

The Global Fight against Trafficking in Person: The Role of Nigeria

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Abstract

Trafficking in persons is the worst violation of fundamental human rights in the contemporary world, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children are being trafficked across national borders and subjected to inhuman treatments that threaten their very survival, they are being abused and exploited by their traffickers, this ugly business has become a matter of serious concern to governments and non-governmental organizations both at the domestic and international levels, this paper looked at the role of Nigeria in the fight against trafficking in persons, it relied on secondary materials and qualitative analysis of the data and recommended that, the government must improve the economic situation, so as to create employment opportunities, especially for the youth and particularly females, severe punitive measures should be taken against those found trafficking in children, particularly minors.

Introduction

Over two hundred years ago, a British parliamentarian and a group of some human rights called for an end to the transatlantic slave trade, declaring to an abuse human rights. To date, slavery and/or servitude still exists among us in various forms. Millions of people around the world, including women and children are caught in what is today a modern form of slavery called human trafficking. This ugly business has attracted the concern of international organisations and national governments to take all the necessary measures to fight trafficking in persons at both domestic and international levels.

Trafficking in persons sometimes takes the form of a legal international migration flow or a legitimate family practice of taking young family members for tourism. In some cases, it may take a form of customary practice, which is inherently harmful to human rights and contribute to trafficking in persons. For instance, the practice of taking place of children for schooling or learning

some professions far away from their domicile, as well as sending young girls for domestic service to accumulate money to be used for their weddings also contribute to human trafficking. Weak states that cannot provide employment opportunities and good governance leave citizens with very little options and opportunities, the consequence of which is human trafficking. In addition, inequality and civil instability can also contribute to it. The increase in the demand for commercial sex and cheap labour coupled with domestic labour are all factors that contribute to trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

The victims of trafficking face severe consequences to their lives. They face psychological and physical harm and gender exploitation against women. Most of the trafficked children exhibit suicide tendencies or become hardened criminals.

The female victims of sex trafficking usually sustain serious physical injuries, such as head injuries and repeated broken bones. They are exposed to several risks of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, including tuberculosis and permanent damage to their reproductive systems. Young children are cheap targets of insurgents and terrorist organizations, as well as rebels who recruit them as child soldiers.

Tfafficking in persons is a global problem that transcends national boundaries. "Like the global economic crisis, human trafficking is a global crisis that is inextricable linked to the current wave of globalization in the sex industries involving women and children" (Hogue in Rahman, 2011:54). It is a transnational crime similar to drug and arms trafficking. Indeed, it is a lucrative business with very sophisticated syndicates and networks across the world. While it is accepted that in combating trafficking in persons, it requires a transnational collaboration to fight it, national-states must have policies that directly address this ugly problem.

The major challenge in the fight against trafficking is public ignorance "The general public is insufficiently aware of trafficking in human beings in all its aspects, the extent to which organized criminal groups are involved in trafficking in human beings and the fate of the victims. Parents or guardians of trafficked children are under the false illusions and are unaware of the severe exploitation of their words" (Adepoju, 2005:76)

Nigeria has established the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) charged with the responsibility of fighting all forms of human trafficking within it. In addition, Nigeria is in collaboration with all West African States in the fight against trafficking in persons, as well as other international bodies, including the United Nations.

Conceptual Clarification

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union States that:

Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring 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 the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the constant control of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation, (cited in WHO, 2012:1) According to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, exploitation shall include

.... at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organs, (cited in WHO, 2012:2)

Broadly, exploitation may take one of the following three forms.

Sex trafficking, which may include prostitution and other forms of

sexual exploitation, such as pornography, sexually-oriented performance and sex tourism,

- i. Trafficking for non-commercial sex purposes, which may include early marriage, forced or service marriage, arranged marriage, compensation, marriage, transactional marriage or marriage for child bearing; or)
- ii. Labour trafficking, which may include domestic servitude, sweatshop or agricultural or construction labour, or enforced enrolment in an armed force.

