



# Journal of Human Trafficking

A Bulletin of News, Information and Analysis on Trafficking in Persons in Southern Africa  
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## Children Smuggled into SA to Work as Slaves

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The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM



\*This is not a real victim

**A**NTONIO Rodrigues\* carefully kindles the fire near a dusty roadside stall in Kwasibhejane, a small rural area nestled between Komatipoort in Mpumalanga and Mozambique. Sweat drips down the 13-year-old's brow as he cooks mealie cobs in a large cast-iron pot.

This is how life has been since he arrived from Mozambique a year ago. "There is no time to waste . . . while waiting for the mealies in the big pot to boil he has to roast others for our customers because his colleagues will soon come to collect the mealies so they can sell them," Antonio's 'mistress', Maria Ngomane, says while attending to a customer.

The thick smoke billowing from the coals wafts into his eyes but does not distract this soft-spoken boy from his duties.

Ngomane, who speaks to him in Shangaan, is quite happy to give details of how Antonio landed up in Naas, a small residential area 30km from Komatipoort.

We pretend to be looking for children to 'import' to South Africa and she is only glad to help us with some information.

"It is easy to get these boys . . . just take a walk around and see how many you can get. They do everything around here and are very helpful," she says while keeping a close eye on Antonio.

Ngomane, who has five youngsters working for her, maintains it is easy to go to Mozambique and "buy your way out with a child you need".

"You need money to get through the border with these children. I paid officers there R200 because he did not have a passport," she says.

Once in South Africa, the children work either as domestic workers or hawkers. Ngomane's boys sell fruit like mangoes and litchis as well as roasted or boiled peanuts and mealies. Others, mostly girls, end up in the hands of sex pests, says Vusi Ndukuya, a former child-trafficking officer at a safe shelter in Malelane.

"There are South African men who buy girls from mareyanes (child traffickers) and use them as their wives. Others buy these girls from their families," Ndukuya says.

He says traffickers include truck and taxi drivers, who abduct children from Mozambique and sell them to South Africans. Even family members engage in this "business".

Alberto\* was rescued and taken to a safe shelter. But this was not before he had endured a fair share of hard labour. The 17-year-old tells us how he was smuggled from a Mozambique orphanage when he was only 12.

"I was befriended by one of the men who used to frequent our orphanage . . . we all called him Uncle," Alberto says. On one of his visits, Uncle told Alberto he would like him to come live with him in South Africa "for a better life". Excited by the prospect of a bright future, Alberto accompanied Uncle on a short trip to the Lebombo border, where he was handed over to white men waiting in a bakkie.

"They drove me to a farm not far away from the border. They made me and other boys cut grass at their farm for long hours with hardly any breaks."

Days later, Alberto managed to escape.

"I ran as far away from the farm as I could until I got to a tarred road where I hitch-hiked, not knowing where I was going."

A taxi driver came to Alberto's rescue and drove

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Dear Reader

In this 17th issue of the EYE, minors are once again the focus of stories that expose the sale and slavery of babies and young boys and girls, sometimes with the complicity of their own impoverished families.

The cultural nuances that promote this practice call for sensitization among rural communities that it is never justifiable to sell a child as a means of survival, even if it comes with promises of a 'better life' for the child. These promises are often empty and children cannot legally consent to the situations of exploitation in which they are thrust. Often, the economic causes could also be addressed, as it is in the case of Ghana where IOM fights child labour by offering fishermen other lucrative options.

Whatever the case, the repercussions of the physical, mental and sexual abuse that trafficked children suffer go beyond the threat to their personal dignity and integrity; such abuse disrupts their education, poses serious health and physical threats and retards their development such that the future of the communities that they have to grow up to lead is compromised. Meanwhile, it is the responsibility of receiving communities to blow the whistle on people who exploit these children - after all, the African spirit of *Ubuntu* dictates that the wellbeing of a child is the responsibility of a community.

From 23 through 25 April this year, IOM will bring together top government officials from the region in South Africa, for another Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) workshop, with a focus on the protection of victims of human trafficking. Child victims of trafficking are among the most helpless, and this workshop will serve as a good opportunity to lay down specific measures to protect them from the heinous trade, taking into account the cultural and economic push factors.

Nde Ndifonka  
Editor

# Children Smuggled into SA to Work as Slaves

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him to Malelane, where he directed him to the centre that has been his home for the past five years. "I hate traffickers because they don't care what happens to us but are only interested in enriching themselves," says Alberto.

