

SPEECH ON THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR CHORAL COMPETITION

A PRE-UNWTO EVENT AWARENESS RAISING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR IN LIVINGSTONE, SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF ZAMBIA

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Speech by Pastor Francis Chivuta,
National Coordinator, National Freedom Network – ZAMBIA (NFN)
CEO, ZCRC

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to be here amongst you today to speak on such a delicate issue as Human Trafficking and Forced labour. I would also like to thank the St Andrews Anglican Church of Livingstone through Father Emmanuel Chikoya, the Coordinator of this Programme for inviting me to be the guest of honor and give a key note speech in such an esteemed setting.

Human Trafficking

Of all the global resources, human life is the most significant. The bible in Gen 1:27 say "so God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female" This shows how valuable we human beings are special in the eyes of the creator. No diamond can mine itself and no gold has the capacity to be refined without manpower; without human life, all the weapons, food and oil in the world would mean nothing.

In the year 2000, the United Nations adopted The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. It was designed to supplement the Convention against Organized Crime, also known as the Palermo Convention; it was signed by 130 nations and it has so far been ratified by 117 countries.

Based on the Paremol protocol, the components of Trafficking in person are: The **Act** – intended as the actual act of the recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of a person being trafficked. The **Means** represents the threat, use of coercion, force or fraud against that person, their abduction, the abuse of power or of their vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim. The purpose of trafficking is the particular **exploitation** for which the person is being trafficked. It can be for **sexual** exploitation, **forced labour**, organ transplant or even for military purposes, such as the forced recruitment of soldiers.

What it involves: Cheating, forced labour, threatening, abducting, beating, murder, prostitution, bribing, debt bondage, raping, threat with witchcraft, illegal deals, breaking government laws, torture, falsehood, manipulation, forgery of travel documents and exploitation etc. The trafficking of this most valuable resource, human beings, is actually under-reported, as the real scale of TIP is hard to determine.

What are the causes behind TIP? From the **victims'** perspective, what lures them into the traffickers' trap is lack of opportunities in their home communities or countries, as well as deceit, coercion or violence; from the **traffickers'** perspective, the main factor is, unemployment & job insecurity, conflict & political instability, natural disasters & climate change HIV & orphan-hood education, gender roles and norms climate change and pull factors improved standards of living & perceived better life elsewhere, demand for cheap labour, demand for sexual services, porous borders, low risk, high profit for traffickers

Consequences & risks for state & society: Growth & diversification of organized crime, including money laundering, Increase in irregular migration – challenges for border management, Growth of corruption, Undermining governmental action, including development & community stabilization efforts, Undermining rule of law, Increased insecurity among communities, Life, liberty & personal security, Physical & psychological harm, health & wellbeing, Inhumane & degrading treatment – human rights violated, Detention if not appropriately identified, Secondary victimization, Shame, stigmatization & community exclusion, Risk of re-trafficking, in absence of appropriate identification & protection, Victims of trafficking are then used for exploitative purposes. The most common trends for trafficking of women are for commercial sexual exploitation or labour, whilst children are trafficked to be used as child soldiers, for bonded labour,

but also to work in brothels. Slavery is a global problem and very difficult quantifying the scale of human trafficking in part, due to the difficulty of collecting accurate data on this clandestine trade.

Sexual Exploitation: Studies shows that 79% of all TIP is for the purpose of sexual exploitation and the horror of trafficking can't come into comprehension until the reality of sexual exploitation is understood. Sexual exploitation of victims of trafficking, however, is a large enough phenomenon to warrant sufficient focus. Once trafficked, the odds of escape are low and even if they do manage to evade their captures they face significant problems.

Trafficking for labour exploitation: Sex trafficking represents some of the most brutal forms of slavery, however bonded labour exists and is prominent across several regions. Based on a 2005 ILO study, at least 12.3 million people worldwide were in some form of forced labour or bondage. Out of this, 8.1 million were exploited by private agents outside the sex industry.

Implications of Labour Exploitation: Another significant exploitative purpose of human trafficking is for forced labour, servitude and bondage. Victims as young as 5 years old are forced to work in inhuman and often unsanitary conditions, for excruciatingly long hours, for ridiculously low wages that should, technically, "pay off their debt" to the traffickers. This is another form of modern day slavery.

Africa: An ILO study in Ghana on seasonal and longer-term migration found that Ghanaian migrants doing seasonal work in the south of the country were susceptible to forced labour, with young men and women in particular working in abusive conditions. Many instances were reported of employers refusing to pay the migrant workers or of intermediaries and agents cheating them of their wages. Child Soldiers, Lack of Economic Opportunities, Lack of skills or alternative ways to make money. The ILO has been developing a programme with Zambia, serving as an example of how better information and data can help spur the drive against forced labour and trafficking.

