

CHILD TRAFFICKING

What you need to know

Definition of Trafficking

Trafficking in Persons is:-

- ◆ the **action** of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons
- ◆ by **means** of the threat or force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person
- ◆ for the purposes of exploitation.

Who is a child?

According to the law, a child is any person below the age of 18 years.

What does Child Trafficking mean?

Child trafficking refers to the global practice of buying and selling children for purposes of exploiting their labour or bodies. This can include using their labour without adequate pay or using a child for prostitution,

as a soldier, house girl/boy, shamba boy, bar / restaurant attendant or a sacrifice for ritual purposes.

Types of Child Trafficking

Internal trafficking:

This is where children are trafficked within the borders of a country (from rural to urban areas, from

town to town and village to village).

Cross-border Trafficking:

This is where children are trafficked out of a country to another country to be abused or exploited.



world rankings because she has recognized the problem of child trafficking and is taking significant steps in stopping it.

- ◆ Every child exploited in a trafficking situation is exposed to devastating trauma and enslavement that can haunt him/her long after his or her ordeal.

How are children trafficked?

Force/coercion:

Children are forced to leave their homes by parents/guardians to be exploited. Fraud and deceit: some

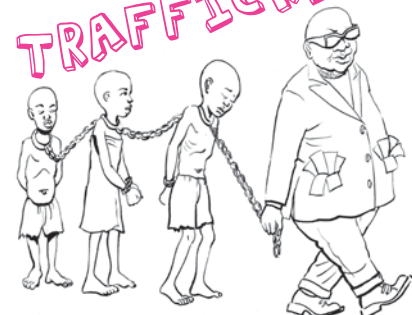
by rebel groups who want to use them as sex slaves, child soldiers and porters.

Who are the child traffickers?

Any body who participates in the process of recruiting, transporting, harbouring and selling of children with the aim of exploiting them. These may be:-

- ◆ Employment bureaus
- ◆ Pimps, bars, brothels and Karaoke owners/managers.
- ◆ Peers (*friends*) and formerly trafficked children,
- ◆ Rebel groups, Transport agents (*taxi, boda bodas, long distance Lorries of products, e.tc.*).
- ◆ Individual women and men from the same village living in urban centres.
- ◆ Charity organizations/ individuals
- ◆ Witchdoctors
- ◆ Strangers

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IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY



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How big is the problem of Trafficking?

World wide, it is estimated that 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.

- ◆ Because the activities involving human trafficking are so often underground, illegal and stigmatized, it is difficult to know the true number of children being trafficked within and outside Uganda.
- ◆ Uganda is placed in tier 2 in

children are deceived by adults or peers to move from villages to towns or from town to town with a promise of better life, education, entertainment or better money; which is usually not true. Children trafficked to other countries may even move on forged documents.

Abduction:

Some children both in war and non-war zones are stolen from their homes / communities. In war areas, they are abducted

What promises are made to children by traffickers?

People who traffick children by deceit promise them or their parents many things.

- ◆ Better school and getting school fees
- ◆ Money to be sent to parents when the child starts working
- ◆ Good life (*good food, accommodation, fun, clothes*).



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- ◆ Good/well paying jobs
- ◆ Marriage
- ◆ Going to developed countries

Why are children trafficked and who is most at risk?

Human trafficking represents a \$32 billion industry worldwide and is very profitable to those who exploit vulnerable children.

- ◆ Poverty and economic

deprivation that can lead to school dropout

- ◆ Gender based violence and discrimination particularly for girls



- ◆ History of abuse. Children who are abused at home may see trafficking as an opportunity to leave home for a safer place.
- ◆ Lack of opportunities for women and youth create a sense of desperation that leaves victims with few choices.
- ◆ Ignorance of children about trafficking and lack of life skills to protect themselves. Some traffickers also do not know that trafficking is a crime.

- ◆ Parentless children. With no parental care due to HIV/AIDS, wars or other cause can easily accept promises of a good life.
- ◆ Children who were trafficked and exploited are potential traffickers and can also abuse children, continuing the cycle.
- ◆ Demand for cheap labour and community tolerance of child labour.
- ◆ Disasters, wars and

conflicts, deprive children of protection.

- ◆ Weak law enforcement to prevent trafficking and prosecute offenders.

What happens to children who are trafficked?

Trafficked Children engage in hazardous activities that lead to physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

- ◆ Commercial sex

exploitation of children (child prostitutes) which leads to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy.

- ◆ Early marriage and sex slavery.
- ◆ Fishing and agriculture and other illicit activities (smuggling, drug trafficking, scrap collection, stealing and hawking).
- ◆ Restaurant, bar, lodge attendants and house girls/ boys.



- ◆ Become street beggars and street children.
- ◆ Ritual sacrifice and organ removal.
- ◆ Hard work (carrying baggage, quarrying stones and child soldiers).
- ◆ Exposed to violence (beaten, starved, killed, verbally abused and neglected).

How to identify a trafficked child

- ◆ Promises of better life and free things.

- ◆ Undercover means of movements/transportation.
- ◆ Promises of facilitating travel documents or lack of travel documents.
- ◆ Children moving in unsupervised groups.
- ◆ Unaccompanied children with no clear destination and who cannot speak the language spoken in the area.
- ◆ Children not returning home in time.

- ◆ Children in hard labour during school or night hours.
- ◆ Physical/emotional signs (hungry, malnourished, wounds, sad, confused).
- ◆ Children living at workplace, on streets or in cramped place.

Nature of enslavement common to trafficked children.

- ◆ Children are controlled in terms of movements and are not allowed to leave the job premises.
- ◆ Children are isolated from public, confined in rooms or houses.
- ◆ **“Stockholm syndrome”**, attachment to trafficker and conditioned to refer to trafficker by familial ties (e.g. aunt, uncle, mummy).
- ◆ There is a lot of instilling of fear or depression.
- ◆ Children are moved to

places where they do not know the language (*thus cannot communicate*).

- ◆ Confiscation of documents (passports, visa identification).
- ◆ Debt bondage (*financial obligation*).
- ◆ Control of victim's money.
- ◆ The child is given different names to conceal identity.
- ◆ Threats of deportation/ chased away/violence.

Even if a child is not forced/coerced, abducted or deceived, he/she cannot give consent to the act of trafficking for the purpose of exploitation.

Even his/her parents or guardians cannot give consent to the trafficking act for the purpose of exploitation.

How to help a trafficked child

- ◆ Do not blame the child, assure him/her of protection.
- ◆ Seek help (*medical, counseling and basic needs like clothing and food*).
- ◆ Report suspected child abuse and trafficking to a police station near you, any UYDEL center/facility, Child Rights NGO, Local Council or Uganda Police.