

On Human Trafficking

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SA - 1st for Women Insurance Trust Supports IOM's Victim Assistance Programme

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The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM

On Monday 8 June, 2009, 1st for Women Insurance Trust donated nearly USD 210,000 (1.7 million rands) to IOM towards its programme to help victims of human trafficking in the country.

The money will be used to provide direct assistance to trafficking victims and to help boost the capacities of shelters that are working with IOM to protect the victims.

1st for Women has a Trust that clients contribute to each month when they pay their premiums," explained 1st for Women Managing Director, Robyn Farrell. "We have a poll on our website where we ask clients which causes they want the Trust to support, and trafficking is always high on that list."

IOM has been working with government and partners in civil society in South Africa over the past few years to address human trafficking comprehensively with the aim of achieving sustainable results, particularly where the protection of victims is concerned. IOM's work includes awareness-raising to prevent trafficking, capacity building of government and civil society in addressing the issue, and direct assistance to victims of trafficking. The latter includes the provision of shelter, 'dignified packages' of essential items, medical and psychological support, legal assistance when needed and return and reintegration.

To date, IOM has assisted 298 victims, trafficked within and to South Africa for sexual and labour exploitation. In a recent study IOM found key links



between vulnerability to trafficking and the origin areas in the country, in particular Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape provinces.

Much needed awareness has been brought to the issue through partnerships with the media. Before and during the award, IOM and 1st for Women were interviewed extensively on Primedia Broadcasting radio stations, 94.7 Highveld Stereo and Talk Radio 702, helping listeners to understand the challenges of human trafficking and how to react to it.

1st for Women Insurance has given millions of rands to women's charities in the past; recently, they assisted People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) to purchase a second-stage housing facility for abused women for R2.4 million.

Human Trafficking and the 2010 Soccer World Cup

The upcoming FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa has elicited various discussions in different quarters. One such discussion is the impact it will have on human trafficking. There are speculations that human trafficking activities will increase during the 2010 World Cup.

Similar speculations were made during the last 2006 FIFA World Cup held in Germany. It was hypothesized that human trafficking incidences would increase by 40,000. An IOM research conducted after the world cup confirmed that this was a considerable exaggeration. Rather than the 40,000 speculated cases, only 33 victims of

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Human Trafficking is not a Figment of the Imagination

Recent reports in the media alleging that the *curse of human trafficking in this region and this country has been exaggerated need some balancing*. The Forced Migration Programme at Wits (FMSP), and the related Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in SA (CORMSA) are both very respectable research and advocacy entities; but when they take up a position saying that human trafficking in SA is 'overestimated', I should like to counter with a few points to balance the discussion.

First of all, as the person accountable for the undertaking and release of the 2003 report "Seduction, Sale and Slavery: Trafficking of Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in Southern Africa", neither I nor my agency has anything to apologize for. This report took the lid off the despicable exploitation of vulnerable people by unscrupulous and often sadistic slave drivers, including by people affiliated to trans-national organized syndicates down to occasional 'hobby traffickers' in the free State or refugee clans in the Cape; it also identified routes and methods.

The assessment was based on direct field work and interviews with hundreds of informants across five countries, including SA. Only findings that had been corroborated by two independent sources were published; many equally compelling findings were not.

It is easy for anyone to say that numbers of victims in our assessment "was not based on rigorous quantitative research" when seen from an academic angle. But all the while the report did not pretend to be a scholarly publication, the findings remain fairly unassailable.

What hurts the cause of combating human trafficking in SA more, are two assertions made by FMSP and CORMSA: a) that the intention of (the 2003) report was not to provide a clear understanding of the scale or nature of the problem, but to raise awareness about the need for law enforcement and policy intervention, and b) the spurious suggestion that because of the absence of 'large numbers of cases', 'clearly' the problem may not be as severe as 'self-interested' parties have claimed it to be.

