



# On Human Trafficking

A Bulletin of News, Information and Analysis on Trafficking in Persons in Southern Africa  
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## SA Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week: 5-11 October 2008

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



Urban Soul star, MXO, is among the artists who will perform at the Human Trafficking Awareness Concert at Ko'Spotong Courtyard in Newtown, Johannesburg, on Saturday 11 October 2008, from 12 noon.

Human Trafficking is a reality. That is the message that IOM and METRO FM, in partnership with the NPA, are sending out to South Africans during this year's HTAW, which runs from 5-11 October.

The Week aims to raise awareness of the threat of human trafficking and encourage members of the public to seek additional information or report suspected cases through the IOM's national toll-free helpline number: 0800 555 999.

Awareness activities this year include a Film Festival at the University of Pretoria, Public Service announcements produced and aired by METRO FM, an exhibition on Wednesday at the UN House in Tshwane, hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and an open-air musical concert in Newtown on 11 October, featuring musical stars such as MXO, Ras, Wax, Sliq Angel, Peggy, and Moonga.

The UN defines Human Trafficking as the recruitment (through deception, coercion) and transportation of an individual for the purpose of exploitation (usually forced labour, domestic servitude and forced prostitution). Worldwide, it is estimated that a million people are trafficked across national borders each year. Many more are trafficked within their own countries.

"Children and women are the most vulnerable to this heinous crime" says Metro FM Station Manager, Matona Sakupwanyana. "METRO FM has partnered with the IOM in order to demystify human trafficking, and enable our listeners to understand the problem, decrease their vulnerability, and prevent it from spreading."

In South Africa, IOM's research and experience in offering direct assistance to over 250 victims of trafficking indicate that women and children are being trafficked to South Africa from South East Asia, Eastern Europe, as well as other African countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe and DRC. South African men, women and children are also being trafficked abroad to places like Macau, the US and Ireland for sexual exploitation and forced labour. Of great concern is the trafficking of South African women and children within South Africa's borders for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

In response, the South African government and its National Task Team have initiated a two-year multi-pronged anti-trafficking strategy which is funded by the European Union.

Human Trafficking is a problem that cannot be looked at in isolation. This week demonstrates what can be achieved when Government, civil society, international organizations and the commercial sector work together towards the achievement of a common goal," explains the NPA's Malebo Kotu-Rammopo, head of the strategy's Project Coordinating Unit.

Human Trafficking Awareness Week aims to galvanize the ongoing efforts by government and civil society to minimize the scourge of Human Trafficking in South Africa, and hopefully, other sectors of the South African community will come forward to lend their support," says Hans-Petter Boe, Regional Representative for the International Organization for Migration.

In June 2007, South Africa's Human Trafficking Awareness Week was named a "BEST GLOBAL PRACTICE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING" by the US Department of State in its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

## Police Officer cracks human trafficking syndicate

Dear Reader,

In 2006, a small marketing company decided to take a bold step against human trafficking. Diasporafric approached IOM to help them champion South Africa's first Human Trafficking Awareness Week (HTAW), an event that was later named by the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report as a best practice to combat human trafficking.

This annual event is surely, albeit slowly, gathering momentum, and 5-11 October 2008 marks another HTAW. In many ways, the Week is a landmark in the fight against modern day slavery, but the solidarity of stakeholders (of individuals like Ushi Goshalia, of artists like MXO, of companies like Diasporafric, of civil society organizations like Childline, of Government departments like the NPA, of media players like METRO FM, and of religious organizations like Salvation Army, to name only a few) during the event is quite significant, and in itself adds to the Week a sense of accomplishment.

SA's HTAW indeed highlights the importance of reaching out to a wider audience with edutainment messages on human trafficking. This is also reflected in the work of hip hop artists in Brazil and Zambia and of MTV and USAID in Ethiopia, amongst many other examples.

This issue of the EYE profiles South Africa where the third annual HTAW is underway. We hope it is a trend that will follow in other SADC countries. We need the joint commitment of every sector of the community, the nation, and the region to prevent human trafficking from occurring and to protect victims of the crime.

