Report on Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Course

25th-26th Nov. 2015

THE ACADEMY FOR PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS (TAPHOM)

Presented to:

www.devatop.org
Slavery was abolished more than 150 years ago, but there exist more people in modern slavery than any other time in human history. Over 27 million women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders and exploited for labour, organ removal and commercial sex.

According to UNICEF, 2 million children are subjected to prostitution in the global commercial sex trade; every two minutes a child is being prepared for sexual exploitation, and the average age of a trafficked victim is 12–14 years.

Nigeria is among the top ten countries in the world with highest number of victims of human trafficking. Also, more than 45,000 women, girls and children in Nigeria are trafficked annually within and outside borders. 80% of the victims are young people, 50% are children and 70% are women and girls. Other issues that threaten women and girls are rape and gender-based violence.

All over the world there are daily reports of human trafficking, sexual abuse and gender-based violence. “We can’t keep silent at this evil. We can’t close our eyes to it. We can’t pretend as if it doesn’t exist. We have to take action, and nothing but action”.

As part of our duty, Devatop Centre For Africa Development, through her academy, The Academy for Prevention of Human Trafficking and other Related Matters (TAPHOM) is tenaciously raising anti-human trafficking advocates and trainers to be in the forefront of combating human trafficking. We have continued to involve more organizations, companies, institutions and individuals in the fight against human trafficking.

This report presents the activities that took place during our anti-human trafficking advocacy course on 25th and 26th Nov. 2015 in Abuja, Nigeria.

We are grateful to all the partners and volunteers that continue to support our work in preventing human trafficking. We look forward with great enthusiasm to more collaboration to build a world without human trafficking.

Mr. Joseph Osuigwe C., Founder/Executive Director,
Devatop Centre For Africa Development
Objectives

To equip participants with indept knowledge about human trafficking so they can educate others.

To equip participates with prerequisite skills to engage in anti-human trafficking advocacy.

To train participants to monitor, identify & report any potential victim or human trafficking incidence.

To inspire participants to organize step-down training, seminars, workshop, shows, or talk-shows on HT.

Our Trainees

- Educators
- Legal practitioners
- Health professionals
- Community volunteers
- Law enforcement agents
- Media personnel
- Journalists
- Youth

29
36

Our participants were mobilized from

- Abuja
- Nasarawa
- Plateau
- Lagos
- Katsina
- Cross River
“If we don't stand up for this and these atrocities continue to happen, we can't justify ourselves, and we can't explain to our kids how we were silent when this thing happened.” -Dr. Reuben Bulka

It is in our hands to end human trafficking.

*(see page 11b on how you can help)*
“Nigeria police will continue to improve its efforts and strategies in the fight against human trafficking. We are committed to addressing human rights abuses”.

“The future of victims of human trafficking has been punctured, their dreams delayed, and potentials caged because of the triumph of this evil. There is an urgent need to raise more anti-human trafficking advocates and trainers who will be in the forefront of combating human trafficking. We need passionate people to take strategic actions against human trafficking in their communities and states.”
OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mr. Daniel Atokolo (a staff of National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons), in his presentation on human trafficking, defined it as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of person by means of threat or the use of force or other forms of coercion or deception or the use of vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation.” He further listed and explained the forms of human trafficking as: Sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, removal of organs, rituals, child soldier, forced marriages, etc.

He highlighted the elements of human trafficking as follows: Recruitment, Transportation, Transfer, Harboring/receive; and the causes as: Poverty especially among women and children, Lack of access to quality education, Loss of family values, Gender discrimination, Greed, Lack of social, political and economic stability, Ignorance on the part of families, High demand of submissive child labor, Institutional lapses, high demand for sex, etc.

According to him, human trafficking has both psychological, health and economic effects on the victim and well as their families.

To identify victims of human trafficking, he gave the signs to look out for as:
1. Traveling in groups with extra supplies             2. Inconsistent and incoherent stories
3. Restriction on movement     4. Signs of abuse/scars on the body     5. Fake and lack of travelling documents

While the traffickers can be spotted through the following signs:
1. By their actions- recruiting and deceiving people            2. Portraying what he is not
3. The mode of the journey undertaken                   4. In possession of a lot of travelling documents

CHILD TRAFFICKING

According to Mrs. Chinwe Nwafor, (from Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation), Child trafficking can simply be defined as recruiting, harbouring, transferring, transporting of any person under the age of 18 years from a village to a town or a country to another using deceit, coercion or debt bondage for the purpose of exploitation.

They use an adult in the village to identify families that are poor and vulnerable. Sometimes parents seek help

Some people create fake agencies and advertise them for job opportunity or educational scholarship outside

Family members like uncle, aunts, sister, brothers and pastors do take children from their parents to the city and exploit them

Children are also trafficked by individuals who organise local sports in the city or abroad.