Concerning a) the IOM report raised the lid on human trafficking trends in the Region and in SA. Yes, it informed law enforcement and legislators, but also gave rise to awareness in civil society and ignited mass information campaigns, helplines, victim support centres, repatriation programmes, NGO capacity building and more. Several countries in the Region have begun domesticating the UN Protocol on Human Trafficking to criminalise the trade in human beings. Additional research has been spurred, albeit of mixed quality. Donors have joined the combat in significant numbers; UN agencies such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organization (ILO) and others have stepped up their involvement. Supported by Norway, the US, and the European Commission, IOM alone has trained some 3,000 government and NGO officials in South and Southern Africa in identifying the problem and protecting victims.

In SA, several faith-based agencies have become reliable partners around shelters and rehabilitation. Five regional workshops for SADC Governments have been held; the latest in Durban last year where the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs clearly stated that human trafficking is a scourge for all countries that must be stopped. SA's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) SOCA Unit is spearheading a homegrown national effort (*Tsireledzani!*) to counter human trafficking in this country with the support of the European Commission. So we would naturally feel that the CORMSA judgment of the purpose and impact of our report is unfair. In a way it also unfairly indicts all national and international players involved in this combat.

Regarding b), there is talk of 'inflated figures... by self-interested parties' driving the debate. I'm not sure what CORMSA's motivation is driving at, given the considerable coalition of partners that have evolved since 2003, all of whom would refute 'self-interest' as a driving force. Certainly so would IOM, which has worked on the issue globally - some would say pre-eminently - since 1990. No one can judge the true extent of the problem beyond

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" verbatim

The human trafficking phenomenon affects virtually every country, including the United States. In acknowledging America's own struggle with modern-day slavery and slavery-related practices, we offer partnership. We call on every government to join us in working to build consensus and leverage resources to eliminate all forms of human trafficking."

US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton at the launch of the ninth annual Trafficking in Persons Report in Washington, June 16, 2009

Human Trafficking is not a Figment of the Imagination

cont. from p2

knowing that it's here. Much of it is underground. Victims, be they forced sex workers or sweatshop labourers, or exploited migrant farm workers, don't walk the streets with a sign asking to be counted. Researchers walking into a club or a brothel and asking victims of trafficking to raise a hand are not coming back with a true picture.

Research methodology is a problem in many reports we have seen that aim to assert that human trafficking does not appear to be a problem after all. What we can say, given IOM's rigorous adherence to the UN definition of human trafficking, is that after 300 assisted victims, including women and children as well as men, we are likely sitting on the tip of an iceberg.

A word on 2010 and human trafficking. IOM would agree with FIFA and others who have argued that human trafficking will not necessarily increase around a sports event. This did not happen in Germany at FIFA World Cup

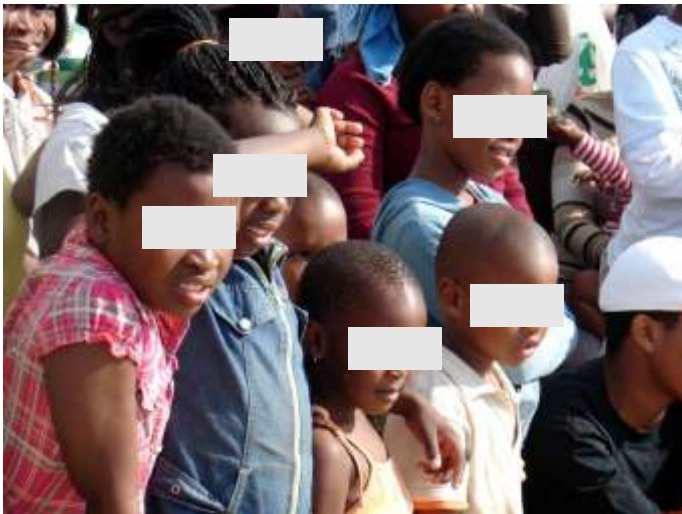
in Germany in 2006, the Rugby World Cup in Paris the following year, or during the Olympics for that matter.

In conclusion, South Africa is no exception to a global trend in human trafficking; indeed South Africans are also trafficked abroad as well as within the country. However, far from being 'alarmist', I personally nurture little patience for denialists. Fine if the numbers seem exaggerated, and let's hope they are - perhaps our awareness campaign is working; but my submission is they're still underestimated, indeed undiscovered. Our partners and ourselves meanwhile are proud of what we are achieving since 2003, and we are encouraged by the SA Government's efforts to criminalize the trade, and the response of the civil society.

