

Children's Right And Human Trafficking: Less Talk, More Action

Obi, Helen Obiageli PhD¹; Mbuba, Francis Nnaemeka Ph.D² & Chukwurah, Daniel Chi Junior PhD³

¹Public and Private Department, Faculty of Law, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka - Nigeria

^{2&3} Dept.of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam

Abstract: *Current realities of children's rights violation amidst prevalence of legal regimes on protection of children indicate that children are violated daily and almost with impunity. Children are trafficked, raped, starved, maimed, deprived of education, neglected; suffer harmful practices such as early marriage, child labour. Against this background, the paper made a passionate assessment of the rights of the child in Nigeria within the framework of International instruments and municipal laws with the view to call for proper implementation and enforcement. Human trafficking is the crudest form of crime against humanity criminalized by laws. In Nigeria human trafficking is rated as the third most prevalent crime. This paper equally examined the legislative framework relating to trafficking in persons, identified the root causes and effects of human trafficking and made recommendations to curb its escalation.*

Keywords: Children's Rights, Human Trafficking, Prevention, Protection.

1. Introduction

The issues of rights are the articulation of the need for justice, tolerance, mutual respect and human dignity in all of our activities. Speaking of rights allows us to express the idea that all individuals are part of the scope of morality and justice; paradoxically, we live in dangerous times when children and women no longer have their rightful place in the society and are exposed to all forms of criminalities as a result of their vulnerability. There is an alarming increase in the number of children involved in street begging, hawking, destitution, prostitution and dropping out of school. Women and children remain the major victims of trafficking just as child labour, child abuse and child marriage with all its attendant consequences have become lots of most under-privileged Nigerian children¹. So many have argued that this epidemic is as a result of social inequality, poverty, dysfunctional family system and misplacement of priorities on the part of leadership. However, there are myriad of counter measures, legal, institutional and policy among others aimed at protecting the rights, interest and welfare of children as well as prohibition of trafficking in persons in Nigeria. It is against this backdrop that this paper aims at evaluating international and Nigerian's efforts towards child protection using the instrumentality of the international instruments, treaties, protocols and national laws.

2. Conceptual Framework

2.1 Definition of a Child

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as any human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Nigeria signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. By virtue of section 12 of the Constitution of Nigeria 1999 no international treaty will be enforceable in Nigeria court unless it has been passed into a local law. It is with this in mind and in furtherance of the above obligation, that the Federal Government passed the Child Rights Act 2003², which defined a child as a person who is below the age of 18. Like the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Child Rights Act (CRA) the Nigeria's Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015 define the child same³. Thus anyone who has not attained 18 years is a child. Thus this write up adopt the definition of the word child as contained in the CRC, CRA and ACJA.

2.2 Human Trafficking

The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015 (TIPPEA ACT) in line with the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in person especially women and children (the Protocol) defines trafficking in persons in section 82 as follows: "Trafficking or Traffic in Person means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding the person whether for or not in

¹ O I Ibe, Child Trafficking and Rights Violations: Examination of Child Protection under International and Nigerian Legal provision. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication> accessed 22nd Nov. 2020

² Section 277 Child Rights Act.

³ Section 494 ACJA, 2015

involuntary servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive) in forced or bonded labor, or in slavery-like conditions, the removal of organs or generally for exploitative purpose.”⁴

3. Children’s Right: An Appraisal

There is a mass of human rights law, treaty and soft law, both general and child specific, which recognizes the distinct status and particular requirements of children. Primarily, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 and the African Union Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child are all child rights based. Some of the rights provided are the right to life, health, education, special treatment in the administration of justice, protection against child abuse and torture, child labour, harmful social and cultural practices, sexual exploitation, drug abuse, traffic and abduction. The Nigerian Child’s Rights Act⁵ incorporates the principles and provisions of the CRC and the AU Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, under which the child enjoys about thirty (30) rights which can be subsumed under four broad principles, namely: survival, development, participation and protection.

