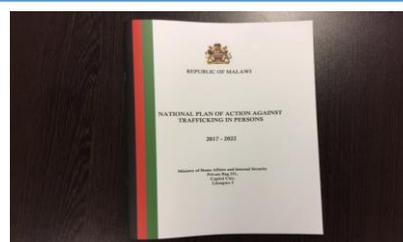


Malawi launches National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons

Lilongwe, Malawi – 29 August 2017 – The Government of Malawi launched its National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (NPATIP) under the theme “Accelerating sustainable partnership; A key to Malawi Action against Trafficking in Persons”, as part of the country’s commemoration of the World day against Trafficking in Persons. The plan will be the guiding and resource mobilization tool for all stakeholders. UNODC, working in partnership with the SADC Secretariat and the Norwegian Church Aid provided technical assistance to the government of Malawi in the development of the NPATIP.

Malawians are known to be trafficked domestically from rural to urban centers and also abroad to countries including, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, the Middle Eastern Countries and Europe for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and for extraction of body parts/organs. In line with the findings of the UN Global Report on Trafficking Persons, which states that 64% of victims of TIP in Sub-Saharan Africa are children, Malawian children, especially orphaned children, have been identified as one the most vulnerable groups, as well as women, who get lured through false promises of employment elsewhere. The urgency of the situation goes without saying, hence the relevance of the theme of the World Day against Trafficking to Malawi.

Furthermore, Traffickers—primarily facilitators or brothel owners—typically lure children from their families in rural areas under pretences of employment opportunities, clothing, or lodging for which they are sometimes charged exorbitant fees, resulting in prostitution coerced through debts. Traffickers subject teenage boys to forced labour on farms and young girls to sexual exploitation in nightclubs or bars. Children are subjected to forced labour in begging, small businesses, and potentially in the fishing industry; in past years, some were coerced to commit crimes. Adult tenant farmers are vulnerable to exploitation, as they incur debts to landowners and may not receive payment during poor harvests.



Guiding Principles of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons

- Human rights-centred approach
- Gender-responsive
- Victim-centred approach
- Child-centred approach
- Stakeholder participation
- Government ownership
- Sustainability

Speaking during the launch, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Hon. Grace Obama Chiumia said that: “I am confident that the National Plan of action against Trafficking in Persons will address the vulnerability of Children and Women, in order that they regain their rights and dignity.” She went on to say that; “Plans fail if there is no sustainability, but I am happy to see that our development partners are on board”. Lastly she said that; “I will be happy to see results of the plan, I know that without implementation, the plan is as good as a piece of paper”.

During the launch, UNODC regional Representative, Ms. Zhuldyz Akisheva said that; “ Malawi’s National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons outlines a comprehensive response to trafficking in persons in Malawi, which we trust will translate to tangible practical actions on the ground”. She went on to say that; “Indeed Trafficking in Persons is not only a Malawi situation, but a global phenomenon where people escaping from war and persecution are particularly vulnerable to

becoming victims of trafficking'. Lastly, she said that; " we express confidence in the Government of the Republic of Malawi, that it will move beyond the launch of the National Plan of Action against trafficking in persons and actually put concrete actions on the ground to implement the plan so that vulnerable groups in Malawian Society would benefit".



While the Deputy Head of Mission of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Mr. Bjarne Garden said that; "Private sector engagement is key to the successful implementation of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons". He went on to say that; "the Norwegian Government Policies on Development Aid have a specific focus on Human Rights and women empowerment and gender equality. The Norwegian Embassy support in Malawi has therefore paid particular attention to trends of human rights abuse and women and girl child victimization, thus the basis for support towards human trafficking in Malawi since 2007 to date".

Furthermore, speaking during the launch was, Board Chairman of the Malawi Network against Trafficking in Persons, Dr. Rodrick Mulonya, who said that; "Our hope is cemented today with the launch of the National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons and much will be followed by the government's immediate establishment of the Trafficking in Persons Fund and the appointment of Enforcement and Protection officers".

The objectives of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons are as follows:

- Prevention of Trafficking in Persons;
- Support and Social protection of victims of trafficking in persons;
- Detection, Investigation and Prosecution of Trafficking offences;
- Partnership, Coordination and sustainable financing;
- Research and Monitoring and Evaluation

It is also worth mentioning that the Malawi National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons has embraced a Victim Centred approach; seeking to minimize re-traumatization associated with the criminal justice process by providing the support of victim advocates and service providers,

empowering survivors as engaged participants in the process, and providing survivors an opportunity to play a role in seeing their traffickers brought to justice.

Participants included the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, members of the National Coordination Committee against TIP, Norwegian Embassy, various civil society organizations, UNODC and various Government Departments in Malawi.

VIDEO & MEDIA LINKS

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yvTq-KNNAo&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKoG5VSpN7w>
- <https://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-launches-national-action-plan-human-trafficking-crimes/>