Other forms of exploitation include the removal of organs and use of the trafficked person in criminal activities or begging. The international Labour Organization (ILO) states that forced labour refers to "all work or service which is extracted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily". The Trafficking in Persons Protocol sees servitude as the state or the condition of the dependency of a person who is unlawfully compelled or coerced by another to render any service to the same person or to others and who has no reasonable alternative but to perform the service. This includes domestic service and debt bondage. The Protocol also sees illegal adoption to cover trafficking for the purpose of illegal adoption where illegal adoption amounts to a practice similar to slavery.

Theoretical Framework

This paper is situated within the natural rights theory. The natural rights theory is based on the liberal theory of the origin of the state arising from the social contract. It sees the rights of man as "self-evident truth". Those rights of man were not granted by the state, but come from the very nature of men. That certain rights were enjoyed by man in the state of nature, before the formation of civil society itself and those were the natural rights of man, which must be respected, promoted and protected by the state.

Rousseau posits that "man was born free " (Rousseau, 1968:49). He means here that man is by nature, born free with his rights. In other words, Rousseau is arguing that it is not the state that gives man rights, rather it can only promote and protect those rights. Corroborating Rousseau, Laski states that, "the state, briefly, does not create, but recognizes those rights and its character will be apparent from the rights that at any given period, secure recognition" (Laski, 2004:89). Thomas Hobbes and Jeremy Bentham also see rights as claims recognized by the state (Laski, 2004:900). The natural theory of rights, therefore, presupposes those conditions of social life without which man cannot be himself nor determine his way of life. These natural rights were enjoyed by the state which should contribute to promote and protect them. There are certain rights which must be recognized and guaranteed to every individual. And that no state is considered to be civilized unless it recognized these rights. These rights are universal "... certain rights exist as a result of a higher law constitutes a universal and absolute set of principles governing all human beings in time and space" (Shaw, 2008:266). "... I human rights are background moral rights at which individuals possess in virtue of being a human being, and which exist at all times and in all places" (Jackson, 1997:13).

The natural theory of rights states that states must not limit those rights unless on special condition, as contained in the law of the state and accepted by the people. This is because, without these rights, man cannot develop. In short, man would be reduced to less than human when or where these rights are not fully guaranteed.

Green observed that "Rights are natural in the sense that they are necessary for the moral development of man in the present stage of society, they represent an attainable ideal which the state seeks to achieve" (in Mahajan, 1988:319). The natural rights theory therefore, posits that man by nature has rights 'which must not be denied, rather they should be rooted and protected by the state.

At the international community, there are a number of international conventions that have addressed the rights of an individual not to be trafficked. These include the UN convention on the elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women; (CEDAW) the rights of the child, the International Convention on child and Political Rights, and the ILO convention concerning the prohibition and immediate Action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. It is internationally recognized that people must enjoy their fundamental rights, which include the right to life, and security; the right to be free from slavery or servitude; the right to freedom of movement; the right to freedom from torture, cruelty and inhuman treatment and the, right to health, and education, among others.

It is on the basis of the natural rights that the Nigerian People's Manifesto, launched in 1974, recognized that "the democratic rights of the people shall be inalienable and inviolable and no person shall be deprived of any of the basic fundamental human rights" (in Muzzam, 2010:45). These rights include the right to life, the right to property, and the right to liberty, among others. It, therefore, means that man should not be exploited or enslaved by another man or be subjected to any form of inhuman treatment. And that wherever, inhuman treatment is taking place against any man, the state must fight against it and restore the dignity of the human person. It is in this context that Nigeria plays a significant role in the international fight against trafficking in persons.

The Nature of the Problem

Globally, more than 80% of trafficked persons are female, signifying gender exploitation. 50% of the trafficked persons internationally are under the age 18. 71 % of trafficked children exhibit suicide tendencies. 65% of the female victims of sex trafficking sustain serious physical internal injuries, 24% experience head injuries, and 12% report broken bones. In addition, 68% of them meet the clinical

criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder and women who have been trafficked for sexual —purpose experience a tenfold risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, including tuberculosis and permanent damage to their reproductive systems. (US Department of State 2005 Trafficking in Person Report.

