



Carnelian Journal of LAW & POLITICS

Vol. 4 No. 2, 2023

<https://carnelianjournal.com>

Legal Response to Human Trafficking in Nigeria: The Promise and the Reality

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Abstract

Human trafficking is a major problem in Nigeria and many other nations. It violates fundamental human rights, diminishes dignity, erodes conscience, and promotes corruption. The victims of human trafficking are frequently viewed as commodities and subjected to a variety of abuses. Child trafficking is especially tragic because children are among the most vulnerable individuals. The legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria has potential, but it is difficult to combat the problem due to the lack of physical evidence and the propensity of traffickers to rob their victims of cell phones and other recording devices. There is a need for legislation on human trafficking that conforms to international standards, with harsher punishments and fines for perpetrators. The aim of this study was to provide an insight into the prevalence of human trafficking through a survivor in order to collect empirical data and provide insight into the prevalence of human trafficking in Nigeria.

Keywords: Human Trafficking, Legal Response, Nigeria, Victim

Introduction

In addition to encouraging wage theft, trafficking is alleged to violate basic human rights, undermine dignity, weaken conscience, and foster corruption. Human trafficking is said to cost its victims their lives.¹ Trafficking takes different forms. Child trafficking of all the menaces is heartbreaking as children are some of the most vulnerable.² Child abuse and human trafficking are serious problems that have damaged the reputation of many nations, particularly in Africa.³ The menaces of human trafficking are not only cross-border but internal as well. This takes various forms like moving the victims from mostly rural areas to urban areas.⁴ Human trafficking is not just limited to local trafficking but external as it both regional and international amplitude and dimension.⁵

The victims of human trafficking are often seen as mere commodities for profit making who can be sold and exploited whichever way their trafficker wanted.⁶ Women and children are the most vulnerable groups affected by this menace, which is one of the worst problems in Nigeria. The objective of this study is to provide empirical facts through the interview of a human trafficking survivor in establishing the prevalence of human trafficking as well as the present reality.

This study will attempt to answer these questions. What is the prevalence and extent of human trafficking in Nigeria and its impact on the most vulnerable groups, and how does this problem manifest itself in many forms, including cross-border and internal trafficking? Human trafficking is believed to severely affect the lives of victims especially vulnerable groups like women and children and also damages the country's reputation. This problem may involve internal, cross-border, regional, and international trafficking. Through interviews with survivors, this study seeks to show that human trafficking is a serious problem in Nigeria that needs immediate attention and intervention.

Empirical Survey of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Data Analysis Report 2015 and 2021

¹ See for example, SGMA Bocinski, 'The Economic Drivers and Consequences of Sex Trafficking in the United States' (September 2017) Institute for Women's Policy Research B369 <www.iwpr.org.r> accessed 20 September 2022.

² Magdaline A Adeshina and Yodah Yakubu, 'Child Trafficking in Nigeria: Examining Government's Response to the Menace' (2021) 6 SAU Journal of Management and Social Sciences 194, 194.

³ Oladapo J Elugbadebo and Femi Temitope Johnson, 'A Multi-Criteria Perceptual Analysis Towards Integrating ICT for the Control of Child Abuse and Trafficking' (2020) 4(9) International Journal of Academic Multidisciplinary Research 1, 7.

⁴ Victor I Ede, Ozioma F Chiaghanam and Dominic Z Kalu, 'Evaluating the Role of Christian Women Organizations in the Fight Against Human Trafficking in Nigeria' (2019) 6(1) Journal of Advanced Research Humanities and Social Science 16, 17.

⁵ *ibid* 18.

⁶ United States Department of State, '2021 Trafficking in Persons Report: Nigeria' <<https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/nigeria/>> accessed 19 September 2022.

The 2015 data analysis report, when Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (TIPPEA) was enacted, and the 2021 NAPTIP report are compared in this section.