By Hans-Petter Boe

Mr. Boe is the Regional Representative for Southern Africa of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Psychological Impact of Human Trafficking on Child Victims



In May South Africa commemorated the Child Protection Week. Human trafficking has devastating effects which victims may take a lifetime to recover from, and children's lives can be easily shattered by a trafficking experience.

In addressing the impact a trafficking experience has on children one cannot overlook the pre-trafficking experience factors that make them vulnerable. It is important to understand these vulnerability factors so as to ensure that the appropriate psychosocial interventions are in place and to prevent re-victimisation and possible re-trafficking of the child.

Interconnected factors such as poverty, violence, trauma, discrimination and abuse influence the vulnerability of children to be trafficked. These factors also compound the impact of the trafficking experience on the child as they, in many cases, negatively affect the development of coping mechanisms within the child. Previous trauma can also reinforce the trauma experienced during exploitation and impact on assistance and reintegration after a child is identified and rescued.

Many children who have a history of abuse prior to being trafficked often lack the skills to cope with stress and to confront violence and pressure. In addition such children often lack skills to distinguish between genuine caring and appropriate relationships from those that are characterised by abuse and exploitation.

The trafficking experience often has a severe impact on the physical and psychological well-being of the child due to poor living conditions, separation from family or important figures such as role models or mentors. The experiences the child undergoes are life threatening and leave them feeling powerless.

Understanding the psychological impact of trafficking is important in order to ensure that the appropriate protective measures are in place to protect the child, and to understand the possible reactions of the child victim and the difficulties they might experience.

Basic conditions for recovery should include:

- **Safety:** Physical and psychological safety are a crucial pre-condition for the process of recovery. Every child should be assessed individually prior to any discussion about their future plans. The need for protective measures that are in the best interest of the child should be the foundation of all interventions.
- **Time:** Trauma takes time to heal, even in cases where the child has received intensive support. The need for a multi-disciplinary support team that is adaptable to the child's level of development should be included.
- **Respect for the child and his/her rights:** The view of the child should be considered seriously, with an understanding of the psychological impact of trafficking. All decisions and subsequent actions must be based on the principle of the best interest of the child.

Above all, pre-trafficking factors must be carefully considered when assisting a child (and indeed an adult). One has to ensure that these factors have been addressed. Failure to do so might lead to a situation where a child could be re-trafficked, or returned to an environment that leaves him/her vulnerable, thus hampering his/her healing.

Human Trafficking and the 2010 Soccer World Cup



They need to be warned and assisted, where necessary.

IOM's strategy ahead of the 2010 World Cup does not address human trafficking in isolation; it looks at all these challenges together, as they are often interlinked. IOM is currently seeking funding to implement its 2010 strategy.

In the meantime, IOM has been running awareness-raising campaigns, training programmes, and toll-free hotlines across Southern Africa and elsewhere on the continent for the past six

years, and we hope this can continue through and after the World Cup event.

human trafficking were, and only five of these were directly linked to the World Cup. The IOM research report concluded that there was no empirical data to link increased human trafficking activity with the World Cup in Germany. However, the report also noted that Germany invested significantly in counter-trafficking awareness, prevention and monitoring activities prior to and during the event, an approach thought to be worthy of emulation.

"The IOM research report concluded that there was no empirical data to link increased human trafficking activity with the World Cup in Germany."

That said, one must concede that the particular socio-economic conditions and migration patterns in the region may render people more vulnerable to trafficking, not only for sexual exploitation, but also forced labour. IOM continues to detect trends of human trafficking both into and within South Africa; there is no research data that ties these trends to the World Cup though. Generally, whenever there are events of the magnitude of the World Cup, criminal elements tend to exploit them to undertake activities such as human trafficking to meet the demand for labour or sexual services. However due to the clandestine and 'hidden' nature of human trafficking empirical data is difficult to come by, so expectations and anticipations are more often, and necessarily, based on speculation. IOM suggests that such speculations should be kept toward the moderate rather than toward the sensational.

