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Paper Topic: 'THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR EXPLOITATION PURPOSES - AFRICA'S 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGE TO CHILD PROTECTION - in the context of the AFRICAN FAMILY and SOCIATAL RESPOBILITIES for the CARE and WELFARE of CHILDREN and the UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION on the RIGHTS of CHILDREN (CRC).

Abstract - Up to not too long ago, Africa prided itself in its family to the extent that it became renowned for its strong extended family links, and its greatest treasure, its 'young'. Unfortunately, this important aspect of the African family is diminishing rapidly. Recent years have witnessed a dramatically growing spiral in child sexual abuse and exploitation in almost all African nations south of the Sahara, to such a degree that at the last African Union Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003 17 SACO (Southern African Campaign Against Child Abuse and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation) member organizations, together with their international partners, tabled an urgent appeal to all the African Heads of States and Governments, to address the plight of African children without any further delay.

SACO members' concerns served to echo UN's earlier expressed worry when a visiting official, while briefing the press in Lusaka, about his tour of the Southern Province, warned that, 'Zambia, should brace itself for increased prostitution, crime and exploitation of women if food contingence measures are not immediately addressed'. Mr. Sharad Sapra said UNICEF was worried that the food and water crisis in the Southern Province might create a new set of social problems'.

From 1991, when MAPODE (Movement of Community Action for the Prevention and Protection of Young People Against Poverty, Destitution, Diseases and Exploitation), a Child/Youth-at-Risk focused Community-based Non Governmental Organization (NGO), a member of SACO which works in Zambia and Uganda initiators started working with Street Sex Workers in the Streets and night spots of Lusaka, one of the issues that kept coming out again and again was the fact that the so many young girls in the streets were there, not because they liked it, but because they were there because they needed money for their survival. Many of them, mainly, teenagers, had children or old parents and siblings they were looking after. And many of the stories that came out of the streets clearly indicated that there were young children and girls being trafficked to neighboring countries and abroad for commercial sexual exploitation. Some were going to work as young domestic or farm laborers. Others were being used as carriers of drugs and other things.

In Dec.1999 Zambia recorded its first Court case of Child Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Purposes. Although in April, 2000, the 'pedaphile' was acquitted, primarily due to lack of adequate law, this case acted as a motivator and in 2002 MAPODE carried out a research on 'Children and young Girls in Prostitution and Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Labor and Crime in Zambia. The findings of this research served not only to confirm the existence of human trafficking in Zambia, but both SACO and UNICEF concern. They also pose a serious challenge to child protection and the promotion of women's rights, not only in Zambia where the research was undertaken but in Africa as a whole.

This paper highlights The Test Case of Trafficking as well as MAPODE research findings, and provide some recommendations on the way forward in the strengthening of the family for better prevention and protection against child hazardous living.

Background Story: Mother and Daughter - December, 1999

In December, 1999 a 30-year old woman approached MAPODE with an urgent request for immediate intervention in the case of her 14-year old daughter who had just been thrown into a remand prison, together with her 4 teenage friends, apparently after being arrested at the Zambia/Zimbabwean Boarder. The next 4 months witnessed the trial of a 44-year old Australian male in what turned out to be Zambia's first recorded Court Case of CHILD TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (Prostitution).

The facts of the matter were that:-

- Zimbabwean Immigration officials at Zimbabwean side of CHIRUNDU BORDER POST between Zambia and Zimbabwe had intercepted 44 year old Australian man, Peter Alfred Carlson of 4 Rewfrey Avenue, Newton, S.A 5074, Australia, together with the 5 teenage girls, and a Zambian male Driver in a Zambian Registered vehicle, after being intrigued by the man's luggage comprising of computers and hundreds of video tapes. They were with 5 Zambian girls aged between 14 and 16 years, going to Harare in Zimbabwe to secure them Australian visas as there

is no Australian consular services in Zambia to travel to Australia where they were going to work as dancing queens to promote tourism between Australia and Zambia.