Zambia: Zambia is affected by human trafficking as a source, transit and to a lesser extent destination country. Zambia's poverty and unemployment levels create an environment where individuals are easily deceived into accepting promises by human traffickers without realizing the full extent of the conditions in which they will work. Besides

international trafficking, evidence suggests that the most common form of trafficking in Zambia is that of internal trafficking of women and children, for purposes of exploitation in domestic labour, farm labour and commercial sex. A recent study carried out by the UNJPHT into child trafficking and domestic work found strong correlation between internal trafficking and exploitative domestic work situations, with orphaned children being particularly vulnerable.

Legislative And Policy Framework: Zambia has a comprehensive legislative and policy framework to address human trafficking, comprising the Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008 and the Anti-Human Trafficking Policy.

The policy recognizes that trafficking violates fundamental human rights, particularly the right of every person to be free from exploitation, forced labour, and ill treatment, the right to not be held in slavery or servitude, and the right to just, fair and safe work conditions. The legal and policy framework is further operationalized through the Anti-Human Trafficking National Action Plan, with the current multiyear spanning from 2012 to 2015 in line with the timeframe and national aspirations of the Sixth National Development Plan. The national action plan highlights the national interventions that need to be implemented in the area of prevention, protection and prosecution with close collaboration of national actors to meet the national goal of addressing human trafficking.

Solutions to human trafficking and forced labour: The need for strong laws, broad alliances, concerted action, and zero tolerance. There should be an increase in the sense of urgency on the issue and focus on the victims of trafficking and forced. Since the damage done to them cannot be fully redressed, there should be innovative and creative ways to minimize the harm inflicted upon these people with a series of measures that may represent something special to the victims themselves. They need assistance that extends beyond ending their exploitation and beyond any criminal prosecution. Vocational training can reduce the risk of them being sucked into exploitative situations again.

The need for Church and other organizations to engage in fighting HT & FL: Issues of human trafficking and forced labour are so real, so complex in Zambia and world over and can never be eliminated by an individual. They require serious and urgent collective voice that includes the church, the government, intergovernmental agencies, FBOs, NGOs, schools and colleges and every loving Zambian citizen.

The 5 Ps HT & FL

Prevention: Establishing comprehensive national programmes to combat human trafficking and to protect its victims; Raising awareness, warning potential victims and discouraging the demand through media campaigns and with the civil society; Undertaking measures to alleviate the vulnerability of potential victims of trafficking (particularly women and children), such as addressing root causes of poverty, ignorance and discrimination; Developing networks to exchange information on trafficking routes, traffickers' profiles and identification of victims.

Prosecution: Making human trafficking a criminal offence in national legislative frameworks; Making laws to protect the victims of trafficking, especially children; Establishing a system of penalties congruous to the severity of the crime; Tackling corruption in law enforcement agencies, in the governmental and in the judiciary system.

Protection: Providing physical, psychosocial and social recovery programmes to the victims; Offering safe spaces, such as housing and support centres; Providing counseling assistance in the victims' language; Addressing the special needs of women and children who have been victimized by trafficking Providing educational opportunities and vocational training to improve their reintegration into society.

Prayer: The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16. We can imagine our beloved hurting, abused, exploited women and children, then stir up our faith from scripture "Isaiah 61". We can also pray for the perpetrators that their hearts may melt to come to repentance and the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Suggested Scriptures:** Isaiah 61: "The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, Announce freedom to all captives, and pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of his grace— a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies and to comfort all who mourn without a voice." All things considered, human trafficking can be translated as the modern-day form of slavery. And to me, everything about human trafficking is sinful.

Partnership: Developing connection points in the fight against human trafficking and other related human rights violation is so cardinal. When you partner with like minded, work becomes easier, faster and cheaper. This helps to provide e.g. platforms for leading experts to share new ideas on contemporary issues.

Everything about human trafficking and force labour is 696sin that is why the church is the best institution to address sin! We should not leave it to the government alone, but supplements its efforts, even in issues of development. I am therefore urging you the church, the government, CSOs, NGOs, cooperating partners and individuals to rise up and unite to fight the vice!

As I conclude my speech, allow me to commend the European Union, the ILO, UN, UNICEF, IOM, the US government and other international local agencies for their continued support to our government in the fight against the vice.

The emphasis and the most important element of this message, is the need for action. **'We will achieve nothing without uniting and speaking out. We will achieve nothing by offering fine rhetoric not matched by deeds. Moral outrage is all too easy. Real action takes real commitment, we must all take responsibility, we must take collective action to combat and end the vice.'**

With these few remarks, I declare this Choral Competition officially open!

Thank you for your attention, And may God guide you to fight,

Francis Chivuta
National Coordinator, NFN Zambia