Ngomane makes it clear that the boys' education is none of her business. Neither is she aware that she is breaking laws. She feels she is doing the children a favour by saving them from starvation.

"Whose problem is it that they are not at school? They sleep in my house and eat my food," she says.

Like Antonio, Arlino\* has been working as a hawker since his brother-in-law trafficked him from a Mozambican village called Masinga, promising him a better life in "Joni" (Johannesburg). But vigilant police officers caught up with them en route to Johannesburg and detained them. A few days later, they were taken to the Lebombo border in a bid to repatriate them.

"That is where we met a mareyane who promised to take us back to South Africa for a small fee," Arlino says, keeping a close eye on the pirated DVDs he is selling.

"She then took me and other small boys to Block B (an area in Naas). In the morning the mareyane said we should pay if we wanted to live here and look for jobs."

Arlino did not have any money and the Mozambican he works for negotiated with the smuggler. Ndukuya maintains police officers are involved in the trafficking business. His claims are supported by a South African officer on patrol at the border.

"We all know what is happening here but blowing the whistle is out of the question because you never know what connections these people have in high places," says the officer.

But spokesperson for the Tonga police, Constable Mzwandile Nyambi, maintains that police officers have never been linked to child trafficking. He says Tonga police are trying to get the justice department to impose heavier sentences on child traffickers in a bid to curb the problem.

"They are usually fined up to R500. This not enough as they go back to doing the same thing as soon as they get out," Nyambi says.

In January 2008, Mozambican police arrested two truck drivers en route to Maputo with 40 children, aged between 5 and 15. It is suspected they were victims of child trafficking and were going to be smuggled into South Africa.

The spokesperson for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nde Ndifonka, says the number of people rescued during police raids is in no way a reflection of the number of persons trafficked into and out of South Africa.

"Over the past three years, IOM has assisted 230 victims of human trafficking in Southern Africa, about 190 of these in South Africa. Of these 33 were children. Trafficked persons are difficult to identify and assist because of the often organised criminal and clandestine nature of the practice," Ndifonka said.

Suspected cases of human trafficking can be reported to IOM's tollfree helpline on 0800 555 999.

\* Not their real names  
Written by Vivian Mooki

Source: City Press, Johannesburg, 09/02/2008

## Ambassador Mark Lagon visits South Africa

US Ambassador Mark Lagon, Director of the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) visited IOM Pretoria for a meeting on 29 January 2009, during a trip involving five African nations.

Attended by representatives from IOM, the US Department of State, the US Department of Justice, the Embassy of Norway, the Embassy of Thailand, the Embassy of the United States and the United States Agency for International Development USAID, the meeting centered on general concerns about the trafficking situation in Southern Africa. The Ambassador was particularly concerned about forced labour, an area of focus for IOM's Southern African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Programme (SACTAP).

assessment of the international effort to combat human trafficking by prosecuting perpetrators, protecting their victims, and working to prevent future trafficking crimes, its findings have raised global awareness and encouraged countries to take effective actions to counter human trafficking. G/TIP also funds counter-trafficking activities worldwide.



Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration | Department of Foreign Affairs - South Africa



G/TIP is the arm of the US State Department that deals with human trafficking globally. Its landmark publication, the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. A country-by-country

# Interviewing a Victim of Human Trafficking

*Mia Immelback speaks to IOM's Victim Assistance specialists about the intricacies of interviewing victims of human trafficking.*

The human trafficking experience is one of mental and physical abuse. Besides the psychological and health consequences, it usually leaves victims filled with fear, anger and disappointment. However, each human trafficking experience is unique.

IOM's Southern African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Programme (SACTAP) runs a comprehensive victim assistance programme that has assisted 230 victims of human trafficking in Southern Africa between 2004 and 2008. Services at the beneficiaries' disposal include safe shelter, clothing and food, counseling and medical examination. Beneficiaries also have the option to return to their country of origin where they receive reintegration support in the form of vocational training and assisted business development amongst others.

The process of identifying and assisting a victim of trafficking (VoT) is at times challenging and demands an eye for detail that can have a significant impact on the well-being of that person. This is the subject of discussion when Mia Immelback speaks to IOM's Victim Assistance (VA) team about the dynamics of meeting and interviewing a person in order to determine if indeed that person is a VoT and what measures to implement for each unique case.