The traveling group had already passed the Zambian side of the border. Upon inspection, the Immigration and Customs officials found that the computer the man was carrying was being used to produce high level pornography. The video tapes the man was carrying were depicting the 5 girls naked, and in all forms of positions. The man had a website through which he was able to transmit pornographic photos of the girls he was taking to his colleagues in Australia. As the officials believed they a clear case of child trafficking for prostitution purposes, they arrested the group and later handed them over to the Zambian border post officials.

Carlson appeared before a Principal Resident Magistrate in Court on 27 December, 1999 in Lusaka, and granted a K6million bail with 2 working sureties. The girls were released after 1 month, but the 2 men remained in prison during the whole period of 4 months Court hearing.

During the hearings, the following issues were observed:

- * Carlson claimed that he was promoting tourism between Zambia and Australia
 - * That the girls were going to work as cultural dancing queens in Australia, earning \$500 a week
 - * Every time the hearing was on, an Official from the Australian Embassy in Harare was in attendance;
 - * The Australian Trafficker had hired a high powered local lawyer who represented him;
 - * Although the Zambian Prosecutors had very good evidence of child trafficking for prostitution in Australia, and were determined and at pains to pin the trafficker down, there was no properly defined law to facilitate proper prosecution;
 - * The UNCROC and the African Charter on the Rights of the Children had no way of helping;
 - * The traffickers lawyer argued that in Africa 'naked photos' did not necessarily constitute a crime as African traditional dancing was practically 'naked'!
 - * The 5 girls castigated MAPODE human rights activists presence as they argued that they wanted to go to Australia where they were going to earn US\$500 a week as dancing queens, against nothing at home; they demanded to know if the human rights activists wanted them to stay at home and starve!
 - * MAPODE staff sent the news paper stories with the Australian man's address to ECPAT Australia, who found that the man was a member of a pedophile ring which was running a large pornographic business and trafficking young girls in prostitution in Australia.
 - * ECPAT Australia worked with the Police and burst the Aussie's ring
 - * The man was in April 2000 acquitted on lack of adequate laws to pin him down
 - * Although by the time he returned to Australia, he found his business burst by the Australian Police working with ECAPT Australia, he turned round and continued trafficking young girls from Zambia, this time using the Malawian border. It is still believed he still does to-date!
- The Carlson Court case followed a number of other reported indicator cases of trafficking:-

*The 11 May, 1998 TIMES OF ZAMBIA had reported the deaths of 2 - 15 year old girls who died in Hillbrow in Johannesburg, one already buried there and the other whose body was due to be flown back to Zambia for burial. These followed an earlier report about 2 other girls who had been killed in Hillbrow. In June, 1999, a 15 year boy was reported killed in Johannesburg also.

*TOURISM and FEMALE SEXUAL ABUSE existence had also been confirmed by the Monday, March 23, 1998 VANCOUVER SUN which reported the 35 year old French speaking YVES BANVILLE of Chertsey, Quebec, Canada, who was arrested at Vancouver International Airport on February 9, 1998 by Customs Officers and later pleaded guilty, in the Richmond Provincial Court, of possession of 300 nude photographs of children as young as 8 years old taken in Zambia and Madagascar over a period of 1 year, and a diary in which he described his sexual encounters with them and was fined \$300, with an 18 months probation for supposedly a first offender by Judge J.R. Groberman.

*Earlier in March, Nigerian media reported 25 teenage girls who were arrested at Lagos International Airport just before barding an evening Europe-bound flight.

*In Zambia, in August, 1997, a group of 9 active sex workers in Lusaka had expressed grave concern for their trafficked friends, some of whom had apparently ended up in foreign brothels where they cannot free themselves resulting in some dying there. This group even had copies of pornographic magazines with pictures of some of their

colleagues whom they claimed had gone to countries like South Africa, Israel (6), Russia (1), and many others who had ended in Germany, Belgium, the UK, Italy and Holland. They said the problem had existed for sometime and wished it dealt with.