The socio-economic conditions in the sub-region may also engender other challenges besides human trafficking. For example, travellers who move regularly or irregularly overland often become vulnerable to physical and sexual violence and to HIV infection among other concerns. Xenophobic sentiments, a problem experienced across the world, have to be addressed ahead of the event. Meanwhile, some may be left stranded or face deportation because they failed to take appropriate measures to ensure that they travelled safely and with the right documentation.

"The peculiar socio-economic conditions and migration patterns in the region may render people more vulnerable to trafficking for not only sexual exploitation, but also forced labour...[and] engender other challenges besides human trafficking"

IOM has also undertaken a preventative initiative project which aims to reduce the level of vulnerability by availing funds to engage in micro-enterprising projects. The Economic Stabilization project is targeting three impoverished regions, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and the Eastern Cape. In partnership with the civil society and the Department of Social Development, selected beneficiaries will receive training on how to manage small businesses which will enable them engage in sustainable activities. Funds for them to engage in small micro enterprising projects will be advanced to the selected beneficiaries.

Due to the impact that a world event such as the World Cup has, it is important that when it comes to an issue such as Human Trafficking, the public is informed to be aware of promises of jobs for example. This needs to be done not just in South Africa but also from the countries of origin. IOM is therefore cautious in prospecting the percentage with which Human Trafficking activities will increase during the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

It is instead prudent to triangulate efforts to ensure that the public is educated about the issue so that when traffickers approach potential victims, there is a general awareness in the mind of the potential victim that the proposal might be a sham. Awareness raising will enable the vulnerable to make informed choices and the public will be alert that the event might be used as a bait to lure people into South Africa for job opportunities.

US Releases 9th Annual TIP Report : SADC performance

The US Department of State released its ninth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report on June 16, 2009. The TIP report assesses efforts being made by foreign governments to eliminate human trafficking, and rates them according to their compliance with the minimum standards for combating trafficking established in the US Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003.

The TIP Report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on governments' efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. It includes countries of origin, transit, or destination for trafficking victims. It represents an updated, global look at the nature and scope of trafficking in persons and the broad range of government actions to confront and eliminate it. The 2009 TIP Report covers the period of April 2008 through March 2009.

The 2009 TIP Report covers 179 countries, and rates them in three tiers according to the extent of their governments' action to combat trafficking.

TIER 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with the Act's minimum standards.

TIER 2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply, but are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards.

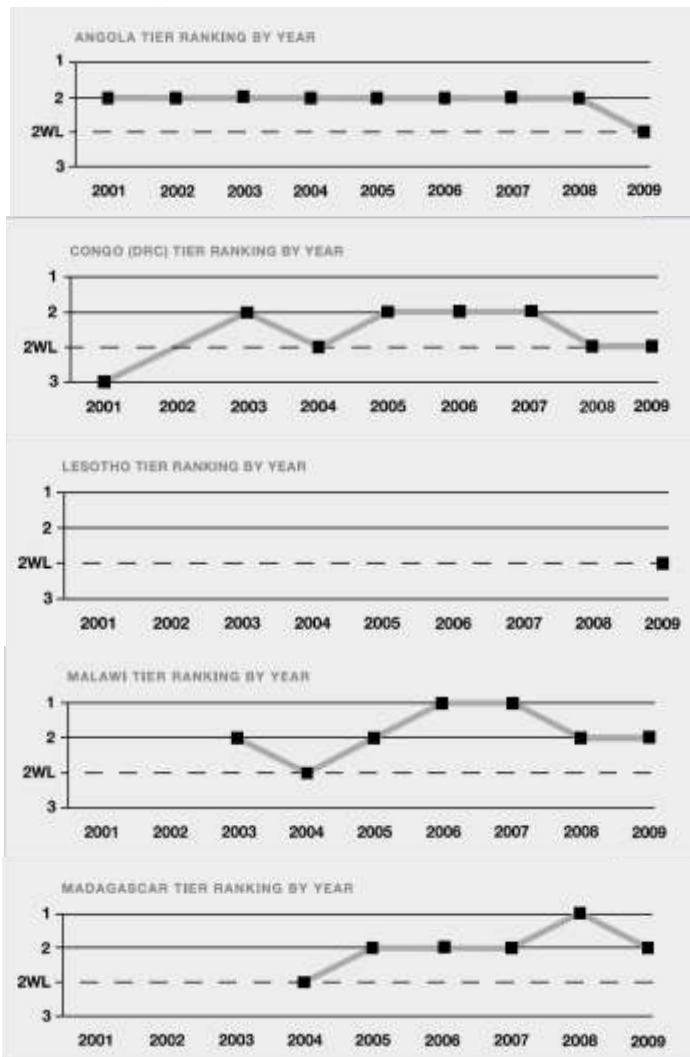
TIER 3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply and are not making significant efforts to do so. Governments of countries