**MI: What are the primary considerations when initiating an interview with a VoT?**

**VA:** The interview should be conducted in a neutral setting, where a victim can feel safe and comfortable. Preferably there should be no person attending other than the victim assistant, the



© IOM 2003 - MMD0005 - Photo by: Iurie Foca

victim and an interpreter if necessary. At times the police might want to be present for the purpose of law enforcement questions, but we ensure that a victim has been advised of their rights prior to any police contact. All interaction with victims should always be victim-centered. Interruptions and questions concerning surrounding factors should be limited. The victim should be given the opportunity to tell their story.

**MI: What are the first questions you ask a VoT?**

**VA:** As mentioned, the interview should be victim-centered. Question asked include background information such as: "What is your name, do you have children? How old are your children?" We ask these questions first to put the victim at ease before we move to the trafficking experience. We then divide the interview into three phases asking the victim to recall their experience about their 1)

Recruitment, 2) Transportation and 3) Exploitation. It is important to let the VoT know that you are asking the questions for the purpose of assistance, not for law enforcement-related purposes. Make eye contact with the victim even if you have an interpreter. Do not only focus on the interpreter when they are translating to and for the victim. Focus on the victims' expressions and movements, even if you don't understand what they are saying, as these often reveal a lot.

**MI: How much are VoTs able to talk about their traumatic experience? How much are they willing to disclose?**

**VA:** The questions one asks a victim must be useful to their assistance. That means that if a VoT has, for instance, been forced into prostitution we would ask whether they were allowed to use protection because the answer they give will make a difference to their medical examination. You will find that some victims can completely detach themselves from their experience and talk through it without any emotion, as though they were speaking about someone else. They develop such detachment as a protection mechanism. There are also those who are on edge throughout the interview, sometimes exhibiting physical tics such as rapid eye movement or wringing of the hands, revealing signs of trauma. Every victim reacts differently and their ability to talk through the experience equally varies.

**MI: I imagine it is difficult dealing with children. How is their vulnerability different from adults'?**

**VA:** A child that has been exploited will suffer serious psychological and physical consequences. Trafficked children are certainly not living up to their developmental expectations, simply because the experience has stunted their growth physically as well as mentally. It is important not to ask leading questions such as "Did they hurt you?" - rather ask "What happened next?". Children must be dealt with in a way that allows them to open up, rather than forces them to answer questions. When interviewing a child one should create a child friendly environment with things such as toys and games.

**MI: How well do VoTs receive your offer to assist?**

**VA:** It is a voluntary process, from beginning to end, from the first interview to the stage of school reinsertion at home or other reintegration options. At times victims get upset when assisted in shelters; this is because in order to get basic care, and be kept safe from their traffickers, their movement is restricted. Sometimes victims react negatively to these restrictions but we try to explain that it is better for their safety and the safety of others if they stay at the shelter and within limited proximity. One has to remember that trafficking is a crime that sometimes involves international syndicates. Traffickers, including small-scale traffickers, are dangerous people and if the location of a beneficiary is known, their safety is compromised.

**MI: What are the expectations of victims?**

**VA:** Usually the first thing a VoT asks is: "when can I go home?". They want to be able to communicate in their own language and return to a familiar environment. It is the simple things they miss and look forward to returning to. Conditions in a country of origin should be considered and the best possible reintegration plan should be offered with input from the victim.



# Health and Human Trafficking

*"We were poked with burning cigarettes on the back and legs. If we cried for our mothers we were locked in a room without air or enough light. We were forced to work for 20 hours a day without pay. We were kept half fed and beaten up severely by our masters if we were found talking or laughing among ourselves. One night I jumped into the nearby River Ganges to kill myself to escape from this painful life. We were never allowed to go back to our parents, to our villages."*

Persons trafficked for sexual and forced labour form a particularly vulnerable group that currently poses a serious and urgent challenge to policy-makers. Trafficked persons face numerous health risks exacerbated by prolonged exposure to repeated traumatic events and abuse.

## Health Risks associated with Trafficking

Trafficked persons, regardless of whether they are trafficked for the purpose of forced labour, sexual exploitation or removal of organs, are exposed to a range of health risks. Throughout the trafficking process, they may experience physical, sexual, psychological abuse, poor living and working conditions, exposure to a wide range of diseases, social isolation and captivity, lack of access to health care, forced use of drugs and alcohol, limited or no access to health and social services, and poverty.

The exploitative and abusive trafficking situation deprives these persons of any opportunity to obtain their basic health needs and rights.