- **Survival Rights:** These include right to life, survival and development, right to a separate identity or name, health and health services aid nutrition.
- **Development Rights:** Which include development, education, health services, leisure and recreation, right to life, right to be brought up by parents or guardians, right to parental care and protection, right to privacy, freedom of speech and expression, religion and association.
- **Participation Rights:** These relates to freedom of speech and expression, freedom to be heard, freedom to leisure and recreation and cultural activities.
- **Protection Rights:** These relates to protection against denial of parental care and protection against all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse or torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, economic exploitation, drug abuse, abduction and trafficking. It also includes protection against all forms of discrimination, harmful social and cultural practices.

It is noteworthy that Chapter IV of the Constitution particularly in section 33-43 guarantees certain fundamental rights to every person including children⁶.

4. Evolution Of Children’s Rights

The concept that children have specific rights deserving of enforcement and protection is a relatively modern development, children have long constituted an invisible force in history.

Children were at the bottom of the social scale despite the fact that they are human beings with human needs, most adults seldom have these at their minds while dealing with children. The popular assumption in time past was that most adults and parents in particular had the best interest of children at heart, thus there was no need to think in terms of children’s rights.

Violence against children had existed since the early times; children were killed, beaten, sexually abused, thrown into rivers and exposed on hills and roadsides. Even as late as the 1890s, dead infants were still a common sight in London streets⁷. Although an early law of 374 A.D in Rome declared the killing of an infant to be murder, the legal reality differed from social reality. Sale of children was another longstanding practice. Child sale was legal in Babylonian time. Child sale continued into the modern era despite ancient Athenian laws which restricted the rights of parents to sell their children and the efforts of the Catholic Church to eradicate the practice (Lloyd de Mause 1974)⁸.

Before this change in the social status of the child, a child’s legal status was subsumed in the father. The Roman patria epitomized this doctrine of the child as paternal property. This notion persisted well into the modern era thus the *puissance paternelle* of the French civil code gave the father unchecked authority over children with exclusively paternal rights. German legislations reflected on this concept of paternal authority. The German code of 1896 gave husband the right to decide all matters of matrimonial life, thus, mothers had no right to the custody of minors or administration of mans property⁹.

⁴ J.N Ezeilo, ‘Women, Law and Human Rights (Global and National Perspectives (Abuja: Acene Publishers, 2011) P. 64.

⁵ CRA, Part II, Sections 4-18 and Part III Sections 21-24

⁶ Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As amended)

⁷ Lloyd de Mause, History of Childhood, muse.jhu.edu>article accessed 31st December, 2020 (it suggests a steady improvement in the attitude towards children from utter beastliness in Roman Times the abandoning model to enlightenment in 1974)

⁸ Ibid

⁹ A F A Kwara, Law and Children’s Rights Protection: the Nexus for a Sustainable Development in Nigeria

www.researchgate.net/publication accessed 26th Nov. 2020

What are the Challenges of Children's Rights?

Several legal provisions, which seek to protect children, have been enacted internationally and within Nigeria. However, these laws have not served as an effective tool in curbing the menace of child abuse, as originally intended. The purpose of enacting law is to prevent a certain problem and decrease the frequency of its occurrence. When these laws are not effective, the purpose is defeated.

1. Child Abuse

In Nigeria, abuse against children is rampant although it is largely under-reported. Under-reporting stems from cultural justification of certain forms of abuse associated with cultural practices and the reluctance of children to speak about prior abusive experience. Fear of their assailants' threats or their parent's reaction may be the cause of this reluctance. Also, some children may be either too young to understand their experience or unable to speak for themselves.

Child abuse can either be sexual or non-sexual. Sexual abuse consists of abuse that can either be child marriage, molestation or female genital mutilation. While non-sexual abuse includes child labour, kidnapping and neglect¹⁰.