on Tier 3 may be subject to certain sanctions, whereby the U.S. Government may withhold non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance.

There is also a Tier 2 Watchlist, representing countries whose governments do not fully comply, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance, and:

- The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; or
- There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or
- The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

Seventeen countries were classified under Tier 3, 52 were put on Tier 2 Watchlist, 76 on Tier 2, and 28 made the top performer's list on Tier 1. The graphs below represent the yearly comparative ratings of SADC countries in the TIP report:



Tier ratings of SADC countries over since 2003. Source: TIP Report 2009.

Zambian Government Appeals for Law Enforcement at the Launch of its Anti-Human Trafficking Act



IOM Lusaka Chief of Mission Josiah Ogina speaks at the launch, next to the Minister of Home Affairs Lameck Mangani (centre) and Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs Ndiyoi Mutiti

The Zambian Government formally launched its Anti-Human Trafficking Act on Tuesday 28 July 2009, at a ceremony held in Lusaka and attended by Government, Zambian Police Service, UN agencies, and civil society organisations.

The event was opened by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mrs. Ndiyoi Mutiti, who stressed the importance of combating trafficking in persons because “anyone can be trafficked” and it “happens here in Zambia and not only far away in other countries”.

The Act, which was formally passed in September 2008, domesticates the 2003 Palermo Protocol, providing for prevention activities, prosecution of traffickers and the establishment of support centres for victims of the crime. The Act also provides for

the creation of a Committee on Human Trafficking co-led by the Ministries of Home Affairs, Labour and Social Security, and Community Development and Social Welfare. The Act details specific penalties for individual offences in the human trafficking chain, including potential life imprisonment for perpetrators of the crime.

Speaking at the launch, Home Affairs Minister Lameck Mangani thanked the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its continued support to the government's efforts to counter human trafficking, particularly in the areas of capacity building and victim assistance.

“Trafficking begins in homes and communities. The first crucial step to addressing this vice is awareness” said IOM Lusaka Chief of Mission, Mr. Josiah Ogina. “Where people, and particularly law enforcement officials, can identify the signs of trafficking, they can readily respond to it. This makes popularising and operationalising the law all the more important in preventing and prosecuting human trafficking and protecting the victims,” he added.

The speeches were interspersed by moving drama performances by a Zambian youth drama group, illustrating the harsh realities of human trafficking.

Mr. Mangani closed the event by urging stakeholders to step up their response to “one of the most unprecedented challenges of our time”.

“This is our defining moment. We have the skills, the tools, the partnerships, and the mandate. We need to demonstrate the will and resolve to end human trafficking now. It is my sincere honour and privilege to declare the 2008 human trafficking law launched,” he said.

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IOM Builds Capacity of Angolan Police to Respond to Human Trafficking

A three days workshop on Human Trafficking and Human Rights organized as a joint initiative of IOM Angola Mission, the National Police and the Ministry of Interior took place in April in the city of Menongue, capital of the Kuando Kubango province in Angola.

On the 27, 28 and 29 of April, 63 participants from different task forces of the National Police (migration officers and municipality guards) received information on how to identify and assist potential victims of human trafficking.

Similar workshops have been conducted in different Angolan provinces since 2008 in coordination with the National Police as part of the ongoing project “Training of Law Enforcement Officials on Trafficking in Human Beings and Human Rights in Angola” funded by the Embassy of Norway. Kuando Kubango borders other two countries: Zambia and Namibia. Human trafficking awareness and sensitization efforts are therefore key in this area.