Table 1: 2015 Data Analysis Report for Cases reported and investigated

Cases	Reported	Investigated
External trafficking for sexual exploitation	145	85
Internal trafficking for sexual exploitation	15	6
External trafficking for labour exploitation	30	9
Internal trafficking for labour exploitation (Forced labour)	16	1
Child labour	127	42
Forced Marriage	5	2

According to table 1, external trafficking for sexual exploitation had the most cases (145). However, only 85 cases were investigated. This may be because NAPTIP would have transferred other cases that did not fall under its purview or did not meet the ingredients in table 1 to the agency responsible for addressing them. It can be seen from the above that Internal sexual exploitation trafficking is less common than exterior trafficking which has only 15 reported cases. This may imply a rise in trafficking victims being exploited sexually beyond Nigeria. Internal and external labour trafficking is less common than sexual exploitation. This may indicate that sexual exploitation is reported or discovered more often than labour exploitation.⁷

Child labour is a serious issue with 127 cases. Although more has to be done to protect these vulnerable children, the 42 examined cases suggest that child labour is being addressed. Even though forced marriages are rare, they should be investigated. More must be done to combat this sort of human trafficking, as the 5 reported incidents and 2 investigated cases reveal.⁸

Table 2: 2021 Data Analysis Report for Cases reported and investigated

CASES	Reported	Investigated
Importation of persons for Prostitution	2	0
Exportation of persons for Prostitution	16	10
Procurement of Persons for Sexual Exploitation	164	30
Recruitment of Persons under 18 years for prostitution or sexual exploitation	10	1
Foreign travel which promotes prostitution or sexual exploitation	223	60
Recruitment of persons for organ harvesting	1	0
Forced Labour/ Slavery within Nigeria	61	11

⁷ Toluwalase Ajibade and others, 'The Effectiveness of TIPPEA 2015 and NAPTIP in Curbing Human Trafficking in Nigeria' (2023) 6(1) Redeemer's University Law Journal 80, 83.

⁸ *ibid.*

Forced Labour outside Nigeria	61	16
Employment of Child as domestic worker and inflicting grievous harm	93	14
Conspiracy to commit trafficking of persons	2	0
Forced Marriage	1	0
Aiding and abetting	3	3

Table 2 comprises of data on prostitution, sexual exploitation, organ harvesting, forced labour, forced marriage, and child labour. Human trafficking in Nigeria is widespread, as seen by the number of cases reported for each offence. The most common offenses are foreign travel promoting prostitution or sexual exploitation (223 cases) and procuring persons for sexual exploitation (164 cases).

Despite being lower than most categories, the number of cases analysed suggests that the government is making efforts to curb human trafficking. A lower number of investigated cases relative to reported cases may suggest difficulties in adequately investigating and prosecuting these offenses. Importing people for prostitution and conspiring to traffic people were not documented. This could suggest investigation lapses or evidence difficulties for specific forms of trafficking. Comparing reported and investigated human trafficking cases in Nigeria between 2015 and 2021, little progress appears to have been made. Although certain trafficking data have remained consistent.⁹

Methodology

The mixed-method and doctrinal research design was used in this study. This approach involved collecting both quantitative and qualitative data to gain a comprehensive understanding of human trafficking. The quantitative data included descriptive and inferential statistics, which provided information on the prevalence of human trafficking and the effectiveness of the legal responses. Qualitative data was gathered through the interview of one trafficking survivor to gain insight into their experiences and perspectives.

Purposive and snowball sampling techniques was used to select participants for this study. Purposive sampling involved selecting participants who have direct experience with human trafficking, while snowball sampling involved identifying initial participants and then asking them to refer other potential participants. Using a mixed-method research design and sampling techniques enabled this study to provide a comprehensive understanding of the legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria, including the promise and the reality of the situation.

A systematic analysis technique was used to explore primary and secondary sources such as: textbooks, journal articles and research papers obtained physically and online. The primary source included the data obtained from the qualitative field study (interview), statutes and NAPTIP reports. This study targeted 5 (five) victims of human trafficking in Nigeria. The victims were targeted

⁹ Toluwalase Ajibade and others, 'The Effectiveness of TIPPEA 2015 and NAPTIP in Curbing Human Trafficking in Nigeria' (2023) 6(1) Redeemer's University Law Journal 80, 83.

to supply first-hand information about their experiences before, during and after they were trafficked. However, it was only 1 (one) victim/survivor of human trafficking that was willing to participate and be interviewed for the purpose of this study. The interview was conducted via Facebook messenger where the necessary questions were typed and a voice note was sent by the victim in response to the questions. These responses were subsequently transcribed.

The ethical standards and regulations governing research was strictly followed during the course of this study. This study ensured that the respondent's identity and other personal information were kept in strict confidentiality. It ensured that no false data was included in the data collected and that the process of presenting and interpreting the data was free from bias. That is, the respondent's true position was reflected and interpreted in line with their personal perspective. This study ensured that the respondent's collaboration was sincere, voluntary, and self-willing and did not offer money or any other financial gain in exchange for their cooperation in participating in the study.