2. Non-domestication of Child's Rights Act:

Child's Rights Act still doesn't apply throughout Nigeria. Nigeria adopted the Child's Rights Act in 2003, giving legal consent to both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the Child. The country's Constitution states that for an international law to take effect, Nigeria's legislature must create a national version¹¹.

But as Nigeria operates a federal system of government, the law does not automatically become applicable in all of the 36 states. In terms of the Constitution, children's issues are the preserve of the constituent states. Each state legislature must make the national law applicable within the territory. And only 25 of the 36 states in Nigeria have localized the Child's Right' Act. Currently, 11 states, all in northern Nigeria, have yet to domesticate the Child's Rights Act. It has been argued that other laws, including the constitution, are able to protect children. But children in those states are still subject to practices like early marriage, female genital mutilation and begging.

Apart from the federal structure of Nigeria's government, there are other reasons the Child's Rights Act hasn't been adopted by all states. Chief of them is religion, coupled with ethnic and cultural diversity. The Supreme Council for Shariah in Nigeria, along with some legislators from the north, characterized the Child's Rights Act as anti-culture, anti-tradition and anti-religion. Some of the contentious issues include the definition of the child (a person below 18 years) as it pertains to child marriage, particularly for girls, child marriage is a prevalent practice in parts of the north. Children about the age of 10 or 12 years get betrothed or married off. The basis for this is that in Islam, puberty is a determining factor in a (girl) child's readiness for marriage¹².

5. Less Talk, More Actions For Sustainability

Where children are concerned, all actions must be in their best interest. Best interest is a child rights principle, which derives from Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, which says that "in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institution, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interest of the child shall be the primary considerations". Assessing the best interests of a child means to evaluate and balance all the elements necessary to make a decision in a specific situation for specific individual child or group of children. Absence of these paramount actions amount to nothingness.

Government must ensure the establishment of family court, child minding, day care centres and allied homes must be established as provided for under the Act.

The above institutions must be well-equipped and their officers trained and adequately remunerated.

Government should enlighten the public on the rights of children.

¹⁰ O. Olusegun and A Idowu, Child abuse in Nigeria: Dimension, Reasons for its persistence and probable solution. Lawpublications.barry.edu?cgi> accessed 26th Nov. 2020.

¹¹ Section 12 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999

¹² U M Assim, why the Child's Rights Act still doesn't apply throughout Nigeria. www.thecoversation.com/why-the> accessed 27th Nov. 2020

Government and NGOs should campaign against harmful practices and abuses perpetrated.

It is noteworthy to say that enacting the Act is a necessary condition towards the protection of the child, but it not sufficient. The government needs to consolidate its actions and take the necessary steps needed to make the dreams of the Act a reality¹³.

6. Human Trafficking

Trafficking in person is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Human trafficking is not a recent phenomenon, it is as old as humanity and has manifested in different forms and dimensions. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers in their own countries and abroad. According to UNESCO¹⁴ the current form of globalization has occasioned upsurge in human trafficking resulting in a complex, multifaceted phenomenon involving multiple stakeholders at the institutional and commercial level. Human trafficking is the crudest form of slavery and the most lethal violation of the rights of human person. Trafficking in person is marked with intent to deceive and exploit. Essentially human trafficking is a global demand-driven business with a huge market for cheap labour and commercial sex. It involves exploiting persons particularly women and young children with offers or promises of employment and better life. Thus the 2000 protocol made a real attempt to enact an international legislative framework that is universal in nature and addresses all aspects of trafficking in persons, especially trafficking of women and children. It underscored, in its preamble, the fact that effective action is required to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that will target measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights¹⁵.

6.1 Elements of Human Trafficking

On the basis of the definition given in the trafficking in persons protocol, it is evident that trafficking in persons has three constituent elements¹⁶.

The Act (What is done)

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons.

The Means (How it is done)

Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim.

The Purpose (Why it is done)

From the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practice and the removal of organs¹⁷.