Hope you enjoy the read!

Nde Ndifonka  
Editor, EYE on Human Trafficking

**A** Port Elizabeth police officer's persistence in searching for a missing 15-year-old girl has cracked open a national human- trafficking syndicate with deep roots in Central Port Elizabeth.

The breakthrough came after police constable Marcelle van der Watt's search for missing Port Elizabeth girl Janice "Vissie" Kakora led him to Bloemfontein.

Janice disappeared from St George's Strand near Motherwell in December last year.

The syndicate is believed to be behind the abduction and trafficking of young girls throughout South Africa, which involves abducting them, raping them repeatedly for extended periods of time and getting them addicted to drugs, to make them compliant and to work as prostitutes.

Police spokesman Captain André Beetge

said when Van der Watt took on the Kakora case he received information which led him to Bloemfontein.

At this stage people were starting to give up on finding the girl, but Van der Watt did not lose hope and started planning operations in the Free State.

On August 12, police raided the Maitland Hotel in Bloemfontein and found three abducted girls in a desperate state.

Two of the girls, who are 18 and 19 years old, were abducted in Port Elizabeth, while the third, aged 14, is from Barkly West.

The operations also led to the arrest of 10 people and the confiscation of drugs worth R4000 and stolen property worth R8000. Police further obtained the names of five suspects allegedly involved in the syndicate.

*cont. on p7*

## ANGOLA: Norway Supports Capacity Building for Law Enforcement

**T**he International Organization for Migration (IOM) has signed a contract with the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented by the Norwegian Embassy in Luanda, to implement a new programme that will train law enforcement officials in Angola on human trafficking and human rights.

Angola is recovering from the effects of a prolonged civil war that has created a high proportion of poor, unemployed youth. The rapid urbanization of the country as people in rural areas seek opportunities in burgeoning cities, and the country's vast borders make Angolans vulnerable to both in-country and trans-border trafficking.

According to the 2008 US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of 2008, women and girls are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation, while young men are trafficked internally for agricultural and other unskilled labour. The report also points to South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), Namibia, and Portugal as the primary destination points for Angolans who are trafficked transnationally. The TIP report recommends that Angola should respond by increasing the capacity of law enforcement officials to recognise, respond to, and document instances of trafficking.

IOM has been sporadically organising counter-trafficking training workshops for law enforcement officials throughout the country. The new programme funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy will now ensure the training of 570 police officers,

immigration officials and law enforcement officials over a period of 17 months.

The project will encompass amongst other things, capacity building exercises, roundtables, site visits, and the development of counter-trafficking material.

In March 2008, Angola's Head of Cooperation and Exchange in the Interior Ministry Paulino Cunha da Silva admitted that the country needs to update legislation and improve its operational actions to get results in the struggle against trafficking of persons, which affects nearly all African states.

IOM Angola Chief of Mission Katharina Schnöring said that through this programme, IOM will continue to provide the technical assistance required to build the capacity of government and civil society, and to foster the collaboration of all stakeholders, in the enhancement of human rights and the fight against human trafficking.

"The overall goal of the project is to contribute in increasing awareness on Human Rights as well as to fight against Human Trafficking in the Southern Africa Region. This project aims to reduce the number of victims trafficked within, to and from Angola through the education of the society and the training of these law enforcement officials."

*For more information, please contact Katharina Schnöring, Chief of Mission IOM Angola on [kschnoring@iom.int](mailto:kschnoring@iom.int)*



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





## What does it mean to 'transport' a victim of trafficking?

*Mia Immelback examines some grey areas in the element of transportation, one of the qualifiers in the definition of human trafficking.*

According to the Palermo Protocol, Trafficking in Persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of 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.

This definition implies that the process of human trafficking consists of three elements: recruitment, transportation and exploitation; it suggests that the absence of one or more of these elements would disqualify a case from the description of human trafficking.