Health related consequences of trafficking include the following:

Sexual and reproductive health problems such as sexually transmitted infections including HIV, unsafe or forced abortion and teenage pregnancies;

Psychological reactions such as hopelessness, despair, self-harm, explosive or inhibited anger, amnesia, dissociative episodes, reliving experiences, withdrawal, distrust, memory problems, anxiety, chronic fatigues and general lack of interest;

Psychosomatic reactions such as gastrointestinal problems, headaches, back aches and palpitations;

Psychoactive substance abuse and dependence such as overdose, addiction, needle introduced infections, alcoholism, high risk behaviours and violence;

Social reactions such as feelings of isolation, rejection by family or community, inability to establish or maintain meaningful relationships;

Infectious conditions such as tuberculosis, and hepatitis

Sanitary problems such as gastro-intestinal, parasitic infections and scabies;

Occupational health problems such as pesticide, lead poisoning, hearing loss, respiratory problems, injuries; and

Violence induced physical trauma such as head injuries, burns and fractures.

## Trafficked persons' Right to Health

The Charter of the World Health Organization provides that every woman, man and child has the right to the 'highest attainable standard' of physical and mental health, without discrimination of any kind.' From the perspective of a trafficked person, one of the most serious violations is the denial of the right to health. To improve the lives of trafficked persons who have already experienced abuse and exploitation, it is crucial that local, national and international authorities recognize trafficking as a serious health issue.



*Photo © Thomas Moran 2003 - MBE0008. IOM provides assistance and counseling to trafficked individuals as part of their recovery process.*

## What is IOM doing to address the health needs of trafficked persons?

IOM's multi-pronged approach to combat human trafficking worldwide includes comprehensive, gender sensitive, and culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services to victims of trafficking. These services include diagnostic assistance and treatment of STIs, mental health care and psychosocial assistance, as well as research, local capacity building,

health education and health promotion in domains such as reproductive health and STI prevention. Activities are implemented in close collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners, at rehabilitation centers and shelters accommodating trafficked persons.

## Recommendations

In combating human trafficking globally, more resources should be dedicated to raising the awareness of health and public health concerns related to trafficking;

Trafficked persons must be given access to comprehensive, sustained, and gender-, age-, and culturally-appropriate health care which focuses on achieving overall physical, mental, and social well-being;

Health care should be provided by trained professionals in a secure and caring environment, on a voluntary basis and in conformity with professional codes of ethics;

Minimum standards should be established for the health care that is offered to trafficked victims. These standards should be developed through a partnership of government, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and academic institutions, and should be based on comprehensive evidence-based research and best practices;

Trafficked children and adolescents are an especially vulnerable group with special health needs. The provision of health care to this group should follow a long-term, sustained approach, and must take into consideration the possibility of long-term mental and psychosocial effects;

Governments should take increasing responsibility for the prevention of human trafficking and the related health consequences, as well as the provision of protection and care to trafficked persons, especially children and adolescents, by ensuring access to national health services and programmes.

*Based on the Budapest Declaration of the Regional Conference on Public Health and Trafficking in Human Beings in Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe, Hungary, 2003.*

# West Africa: Advances in Anti-Trafficking Legislation

Just like in other regions of the world, human trafficking is a serious problem in West Africa. West African countries experience both in-country and international human trafficking, trends which ride on the back of migratory practices that have existed for centuries. In this article, we examine some of these trends and some of the responses that a few of the countries have undertaken. Although the prosecution of traffickers remains a serious challenge, some of the legislative advances in West Africa are worth the emulation of Southern Africa.

## Nigeria

According to UNESCO, Nigeria is a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking and traffickers are tied to national, regional and extra regional criminal networks.

Within Nigeria, women and girls are primarily trafficked for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation and boys for forced begging, forced street hawking, labor exploitation in agriculture, mining and stone quarries, and domestic labor. Transnationally, women, girls and boys are trafficked to Nigeria from other West and Central African countries and from Nigeria to neighboring countries for the same purposes. Nigerian women and girls are also trafficked to North Africa, Saudi Arabia and Europe, most notably Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Norway.

Nigeria's 2003 Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act prohibits all forms of trafficking; the act was amended in 2005 to increase penalties for traffickers. The law also established a specialised agency to implement its provisions, known as the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP). The 2003 Child Rights Act prescribed penalties of five years' imprisonment for labor trafficking, 10 years' imprisonment for trafficking children for forced begging or hawking, and a maximum of life imprisonment for sex trafficking.