So MAPODE determined that the only way it could effectively respond to the 'mother's problem was to research, document and advocate against what, to MAPODE was clearly a case of violation of the daughters' human rights, of the worst forms of Child Labour, of humiliation and degradation.

1. Time-frame - In May/June, 2002, MAPODE conducted its research on Children in Prostitution and Trafficking for Exploitation Purposes, Labour and Crime in Zambia, whose

1. General Objectives were to - Substantiate the existence, extent and impact of the problem of trafficking in children for commercial sexual exploitation within and outside Zambia as indicated by ongoing work on this issue;
- **Systematically document, compile, and collate** a formal report on trafficking of children to and/or from Zambia through participatory action research;
- Make recommendations for implementation by the appropriate government agencies in order to address the problem of trafficking in Zambia and the region;
- **Disseminate the findings** of the report at a Report Dissemination Seminar to be attended by all stake holders on this issue, i.e. government representatives, legislators, law enforcement agencies, NGOs/CBOs working on children's issues, UN and Donor agencies, religious organizations, researchers and academicians, and civic/community leaders.

2. Specific objectives were to: Look into the prevalence of trafficking and recruitment of women, children, and adolescents into commercial sex work in Zambia. The research together with recommendations would be used as a guiding tool for the campaign to address the problem of trafficking of women, children, and adolescents for commercial work.

3. The Research team comprised 8 researchers

- **1 Research Coordinator;**

- **1 Researcher/Street Work Trainer** with vast experience working with street children in Nairobi & Zambia;

- **1 male Journalist** from the media fraternity in Lusaka;

- **2 male Journalists** from **COMESA Cross Border Traders Association;** and

- **3 female field supports**

- **1 woman** who was taken out of Zambia by a British Couple who offered to foster her at the age of 5 years, shortly after her family perished in a car crash, and ended up abandoned in the UK as a young teenage girl; and

- **2 active prostitute women** with vast experience both in country and out of country.

- One in her 20s and the other in her 30s

5. The Research Methodology - Because this research was on a rather complex and new area, MAPODE decided to apply 2 approaches:

1) The training of the researchers in simple research methodologies for a period of 3 days;

2) The Research then examined human trafficking in terms of **sexual, labour, slavery, illegal migration, and courier purposes** - both females and males.

3) The researchers carried out direct interviews with people, carried out conversations with individual people or groups of people, observations people's actions and activities, read newspapers, etc

6. Information Sources - Researchers interviewed people, **young, old, poor**, whatever, and whatever information we came across, even that which we did not intend or foresee is featuring in our report.

7. Interviewees - included sex workers, truck drivers, border authorities, traders, and travelers, etc.

8. The Research Sample: The team determined to work on a sample of 1,000 questionnaires

- 500 Lusaka-based,

- while another 500 come from 13 Border Posts of:

- Kapiri Mposhi, Kitwe, Chingola, Chilalabombwe, Kasumbalesa, on the Copperbelt;

- Serenge and Nakonde in Northern Province/Tanzania Border;
- Chipata/Malawi/Mozambique Border;
- Chirundu/Zimbabwe Border/Beit Bridge/South Africa; & Livingstone/Katimamulilo/Namibia.
- ***Windhoek/London** - Because of the stories which were coming from the streets on girls in Windhoek and London, arrangements with some friends in these 2 places to have some information from there too, by E-mail
- ***Rome/Italy** - was mentioned a great deal but we had no reliable contact there

Research Limitations included inadequate literature, stigma, poor mobility in some border areas, possible dangers from syndicates, and limited coverage (6 of the 9 provinces).