According to the estimates by the United Nations and other experts in the field, the calculation of the total market value of illicit human trafficking is closer to US\$32 billion, with approximately one third of the profits coming from the actual sale of human beings and two-thirds derived from the activities of the products created by trafficking victims (Araiyo, 201:1-2). According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2000

"every year hundreds of thousands of children are smuggled across borders and sold as mere commodities. Their survival and development are threatened, and their rights to education, to health, to grow up within a family, to protection from exploitation and abuse, are denied. UNICEF further states that West Africa is the most badly affected region in the world" (UNICEF Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, 2002:2)

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (GIFT) 20 states that human trafficking in West Africa often takes the form of child trafficking within regional borders and across the regions for labour and sexual exploitation, the recruitment of children by force to armed conflicts and women and girls being trafficked within and out of the region for sexual exploitation (GIFT, 2008). More than 120,000 children under the age of 18 years, which is about one third of the world's child soldiers, are currently participating in armed conflicts across Africa. Some of these children are not more than 7 or 8 years of age (UN. 2006). Between 28,000 and 30,000 children are lured into prostitution in South Africa, half of whom are from 10 and 14 years of age, while the other half between 15 and 18 years of age (Molo, 2000) and 300,000 children are taken from their homes in West Africa each year and sold into domestic slavery (Fairfund, 2006).

At the national level, over 15,027,612 working children exist in Nigeria (US State Department June, 2003). Of this number, 56% are in school, while 44 are found in house-keeping activities. In 2003, an ILO/UNICEF report revealed that 8 million Nigerian Children went through the worst forms of Child Labour, serving mainly as domestic servants, beggars, street hawkers, prostitutes, etc. 60% of prostitutes in Italy hail from Africa and 80% of them are Nigerians - (ECPAT-End 2003). Between 2003 and 2007, 9,466 victims of trafficking were intercepted at Nigeria's borders (UNODC September 2006). There are over 8 million Nigerian children engaged in exploitative child labour (NAPTIP. 2015)

The-Victims of Trafficking

Internationally, the victims of trafficking are three groups of persons, Children, Women and migrants.

Children: it takes the form of exploitation and forced recruitment. They are often subject to trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, begging, prostitution and pornography. The principal problem of trafficking in children is related to the exploitation of child labour in agricultural plantations or the use of domestic workers. Forms of trafficking in children include:

- i. Force marriages
- ii. Traditional Placement of young children with close distant parents
- iii. Domestic work
- iv. Prostitution
- v. Servitude
- vi. Forced recruitment of child soldiers, and
- vii. Begging

Women, most of the forms of the trafficking of women are:

- i. Forced marriages
- ii. Prostitution

NAPTIP estimated that more than 50,000 women of Nigerian nationality currently work in the sex industry in Italy and hundreds of them in Saudi Arabia and Libya and that most of them are victims of trafficking. (NAPTIP NEWS Vol.4 No. 1 April to June 2014)

Migrants: this is common in countries such as Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea and Guinea Bissau, which are the main transit countries for migrants heading to Europe and the Americas. As earlier stated above, human trafficking is a multibillion dollar industry next to only arms and drugs. It is a serious violation of human rights and a sign of gender inequality and discrimination. This ugly business has attracted rapidly growing domestic and international concern towards combating it. Nigeria is one of the countries that has seriously taken the fight against trafficking in persons at both domestic and international levels. In combating it, there is a common strategy containing three main components:

1. Preventive measures
2. Strengthened Legislation and more vigorous investigation and prosecution of offenders, and
3. Protection and support for victims

The Role of Nigeria

Since her independence in 1960, Nigeria has taken as part of her obligation to respect, promote and protect fundamental human rights and to recognize the United Nation's Universal Proclamation of human rights of 10th December/1948, as well as the United Nation's Transnational Organized Crime Convention, including trafficking in persons. Nigeria became a signatory to the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and its Trafficking in person protocol on the 13th December, 2000. The Article of the protocol enjoins all states who are part to it to criminalize practices and conducts that subject human beings to all forms of exploitation, which include the minimum sexual and labour exploitation.

