

Human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children in a Southern and South African context

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Human trafficking in South Africa is a serious problem which needs intervention on all fronts. This article seeks to extend the understanding of the different forms of exploitation which women and children are exposed to in the trafficking chain.

The results of the research clearly indicate that South Africa is a source, transit and destination country for trafficked women and children. The study identified a number of trafficking flows in the intercontinental trafficking of women and children to and from South Africa from the rest of the Continent of Africa, as well as domestic trafficking. Trafficking of South Africans out of South Africa was found to be less problematic and only a few cases were reported.

The research confirmed that, as it occurs in most countries, women are mainly the victims of human trafficking in South Africa, with the main purpose of sexual exploitation. Young girls are also trafficked for sexual exploitation. Women and children are trafficked into domestic servitude, forced labour or debt bondage. These women are also used in criminal activities like drug smuggling, begging, trafficking for the removal of body parts (or muti) and for sacrifice in rituals.

INTRODUCTION

According to Lee (2007:1), human trafficking involves a variety of crimes and abusers associated with the recruitment, movement and sale of people into a range of exploitative situations around the world. The issue of trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children, is not a new social problem in Southern Africa, and the roots thereof are spread over many years. The trafficking of women and children has become a world-wide industry that “employs” millions of people and has an annual turnover of billions of rands/dollars per year (Bakirci 2009:1).

Human trafficking is seen as a form of modern day slavery (Mtyala 2008:1). Human traffickers have created a new form of slavery more than 200 years after the end of the transatlantic slave trade. Though people believe that slavery was stopped at the end of the Civil War, this is simply not true. The trafficking of women and children is a huge but silent problem that exists in almost all countries and endangers the lives of everyone involved. There are still millions of people who live in bondage in all parts of the world, a majority of whom are women and children, who make up the backbone of society. The trafficking in human beings continued to occur even after the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, developed in the 1940’s, stated that all human beings without distinction of any kind should be free from slavery (Fowler, Che & Fowler 2010:1345).

South Africa has been identified by law enforcement agencies such as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and research institutions such as the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) as one of the countries in Southern Africa that is a key destination and, to a lesser extent, a country of origin and transit for women and children trafficked both to and from Africa and globally (Human Science Research Council Project. Tsireledzani 2010:1). A combination of geographical, economical and social conditions makes South Africa susceptible to both international trafficking and trafficking within its national borders. Little was known about the scope and characteristics of women and child trafficking in either South or Southern Africa, prior to the late 1990’s (Laczko & Gramegna 2005:8).

Human trafficking in the twenty first century has retained some of the core aspects of previous forms of servitude and human trade while also adapting to meet changing economic, cultural and political realities (Picarelli 2007:45).

Realities like increased unemployment, poverty, food shortages, child sex tourism, famines and the HIV-epidemic prepares a market for the trafficking of women and children. Cultural beliefs for example that “muti”, made from human tissue or body parts, is highly effective medicine which can be used to solve any problem and creates an opportunity for traffickers to exploit this belief to generate

money. There is also a belief amongst certain cultures that sex with a virgin can prevent or even cure HIV. In order to ensure that the girl is a virgin, the victim is usually very young, sometimes even a baby or toddler. Political realities like political instability, wars, conflict and a general surge for power provides a favourable breeding ground for migration, which again is coupled with realities mentioned above like unemployment, poverty and food shortages. These conditions then provides the ideal opportunities to traffickers to traffick women and children.

DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

Trafficking

The term trafficking is similar to the definition approved and recommended by the South African Law Reform Commission and adapted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill 2009:7) and states that:

“Trafficking includes the recruitment, sale, supply, procurement, transportation, transfer, harbouring, disposal or receipt of persons for the adoption of a child facilitated or secured through legal or illegal means, within or across the borders of the Republic –

- a) by means of the use of threat, force, intimidation or other forms of coercion, abduction, kidnapping, fraud, deception, debt bondage, abuse of power or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of authority over another person; or
- b) by abusing vulnerability”.

In a broader sense children or women have been trafficked if they have been moved from within a country, crossing borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of their exploitation.

Exploitation

The concept exploitation in a human trafficking sense as embodied in the United Nations definition of human trafficking “shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (Article 3 of the Supplementary Protocol to Suppress, Prevent and Punish Trafficking in persons, especially Women and Children 2000).

For purposes of this article exploitation will mean any directed act exploiting or victimising a person who has been trafficked. These actions have self-gain as common ground.

Research problem

Research undertaken on women and child trafficking and specifically the different forms of exploitation to which they are exposed was hampered by the following aspects:

- Although the sexual exploitation of women and children is well documented, limited data is available on other forms of exploitation like the trafficking of people for body parts and sacrificing cults.
- There are no comprehensive studies or investigations done which explore the extent and nature to which forms of exploitation victims of trafficking are exposed.
- The extent to which women and children are exploited remains unclear due to the clandestine and underground nature of the phenomenon.
- Most of South Africa's neighbouring states like Zimbabwe, Angola and Swaziland did not respond on the request to assist and to supply information on human trafficking and forms of exploitation.
- With the exception of Mozambique, South Africa and the neighbouring states included in the research, do not have legislation that would create a statutory offence of trafficking in persons. This makes it difficult to trace cases in human trafficking and to identify victims.
- It is difficult to get hold of victims of human trafficking because children are increasingly trafficked by their parents.