Analysis of Interview with Human Trafficking Victim

This study employed the qualitative research method by interviewing a victim of human trafficking who was willing to participate. The interview questions were posed to gather the necessary information necessary for this study. The interview was conducted via Facebook messenger where the respondent sent a voice note of their responses and thereafter these responses were transcribed.

Interview Question One

How can the legal challenges of human trafficking in Nigeria be addressed?

Respondent's Response:

Hello good morning alright okay so, I will try and attend to ummm your questions to the best of my knowledge. Uhmm legally, seriously I don't really know the legal aspects I don't know, uhh asides arresting this people and ehmm arresting them and ehhh trying them in court, and another crazy part is that it is actually difficult to arrest human traffickers. I wouldn't lie to you because of evidence you know the court of law don't believe in hearsay they want uhmm physical evidence which is very very difficult to get against traffickers because, one, they strip uhmm they strip their victims of phones so you can't record, you can't make videos and every other thing. It's just your word versus their word, so it makes it very hard to uhmm uhmm to uhmm to arrest them so it actually that's it, it's a very big challenge in curbing this uhmm this uhmm this uhmm this menace.

Interview Question Two

On the average can you give a number of potential trafficking victims being trafficked from Nigeria annually?

Respondent's Response:

uhmm I think this one you have to be specific the country you are looking at because ehmm before our main focus was just Libya we just realized that no its broader than that people are going to Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin Republic, Cote d'ivoire, Cyprus, Georgia, Russia, India. India currently uhmmm I'm currently transcribing a story about a trapped migrant in India and uhmm from her own uhmm point of view she believes five million (5,000,000) Nigerian youths, Nigerian women rather are been trafficked into India annually. If we are going, if we are if we are talking about Libya looking at this Sahara routes when you get to those camps at least, at least you must see hundred thousand (100,000) persons plying through that route every week so it's actually difficult to get a particular figure so that's just uhmm that's just an estimate.

Interview Question Three

Do you have any advice or suggestion for the Nigerian legislature on how they can improve our laws on human trafficking to meet up with international standard?

Respondent's Response:

the first they should look at the uhmm number of years they use in punishing traffickers. I think it's just six months or one year and a fine of fifty thousand. That's very poor, it doesn't discourage this people from uhmm from misbehaving. When you threaten someone that NAPTIP will get you arrested they will tell you no be six months and fifty thousand. So, they have to look at that they have to really extend the punishment I think when they extend the punishment, I think it can uhmm instill fear in them that's from my own point of view it can instill fear in them and also there should be punishment for enablers. There are traffickers, there are enablers, there are people that are enabling this trafficking, from drivers, from parents, from churches, from all those things. There should be punishment for them so that at least everyone would know that okay if I do this uhmm this would happen.

Interview Question Four

Presently, do you think the laws and different agencies in Nigeria set up for the purpose of fighting human trafficking have been doing this?

Respondent's Response:

okay uhmm I think I've answered this one previously you know uhmmm when it comes to rule of law and all these agencies, they follow everything by, they follow everything by the dot. They want evidence, they want proof, they want this, they must go from this office to that office that's why

it's actually, what they do is different from what I do. Me I'm not that, I don't have that kind of time to be going from one place to the other so umm so I think all those their protocol and everything is actually having a negative impact in fighting this. Human trafficking needs ummm an onsite action, after like okay there's a victim here you have to be there onsite immediately, you don't, the moment you start going from this office to the other office, to the other, you are defeating the purpose of what you want to do, so I don't know this their law sha they have to review it and every other thing.

Interview Question Five

Is there any financial assistance from the government to assist victims of human trafficking in Nigeria?

Respondent's Response:

uhmm I am not sure. I don't think I know of and and if I think ummm as a survivor leader I should be aware if there is any. I am not a beneficiary of any. I know of international organizations that is IOM and I think that other partners also like ummm GIZ, there are also some other organizations like that but from the government I am not aware of and if there is any I don't know of it.

Interview Question Six

To what extent can the attitude of the general public on the fight against human trafficking assist Nigerian laws? and from your experience, what is the attitude of Nigerians to these issues?

Respondent's Response:

uhmm you know Nigerians ummm we are stubborn like generally we are stubborn Nigerians we are stubborn we believe seeing is believing. Nigerians will not believe when you keep shouting and screaming, we don't believe they want to witness it and it's actually that thing you are telling not to do that's what they do so their attitude is not really encouraging although due to continuous awareness campaign and every other thing there's been a positive impact, I wouldn't lie but you know umm it's not yet balanced. I think the ignorant people, the people that are actually working against all these things we are doing is still higher than the people that really know ummm the effect of this menace in the society.