According to the US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of 2007, the government reported 81 trafficking investigations, 23 prosecutions, and three convictions in 2007. However, sentences imposed on traffickers were inadequate. Two convicted traffickers received two years' imprisonment, while the third was sentenced to only one year in prison. Two of the convictions were for sex trafficking, and the third was for child trafficking for forced begging.

## Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is a source, transit, and destination country for children and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation, with most victims being children. A significant proportion of trafficking activity in the country is internal. Children are trafficked into Burkina Faso's two largest cities, Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou to work as domestic servants, street vendors, in agriculture, and in prostitution.

Burkina Faso's initial law criminalizing human trafficking was passed in 2001 and it punishes traffickers with 3 months imprisonment or a fine of between 3000 and 3 million Francs (approx US\$ 7 - US\$ 7000). In May 2003, the National Assembly adopted anti-trafficking legislation that prohibits child trafficking and imposes substantial fines and prison sentences of up to 10 years, although there have been no prosecutions under this new law. In 2005 police arrested a total of 44 child traffickers and intercepted 1,253 trafficked children. By the end of the year six traffickers had been sentenced to prison and two were in detention awaiting trial in trafficking cases which began during the year.

## Mali

The Republic of Mali is the largest country in West Africa and is a source, transit and destination country for children and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Victims are trafficked from rural to urban areas within Mali and between Mali and other West African countries, most notably Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, and Mauritania. Women and girls are trafficked primarily for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Mali has also acknowledged that slavery-related practices, rooted in ancestral master-slave relationships, exist in sparsely populated and remote areas of northern Mali.

An estimated 15,000 Malian youth aged 15 to 18 are enslaved in Côte d'Ivoire, lured by smugglers who promise the youth and their parents high wages and training. Instead, most do manual labor in cocoa plantations under inhumane conditions.

Mali does not prohibit all forms of trafficking, although its 2002 Criminal Code's Article 229 criminalizes child trafficking; the trafficking of adults has not yet been criminalized. Child trafficking is punishable by 5 to 20 years in prison. The Malian constitution prohibits forced or bonded labor, including by children. The government does investigate trafficking

cases and has recently convicted and sentenced one trafficker. In December 2003, Malian police arrested two suspected child traffickers conveying 112 Burkinabe children. Two Nigerian traffickers exploiting child prostitutes in Mali were arrested in March 2004.

In March 2007, 5 persons, including 3 foreigners, were prosecuted in Mali for child trafficking based on a newly adopted article on trafficking in the Penal Code.

Two of them were sentenced to jail for 5 years and ordered to pay reparation of damages to their child victims to the value of US\$ 30 000 (Source: Elkane Mooh, Save the Children WestAfrica, 2008).

## Mauritania

Mauritania is a source and destination for men, women, and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labor. Multiple NGO reports suggest that forced labor takes several forms. Slavery-related practices, and possibly slavery itself, persists in isolated areas. Several reports suggest that young girls from remote regions and from western Mali work as unpaid housemaids in some wealthy urban homes. An unknown number of young boys (talibes), nearly all from Pulaar tribes, beg in the streets as part of a "work-study" arrangement with some "marabouts" or religious teachers, in exchange for religious instruction.

The government passed the Law Against Human Trafficking in July 2003 prohibiting non-remunerated work, forced labor, and exploitation through prostitution. Penalties include 5 to 10 years of forced labour and a substantial fine. In 2006, 21 children who had been trafficked to the United Arab Emirates as camel jockeys were repatriated to Mauritania. Despite the existence of legislation against human trafficking, the government has not prosecuted any traffickers.

Between 1450 and the end of the nineteenth century, slaves were shipped off from the west coast of Africa to be transported, sold and resold to slave masters, much like the modern time slavery, human trafficking. It is clear that West African countries have in the past seven years shown a strong sense of commitment against human trafficking, although implementation of legislation remains a challenge. Thirteen out of sixteen countries have so far established anti-trafficking laws in the region that first agreed on a regional counter-trafficking plan of action as early as in October 2001.

## SA: Western Cape Provincial Task Team on Human Trafficking Launched



*Poet, Khadija Heeger does a poetry reading during the launch of the WCPTT at the Slave Lodge in Cape Town.*

On the heels of rigorous activities marking the Human Trafficking Awareness week last September 2007, civil society organizations and the International Organization for Migration launched South Africa's first provincial civil society initiative against human trafficking, the Western Cape Provincial Task Team (WCPTT), at the Slave Lodge in Cape Town on 12 December 2007.