9. PLACES VISITED included homes of girls and women in commercial sex workers; brothels, the streets, popular night sports, border post entries and Exits, Lusaka International Airport, Law Enforcement Institutions such as prisons, immigration, customs, drug, before

10. Findings of Interest: The team found that trafficking of young people for commercial sexual exploitation, labour and crime is happening and is real in and out of Zambia. Of the 1000 respondents in 15 towns and border areas of 6 out of 9 provinces, a total of 36.5% indicated that they had been trafficked, with 15% having been trafficked out, against 21.5% who said they had been trafficked in

10.1 Nationalities found in the streets - Congolese, Malawians, Tanzanians, Zimbabweans, Burundi, Rwandese, Somalis, Nigerians, Malians & Central African Republic.

10.2 Age Distribution - They were young with **49% aged** between 11-18-years, 47% 19-26-years, and 3% from 27years and above.

10.3 Educational Status was fairly low with 24% below Grades 7; 42% Grades 8-9; 2% Grades 10-12; 1.8% above Grade 12; and 10.6% unstated.

10.4. 49% **dropped out of school** due to lack of funds, 11.1% to failing examinations, 7.2% to early marriages, 7.7% to lack of family supervision, 6% to pregnancies, 3.3% peer pressure, and unstated 9.1%.

10.5. 64.20% attributed their **Reasons for engaging in Prostitution and Trafficking:**

10.6 89% were in full time, 10% in part-time, while 1% of the respondents did not specify their status.

10.7. Entry and exit points were all border/transit points in the 6 Provinces including airports and Rivers of Nakonde for East Africa, Kasumbalesa for Congo DRC and CAR, Chadiza to Malawi, Mwami for Mozambique, Chirundu and Livingstone for Zimbabwe and South Africa, Kazungula for Botswana, and Katimamulilo for Namibia, while the majority traveled by road transport (84%) - taxis, buses and trucks, followed by regional and international airports (13%), and rail and canoes across River Zambezi (3%).

10.8. Destinations (Where the girls go) - **151 Zambian girls (15%) had been trafficked** to Congo DR, Namibia, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Greece, Thailand, America, France, Sweden, UK, Ireland, Finland, Belgium, Holland, Israel, Australia, Italy, Russia, Denmark and Germany. The team met 8 girls who had been trafficked to Greece by 2 Greek Businessmen to entertain customers in bars. They were rescued and brought back through Zambian Embassy officials.

10.9. Where they come from - **213 foreign girls (21.5%) comprising 63** Malawians, 51 Congolese, 30 Tanzanians, 29 Namibians, 11 Nigerians, 10 Zimbabweans, 6 Thais, 4 Malians, 3 Egyptians, 2 Rwandese, 2 Burundians, 1 Somali, and 1 Central African Republican had come into the country.

10.10 Modes of transportation:- Road (buses, taxis, trucks), Air (Regional and International), Water (across Zambezi river in canoes).

10.11. The Traffickers were found to be prostitutes (active/retired), development workers (through temporary marriages), truck drivers, businessmen/women, tour/travel/entertainment entrepreneurs, border personnel and pedophiles as their trafficking facilitators. Many Congolese little girls found living in Lusaka and Kitwe streets said they had run away from the 1998 war.

our interviews showed that traffickers include Prostitutes themselves, traders, customer (all races), & Truckers.

10.12. Smuggling of girls & women without valid travel documents across borders as full-time - the team had occasion to interview a woman who has trafficked sex workers and refugees across the Zambezi River and Livingstone border since 1992, with destinations of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa. Her customers, whom she charges US\$100 each, include Rwandese, Angolans, Burundis, Ugandans, Congolese, Zambians.

10.13. Sex charges ranged from US\$1 equivalent to US\$50 in hotels, with preference of European tourists/visiting business executives believed safer and paying more.

10.14. Violence in Trafficking was as high as 89% - all our interviewees (without exception) indicate gross abuse

and violence (rape (35%), assault (27%), harassment (27%), & theft (7%).

10.15. Pregnancies/Children/Babies - Very few girls and women in prostitution in Lusaka do not have babies. When they go out of the country, they leave their babies/children with either their friends or some member of their original family somewhere.