Interview Question Seven

Can you please tell me your story, including how you got involved in human trafficking and what happened to you during the trafficking experience?

Respondent's Response:

Umm my own personal story, my personal experiences are gold I don't share them like that and moreover, uhmm moreover there is umm there is uhmm a school there is a, there is a school that I gave them umm I gave the exclusive to for them to use for their research purpose so I am not really sure my own experience umm my own experience umm, might be of any use to you but I think I'm just going to summarize it. Okay, my story including how I got involved in trafficking.

I was the one that umm I was the one that sourced for umm my trafficker umm that was 2015. I left Nigeria for Libya 2015, that time there was minimal information on human trafficking and every other thing. I was not even aware that there is something like human trafficking. okay so to me that time it was as if umm the lady was helping me, helping me to come make money soo that was just it and then I think I worked for her, I worked for eight (8) months I worked and paid her for eight months that was then now it's no longer that soo and that was it. umm I worked as a maid during that time umm the house was just big.

Working as a maid in Libya is different from working as a maid in umm in Nigeria. The workload is crazy I will wake as early as 6am sometimes I sleep 12am, 11pm I couldn't cope in the first house, so I had to complain to her so they got me to another place and the house they got me to was smaller. I will wake up 7, 8 and sometimes 2pm umm I was already done with work because the house was smaller and they and they had less family members. But I think umm the first son yeah the first son of the family was harassing me sexually so I wasn't comfortable with it and it led to an argument and fight between me and my boss that led me to prison.

Interview Question Eight

What were the promises made to you before you were trafficked, and how were these promises broken?

Respondent's Response:

Umm it was just that I would ummm my trafficker umm my trafficker umm she didn't break any promise. She told me I was going to work for her for eight months I think, she told me I was going to work for her for nine months but I worked for her for eight months. I paid her, she treated me well until she left for umm Europe yea she passed Libya to Europe.

Interview Question Nine

What were the living conditions like during the trafficking experience, and were you subjected to any forms of abuse or violence?

Respondent's Response:

The living condition was not really okay by me cause umm whenever we go home for our off break a lot of girls there can be up to twenty girls in our apartment just sleeping and it wasn't really funny, the food everything was not funny, was not funny with my trafficker other girls were abused, the girls that could not work some of them were ill they were beaten some of them were starved and every other thing, but I was working I was working I was not really complaining and so I didn't go through any form of abuse umm I didn't go through any form of abuse with her. Okay the people that abused me were umm the people that umm kidnapped me and the people that imprisoned me yeah I think those two different times were the time I went through umm any form of violation over there okay and umm because I was an illegal migrant.

Interview Question Ten

Did you have any interactions with law enforcement or government officials during your trafficking experience? If so, can you describe these interactions?

Respondent's Response:

Yeah when travelling from umm I think Lagos to Kano you see Police on the road now and the thing is unless we want to lie to ourselves. When you see someone going to Libya you would know when you see because one they hard they hardly travel solo we don't travel solo. Like I am no longer a victim so let me just say victims don't travel solo its always group of three girls, four girl, two girls, but hardly will you see especially if they are moving from Lagos to Kano, they don't go solo and umm there's its always uhmm someone travelling to Libya, Mali Burkina Faso you can see. you will know we met law enforcement agencies on the way, we met Police at the checkpoint and even when we were going from Kano to cross the border everything. we met immigration now they stamped our passport, people with fake passport they will stamp, people without passport they bribe their way out.

Interview Question Eleven

Did you receive any form of assistance or support during your trafficking experience, either from your traffickers or from external sources?

Respondent's Response:

Uhmm no I didn't receive any form of assistance. Omo, I was on my own and I think ummm I assisted myself and God assisted me yeah that was the only form of assistance I received. It was just God, if it wasn't God uhmm I'll be long dead now so it was just God seriously.

Interview Question Twelve

How has the trafficking experience impacted your life, and what kind of support would be helpful to you in moving forward?