Some of the effects on the victims include: Physical injury Poor feeding Sexually abused
Exposed to HIV/AIDS Pregnancy

Some of the ways to combat child trafficking include:
Parents, children, and individual need to be informed and sensitized on trafficking. Government need to empower women. Provision of social amenities.
Provision of basic education for the children. Encouraging children to speak out.
Interactive session on Day one

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead
Bar. Effoduh Jake Okechukwu defined Advocacy as a public support for, or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. It is changing “What is” into “What should be”. It also means an organised approach to promoting issue or a cause and motivating others to take action. Some of the forms of advocacy include:

- Self advocacy, Issue advocacy, Representative advocacy, Community advocacy & Legal advocacy

To engage in anti-human trafficking advocacy, you have to:

I. Know the system, know your right and that of others, and choose how you want to do the advocacy. Determine the changes you want.
ii. Establish objectives.
iii. Determine the people and institutions that have the authority to make the changes and those who can influence them. Ask plenty questions and actively listen.
iv. Devise strategies for addressing possible obstacles, including responses to competition with your cause.
v. Choose methods to deliver the message. Eg, letters, calls, meetings, the media.
vi. Determine the resources you have and those you need.
vii. Network with individuals and organisations to gain support.
viii. Use statistics strategically to support the message.

There are different ways of doing advocacy, one of them is Internet/Social Media: you can create a space (petition, twitter campaigns, facebook pages) e.g #BringBackOurGirls, #Notforsale, etc.

In conclusion, a good advocate is known by the following qualities: Selfless, Teachable, Honest, Assertive, Knowledgeable, Respectful, Active, Strategic, Communicative, and Result orientated.

We all need to join our hands to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

It is important to note that women/girls with disability also experience gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, but their case is often excluded; we need to speak up for them.
"I am more bothered about a country that works, because if the country works right, people will not be trafficked. Therefore, there is need to start putting things right, starting from our leaders."

Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, Former Chairman, National Human Right Commission

“This is the fight for everyone. If more people are advocating, observing what is happening around their neighbourhood, and reporting suspects, there will be better results in the fight against human trafficking.”

Mr. Arinze Orakwue
Director, Public Enlightenment, National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
Human trafficking is a crime that must be combated. It affects a higher number of young people, especially women, girls, and boys. Most of the victims experience stigmatization in their communities.

Amb. Rachel Bakam, Peace & Tourism Ambassador and Executive Director of Rachel TV (Media Supporter of The Academy for Prevention of Human Trafficking...)

Interview session with Rachel TV
Suggestions & Recommendations during group discussion

During the training, participants were divided into seven working groups, and they came up with the following suggestions/recommendations:

**Educators**
- Educators/teachers should identify and report situations where children are experiencing potential abuse, including human trafficking (HT).
- Schools should partner with NGO’s to organize seminars or sensitization workshops for students. There should be inter-school debate/quiz on TIP/HT.

**Religious Group**
- Religious leaders should learn and speak about human trafficking and gender-based violence to their members.
- Organize human trafficking seminars or conferences, organize prayer meetings and render support for victims of human trafficking.

**Law enforcement & Legal**
- They should learn the emerging human trafficking strategies, indicators, etc to enable them handle cases effectively. They should have frequent training on HT.
- They should create synergy with relevant stakeholders, including community leaders in gathering information and addressing cases on HT.

**Journalist & Media**
- They should get involved in researches on emerging strategies of traffickers.
- They can as well do investigation journalism to discover and expose traffickers.
- They should use media to sensitize the public and frequently publish stories on human trafficking.

**Youth**
- Youth should explore partnership with organizations to sensitize other young people.
- Youth can organize social media campaign.
- National Youth Service Corps should adopt anti-human trafficking campaigns as their community service projects.

**Community Volunteers**
- Community volunteers should be eye-watch for law enforcement and National Agency for Prohibition of trafficking in persons. They should observe and report.
- Community volunteers should organize anti-human trafficking awareness and facilitate town hall meetings to talk about emerging strategies of traffickers.

**Med. Practitioners H/Workers**
- Should learn indicators of human trafficking, recognize their patients who are victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence.
- They should organize workshop or sensitization seminars on organ trafficking and encourage their colleagues not to be part of illegal organ removal.

---

**We Need You!**

The Academy for Prevention of Human Trafficking and other Related Matters (TAPHOM) will continue to be in the forefront of combating and preventing human trafficking, raising more advocates, engaging more people and exploring partnership opportunities.

Though we are doing something, but we can do more and better if you get involved with us.

Let’s work together to stop human trafficking!

Partner  |  Donate  |  Volunteer
Appreciation

“Ending human trafficking is not idealistic or naive. It is audacious. And it is people of audacity who change the world” - Rob Morris
Devatop Centre for Africa Development is a 21st century nonprofit organization with focus on combating human trafficking, achieving gender equality, quality education/lifelong learning and empowering youth to be agent of national development.

Since our inception in 2013 to 2015, we have:

- Taught 4500+ How to combat human trafficking & gender-based violence
- Empowered 400+ Youth
- Donated 900+ to 85 schools

The Academy for Prevention of Human Trafficking and Other Related Matters (a subsidiary of Devatop Centre for Africa Development) focuses on:

- Training
- Advocacy
- Research
- Counseling
- Referral
- Publication

Contact:
+2348067251727, +2348155408524
devatop2013@gmail.com, contact@devatop.org
www.facebook.com/devatop2013
www.twitter.com/devatop2013