10.16. Sicknesses - Sicknesses the girls and women suffer in their trade were visible to the eye particularly skin diseases. Part of the research team impromptu task became taking the girls to Mtendere Clinic for treatment for STDs (80% - Candida - 31%, Gonorrhoea-25%, Syphilis-22%, Bola Bola (genital swelling). Other diseases encountered included Malaria, Headaches, Pneumonia, Herpes, Kaposi Sarcoma and Cholera.

10.17. Medical Treatment - The myth in the high earnings in prostitution is demonstrated by the fact that the majority of the young girls and women we interviewed hardly accessed conventional health institutions for treatment of their diseases, and those of their children. Almost all of them attributed such lack of health care to lack of money.

10.18. Unprotected Sex preference was as high as 78% with a customer ratio of 1 girl to 3 men resulted in high levels of **Sexually Transmitted Infections** (STIs).

The girls are young;

They are in need of ready cash;

And the majority of their customers still demand for naked sex;

So, although they know about STDs and HIV-AIDS and are desperately scared because as they say, many of their friends have already died from it, they are ready to take a risk -

'you are telling about AIDS! I know about it! We were 37 in my group; to day am the only one remaining; all my friends have already died; the last one died 2 weeks ago; we buried her. None of her relatives came. Her 3 children will be like her! Even me I know I will die soon; But I need to eat, and my landlord demands money every two weeks; what can I do! May AIDS will come tomorrow, maybe next year. But hunger is now. My children have to eat, They can't wait!' she concludes in a disgusted voice; walks away, her head bent'

10.19. Strange Findings:-

Human Organs/Skins said to be rampant in Kasumbalesa and in Nakonde. Others were Drugs Trafficking, Temporary Marriages, Domestic Workers (Children), and boys being recruited into child labour in what was referred to as 'palm oil plantations'.

*The team interviewed 4 girls who claimed to have been **trafficked by a SA national to SA for dog sex by Greeks and Lebanese in SA.**

* **Use of internet** – the team interviewed a sex worker who uses a Hotel-based Business Centre to traffic through internet.

10.20. Interventions -The team did not find sufficient interventions in place to deter, prevent or even support and care for the victims.

***Public Awareness about the problem** - The team found that by far the majority of the members of the society at all levels were not aware that such a problem really existed

* **Legal Protection** - The team found that the current legislation is inadequate to deal with such complicated problem. The Country does not have a law against human trafficking, not even prostitution. Those deemed to be culprits of prostitution are charged for trespass and loitering. Traffickers could be charged for abduction and kidnap.

***Assistance sought** was very limited with as many as 66.8% not going anywhere for help, and only 6% going to NGOs, 9% to Churches and 18% to police.

Emerging Issues and Discussion

Causes - Contrary to widely held notion that prostitution and trafficking are not necessarily poverty-driven,⁹ this study was able to show that in Zambia, these problems are profoundly economic issues, with poverty as their deep root cause and at their centre stage. Before the onset of poor economy, all social services were free. Children were in school, not in street sex. **64% entered** prostitution due to lack of life's sustenance amenities, just as **49% dropped** out of school for lack of funds. Perhaps if they had stayed at school longer they could have acquired skills with which to earn a decent living rather than selling their flesh. And the majority (**79%**) **wished** to quit prostitution if only they had something better to do; and almost all interviewed felt if going abroad brought better prospects, it was better to go, a situation confirmed by UNICEF who believes that because three quarters of the population lives in poverty, 'young girls and boys are increasingly selling their bodies in exchange for food.'¹⁰