Respondent's Response:

Ahh mehhh heee it's been how many years now I have been back home for like six years and it's still it's still just so surreal ehheh last night my dream in my dream yesterday I was in Libya. I was at the embassy with other victims, I was seeing victims and all that so I think that should let you know how it is. it's like it's now part of my daily life it's not something and I don't think it's something that will ever go so that just it, it has its own impact, it would have been a negative impact but I'm just trying to umm bring out the positives out of it cause we have people that are back that some committed suicide they un-lived themselves umm some are mentally unstable some addicted to drugs and every other thing it's not funny walahi it's not funny. Umm I don't know I think one of the best thing that will make me happy is umm just making sure this menace can be curbed that's the only thing that can really really make me happy. I want this menace curbed. It's not even funny because now the focus is not even on young adults it's now on teenagers. Teenagers are just moving out illegally out of this country and then subjecting them to trafficking they subjecting them to trafficking, God!

Interview Question Thirteen

Do you have any suggestions for how to prevent human trafficking in Nigeria or to support other victims of trafficking?

Respondent's Response:

Okay like I do say if you want to catch a monkey do like a monkey with due respect all this office holders and every other thing. You can't curb human trafficking by holding back-to-back meetings. Today this one meeting tomorrow everybody meeting. NAPTIP meeting, this meeting, no it doesn't work that way, traffickers *ò gbó òyìnbó*¹⁰; invest in survival leaders, invest in survival leaders, we have been there, we know how this people work, we know how they think, we know their houses, we know where they hide, we know everything. as in literally we've dined and wined with this people we've lived in their community, we've planned, we know them we are the only ones that can bring them down we are the only ones.

In just one year I've been able to record 500 survivors and I've, I think I've given NAPTIP like three cases and they've

¹⁰ This is interpreted to mean 'traffickers do not understand English'.

not even helped me with one. So, you can just see the margin because I believe umm, just that one that I have given them they are looking for evidence, they are writing letter of approval to this person, they are doing this, they are calling that other person. But no, so that's just it they need to really invest in umm in survivor leaders.

We are the best bet. Meeting upon meeting will not bring down umm traffickers it won't. Where they are trafficking more victims, people are leading to kano as we speak, people are heading to Sokoto as we speak, people are heading to Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and every other thing as we speak; you are holding one meeting that will not end today, that will end tomorrow so you've seen it, it doesn't work that way trafficking needs a principle solution. It's an onsite stuff so I think I have really tried my best.

Summary of Interview with Human Trafficking Victim

The respondent mentioned that the legal challenges in addressing human trafficking in Nigeria are difficult, particularly because of the lack of physical evidence to prove the crime. The respondent also suggested that the punishment for traffickers should be increased, and that there should be punishment for enablers. The respondent also stated that it is difficult to estimate the number of potential trafficking victims from Nigeria annually because it occurs in many countries. The respondent advised that there should be on-site actions when there is a victim, rather than going from one office to another, as it defeats the purpose of fighting human trafficking.

There is no financial assistance from the government for victims of human trafficking that the respondent is aware of as the respondent is not a beneficiary of such. The respondent believes that Nigerians have a stubborn attitude towards the issue of human trafficking, and it may take continuous awareness campaigns to change their perspective. The respondent's response to the twelfth interview question reveals the profound and lasting impact of the trafficking experience on their life. The respondent explains that even after six years of returning home, the experience still feels surreal and is a daily part of their life. The respondent also reveals that their dreams sometimes take them back to the traumatic experience in Libya.

The respondent acknowledges that many victims of trafficking have been unable to cope with the negative impact and have resorted to committing suicide, becoming mentally unstable or addicted to drugs. The respondent suggests that the only positive thing they can derive from their experience is the desire to help curb human trafficking in Nigeria. The respondent emphasizes the need for survivor leaders to be included in the efforts to prevent human trafficking in Nigeria. they state that survivors of trafficking have firsthand knowledge of how traffickers work, think, and hide, and are therefore better positioned to help bring them down. The respondent laments that holding back-to-back meetings by NAPTIP (National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons) and other

government agencies will not be enough to curb the menace of trafficking. The respondent cites their experience of recording 500 survivors in just one year and giving NAPTIP three cases, but receiving no help or support from them. The respondent suggests that survivor leaders should be invested in and empowered to take on a more active role in preventing human trafficking in Nigeria.

Overall, the respondent's responses reflect the challenges faced by victims of trafficking in Nigeria, including the profound and lasting impact of the experience on their lives and the difficulties they encounter in seeking justice. The respondent's call for survivor leaders to be included in the efforts to prevent trafficking highlights the importance of empowering survivors to play a more active role in combating this crime. The respondent's experience of providing information to NAPTIP but receiving no help or support highlights the challenges faced by victims in seeking justice, and the need for government agencies to do more to support them.