6.2 Causes of Human Trafficking

6.2.1 The root cause of Human Trafficking is Traffickers. The zeal of trafficker's willful decision to profit by compelling people to work or prostitute. Perpetrators deliberately work against the justice we seek because they profit from the unjust status quo¹⁸.

6.2.2 **Poverty:**

This is the boon of trafficking. It can drive people to become trafficker; it can drive parents to sell children or other family members into slavery. People in poverty are targeted by traffickers, who offer them a way to earn money when, in fact, they will actually earn nothing and be treated as a slave.

6.2.3 **Lack of Education:**

Lack of education can lead to decreased opportunity for work and earn in living wage, and it can also lead to a decreased knowledge in right. Lack of education is usually due to poverty. In most traditional family setting, males will be preferably

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization- a specialized agency of the United Nation aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture.

¹⁵ Article 5 on criminalization: Each State Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish a criminal offences the conduct set forth in article 3 of this protocol, when committed intentionally.

¹⁶ L A Steverson, human trafficking/definition, tactics, statistics, types. [www.britannica.com>topic>human](http://www.britannica.com/topic/human) accessed 28th November, 2020.

¹⁷ Three Elements of Human Trafficking – [www.2.gov.bc.ca/justice>module-1-accessed](http://www.2.gov.bc.ca/justice/module-1-accessed) 31st Dec. 2020.

¹⁸ J C Richmond. The Root cause of Human Trafficking is Traffickers. [www.traffickinginstitute.org>the](http://www.traffickinginstitute.org/the) accessed 28th November, 2020.

sent to school while females are asked to wait. This furthers the vulnerability of the asked to wait. It also furthers the vulnerability of the females to crimes such as trafficking. Education is the key, it is empowerment per excellence. In preventing of trafficking, education can also empower children to make changes in their community as they grow older; that will prevent situations and vulnerabilities of which traffickers take advantage¹⁹.

6.2.4 Weak legal framework/lack of human rights for vulnerable groups:

In many countries, groups that are marginalized in society lack institutional human rights, which can lead to them being potential victims of trafficking. Traffickers can prey on this marginalized group because they lack protection of the law enforcement. Thus whenever, there are no laws or weak laws evil thrives unabated.

6.2.5 Social Cultural Practices:

In some places, bonded labour is seen as an acceptable way to pay off debt. Selling children to traffickers is the norm, especially for poorer family in rural areas.

6.2.6 Lack of Information:

Most women and girls trafficked are ignorant of the jobs awaiting them. Whenever they are transported, most women and girls are shocked by the nature of job they had to perform. Meanwhile, traffickers promise their victims lucrative job opportunities in cities.

6.2.7 Restrictive Migration Policies:

Migration laws ought to be open and relaxed so that anybody can officially go through the due process instead of going through intermediaries who turn out to be ardent traffickers.

6.2.8 Trafficking generates a Large profit: The yield in trafficking equals that of illegal drug trade. The large profit that traffickers gain is an incentive for them to continue trafficking²⁰.

7. An Overview of Types of Trafficking

- Trafficking for forced labour
- Trafficking for forced criminal activities
- Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation
- Trafficking for the removal of organs
- People smuggling.

8. Legislative Framework On Trafficking

8.1 The International Laws On Trafficking

There are numerous international legal instruments, (Laws) on trafficking in persons and other acts tantamount to slave trade, slavery and servitude. Every civilized society together with its citizens ought to pursue the tenets of the international laws with great sense of dexterity and responsibility; the reasons being that international human rights law lays down obligations which states are bound to respect. The obligations to respect means that states must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires states to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. It is a value system based on respect and the equality and dignity of all people.

To states but a few International Legal Instruments:

1. The International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children – 30th September, 1921
2. The International Convention for Suppression of the Traffic in Women of full age – 11th October, 1993
3. The UN Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, Slave Trading and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery – 1956
4. The UN convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - 1979 especially Articles 3,4(2)(g) which provides that state parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudice, customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes.