More specifically, what does the element of “transportation” imply, and what can be conceived as ‘transportation’ for the purpose of qualifying a case of human trafficking?

The American Heritage Dictionary defines ‘transportation’ as ‘the act or instance of transporting; the state of being transported’ WordNet provides a more descriptive definition: ‘the act of moving something [or someone] from one location to another’.

This gives the impression that a case may only qualify as human trafficking if a person has been transported across a certain distance, by vehicle, to another location, and remained in this new location during his or her exploitation. It is thus easy to identify cases of human trafficking where the victims have been moved across borders or cities, to areas of destination where exploitation occurs.

Transportation is vital to the process of human trafficking because it enables perpetrators to confuse and isolate their victims to the extent that exploitation can be committed with minimal resistance from the victim and without fear of reprisal from social service providers or law enforcement agencies to which victims can easily reach out in familiar environments.

By transporting victims from the safety and comfort of their home communities to unfamiliar destinations, including foreign countries away from family and friends, religious institutions, and other sources of protection and support, victims are left isolated, disoriented, defenseless, dependent on their traffickers, and therefore, susceptible to exploitation.

But are circumstances under which a victim of trafficking may be transported on foot, across a short or insignificant distance (if measured in metrics) indicative of a case of human trafficking?

Imagine an example of Sarah, a young girl who is recruited by her boyfriend with a false promise of a job in a distant restaurant. As she steps into his car, she is blindfolded and handcuffed by a second man. Unaware of where she is being taken, the two men drop her off at the

neighbour's house, a man who initially saw potential financial gain in using Sarah as a forced prostitute, and approached Sara's boyfriend to facilitate the recruitment.

Disoriented, confused, in fear and locked up inside the unfamiliar room with no windows, Sarah is forced to sleep with men, while three houses down the road her parents are still wondering why a month ago she did not return home from school.

*By transporting victims from the safety and comfort of their home communities to unfamiliar destinations...victims are left...susceptible to exploitation.*

Does this scenario fulfill the element of ‘transportation’ in order to qualify Sarah's case as a case of human trafficking?

In another scenario, Philip, a handsome 20 year old man from Durban is recruited by a modeling agency which promises him a good career. During his first photo shoot he is offered some alcohol to render him less “tense”. On the second photo session, his drink is spiked with a drug, under the influence of which he lets pornographic pictures be taken of him. After the session he is locked up in a room for a couple of hours so he can recover from the effects of the drug, and he is eventually driven home by one of the agents.

Two days later the same agents approach Philip at his home and blackmail him into returning to the studio, threatening to publish the pornographic material should he resist. Philip's recruitment and exploitation continues in the same manner over several weeks. He is sometimes held captive for a couple of nights, and then escorted home to rest for a few days before the next cycle of exploitation. Sometimes he is accompanied to the shoot site by foot, and at other times, by car.

This hypothetical case suggests that Philip was indeed transported to places where his vulnerability would enable perpetrators to exploit him. Nevertheless, since transportation is not conducted to a location that permanently separates Philip from his home or familiar environment; does the scenario qualify as a case of human trafficking?

Recently, those practicing the prevention trafficking and/or the protection of victims of trafficking have resorted to using the terminology ‘mobilization’ rather than ‘transportation’; this in order to illustrate that a perpetrator is someone who recruits, transports, transfers, harbours, or receives a person with the intent to exploit. However, the fact remains that the various possible interpretations of ‘transportation’, is a brainteaser for counter-trafficking stakeholders.

## ZERO-TOLERANCE: SA's National Counter-Trafficking Programme

A number of positive developments in the fight against trafficking have been occurring in South Africa throughout this year. To name a few, a multi-sectoral Provincial Task Team (PTT) led by the Government has been launched in Kwa-Zulu Natal (KZN) Province, kicking off a process to establish one in each province; approximately 650 media professionals, law enforcement officers, social workers, doctors and nurses and ports of entry officers have been trained (as part of an ongoing capacity building activity that has also seen award-winning Macedonian journalist Nebojsa Ilijevski conducting two-day media trainings in three major cities); a victim empowerment framework workshop was recently held in Johannesburg, with a focus on designing a framework specifically to protect victims of trafficking.

