

UNAFRI Research and Policy Development Advisor presents a paper in Vienna

The Research and Policy Development Advisor, Alhas Maicibi (PhD), has said that Africa is most hit by the Human Trafficking scourge because the continent is a source, a transit, as well as a destination of the victims of trafficking.

The Policy Advisor was speaking during a paper presentation at the UN Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in Vienna, Austria recently.

The paper titled: **The Push, Pull and Stop Factors in Human Trafficking: Perspectives from Africa** identified the causes and vulnerability of human trafficking as greed, poverty(to some extent), corruption, competition, traditional practices, demand for services, weak value system, poor legislation, deception on the 'heavenly' life abroad and the role of the clergies (diviners, pastors and witch doctors)

He categorized the Push Factors as poverty (to some extent), low level of education, poor social services, desire for a higher standard of living; as well as greed, competition and wide economic differences between the source and destination countries.

Dr Maicibi stressed that greed should be seen to be a lubricator, not a real cause to trafficking. He defended this by saying that in Nigeria, it is worthy of note that the states that are most prone to the trade (Kano, Edo and Delta) are not the poorest- in contrast they are among the richest states in the country. Similarly, the countries that is deep into trafficking are not necessarily the poorest globally. Therefore, greed is one of the strongest push factors, while satisfaction (demand) of greed (at the host country) is another very strong pull factor.

On the other hand, he said "fantastic" life style of trafficked victims, is one of the **Pull Factors**, where the influence of successfully trafficked people in their host countries are brought to the fore. The victims' influence is exerted when they send home ostentatious gifts, money, pictures, enthralling and heartening warming success stories of their 'fantastic' life abroad. These become irresistible for the would-be victims of trafficking, and thus, their vulnerability.

Another very strong salient Pull Factor, according to Macibi, is the demand for services of the victims abroad in the host countries; that if the services of the minors are not in demand abroad, there will be no attraction to emigrate. Therefore, someone and something out there in the destination countries must be attracting and pulling the children to go.

Subsequently, in his presentation, the Research and Policy Development Advisor came out with some solutions on how to fight human trafficking. He called them the Stop Factors of Human Trafficking. These include:

addressing the pull factors; agro-allied intervention; monitoring and censoring and sensitization.

He concluded by enjoining all other regional or national bodies to be called upon and be brought on board to fight this scourge that is deeply rampaging our societies globally.

