



**Empowering Children Against Human
Trafficking:
A Call to Protect Our Future**



Introduction:

Human Trafficking or Trafficking in Persons is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of human trafficking.

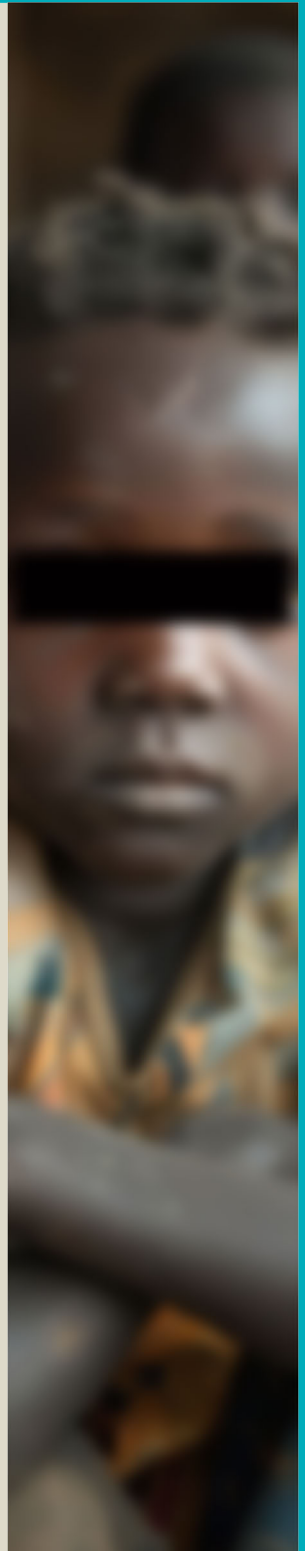
Child trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, and exploitation of children through force, fraud, or coercion for profit. Child trafficking is a devastating crime that steals the childhoods of boys and girls, forcing them into labour sexual exploitation and abuse. This brochure is designed to help children both in and out of school understand the realities of child trafficking, dispel myths surrounding it, and recognize their vital role in the fight against human trafficking. It also emphasizes the need for united efforts to combat this grave violation of children's rights.

Children represent 27% of all human trafficking victims globally, with two out of every three child victims being girls. According to UNODC, children as young as six are forced to work extensive hours in dangerous settings in quarries, mines and factories, while others toil in extreme weather and inhumane conditions on plantations and fishing boats or work, without pay, as domestic servants. Some are sexually abused in brothels, bars, private homes and online or forced into marriage while others are forced to fight in conflicts.

These trafficked and exploited children are held in slave-like conditions without enough food, shelter or clothing, and are often severely abused and cut off from all contact with their families. The most vulnerable children, particularly refugees and migrants, are often preyed upon and their hopes for an education, a better job or a better life in a new country.

Children are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking for several reasons, including poverty, lack of access to education, humanitarian crises, or the lack of support networks. Natural disasters, such as droughts and armed conflicts force children to flee their homes often unaccompanied by or, at times, separated from parents or guardians.

¹ <https://www.unodc.org/>





Child Trafficking in Zambia:

Zambia is a source, transit and destination country for different forms of human trafficking. In Zambia, traffickers exploit women and children from rural areas in cities in domestic servitude or forced labour in agriculture, textile production, mining, construction, street vending, small businesses such as bakeries, and forced begging. Traffickers also sell addictive substances to children experiencing homelessness, which increases their vulnerability to trafficking and abuse.

Due to the cultural acceptance of children engaging in domestic work, physical and sexual abuse and exploitation in forced labour is rampant and often not identified. Extended families and trusted family acquaintances facilitate trafficking, including children in domestic servitude. Zambian children from Central Province and Malawian children escaping domestic servitude or other forms of forced labour in Lusaka are recruited by traffickers with the promise of employment but are forced to beg or engage in street vending. Traffickers are also known to exploit Zambians, including children, from rural areas in Western Province in forced labour on cattle farms and domestic servitude in Namibia.

Notably, 70% of identified victims are women and girls, and 50% of trafficking victims are children, underlining the urgency of addressing this issue. Shockingly, 85% of trafficking cases in Zambia involve forced labour, while 15% involve sexual exploitation.

²<https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/zambia/>

³<https://ourrescue.org/>

Dispelling Myths Surrounding Child Trafficking:

Myths	Facts
Traffickers target children they do not know.	Children are often trafficked by individuals they know, such as friends, relatives, or family members.
Child trafficking solely involves sex or prostitution.	Child trafficking encompasses various forms of exploitation, including forced labour, domestic servitude, organ trafficking, debt bondage, recruitment of child soldiers, and sex trafficking.
Child trafficking always involves crossing borders.	Child trafficking does not necessitate movement across borders; it can occur within a child's own home or community.
Child victims are physically unable to leave or held against their will.	Trafficking can involve force, but child victims can also be controlled through threats, coercion, or deception, isolating them from their support networks



2024 Global Theme:

Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking:

Children, both in and out of school, must be actively involved in the fight against Trafficking in Persons (TIP). Their participation is crucial due to the disproportionate impact of trafficking on their demographic. They can play a key role in raising awareness, advocating for their rights, and providing insights into prevention strategies that resonate with their peers. Below are some of the ways in which children can participate in the fight against child trafficking:

- 1. Peer Education:** Children can educate their peers about the dangers of human trafficking, how to recognize potential threats, and where to seek help.
- 2. Art and Media Campaigns:** Children can express their understanding of human trafficking through art, music, and writing, raising awareness in their communities and schools.
- 3. Community Engagement:** Children can engage with local authorities, schools, and community groups to organize events, workshops, and discussions on human trafficking prevention.
- 4. Support Networks:** Children can establish support networks within their schools to provide a safe space for peers to share concerns and seek guidance.



Call to Action

In order to strengthen the fight against human trafficking, the following actions should be considered by all stakeholders;

- ! **Coordination and systems strengthening:** It is imperative to strengthen the fight against child trafficking through coordinated efforts. This includes bolstering child protection systems, implementing child-sensitive justice mechanisms, and addressing online child exploitation.
- ! **Community Involvement:** Communities should play an active role in preventing human trafficking by being vigilant and report any suspected cases of trafficking to law enforce agencies.
- ! **Enforcement and implementation of laws:** All actors should foster implementation and enforcement of relevant laws to prevent and respond to human trafficking.

Conclusion

The fight against child trafficking demands a united front, with children playing a pivotal role in shaping solutions that safeguard their rights and well-being. Let us stand together to protect our children and leave no child behind in the relentless pursuit to eradicate human trafficking in all its forms in Zambia.



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