**T**hese efforts are part of a programme known as "Assistance to the South African Government to Prevent, React to Human Trafficking and Provide Support to Victims of the Crime". Led by the National Prosecution Authority (NPA), the programme is funded by the European Union Delegation in South Africa and co-funded by the government. It commenced in January 2008, and is expected to run until December 2010.

The EYE visited National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)'s Malebo Kotu-Rammopo (MK) and Nolwandle Qaba (NQ) to talk about the nature and expected outputs of this programme, and some challenges to the fight against human trafficking in South Africa.

### **EYE: Tell us more about this programme.**

**NQ:** The "Assistance to the South African Government to Prevent, React to Human trafficking and Provide Support to Victims of the Crime" principally aims to ensure that South Africa complies with its obligations in terms of the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the Trafficking Protocol. The programme aims to make people less vulnerable to human trafficking, to rescue more victims and better protect them, and to track, disrupt, convict and rehabilitate perpetrators more successfully.

The programme has five broad result areas, namely Result Area 1 (Deepened Knowledge and Understanding of Trafficking), Result Area 2 (Enhanced Coordinated Cross-sector Response), Result Area 3 (Capacity Building and Training), Result Area 4 (Prevention, Public Education and Awareness) and Result Area 5 (Evaluation and Audit).

### **EYE: Who are the key stakeholders?**

**MK:** The NPA led the process of developing the strategy and is now implementing it. Partners in the programme are the members of the Trafficking in Persons Inter-Sectoral Task Team, which include the Departments of Justice and Constitutional Development, Home Affairs, Labour, Social Development, the South African Police Service (SAPS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the NGO, Molo Songololo. The departments of Health, Correctional Services, Education and the National Treasury are also represented in the Programme Steering Committee. The EU Delegation has observer status on the Programme Steering Committee.

### **EYE: What kinds of activities do we expect to see over the next couple of years?**

**MK:** We have a clear map of activities that cut across the different result areas. For example, we have an upcoming comprehensive research on human trafficking in South Africa. An awareness campaign commences in January 2009, and we will be involved in the annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week. We are establishing an expert response team to deal with human trafficking cases. A few activities have already commenced successfully, and we are finalizing the heavy groundwork needed in terms of infrastructure, consultations, bidding

and tender processes, and human resource requirements, to launch many more.

### **EYE: The objectives of the programme seem ambitious for the Task Team alone. How does the Task Team intend to meet them?**

**NQ:** We are launching Provincial Task Teams (PTTs) in each province, so that we can decentralize the programme. We have just established the KZN Task Team, and will be following shortly with Mpumalanga, Western Cape and Limpopo. The PTTs will also subsequently serve as expert response teams in each province. Furthermore, we are currently streamlining counter-trafficking into the work of government departments, and this is facilitated by the fact that the relevant departments sit on the Task Team. The approach we have taken is to build on existing services, such as the multi-disciplinary Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs), established by the NPA and partner departments in hospitals. The staff in the TCCs who are currently equipped to meet the needs of victims of sexual assaults and domestic violence, will be further equipped to meet the specific needs of trafficked persons. Grants will be awarded to shelters to build their human resources and infrastructure to meet the needs of trafficked victims. We have already tapped into the expertise of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to implement a curriculum development and capacity building activity for different sectors of the civil society and government, an activity that is successfully on track. Through such partnerships, we are confident that we will meet the goals of the programme.

### **EYE: The question that arises then is one of sustainability?**

**MK:** An essential part of this programme is supporting the South African government in the development of a National Plan of Action, which is expected to come into effect on its culmination. Each role-playing Department will be allocated specific responsibilities in line with their line-functions and they will be expected to mainstream those responsibilities into their day-to-day activities.