During the sessions, conducted by Catalina Quintero and Lerena Pinto from Luanda, participants are typically taught the basic concepts of human-trafficking, myths and realities, and causes

and consequences of trafficking. A short video produced in Mozambique and South Africa shows the participants the reality of victims thought the story of a Mozambican girl who is deceived and exploited when she agrees to leave her home town in search of a better life.

The activity has also the participation of Mrs. Tereza Brigida the Association of the Women in the Angolan Police(AAMPA) and representatives from the National Police, Mr. Joao Congo and Mr. Alfonso Paulo, who have made presentations on Human Rights and the ethics code of the Police force.

“The contents of the workshops are important for the police agent's training. They do have an idea of what the Human Trafficking is but these activities developed in partnership with IOM are helping to improve the capacity to identify and assist the trafficking victims. Also the participants can help advocate for anti-human trafficking legislation and policy” says Mr. Joao Congo.

At the end of each day the participants do group activities and explore case studies that show how they can put the contents of the training to practice.

Communicating Human Trafficking: from Understanding to Action

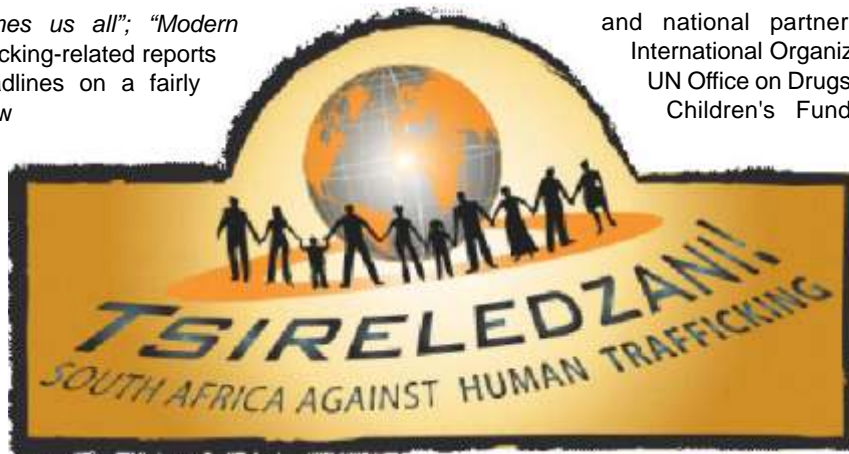
Journalists and other media professionals recently gathered in Johannesburg and Durban to meet and share their understanding of human trafficking with other key role-players working on the frontline, such as prosecutors, police investigators and government officials

A crime which shames us all"; "Modern slavery"; human trafficking-related reports make striking news headlines on a fairly regular basis. But how much do people really know about this global phenomenon? How can governments and other counter-trafficking actors enable people to move from awareness to real understanding, and then to take action by preventing or reporting it? What is the role of the media in this effort?

Journalists and other media professionals are vital partners in the effort to raise public awareness and prevent human trafficking. In recognition of this, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO) recently conducted two workshops entitled "Communicating human trafficking" and aimed at equipping media professionals with the knowledge, as well as research and reporting skills necessary to deal fairly and effectively with issues related to human trafficking. The first workshop took place in Johannesburg on 6 and 7 July 2009, and the second in Durban on 9 and 10 July 2009.

These activities form part of a new initiative by the South African Government to combat human trafficking called Tsireledzani!. Tsireledzani means 'Let's protect' in Tshi-Venda. The objective of Tsireledzani! is to work towards full compliance with the Palermo Protocol (UN Trafficking Protocol), which South Africa has ratified. It does so by conducting research, training and awareness-raising activities to prevent and react to human trafficking in the country, while supporting the county's effort to finalise comprehensive legislation against the problem. Led by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Tsireledzani! works with and through international

Counter-trafficking trainings focus on moving stakeholders to action



and national partners, such as the ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the University of South Africa (UNISA) and civil society organisations. Tsireledzani! is financially supported by the European Commission.

