Africa is actively getting involved in responding to strategies to combat trafficking in persons as each country is aware that it can be a source, transit, or destination. We are:

One Humanity *to have*

One Voice *and to say*

No to Human Trafficking *in any form in the World*

Let us join hands in to compact trafficking in any form.

*Let us all live together as one family of **God Creator** of us **All**.*

We can all make a difference to Human Life!

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