The WCPTT consists of 12 organizations: Activists Networking Against the Exploitation of Child Domestic Workers (Anex CDW), The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), the Cape Town Refugee Centre (CTRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Molo Songololo, Rape Crisis, the Southern African Catholic

Bishops Conference's Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO), the Gender Advocacy Programme (GAP), Mosaic, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the Western Cape Network on Violence against Women and the Saartjie Baartman Centre. It aims to coordinate the activities of relevant stakeholders in the Province, especially from civil society, towards an effective, cohesive and comprehensive approach to support the prevention of human trafficking, the protection of trafficked persons and the prosecution of traffickers.

Originally initiated by Molo Songololo in 2005, the previously lacklustre team gathered momentum in 2007 with the establishment of a charter and a detailed plan of action. The team has since elected an executive team and opened up an independent bank account from which it runs its planned activities with funds raised by member contributions and donations.

The launch was marked by an arts exhibition as well as exhibitions by all member organizations, poetry rendition by poet

Khadija Heeger, and a guest speech by Commissioner Yvette Abrahams of the Commission for Gender Equality, who painted an historical perspective of human trafficking in a bid to provoke insight about ways of combating it. Other keynote speakers included WCPTT chairman, Julayga Alfred of Anex-CDW and media liaison, Annette Herbschle of ISS. It was attended by several organizations, the private sector, and members of some government institutions, notably the National Prosecution Authority.

Emceeding the launch, IOM's Programme Coordinator for Cape Town, Sue-Ann Meehan, noted:

"In recent years there has been an increase in tourism to Cape Town, which has resulted in an increase in human trafficking, specifically in the sex industry.... There is presently no data base or referral system relating to human trafficking. As a result, information sharing is limited, and organizations often work independently, unaware of the services that other organizations may provide to assist with handling cases. The WCPTT aims to bring as many role players together to network with each other, educate each other and build capacity to fight against human trafficking."

## Cape Town CCID: Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking in City Centre

The Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID) is one private sector institution that has not only contributed immensely to the quality of life of residents of Cape Town, but has also chosen to run with the torch in raising awareness about human trafficking. Its involvement in sponsoring an awareness-raising concert during South Africa's Human Trafficking Awareness Week of September 2007 was followed by other information dissemination activities during one of their key annual projects, the Adderley Street Night Market (music and arts) festival that ran for three weeks leading to Christmas in 2007. The EYE recently caught up with Chief Operating Officer, Tasso Evangelinos, who shed some light on the work of the CCID.

**EYE: What is the CCID and what is its main role?**

**TE:** The Central City Improvement District (CCID) is the operations arm of the Cape

Town Partnership, an organization established in 1999 by the City of Cape Town, the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA), the Cape Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other stakeholders to develop, manage and promote the Cape Town Central City. A year later, in 2000, it formed the CCID and tasked it with the job of providing, amongst others, sound urban management.

The CCID by no means replaces nor reduces the services that the local authorities provide; it has been designed to supplement and top up the levels of service provided by government and the City of Cape Town.

**EYE: What are some of the key activities that the CCID is running, and how do they contribute to the development of Cape Town?**

**TE:** Firstly, the CCID makes the CBD

[Central Business District] safe by working with retailers, business and retail community, all law enforcement agencies and the South African Police Services of Cape Town to form a tight security net around the City. Thanks to this co-operation, crime has dropped and incidents are being prevented before they even happen. The CCID has a security team that assists the City of Cape Town by providing top-up security services.

We also work to keep the city clean. Instead of the illegal dumping, graffiti and litter that once characterised the City centre, today you will see neatly-packed, bright orange and yellow bags, waiting for collection and uniformed cleaners on almost every street corner. CCID 'cleansing custodians' are on duty in their respective precincts from 7 in the morning to 1 the next morning.

In addition, the CCID runs a social development department that focuses on



assisting homeless people in the Central city as well as alleviating poverty by supporting skills training and job creation projects. It works in partnership with other existing NGOs like night shelters.

The fourth function is promotion. Our marketing department focuses on promoting the Central City as a place to work, live and play in, hence a safe place where people can enjoy themselves in clean and safe open spaces. The CCID publishes a monthly newspaper, *City Views*, which is being distributed to 50 000 people in the Central City. Added to this, a restaurant guide showcasing the inner city restaurants, pubs and coffee lounges is published yearly.