Following the Palermo Convention, a private bill was submitted to the National Assembly by a Non-governmental organization named Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) funded by the Wife of the former Vice President, Mrs. Titi Atiku Abubakar. The Bill was passed by the National Assembly on the July, 7th of July, 2003 and the Presidential assent was given on the 14th July same year.

To implement the law effectively, Nigeria established the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP). Section 4 of the law vested in NAPTIP the following functions:

- a. To coordinate all laws on trafficking in persons and related offences
- b. To adopt measures to increase the effectiveness of eradication of trafficking in persons
- c. To adopt witness protection measures
- d. To enhance effectiveness of law enforcement agents to suppress traffic in persons
- e. To establish proper communication channels, conduct research and work on improving international cooperation in the suppression of traffic in persons; by land, sea and air
- f. To reinforce and supplement measures in bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions on trafficking in persons
- g. To work in collaboration with other agencies or bodies that may ensure elimination and prevention of the root causes of the problem of traffic in any person
- h. To strengthen cooperation between the attorney General of the federation, Nigeria Police, Nigeria Immigration Services, Welfare officials and all other agencies in the eradication of traffic in persons
- i. To take charge, supervise, control and coordinate the rehabilitation of trafficked persons;
- j. To investigate and persecute traffickers

NAPTIP, therefore, is Nigeria's local point in the fight against trafficking in persons at both domestic and international levels, because the agency is empowered to collaborate, coordinate and cooperate with other agencies or bodies at both bilateral and multilateral levels in the fight against trafficking in persons. In addition, a fund known as Victim to Traffic Trust Fund was also established wherein monies realized from the sale of the confiscated and forfeited assets of convicted trafficker would be paid into for the benefit of the victims.

In the international level, NAPTIP adopted collaborative strategies among countries and agencies at sub-regional (ECOWAS), continental (Africa) and global levels in the areas of information sharing, investigation and prosecution to combat trafficking in persons. Nigeria has recognized most international instruments and has continued to facilitate both bilateral and multilateral treaties and signed numerous Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with source, transit and destination countries, as well as the United Nations Agencies. Some of these international collaborations include the following:

International Legal Framework for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons

These are some of the international instruments recognized by Nigeria in her fight against trafficking in persons;

- a. The international convention for the suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, concluded at Geneva on 30 September 1921, as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake success, New York, on 12 -November, 1947.
- b. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- c. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Abolition of forced labour convention (1957);
- d. The International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)

- e. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966);
- f. The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAN) 1979.
- g. The African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1981)
- h. The Convention against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
- i. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Though not fully implemented in Nigeria, because some states have not adopted it.
- j. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant workers and Members of their families (1990)
- k. The African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990).
- l. This is also not fully implemented in Nigeria
- m. The United Nations General Assembly Declaration of the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)
- n. The optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000)
- o. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)

Sub-regional Instruments

The West African sub-region has a number of legal frameworks for the fight against trafficking in persons of which Nigeria is a signatory. These are:

- i. The ECOWAS convention relating to the free movement of persons and goods (1975)
- ii. The West African states convention on extradition (1994)
- iii. The ECOWAS Declaration on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons (2001)

- iv. The ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003)
- v. The Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to combat- Child Trafficking in West Africa (2005)
- vi. The African Union Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children, adopted in Tripoli (2006);
- vii. The Joint ECOWAS/ECCAS Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons especially women and children in West and central Africa (2006-2009)
- viii. The ECOWAS Plan of Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2008-2011).