### **EYE: What are some of the challenges that South Africa currently faces regarding a response to human trafficking?**

**NQ:** Human trafficking is relatively new on the agenda of South Africa, as in many other countries. Thus, unlike issues like HIV and poverty for which countries have developed several tried and tested responses, the fight against human trafficking is a new one, and a lot of technical expertise and experience still need to be developed across all sectors. For example, there are not enough dedicated shelters and civil society organisations that have the infrastructure and the expertise to identify and care for victims of human trafficking. In addition, human trafficking often has to do with organized criminal elements and it is a hidden activity. Finding the appropriate responses is therefore quite challenging, albeit not impossible.

### **EYE: How does the NPA deal with human trafficking legally?**

**MK:** We charge perpetrators for offences committed in the process of

human trafficking under various statutes. For example, since 16 December 2007, we are able to charge perpetrators under the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and related matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007. We are optimistic that comprehensive legislation specifically criminalising human trafficking, which is in process, will soon be passed and that will make it possible to charge traffickers and their accomplices for all forms of human trafficking, including forced labour and illegal adoptions.

**EYE: What will the final outputs of the programme be?**

**NQ:** The activities and strategies that we have already outlined will ensure that a message of ZERO-TOLERANCE for human trafficking is sent out. By the end of the programme, we expect to have facilitated the development of a government National Plan of Action, as well as provincial Plans of Action that are specific to the realities of each province.

## Warning on legal sex work for 2010

A researcher on organised crime has warned that the legalisation of prostitution for the 2010 Soccer World Cup could lead to a boom in human trafficking and the commercial sex industry such as that seen in Germany, if it is not regulated.

With the World Cup looming nearer, discussions about the decriminalisation of prostitution have intensified, supported by advocacy groups.

Shanaaz Parker, a researcher for the organised crime and money laundering programme of the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) said on Friday 04 July 2008 that the legalisation of prostitution in Australia, Germany and the Netherlands was not a decision taken lightly, but in the case of the latter two countries human trafficking has increased.

Discussions about the legalisation of prostitution have been promoted by advocacy groups such as the Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task Force, which believe it would prevent unnecessary arrests of sex workers and improve conditions in the sector.

"The argument is that the World Cup will push up the demand for sex workers and the services they provide, so we should simply decriminalise this form of work and give the sex industry some

dignity," Parker said.

"But even then, if sex work is recognised as a profession, there is no guarantee that the women (or men) engaged in it will be treated with respect and that human trafficking in terms of the commercial sex industry will decrease. On the contrary, Germany and the Netherlands have seen an expansion of human trafficking and commercial sex industries during its legislation."

The situation is of particular concern as SA had been identified as a transit destination for human trafficking.

Parker said that the Sexual Offences Act and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act are used to combat human trafficking. "New legislation would have to be drawn up very strategically to separate the sex trade from human trafficking," she said.

Legalisation would also not necessarily help to reduce HIV/AIDS, Parker said.

"In Germany sex workers are able to join unions and access health insurance. However, even after four years of legislation, many sex workers still prefer not to register, fearing stigmatisation," she said.

*By Chantelle Benjamin for BUSINESS DAY, 07 July 2008*



### *Call for Expression of Interest*

#### **GRANT FACILITY TO DEVELOP CAPACITY TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF *Human Trafficking***

**The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)** is seeking expressions of interest from non-profit organisations, or companies currently involved in Victim Empowerment Programmes to access Grant-funding for the purpose of improving their capacity to assist and support victims of Human Trafficking in South Africa. Funding is provided by the **European Union** Delegation in South Africa.

Selection of applicants will involve consideration of the following criteria: demonstrated knowledge and experience in the fields of management of and support to victims of Gender-Based Violence and related areas; as well as re-integration of such victims.

Applicants will be invited to submit a detailed implementation workplan, budget and relevant supporting documents to be used in the assessment of qualification for a grant of up to R100 000 (One hundred thousand rands only).

Preference will be given to applications for up-grading of facilities and development of skills to provide support to victims of human trafficking.