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ B Olatero, Olagbagi et al Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Root causes and Recommendations (UNESCO) Intersectoral programme – poverty eradication.

5. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989 to take appropriate and effective measures to prosecute the perpetration of such trafficking and protect those women.....
6. The ILO convention No, 182 for the Elimination of the worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999
7. Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) on the sale of the Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000²¹.
8. UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime 2000
9. Supplementary Trafficking Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) 2003.
10. The Rome Statute of International Criminal Court (ICC) 2002.

8.2 Regional Laws

The seriousness of trafficking can be seen in varied interest cutting across every divide and creed. Despite the international or global provisions, as it were, the regions proceed to enact legal frame works for the suppression or prevention of trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Such laws as follows:

1. The African Charter on Human and People's Right (ACHPR) 1981
2. The African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the child 1999²².
3. Protocol to the African Charter on Humans and People's Right and the Right of Women 2003

8.3 The Nigerian Laws on Trafficking

1. The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act No.24 of 2003 as amended in 2005. This Act prescribes as punishment for offenders and makes provision for creation of a special agency to control trafficking in persons, thus NAPTIP
2. The Child Right Act 2003 which deals extensively with child trafficking
3. The Criminal Code and the Penal Code. The two laws criminalize trafficking, however this two laws did not quite go far enough, for example the Penal Code²³ provides as follows:
Whoever imports, exports, removes, buys, sells, disposes, traffics or deals in any person as slave or accepts, receive or detains any against his will, or any person as a slave shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend fourteen (14) years and shall be liable to be fined.

This liability to a fine is actually what trivializes the prosecution of traffickers.

4. The Labour Act Cap L14 Laws of the Federation of Nigerian (LFN) 2004.

Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015 (TIPPEA – ACT) was enacted by the National Assembly. This Act is a re-enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003 as amended in 2005. The purpose of this enactment was to re-position the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to be more responsive to the onerous challenges associated with combating the scourge of human trafficking in all its ramifications.

The TIPPEA Act is a federal legislation and applies to all the 36 states including FCT, Abuja.

The main aim of the TIPPEA Act is as stated in PART I Section I

- a. To provide an effective and comprehensive and institutional framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of human trafficking and related offences in Nigeria.
- b. Protect victims of human trafficking; and
- c. Promote and facilitate national and international cooperation in order to meet the objectives in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

9. The Effects Of Trafficking

The effects are global, for it goes beyond the shores of Nigeria. Trafficking negatives not just the traffickers, but countries²⁴. It affects the interested parties emotionally, socially and economically.

²¹ L King, International Law and Human Trafficking www.du.edu/researchdigest accessed 29th Nov. 2020

²² Charters and Conventions, Toolkit to combat trafficking in persons tool 1.8 Regional instruments. [www. Unodc.org/ Toolkit](http://www.Unodc.org/Toolkit) – files accessed 29th Nov. 2020.

²³ Penal Code Law, Cap. P3-1 LFN 2004

9.1 On the Nation

It creates insecurity thereby erodes the country's security apparatuses. It causes economic drain by transporting able bodied women and girls out of the country.

It's also uncontrollable expansion of commercial sex industry and increases health risks due to sexual engagements that could result in HIV/AIDS pervading the nation.

This will definitely yield to a sick and poorer work force. This is against the saying that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation. Socially it creates stigmatization as the commerce does not make anybody proud especially when caught in the crime of trafficking as well as been known as HIV/AIDS endemic country. A nation notorious for trafficking is emotionally sullen and psychologically eroded.

9.2 The Trafficked

This is otherwise referred as the victims of trafficking; they are the ones that really undergo the harrowing experience. It is stated that the excitement to travel abroad often disappears as it dawns on them the kind of jobs they have engaged to do, and there is no means of going back. Even their travel documents are seized and are unavailable to them. They are traumatized, physically, emotionally, psychologically and economically. For most time during the period of trafficking, no income is earned by the victims personally. That leaves them in more wretched situations than they were previously. The bondage aspect drains them emotionally. Definitely their rights to dignity, liberty and freedom of association and movement are grossly infringed.