Finally, the CCID believes that sponsorship, development and encouraging new and existing events is integral to creating an environment that draws people to the Central City for leisure and business. There are a number of highly successful events that takes place in the inner city's public spaces such as the Community Jazz Festival on Greenmarket Square, the Coffee festival and the Adderley

Street Night market. We also provide supplementary security and cleansing services, mostly free of charge, for events such as the Community Chest Twilight Run and the Cape Town International Jazz Festival.

**EYE: Why did the CCID engage in the Human Trafficking Awareness Week?**

**TE:** We would like to assist in worthwhile causes like this. By becoming involved in these initiatives we help create awareness for these kinds of social problems. Church Square is also an important historical site for Cape Town and due to our involvement in the management of this important heritage site, we wanted to support the Human Trafficking Awareness Week by sponsoring the concert at the Square. In principle, we intend to continue supporting counter-trafficking campaigns beyond 2007, if it concerns our areas of involvement in the Central City.

**EYE: Are there any other related activities that CCID is engaged in, such as anti-drug and anti-crime programmes?**

**TE:** Constantly. It is part of our everyday management of security and social issues in the Central City. Through our security and social partnerships, we are working 24/7 on prevention plans to make the city safe, clean, caring and drug free."

*The CCID's offices are located on the 10th floor, The Terraces, 34 Bree Street, Cape Town.*



*The September 2007 Human Trafficking Awareness concert at the Church Square in Cape Town was sponsored by IOM and the CCID.*

## ZAMBIA: Creating a Better Interview Environment

To change the role and reputation of the Zambian National Police Service from that of mere enforcer to a community service provider, the Victim Support Unit (VSU) was established under the Zambia Police Reform Program of 1994. This act requires training and support to police officers to manage casework that involves violence against women, children and the



**Newly renovated interview room at Chirundu**

elderly. The VSU mandate includes 43 reportable offenses including sexual violence, property grabbing, and trafficking in persons.

With funding from the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP), IOM has been helping to build the capacity of the VSU by providing specialized training on trafficking in persons and victim assistance, and improving data collection and reporting procedures so that accurate information can be used for decision

making. In addition, IOM is renovating victim-friendly interview rooms in 9 district stations in border areas throughout Zambia. IOM partnered with the VSU to develop field interview rooms that are conducive to interviewing victims rather than suspects.

Although larger stations have interview rooms for criminal investigation, smaller stations and posts are required to send suspects to larger stations for interviewing. These victims have to make their complaints or statements at the front desk of a police station or in open areas, offering no privacy. This environment may inhibit the victim from speaking freely. Victims are often ashamed of what has happened to them, and require safe, confidential and comfortable surroundings before they are willing to give full and accurate testimony. A less confidential environment may also put the victim in a compromising position if the report is overheard by neighbors or family members, or even people with links to the suspect.

An early assessment of the 9 police stations revealed that between 2-11 officers sat in a single room where interviews were conducted. On minimal budgets of approximately US\$5,000 per site, partitions have now been made in these rooms to create separate interview spaces. The rooms have been furnished and curtains provided for privacy.

Comments from the field are positive. Officers claim that the renovations provide a better work environment and "make them feel more professional". They state that now "we can attend to victims better and they have a private place to sit and make their complaints." Even the public has noticed the difference. Citizens visiting the police on business have remarked that prior to the changes, crowded conditions, dirty offices and broken chairs made them feel unwelcome. Commanders in the field claim that the renovations have raised morale, and that the officers have pride in their workplace and are keeping their offices clean and professional.

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www.iom.org.za  
www.iom.int

**IOM Regional Office (Pretoria)**

Tel +27 (0) 12 342 2789  
Fax +27 (0) 12 342 0932

**IOM Cape Town**

Tel +27 (0) 21 425 4038  
Fax +27 (0) 21 419 3725

**IOM Durban**

Tel +27 (0) 31 304 4057  
Fax +27 (0) 31 304 6904

**IOM Luanda**

Tel +244 222 311 273  
Tel +244 924 643 032

**IOM Kinshasa**

Tel +243 81 032 5533  
Fax +243 880 1662

**IOM Maputo**

Tel +258 21 310 779  
Fax +258 21 310 760

**IOM Lusaka**

Tel +260 1 254 055  
Fax +260 1 253856

**IOM Harare**

Tel +263 4 335 044/ 048  
Fax +263 4 335 055

**IOM Mauritius**

Tel +230 213-3199  
Fax +230 213-3205

For FREE Electronic Subscription send and email to [eye@iom.int](mailto:eye@iom.int)

Call\* IOM's Human Trafficking Help line for victim assistance & information

**0800 555 999**

**TOLL-FREE 7am - 10pm**

\*South Africa only

Zambia's Talkline

**990**

**TOLL-FREE 24hrs**

## African Babies Being Sold into Slavery in UK for up to \$10,000

An estimated 500 African children a year, many of them babies are being trafficked into the UK where they end up working as virtual slaves, a new investigation has revealed.