Please e-mail your **expression of interest** by 25 October, 2008 to: [tip-pcu@npa.gov.za](mailto:tip-pcu@npa.gov.za)

# Masimanyane Women's Support Centre

Masimanyane Women's Support Centre, in partnership with FOKUS, a Norwegian network for women's organisations, held a 4 day conference from 19-22 August in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss strategies for combating trafficking in women. Women's groups from 6 continents and 14 countries discussed the trafficking of women and girl children for purposes of sexual exploitation, and came up with some hard-hitting recommendations.

**D**r. Lesley Ann Foster is a remarkable woman who runs a remarkable organisation. As founder and executive director of Masimanyane Women's Support Centre, Lesley Ann and her staff have raised violence against women as a national priority through their daily work and through the various campaigns and programmes they run. Though only a small organization based in the little known city of East London in South Africa, Masimanyane has now also made a profound contribution to the global fight against human trafficking.



Kenya, Norway, Moldova, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, it was recognized that trafficking for sexual exploitation is a global problem that happens within regions, across and within national borders.

Presenters at the conference included local representation from the South African Government, IOM, Anex CDW, and Molo Songololo, as well as international presenters from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), FOKUS, Norway's Women's Front, and Uganda's ISIS-WICCE.

Masimanyane was founded in 1995, when Lesley Ann invited women activists and survivors to assist in developing a support programme for women and girls who experience sexual violence. Initially, the organization provided counselling support to mostly black women and girls from marginalised communities. Central to this work was the philosophy that women from these marginalised communities could themselves be trained to provide support to survivors. Since then, Masimanyane has grown in leaps and bounds, providing support services, awareness raising activities, leadership training and accountability through research and advocacy. Though its crisis intervention and awareness-raising programmes mainly target communities within the Eastern Cape, its leadership and advocacy programmes benefit women on both a national and regional scale. Additionally, the organisation has a strong and growing international profile, working in partnership with the Norwegian Crisis Shelter Movement with numerous exchange programmes, the Centre for Women's Global Leadership based at Rutgers University New York, Human Rights Watch New York, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, Amnesty International, and FOKUS.

With funding from FOKUS and Norad, Masimanyane was provided with an opportunity to host an international conference on Human Trafficking which brought together different FOKUS member organizations and their international partners from around the globe who provide direct services to hundreds of thousands of women. The objectives of the conference was to develop different actions across continents to prevent and combat the trafficking of women and children with a focus on developing responses which address the root causes of trafficking and prostitution.

With delegates from countries including Cameroon, India, Italy,

At the conclusion of the conference, delegates recommended that the root causes of prostitution and trafficking be addressed to achieve gender equality and sustainable democratic societies, and demanded a radical transformation of the patriarchal, political and social structures of power to achieve gender equality, women's human rights and justice using education, collective organization, legislative change, social development, social movements and women's organizations as means.

Participants committed to establishing collaborative networks and developing joint initiatives to eliminate the demand, especially in relation to the next FIFA World Cup which will be held in South Africa during 2010. Participating women's organisations also expressed their deep concern about proposals to legalize the prostitution industry in South Africa and other countries, and the effects that such a response is likely to have on women and children as well as society at large.

They also endeavoured to continue to build strong women's organizations and movements and strengthen networks to fight against all forms of violence and discrimination against women through mass education, organization, empowerment, national, regional and international mobilization, as well as media campaigns.

By hosting this conference, Masimanyane has not only proven to be an active force against human trafficking in South Africa, but also as a partner in the global fight against the phenomenon.

*For more information, contact the Masimanyane Women's Support Centre on +27 (0) 43 743 9169*

**verbatim**

Human trafficking isn't a domestic problem, a regional or a continental problem anymore. It is a worldwide, an international problem.... The only way to effectively combat this is with international collaboration on surveillance, sharing information and intelligence, mutual legal assistance and extradition. It's a problem that cannot be solved by one country alone.

*Keriako Tobiko, Kenya's Director of Public Prosecutions speaks to Reuters in July 2007.*

# Zambia's Hip Hop Stars Join Fight Against Human Trafficking

Young people in Zambia are learning important messages about human trafficking while dancing to a new beat.