9.3 The Traffickers

Is it possible that the traffickers are only positively affected? No, this is for the reasons that they spend money, one way or the other, thus losing the evil money. At times things may actually go wrong in the process of evil money. The risk of being caught, tried and convicted drains them psychologically and emotionally. They bear the shame and erosion of integrity once caught. This is why they do anything to avoid being exposed even when caught, particularly the highly placed in the society.

9.4 The Families of the Victims

For the innocent members of any victim's family, it can have the effects of absolute loss especially when death occurs. In fact, for those who played any role, they experience a state of guilt which may result in being haunted. Though a times they see only the positive effect of increased income (money) and improved financial status. The family involved suffers stigmatization once the business comes to the public domain especially where victims are repatriated.

10. Conclusion

Fifty years ago, the abomination of slavery seemed like a thing of the past. But history has a way of repeating itself. Today we find human slavery is once again a sickening reality. At this moment, men, women and children are being trafficked and exploited all over the world. It is impossible to ever reach a consensus on the true scale of the problem but regardless of the figures, what matters is that human trafficking is big and getting bigger.

It is a complex crime of great concern in Nigeria as it is a source, destination and transit country. Young women and girls are particularly vulnerable as they are trafficked to other African countries, Europe or in the Middle East where they are forced into sex work. The perusal of statutory provisions on human trafficking and rights of the child in Nigeria indicate that challenges of implementation and enforcement are herculean and enormous. It suffices to conclude that the legal framework in place to fight rights violation and trafficking crime is recent and contemporaneous. However, the requisite institutional machinery are colonial, supply and in some cases non-existent. The latter constitute a threat to the realization of the full benefit of rights of the child and effort to prevent human trafficking. However as the extent of human trafficking is recognized, a number of approaches to tackling it have been developed.

Recommendations

The recommendations can be applied to the lives of people everywhere, helping everyone feel like they are joining the fight against these international and national issues.

²⁴ N Pillay, Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking. www.refworld.org/pdfid/4d9d9d9d.pdf accessed 29th Nov. 2020.

- States in Nigeria yet to domesticate the Child Rights Act should endeavour to do so. By International standards the provisions of Child Right Act, complied with parameters set by United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and African Union Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (AUCRWC).
- Government at all levels should enhance access to education and initiate policies and program aimed at reducing poverty.
- Enhancement of skills and building of the capacities of the general criminal justice systems and provision of requisite facilities are effectively necessary to enable them function to prevent, detect and control incidence of violation of child rights and trans-national organized crimes such as human trafficking.
- Create Awareness – raising avenues for advocacy and for sensitization programmes, using especially the electronic, print and social media.
- Government at all levels to guarantee the setting up of more agencies against trafficking in all the states of the federation, as trafficking occurs in every state.
- Help survivors; donate essential items to shelters for victims of human trafficking. Also encourage businesses give jobs to survivors, helping them get back on their feet and get a fresh start.
- The judiciary should be proactive in practical terms. It should ensure speedy trials as obviously the trials have been very slow, leading to injustice.
- The Legislative must effectively carry out its oversight functions to ensure that agencies of government carry out their constitutional duties.
- Domestication of International treaties especially convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as making chapter 11 of the Nigeria Constitution justice-able. With such enactments in place, every arm of government will be on alert.
- The citizenry has a duty to report any unwholesome or clandestine movement to the appropriate quarters. Assist victims to resist traffickers by joining in the advocacy and sensitization programmes. Lend hands where necessary. Avoid stigmatization of victims especially those who end up with HIV/AIDs.
Above all our children are tired of being told that they are the future. They want us to take actions to fulfill our promises in the present, and thus enjoy their right to be protected from violence today.