The children, sold by their poor parents for up to US\$10,000, come mainly from West Africa, but there have been reports of children from other parts of the continent sold into the UK.

An undercover reporter working for the Daily Telegraph newspaper was offered several children for sale by their parents in Nigeria: Two boys aged three and five for \$10,000, or \$5,000 for one, and a 10-month-old baby for \$4,000. Teenage girls, some still pregnant were willing to sell their babies for less than \$2,000.

The Telegraph report said that "impoverished African parents are being lured by the traffickers' promises of 'a better life' for their children, thousands of kilometres away in cities including London, Birmingham and Manchester. But, once brought to Britain, the children are used as a fraudulent means to obtain illicit housing and other welfare benefits, totalling tens of thousands of dollars each a year.

"From the age of seven, rather than being sent to school, they are exploited as domestic slaves, forced to work for up to 18 hours a day, cleaning, cooking and looking after other younger children, or put to work in restaurants and shops. Some of the children are also subjected to physical and sexual abuse, while others even find themselves accused of being witches and become victims of exorcism rites in 'traditional' African churches in Britain."

Campaigners have now demanded that the UK government and police take "urgent action" to end this "21<sup>st</sup> century child slavery."

"These children are being abused under our noses in our own country," said Chris Beddoe, the director of End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, a British-based coalition of international charities. "It is totally unacceptable. We need urgent action to identify these children as they enter the UK, find those who are being abused and offer proper protection to those who escape or are freed from their abusers."

Vernon Coaker, the Home Office minister responsible for the prevention of trafficking, described child traffickers as "evil" and said anybody who could buy and sell babies is "sick."

"We have tightened our visa requirements and our ports of entry and we are gathering intelligence to help us stop this horrific trade," he said.

The opposition Conservative party, however, says the problem has been well known for some time. David Davis, the Conservative shadow home secretary, said: "The government has

utterly failed to take decisive action to tackle human trafficking."

A recent survey by the government's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre claimed that 330 children, including 14 aged under 12, many of them from Africa, had been trafficked into Britain over the past year.

The police and campaigners believe, however, that this is just the "tip of the iceberg" and that the true figure is likely to be in the thousands. The traffickers are understood to use a network of corrupt officials and co-traffickers to obtain passports and visas, often giving the children new names.

Many of the victims are flown directly from Lagos in Nigeria to London's airports.

Others are taken, via other West African states such as Ghana and Benin, to "transit" cities, including Paris. A growing number of the African slave children arrive in Britain unaccompanied, as asylum-seekers, or with "private foster parents."

Debbie Ariyo, the executive director of the London-based charity Africans Unite Against Child Abuse, said: "This trade is a disgrace. These children are not going to loving homes.

They are being cynically used by adults as slave labour and to defraud the state and then when they get older and have served their purpose and no longer attract benefits, they are thrown out on to the streets with no papers even to prove who they are. These are damaged, traumatised children and we have to end this misery."

The campaigners said that many of the slave children, psychologically and often physically damaged at 18, are thrown out of the houses of their "owners." They are left to fend for themselves, usually with no papers or documents to prove who they are. With nowhere to turn, many fall into crime and the sex trade.

The end result is that many then go on to commit a crime or go to social services for help and are then usually brusquely deported as illegal immigrants.

A senior Scotland Yard officer said that part of the problem is that "this is a hidden crime, going on largely in Britain's African communities and we would urge people in those communities to contact us if they suspect that any child in their area is being abused. We need their co-operation. They must not turn a blind eye."

Godwin Moroka, the executive director of Lagos's anti-trafficking unit, NAPTIP, told the Telegraph that child trafficking is "rampant" in many Nigerian states. "We know these children are not going to happy homes and we are doing what we can on limited resources."

Written by PAUL REDFERN  
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