*Hip Hop stars, CQ, Slap D and Cactus (from left to right) pose with Miss Zambia 2008 finalists. Slap D and Cactus both feature on the theme song against human trafficking, while Miss Zambia 2008 has become a counter-trafficking advocate.*

Top hip hop artists in Zambia have united to record a pulsating song that will enable the public to learn important messages about human trafficking while dancing to a new urban beat. The song was released together with IOM's counter-trafficking radio drama on 28 August.

Produced by the UN's Human Trafficking Programme, Zambia's first anti-trafficking campaign theme song is a departure from convention. "To reach and educate young people who are particularly vulnerable and who usually shun social messages, we needed an equally modern and unconventional way of getting our message across," says Gerry Finnegan, ILO Representative. "This strategy puts entertainment first, but still gets the message firmly across."

Entitled "Break the Chain", the project started with four Zambian mega stars signing on and has since attracted the voices of more than eight of Zambia's 'most happening' hip hop artists. The four minute 'bounce-to-the-beat' hip hop track, sung in English interspersed with three local Zambian languages, warns young people of the illegal trade in human beings and the false promises of a 'better life' that human traffickers

use to lure their victims.

"I got involved because human trafficking mostly affects the people that listen to my music. The only way I know how to positively influence other young people is through my voice," says Chisenga Katongo, who goes by the name CRISIS. "To me hip-hop is more than just music; it's a culture. It has a profound influence on young people because they happily embrace it, so what better way to educate them than through something they readily accept," he says.

Hip Hop artists are not the only celebrities who are joining the fight against human trafficking. Miss Zambia 2008 has also signed up as a counter-trafficking advocate for the duration of her reign.

Approximately one million women, men and children worldwide currently are trafficked - forced into a life of exploitation. ILO estimates that more than 12 million people are currently engaged in forced labour, as domestic servants, manual labourers or sex slaves, and up to half of these are under 18 years old.

"We are deeply concerned about the situation of young people and children who find themselves trafficked into sexual and labour exploitation. Zambia is grappling with two issues - trafficking within as well as across its borders," says Josiah Ogina, IOM Zambia Chief of Mission. "Families and communities need to protect themselves from recruiters who will promise anything to entice their victims."

Zambia is regarded both as a 'source country' from which traffickers recruit their victims and as a 'transit country' through which women and children from other countries are trafficked en route to their destination. But recent UN studies show that young people and children in Zambia are particularly vulnerable to being

trafficked within the countries borders, often moved from rural to urban areas.

"Victims are often recruited to work in homes as domestic servants, or as cheap manual labour on farms, or for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. They are inadvertently handed into this exploitation by members of their own family," says Lotta Sylwander, UNICEF Representative.

"We must respond. The consequence of our doing nothing means that the human rights of millions will be violated as victims are made vulnerable to HIV infection, sexual violence, forced labour and other unspeakable forms of exploitation," she said.

CRISIS adds that he hopes "the song moves young people to decide that they want to know enough about trafficking not to get trapped - this is the first step in breaking the chain."

Meanwhile, Acting Minister of Home Affairs of Zambia George Mpombo recently presented an Anti-Human Trafficking Bill to Parliament. The Bill was referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs, Human Rights and Gender and then brought before the House on August 2008. It will be passed into legislation once it is signed off by the acting president.

The Bill is aimed at providing for the prohibition, prevention and prosecution of human trafficking, providing for the filing of and dealing with matters related to human trafficking, establishing the Committee on Human Trafficking and providing for its powers and function. It will also establish the Human Trafficking Fund, domesticate the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

## Police Officer cracks human trafficking syndicate

*cont. from page 2*

Two of the men who were arrested were running an illegal abortion clinic. Six men and two women involved in drug charges in Pretoria were also among those arrested.

The 14-year-old girl who was found went missing from Barkly West three years ago. Beetge said she was walking to a shop when a group of Nigerians overpowered her. From what police have gathered from the three girls, in some cases the victims were taken by force.

