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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Despite the fact that it is the 21st century, the violation of the human right by selfish and cruel individuals is a global problem which is done for the financial benefit with its commonest form being sexual exploitation still exists. According to Wikipedia, human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the traffickers or others which may encompass providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage, or the extraction of organs or tissues, including for surrogacy and organ removal. It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labour or commercial sex act by traffickers to lure their victims. It can occur within a country or trans-nationally and can be said to be the modern form of slavery. The three most common types of human trafficking are sex trafficking, forced labour, and debt bondage. Forced labour, also known as involuntary servitude, is the biggest sector of trafficking in the world, according to U.S Department of State( Adapted from <https://sf-hrc.org>).

There are many reasons why people might get involved in human trafficking. Over time, women and children became the victims of child trafficking more often than men because they are more easily deceived into human trafficking and not respected and so they are seen as objects that can be sold. Thus are sold into slavery and sexual exploitation or forced into marriage.

Ignorance, one of the main reasons why most people are involved in human trafficking since there is no human in its right sense, and has complete regard for human right that would be willing to be a victim of human trafficking. Most women are involved in human trafficking because they are often determined to seeking alternative opportunities outside of their home country for greener pastures because of lack of respect or discrimination. When this happens, they are more easily deceived into human trafficking.

Greed, the mother of most evils is one of the many reasons why people are involved in human trafficking. The constant search for wealth is particularly relevant for Nigerians as many of them has an unquenchable thirst of getting very rich very fast even if they have perfectly living conditions, so they try to go out there in search of a better life and thus become vulnerable to human trafficking. Since human traffickers prey on people who are hoping for a better life.

The saying: and idle hand is the devil’s workshop is probably one of the reasons why unemployment is one of the causes of human trafficking in some countries. Many people cannot get proper education and learn relevant skills in order to get a decent job and therefore, try to search somewhere else. While some who have diploma and skills struggle to find a place to work in another country, they might encounter fraudsters that might lure them into human trafficking under the pretence of employment abroad.

Poverty as a cause of human trafficking. As a result of unemployment, many people are struggling to make ends meet and thus have large debts easily become victims of slavery and exploitation. Those who have no money often have no other choice but to sell themselves in order to at least have some food and roof over their heads.

Lastly, illiteracy. Lack of education can lead to decreased opportunities for work and decreased knowledge in rights. Both outcome can cause people to be at greater vulnerability for human trafficking.

The effects of human trafficking on victims are negative and only the traffickers stand to gain a lot from it such as money, free sex and other benefits.

Some victims are forced to have sex with animals for the pleasure of their “owners” and are left to deal with the mental traumas while some of them are considered lucky for being forced into prostitution. But either of them would experience devastating psychological effects(such as depression, memory loss, anxiety, fear, guilt, shame and other during and after their trafficking experience.

Victims of forced labour may work in dangerous conditions for long hours during receptive tasks and may be exposed to dangerous contaminations which may result to serious infections, respiratory problems, injuries, impairments, and exhaustion. The lack of proper medical care allows these conditions to spread and worsen, often affecting an individual’s health perfectly. Those who have been sexually exploited are often abused by their traffickers and customers, may be raped, beaten or subjected to abuse over a long time and thus are exposed to higher risk of sexually transmitted disease infections and other illness.

Stigmatization, victims after being rescued from their trafficker are stigmatized by peers, family and especially the society. Society tends to shun and taunt them without knowing or understanding what they’ve been through and instead o them to show them love, they assume it is their own fault that they were trafficked.

Victims are taught by their traffickers to distraught outsiders, especially the law enforcement because they have a sense of fear towards the government and were made to believe that they will be deported if the government is involved since it was their fault that they were captured.

Government and volunteers should make an effort to enlighten the public on the dangers and effects of human trafficking on individuals. Social media platforms should also raise awareness about human trafficking.

Enactment of law can also be of help. If a law is made against traffickers and the law enforcement agencies make efforts to ensure that traffickers are severally punished. Traffickers to come would think twice before engaging in such a shameful act.

Establishment of rehabilitation centres for victims can also be of help.

Encouragement of local schools to include human trafficking in their curricula and to develop protocols for identifying and reporting a suspected case of human trafficking.