ITC-ILO is in charge of the awareness-raising component of this programme, and is

currently developing targeted communication campaigns to promote attitude and behaviour change related to human trafficking in South Africa. Specifically, the project aims at enabling pilot target groups in carefully selected areas to prevent human trafficking by identifying and reporting cases when they encounter them. These media training workshops are part of the targeted capacity building exercises.

Hosted by SABC, and organized in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre for South Africa, the July workshops were attended by over 40 journalists, correspondents, freelance reporters, photo reporters, producers, public relations professionals and press officers working in various types of public and private media (print, radio, television, web, and communications departments). The workshops presented a rare opportunity for the participants to meet and share their understanding of human trafficking with other key role-players working on the frontline to combat human trafficking, such as prosecutors, police investigators and government officials.

The workshops were facilitated by a team of journalists and communication and human trafficking experts, who understand the importance of 'getting a good story' while responding to the challenges of reporting a sensitive and often dangerous issue such as human trafficking. They provided a forum to share experiences and promote debate among those dealing with this scourge. Government, international officials and representatives of civil society involved in the Tsireledzani! programme contributed to the course with their hands-on experience.

Building also on past experiences and similar courses run by IOM in 2008, the ITC-ILO continues to promote and facilitate the role of the media in combating human trafficking through the creation and support of a network of specialized media professionals, and the development of a quick-reference information tool on human trafficking specifically designed for media usage.

For more information about the Tsireledzani! awareness raising project, please contact: jensen@ilo.org, amerio@ilo.org, tel. 012 818 8032.

AU launches AU.COMMIT Campaign to combat human trafficking

A three-year counter-trafficking campaign, known as the AU.COMMIT campaign, was launched by the African Union Commission on 16 June 2009 at the headquarters of the African Union Commission (AUC), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Under the theme "Let's Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children: 2009-2012.", the AU.COMMIT Campaign aims to set the pace for the fight against trafficking in human beings as a priority on the development agenda of the continent.

Through this campaign, the AUC will work with Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to put trafficking at the top of national agendas. It will also help to inform policy makers and enforcement officials of Member States about the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children (the Ouagadougou Action Plan). Finally, the campaign will promote cooperation among AU Commission and counter-trafficking stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the media, while strengthening coordination within the different departments of AU Commission to combat human trafficking.

At the centre of the AU.COMMIT Campaign is the implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan. The Ouagadougou Action Plan urges Member States and RECs to utilize the same action plan as a reference to develop and reform their policies and laws on trafficking in persons. It also requests the AUC, in consultation with the International Organization for Migration and other relevant partners, to assist Member States and RECs with the implementation and development of a follow-up mechanism. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission is also to report periodically on the implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan. It further calls the International Community to continue providing assistance towards the attainment of the objectives contained in the Ouagadougou Action Plan.

Partners of the campaign will include the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organization (ILO), and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), EU Delegation to African Union, and US Delegation to the African Union.

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Soroptimist International Committed to Fighting Human Trafficking

Soroptimist International (SI) is an 88 year old international organisation with over 3000 clubs world wide, that work to advance the rights and status of women. This is done through ensuring that women and girls enjoy equity and equality, live in safe healthy environments and have access to education. Trafficking in persons violates the rights and status of women and so SI is mobilizing schools to raising awareness against this modern day slavery.

SI South Africa is planning a national project to fight human trafficking, but have already commenced contributing to the fight against trafficking.

According to Rosemary Hickman, President elect of SI, Cape of Good Hope, they first heard about the problem of human trafficking in 2006. They immediately commenced various awareness, and with time these activities grew to incorporate the education sector.

"Because of our diverse membership with many contacts, and also because one of our focus area is education, we chose awareness and education as our possible area of assistance" says Ms Hickman.

Through collaboration with the Western Cape Education Department SI have been distributing counter-trafficking awareness material from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to about 420 schools in that area. This initiative has led to human trafficking being one of the six major topics in SI's annual career days which target schools around Cape Town.

Ms Hickman adds that "we aim to draw together organizations in different areas that are doing similar work in order to avoid duplication and ensure a cohesive approach". SI is committed to raising awareness about human trafficking at every opportunity.

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