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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

Human trafficking is the illegal movement of people especially women and children from one place to another for the purpose of involuntary domestic servitude and exploitation. Men on the other hands are equally trafficked for forced labor in street vending, domestic servitude, mining and begging. Nigerian women and children mostly from rural areas are taken from Nigeria to other west and central countries. They are also taken to Europe especially Italy, Russia, Middle East and North Africa, for forced prostitution.

According to the United Nations education, scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO), Nigeria was claimed to be one of the leading countries in human trafficking with cross border and internal trafficking. Nigeria human trafficking occurs within the Nigeria borders, in neighboring countries, and in many European countries because they able to ship women and children within a network for human trafficking to expand the market within this industry. Nigerian gangs have sent thousands of women into sex market with Italy and Spain. Italy has the highest population of Nigerians (10,000) victimized to human trafficking. Human trafficking from Nigeria to Italy started in 1980s because of the demand for low skilled labor in agriculture and services.

Human trafficking could be cause true the following ways which include; poverty. Poverty is one of the largest contributors to human trafficking. It can drive people to become traffickers and also make parent sell their children or other family members into slavery. Most poor people are the main targeted of traffickers as they tend to offer them a way to earn money when, in fact, they will actually earn nothing and be treated like slaves. Another causes is that of illiteracy. Lack of education could lead to decreased opportunities for work at a living wage, and it can also lead to a decreased knowledge in rights. Both outcomes can cause people to be at a greater vulnerability for human trafficking. Thirdly demand for cheap labor/ demand for sex. Since supply and demands are needed for the existence of market. Traffickers can make a large profit by producing goods and services through cheap and free labor and selling the product at a higher price. Commercialized sex is a lucrative market that allows traffickers and pimps to become the only profiter from their victims through and endless cycle of buyers and high prices. And lastly traffickers. The trafficker are actually the ones who promote human trafficking. Poverty, illiteracy, and more. Traffickers are the ones who choose to exploit people for their own gain. While many of this factors may play into the reasons why traffickers gets into business they still make a willful decision to enslave people against their will because of profit or because of a belief that people are worthless.

People who are victims of human trafficking experience Mental trauma. Many victim experience devastating psychological effects during and after their trafficking experience. Many survivors may end up experiencing post-traumatic stress, difficulty in relationship, depression, fear, guilt, shame, memory loss, anxiety and other forms of mental trauma. They also suffer from physical trauma. Victims experience physical injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, infections, diabetes, cancer, and other illnesses. Victims of forced labor may work in dangerous conditions for long hours doing repetitive tasks. Lastly ostracism. Individuals who are being trafficked can quickly become isolated from friends, family and other social circles. This may be due to their personal feeling of guilt and shame. Some individuals who return home or escape a trafficking situation may even be excluded from social groups due to a stigma they now face.

In conclusion they are ways in which human trafficking can be prevented such as; awareness. the government/nongovernment organization should bring awareness about the effect of human trafficking. Secondly education can also empower children to make changes in their community as they grow older that will prevent situations and vulnerabilities of which trafficker take advantage.