“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.
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.

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

UNODC in Eastern Africa

UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto
www.unodc.org/unodc/treaties/CTOC

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

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 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. Carn.
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!