But why poverty? A few years before the 19-26-year old respondents were born in 1975, Zambia, as the World's 3rd Copper producer was one of the richest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The period from 1975 to-date, that includes the time street prostitutes were first seen parading the streets coincides with the simultaneous fall of World Copper market prices and rise of oil prices, as well as Zambia's critical role as a leader of Southern African Liberation **Frontline states**. By 1987, the year some of the 17 year-old respondents were born, Zambia **dropped from the World's Bank's middle income** countries to the World's 15 poorest countries with per capita income of US\$290 in 1988 and an **external debt burden** of USD\$7.2 billion in 1989, which constituted US\$1,000 debt for each of its 7.8 million people including each child. In 1993, when 86% of the population was believed to live below the poverty line (US\$2 a day), 54% of which were below 15 years, the majority were young females. Today Zambia is the most urbanized nations in sub-Saharan Africa, with 55% of its inhabitants living in its cities and towns and one of the highest unemployment rates (50%), against an ever increasing labor force estimated at 4 million in 1990, 70% of which are young people between 14-24-years of age.¹¹

The drastically ailing economy greatly curtailed Zambia's ability to continue delivering its major Independence promise to its young, education, believed to be a key factor in determining human quality of life. By 1994, 50% of the school-age going children had no **school opportunity**, 60% faced ending their school at Grade 7, and less than half completing the Primary cycle. By 1996 education was in a crisis with an allocation of only 3% of the National GDP, an equivalent of US\$0.25 per child, resulting in a 1/3 of the total population remaining illiterate.¹² The decade 1990-2000 when Zambia's mining industry and the huge state owned parastatal companies were closing by the day, leaving thousands upon thousands of Zambia's urban families in the cold also witnessed 42% of the respondents drop out of 8th/9th Grades. They included the 15-year old Australian trafficker's victims, who, during his court trial, insisted to be left alone to go to Australia where they could earn US\$500 a week instead of eating nothing at home. To-day, **1.8 million** children in vulnerability face life threatening situations in prostitution and trafficking with HIV/AIDS at 20%.¹³

But perhaps this is not unique to Zambia. The **East Asian money market** unceremonious collapse which has already thrown the whole region in an economic pandemonium is rekindling the Zambian copper demise impact. Up to July, 1997, Asian nations proudly wove their 'economic miracle' with which it took their leaders only 10 years to lift more human beings out of poverty than all governments in all of human history.¹⁴ Today, just like Zambia of the 80s/90s, Chinese nationals are traversing the globe's face, in search of 'greener pastures'. And so are the 15-28-year old Thai girls found in as far places as South Africa and Zambia, while South African girls are on sale for US\$500 (SAR3,400) in Asia's 'Las Vegas' - Macau, and Asian sex gangs and kidnappers and Johannesburg-based recruitment agents have a field day!¹⁵

Consequences

Contrary to widely held view that women have a right to sell their sex, and that they can safely and profitably trade it¹⁶ this research did not find a single financially successful and contented female prostitute, whether young or old. Even the Chirundu Border Post 'weekend' AIDS widow prostitute struggling to leave a house for her 5 children before she succumbs to AIDS be-mourned the toll of 'wear and tear' on her body. The devastatingly high level of **violence** and **sexual abuse** at 89% (rape-35%, assault-27%, harassment-27%, and theft-7%) that includes gross **perverted sex** (bestiality) does not facilitate this as a safe business, neither do the **Sexually Transmitted Infections** (STIs) at 80% with Candida-31%, Gonorrhoea-25%, Syphilis-22%, Bola Bola (genital swelling), Kaposi Sarcoma, Herpes & Pneumonia -2%, and **alcohol/drug abuse** at 43% for alcohol, 28.5%-cigarettes, 18%-marijuana, and 10.5%-heroin. Other areas of concern were **Human organ/skin trafficking** confirmed in Lusaka and Tanzania and Congo DR borders, **drug trafficking** itself that involves girls as young as 14-years old, and the use of **witchcraft which** is the mystical wand that bonds the 'sisterhood' that essentially replaces the prostitute's biological family, prevents pregnancies, induces luck for lucrative customers, and prevents and cures diseases including STIs and HIV/AIDS. Child Abuse and neglect was common too. Although 79% of the respondents wished to quit prostitution, 30% to acquire a skill with which they could see a paying job rather than selling their flesh, and 25 wished to start a business, 66% actually do not seek assistance from anywhere, while only 18% go to the Police, 9% to Churches and 6% to NGOs. More importantly, the expressed regret, anger, misery, aggression, and vengeance makes this a highly questionable business for life sustenance.