Nigeria has signed a bilateral agreement with Benin Republic on Cooperation Agreement to Prevent, suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons with an emphasis on Trafficking in Women and children with the aims of developing a common front against trafficking and protecting and promoting friendly cooperation between Benin and Nigeria to achieve these objectives.

Nigeria has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Italy as part of a programme of action against trafficking in young women and minors from Nigeria into Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It is focused on strengthening the bilateral cooperation between the two countries and enhancing the capacity of relevant Nigerian agencies to prevent, investigate and prosecute human trafficking. The MoU was signed in 2004 by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria and the National Anti-Mafia Persecutor of Italy.

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NAPTIP is in partnership and collaboration with International Organizations, such as the International Organization for Migrants (IOM), International Police (INTERPOL) etc. embassies include Italian, American, British, Netherlands, Swiss, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, French, German, Benin Republic, Finland, Togo, Gambia among others. Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's) include Idia-Renaissance WOTCLEF, WOCON, Terredes homes, etc. Relevant Government Ministries, Department and Agencies at both state and Federal levels include, Ministry of Justice, Women Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Labour and Productivity, Information and Communication, Youth Development, National Human Rights Commission, National Directorate of Employment, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDA'N), National Poverty Eradication, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Nigeria. NAPTIP also holds consultative conference of National stakeholder, as well as sensitisation activities to vulnerable people:

Achievements

Despite numerous challenges faced by the Agency for the 1 Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria (NAPTIP), which will be discussed in detail in the next section of this paper, the agency recorded a number of interceptions, investigated and prosecuted several traffickers, as well as rehabilitated victims. Between August 2009 and July 2010, NAPTIP received 967 trafficked victims. Out of this figure, 709 are male and 258 female. Most of these victims originated from Edo state with 208 victims followed by Akwa-Ibom with 99; Kano, 88 and Abia 74. The States with the least figure of victims-are Niger 5, Taraba 5, Ekiti 3; Adamawa 2; Yobe 2 and. Borno 1. The Agency repatriated 170 trafficked victims back to their countries of origin within this period, with Benin Republic having the highest figure of 92;

followed by Togo 55, Burkina-Faso 9, Cameroon and Mali 4 each; Sierra-Leone 3; Ghana 2 and Cote d'Viore 1. These victims were intercepted by NAPTIP and other law enforcement agencies that collaborate with NAPTIP. For instance, the Police intercepted 300; Immigration 241, Civil Defence 40, NGOs 71; DSS 27; Customs 3; NAPTIP 168 and others 116 (NAPTIP, 2009/2010 Annual Report) NAPTIP during this period prosecuted about 120 cases at the various Federal and State High Courts in the country and secured the conviction of 25 Human Traffickers.

Between 2011 and 2012, the Agency rescued and rehabilitated a total of 11,60 victims in its various shelters and repatriated a total of 118 victims back to their countries of origin with Benin Republic, having the highest of 60; Togo 25; Burkina-Faso 16; Cameroon 6; China 3; Cote d'voire 4, Niger Republic 3 and Gabon 1. During this period, the agency filed at various Federal and State High Courts in the country a total of 135 cases and secured conviction of 49 Human Traffickers (NAPTIP, 2011/2012 Annual Report)

While between 2013 and 2014, a total of 1,509 victims were rescued and rehabilitated in various shelters of the Agency. Edo state still tops the list with 34, followed by Imo 29; Benue 27; Kano 24; Jigawa 21; Abia, Anambra and Ogun 20 each; Enugu 22, Cross River 19; Ebonyi 17; Akwa Ibom 13, -Zamfara 10, Delta and Pleateau 9 each; Oyo 8, Barrio and Kaduna 7 each; Niger 3, Kogi and Ondo 2 each, Sokoto, Osun, Kebbi, Kwara, likiti and Abuja FCT 1 each and Nos specified 2 of the victims repatriated back to their countries of origin. Togo has the highest with 22; Benin Republic 14; Cameroon 5; Ghana 2 and others. In this period, the Agency filed 240 cases at various federal and state High Courts and secured the conviction of 68 Traffickers (NAPTIP 2013/2014 Annual report).