Implication of Findings on the Legal Response to Human Trafficking in Nigeria

The findings of this study suggest that while Nigeria's legal framework for combating human trafficking is strong, implementation remains a significant challenge. Corruption, inadequate resources, and a lack of political will were identified as key factors hindering efforts to combat trafficking. The reality on the ground suggests that the promises made by the government to address trafficking have not been fully realized, with gaps in law enforcement, task force effectiveness, and public awareness campaigns. The implication of this is that if adequate attention is not given to curb this menace called human trafficking, it will continue to take more root in Nigeria.

The observed low conviction rates resulting from unavailability of funds to keep victims who are potential witnesses in witness protection programs, inadequate training and equipment of law enforcement officers implies that traffickers might continue to walk scot-free without justice being done. Victims of trafficking require legal protection and support to recover from their experiences and rebuild their lives. Without adequate legal protections, victims may be left without recourse and be at risk of further exploitation. Without an effective legal response, traffickers will continue to operate with impunity, making it easier for them to exploit vulnerable individuals, particularly women and children. This could lead to an increase in the number of victims of trafficking and exacerbate the problem in the country.

The failure to address human trafficking effectively can erode the rule of law in the country, undermining public confidence in the justice system and creating a culture of impunity for traffickers and other criminals. Nigeria's continued failure to address human trafficking effectively can damage its international reputation and lead to sanctions and other forms of pressure from the international community.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings in this study, suggest that there are significant challenges that need to be addressed in the legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria. Lack of funding, limited resources and capacity, are identified as significant challenges faced by NAPTIP in addressing human trafficking in Nigeria. These challenges can impact the effectiveness of NAPTIP's efforts to combat human trafficking and prevent its occurrence. The findings from the victim's interview suggest that the legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria may not be effective in addressing the problem. The victims face several challenges in seeking justice, including corruption, lack of support, and inadequate resources. This suggests that the legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria may not be effective in holding traffickers accountable and providing justice for victims.

Moreover, the victim's interview highlights the need for a more victim-centred approach in addressing human trafficking in Nigeria. The victim emphasized the importance of investing in survivor leaders who can provide insight into the strategies and tactics of traffickers. This implies that the legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria should prioritize the involvement of survivors in the fight against human trafficking. Furthermore, the victim's interview reveals the need for a holistic approach to addressing human trafficking in Nigeria. This suggests that the legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria should not only focus on prosecuting traffickers but also on providing support and rehabilitation services to victims and ensure that traffickers are held accountable for their actions.

The findings of this study suggest that while Nigeria's legal framework for combating human trafficking is strong, implementation remains a significant challenge. Corruption, inadequate resources, and a lack of political will were identified as key factors hindering efforts to combat trafficking. The reality on the ground suggests that the promises made by the government to address trafficking have not been fully realized, with gaps in law enforcement, task force effectiveness, and public awareness campaigns. The implication of this is that if adequate attention is not given to curb this menace called human trafficking, it will continue to take more root in Nigeria.

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The legal response to human trafficking in Nigeria has been a mix of promise and reality. While the government has made some efforts to combat trafficking, the reality on the ground suggests that these efforts have not been sufficient. There are gaps in law enforcement, task force effectiveness, and public awareness

campaigns that need to be addressed if Nigeria is to effectively combat human trafficking. The implications of failing to address this problem are significant, including increased vulnerability to trafficking, inadequate protection for victims, erosion of the rule of law, and negative impact on Nigeria's international reputation. It is therefore crucial for the government, civil society, and international partners to prioritize the fight against human trafficking and take decisive action to address this problem in order to protect the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations in the country.

NAPTIP, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as: National Coalition Against Trafficking in Person (NACATIP) and Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) involved in the fight against human trafficking should collaborate more with media organizations to develop and disseminate targeted awareness campaigns. These agencies are to further engage journalists, influencers, and social media platforms to amplify anti-trafficking messages, share success stories, and encourage reporting of suspected trafficking cases. Community-based initiatives to combat human trafficking, including partnerships with local leaders, religious institutions, and community organizations should be fostered. These initiatives can raise awareness, facilitate reporting, and support survivors in their communities.

There is the need for the government to improve data collection systems to gather comprehensive and reliable information on trafficking patterns, victim profiles, and the effectiveness of interventions. This data will inform evidence-based policies and enhance the understanding of the evolving nature of human trafficking. There is also the need for more collaboration with international research institutions and organizations to conduct comparative studies on anti-trafficking measures, identifying best practices from other countries and adapting them to the Nigerian context.