"They drag the girls to their car, shove cocaine up their noses and drown out the screams by covering their mouths," Beetge said.

After this they are raped continuously for up to two weeks. "By doing

this they break the girls and condition them for prostitution."

In Port Elizabeth, this allegedly happens in various properties in the central business district in the city. They are then taken to Bloemfontein and from there they are "distributed" across the country or wherever there is a shortage of "fresh faces".

"We do not know yet if this is an international syndicate".

Beetge pleaded with girls in this situation to come forward. "There is hope. We are waiting for your call. We will do whatever it takes to help you."

By Yolandé Hayward for THE HERALD Online

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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**

# Hip Hop Helps Counter Human Trafficking in Brazil

Take music and DJs, breakdancing, graffiti, rhythms and poetry. Swirl it around. The result is hip-hop, which has recently become a tool to fight human trafficking in Brazil. The new video clip "Don't Traffic," by a hip hop group from the outskirts of the capital Brasilia, is reaching youngsters with simple and effective language. "The message uses their own language, including slang," said 25-year-old group member Allison Costa. "These lyrics stick."

The hip hop group was originally contacted by Aldair Brasil, head of the Federal District's Committee to Fight Human trafficking, a permanent form of governmental and non-governmental representatives, including schoolteachers, community leaders, and even firemen. "We asked them to prepare a video clip for youngsters, particularly in vulnerable areas," Brasil says. "we thought it would be much more effective than any seminar or school class. Now we need to spread it throughout the country."

"Don't Traffic" is a low-budget film set in the outskirts of Brasilia and in its central area, close important governmental buildings. According to hip hop artist Costa, this is one way to put pressure on politicians to pass legislation, protect human rights and prosecute criminals.

The film also has a preventative message. It begins with a child, searching for his mother who left home and never returned. "We wanted to tell youngsters, particularly women, that propositions to become a model or to get a better life in other Brazilian cities or abroad

may actually be a nightmare in disguise." Costa explains.

The Federal District's Committee to Fight Human Trafficking has been monitoring cases in the region. The majority of cases have involved girls between 12 and 17 years old. In almost every case, the process begins with a family member or close friend. "Traffickers lure victims by giving the family money, paying bills and basic food staples," Brasil explains. "These people also make fake identification cards, prepare model portfolios, everything to stimulate that the victim is heading for real work and, most importantly, an overall life upgrade."

Judging from the cases monitored by the Committee, most victims are trafficked to other cities in Brazil or to other countries, especially Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and the United States. Although girls from Brazil's poorer regions, like the Northeast, also end up being trafficked to the Federal District.

In 2006, the Committee was recognized as a public utility organization. This recognition has helped in building a network with governmental agencies to urge them to include human trafficking in their programmes, provide improved assistance and protection of victims and conduct proper investigation and prosecution of criminal organisations.

In 2008, the government instituted a National Plan to Counter Human Trafficking, which involved governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, including UNODC. The plan is based on prevention, prosecution and protection of victims.

From UNGIFT

## ETHIOPIA: USAID works with MTV to fight human trafficking

In a move at odds with bureaucracy's reputation for stodginess, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is partnering with MTV (Music Television) on a campaign to warn young people about the dangers of human trafficking, U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa said in its weekly special report on Thursday.

The MTV EXIT ("End Exploitation and Trafficking") campaign has produced a pair of documentaries narrated by celebrities to raise awareness about this modern-day form of slavery.

USAID and the MTV Europe Foundation

(MTVEF) are also working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to show the documentaries in rural areas where people might not otherwise see the films.

"The campaign is meant to save lives," says Oliver Carduner, Director of USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia. "Through MTV, it is reaching millions of young people, the group most at risk in Asia."

According to U.S. estimates, nearly 800,000 people are trafficked each year across national borders - and this number does not include the additional millions worldwide who are forced or tricked into labor and sex exploitation within their own countries.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS REAL: 0800 555 999 (toll-free)**



**SA's Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week, 5-11 october 2008**