As SACO members stated, Zambia's problem is shared by all her SADC neighbors, and Africa as a whole. It is part of the **World's 21st century USD7b a year lucrative human trafficking trade** already involving 143 (74.4%) of the 192 World's nations. 45 of Africa's 54 nations (83.4%) account for its 31.4% sex business.¹⁷ These

impoverished African nations, overburdened by large **populations, external debt**, civil strife and heavy military spending, and which account for only 2% of the World Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are its major suppliers, sending up to 300,000 young people a year. They account for 54% of the 81 sending nations of the World. **Africa's receiving nations** are mainly the Western Industrialized nations who exploit its natural resources, and whose 22 nations (14% of the World Nations) dominate about half of the World's trade and more than half of its FDI, and Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) has dwindled to 0.23% of their GDP.¹⁸ It is the new **Slavery**, which is also part of the World's new **unbalanced globalization**. Its syndicates are a threat to all, including those who try to counter it as the murder of the Brazilian Missionary Nun in Mozambique's Northern City of Nampula in April 2004 demonstrates.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. By virtue of societal stigma that renders their victims social outcasts and 'invisible' without proper identities and not featuring in normal community and national activities and statistical data, exposed to immense violence, exploitation and human destruction and HIV/AIDS that reduce their lives to as short as 3 years, it is a breach to human rights and human development, equivalent to racism and xenophobia, an assault to human dignity and a crime against humanity.
2. Public awareness, interventions and legal protections are either limited or non-existent at local, sub regional and regional levels. Regional and International laws are not domesticated. Only 3 SADC countries of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa have ratified the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
3. As long as Zambian economy and those of its neighbors remain poor with the majority of their people highly disadvantaged, prevention efforts will be difficult.
4. Since this scourge is intertwined with the new global human trafficking problem (slavery), combating it will be very difficult unless all SADC and AU nations form a united front. It is therefore, recommended that Africa unites to declare this a modern-time catastrophe and a crime against humanity, not only in Zambia, but at the African and Global levels.

Lessons Learnt from the Case Study that motivated this research:

- **Alert and knowledgeable law enforcement** officers can effectively counter child trafficking for exploitation purposes;
- **African law** as it is today is inadequate to deal with the problem of child trafficking for exploitation purposes; therefore, genuine human rights and Police protection for the young people is hampered by lack of adequate legal protections;
- **African ailing economies** that promote youth destitution are a major feeding factor into child trafficking as the young people believe they are going to 'greener pastures';
- **The Trafficking nations** do not want to be seen to look bad in the eyes of the international community, so they protect 'their pedophiles'; and
- **Good networking** between the human rights organizations can be highly effective if used expediently and correctly.

Follow up activities to the Research:

- 1) 10.11.2002 - Report launch at a Media Forum;
- 2) 15-16.7.2003 - Strategic Planning Workshop and formation of Alliance Against Child Trafficking;
- 3) 28.1.2004 - Working Breakfast meeting with the Inspector General of Police and his Senior Officers where he announced the formation of Child Sex Crime Unit in the Police Force;
- 4) 15/16.12.2004 - Training Workshop of 25 Senior Police Officers on Child Sex Crimes/Trafficking;
- 5) 17/18.3.2005 - Training Workshop of 25 Media Practitioners on Child Sex Crimes/Trafficking

Is there Hope? At the beginning of 2004, the **South African Law Reform Commission** prepared and circulated to all relevant stakeholders for submission of their comments and inputs, An Issue Paper No. 25 of Project No. 131 on Trafficking in Persons. When this project has been concluded, and a new law is passed, it will be the first one in the sub-region. Hopefully, South African neighbors will follow suit.

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