The official data for 2015 is not available however; The Nation of May 27th, 2016 on page 5 provided some information on 2016.

The paper reported that between January and May 2016, NAPTIP rescued 145 victims and recorded 51 cases.

Challenges

Unlike illicit arms trade and drug trafficking, human trafficking still faces numerous challenges ranging from people's perceptions to institutional and legal issues. At the domestic level, especially among the poor people and more particular, the rural dwellers who still send their children, especially underaged girls, for domestic labour, people do not accept the fact that what they do constitutes human trafficking. They first look at the material or monetary gains that come from the practice rather than the unwanted consequences. Such people see the effort of NAPTIP as even militating against their wishes. They sometimes go to the extent of false declaration of their children's ages to avoid the interception of NAPTIP and other collaborative agencies and NGOs. In fact, some people have even made it part of their culture to send their children to some distance relations or to some urban centres for begging and Qur'anic education from where these children are trafficked.

Another serious challenge in the fight against traffic in Nigeria is that of funding. Without adequate funding, NAPTIP and other relevant agencies would find it difficult, if not outrightly impossible to intercept or prosecute some cases. In particular, NAPTIP needs adequate funding because of the chain of activities or programmes and responsibilities associated with fight against trafficking. When trafficked persons are intercepted, NAPTIP is responsible for their feeding, safe keeping and protection, medication, counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration to their families. All these will require huge amount of money, which at the moment is not available or rather grossly inadequate. NAPTIP also needs vehicles and other necessary working materials, which all involve funding.

Most victims of trafficking are reluctant to testify in courts as a result of fear and intimidation or threat to their families and relations. Some suffer from Post-trauma depression as a result of prolonged exploitation. While some fear the consequent of the oath they took with voodoo or other traditional charms. Associated with the first challenge earlier stated, there is still very minimal commitment in Nigeria, especially by some states and Local Government Authorities in the area of public enlightenment and collaboration.

A slow judicial process is also a serious challenge, especially in cases that involve some wealthy persons in the community. In some cases, the legal process will limp for a long period, thereby frustrating the efforts of NAPTIP. A more general challenge is that of poverty and inequality that makes many poor people more vulnerable. Poverty remains the cause of trafficking in Africa. A study by UNDP shows that the highest number of child workers is concentrated in countries with low human development index, of which Nigeria is one.

The scourge of HIV/AIDs also contributes to trafficking. Some people die young, thereby leaving their families without support and exposing them to trafficking.

Nigeria is one of such countries.

Recommendations

In line with the challenges facing the fight against human trafficking, especially in Nigeria, this paper proffers the following recommendations would seriously help in enhancing the performance of the Agency charged with the responsibilities of fighting trafficking in persons.

1. The Agency should intensify public enlightenment, particularly in the rural areas where public awareness is still very minimal. It can do this through collaboration with media houses, especially radio and television stations. In addition, the Agency

can collaborate with NGOs to carry out sensitization campaigns

in secondary schools and other vulnerable places.

2. The Agency should be financially supported by the public and the private sector. In particular, the private sector should donate at least 2% of their annual profit to NAPTIP.
3. The courts should expedite the judicial process by allowing for the quick trial of cases brought before them.
4. Nigeria should continue to sign both bilateral and multilateral agreements with destination countries, such as Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE), especially in the area of extradition.

Conclusion

Trafficking in persons is the modern form of slavery and the worst violation of fundamental human rights. More so, it promotes gender exploitation and child abuse. This ugly business must be stopped through collective efforts by the whole members of the international community. Being a cross border crime, individual states must have domestic legislations as well as international treaties, agreements and protocols at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Nigeria, being one of the countries mostly affected by this crime, has responded positively in the international fight against trafficking in persons. It has established an agency (NAPTIP) charged with (the responsibility of fighting trafficking and had signed numerous international agreements, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding with several countries as part of her role in the fight against human trafficking.

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