Research Rationale

Very little has been written about human trafficking and the different forms of exploitation in Southern Africa and no attention has been given to a collaborative approach in identifying the victims of the crime. The author's motivation to investigate human trafficking as a serious crime issue was based on the following facts:

- An eagerness as criminologist to expose the forms of exploitation to which victims of trafficking are exposed with the aim to develop a theoretical framework which could help to identify and assist victims.
- Absence of a collaborative approach in assisting victims which were exploited by a process of human trafficking.
- Existence of fragmented information on the forms of exploitation for instance trafficking for human sacrifices, muti, pornography and other forms.

Research methodology

Research involves the collection of data by means of various methods and techniques. The nature of the study was explorative and descriptive. It addresses the different forms of exploitation suffered by victims of trafficking.

Data was gathered by means of two processes namely: Firstly a multidisciplinary literature search was launched on different electronic data-bases for instance:

Science Direct (www.sciencedirect.com), and Sabinet (www.sabinet.co.za). Other electronic data-bases include Independent Online (www.iol.co.za); South African Government Information (www.info.gov.za); US Department of State (www.state.gov); news paper reports (www.nes24.com) and South Africa Info (www.southafrica.info).

Information was obtained by contacting and corresponding with The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); The International Organisation for Migration, Non Government Organisations (NGO's) Molo Songololo, Government Organisations, the Department of Home Affairs of South Africa and its neighbouring states and several experts in the field of human trafficking, Prof Carol Allais, Research leader and Managing Editor of Project Tsireledzani: understanding the dimensions of human trafficking in Southern Africa.

Research delimitation

Geographically, the research was confined to South Africa and its neighbouring states including Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland.

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES

Southern Africa is host to a diverse range of human trafficking activities, from the global operations of Chinese triad groups and Russian "Mafia", to the local trade in persons across land borders perpetrated by local syndicates (International Organisation for Migration 2003:6). The Southern region's young women and children are especially vulnerable to the recruitment tactics of traffickers because civil unrest in Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique and economic deprivation leave them with few opportunities at home, and make migration a national and common solution (International Organisation for Migration 2003:6).

Intra country and intra regional trafficking is a significant problem in South and Southern Africa. Victims of trafficking are also found

further and further from their home countries, indicating that international trafficking is on the rise. The rise and spread of international trafficking is linked to the growth of transnational organised crime groups due to the advanced new infrastructure and technologies associated with globalisation. If globalisation can be characterised as the free movement of capital, goods and services across the world, aided by advanced systems of communication and transportation, human traffickers can, and certainly do, corrupt these systems to aid the movement of people across borders (Turner & Kelly 2008:188).

THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The trafficking of women and children to South Africa from within the continent presents a more varied scenario. Trafficking takes place predominantly across the geographical borders of the country. The country's extensive and unpatrolled borders provide ideal opportunities for traffickers to enter South Africa undetected (Human Science Research Council Project. Tsireledzani 2010:15 and 198).

The major countries of origin for trafficking through Africa are those immediately adjacent to South Africa, with the primary ones being Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho are also amongst other African countries where victims are trafficked from. Women and children are trafficked through the Lebombo/ Komatipoort border (Mozambique), and the Swaziland border areas. Zimbabwean and Malawian children are trafficked through the Musina/Messina border. Young girls are trafficked through the Lesotho border post at Maseru and then on to Bloemfontein. Destination points include Johannesburg, Cape Town and farms within Mpumalanga Province. Barberton in Mpumalanga has been identified as conduct for young girls trafficked from Swaziland by illegal miners (Human Science Research Council Project. Tsireledzani 2010:15).

Longer distance trafficking documented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Pretoria involves victims trafficked from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Rwanda, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria and Somalia. In many of these cases a single victim was recorded. (Human Science Research Council Media briefs 2010:1). Cases assisted by the International Organisation for Migration in Pretoria since 2004 were all women, trafficked

for purposes of both sexual and labour exploitation. However, men and boys were also trafficked from neighbouring countries and from more distant Sub-Saharan countries (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010:15)

THE INTERNAL OR DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA

The largest movement of trafficked women and children in South Africa has been from rural areas to cities. Provincial 'hotspots' for trafficking activities within the various provinces have been identified as Gauteng – Pretoria and Johannesburg; North West – Rustenburg; Free State – Bloemfontein, the South Africa Lesotho Maseru border; KwaZulu-Natal – Durban and harbour, Western Cape – Cape Town and harbour.

Although the trafficking of people for exploitative purposes has taken place for centuries it has now come to the forefront of international policy and research agendas. A variety of types of trafficking has been identified in the trafficking stream from South Africa's neighbouring state and other African countries. Young children, particularly girls, appear to make up a large component of these streams.

INTERCONTINENTAL TRAFFICKING (TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM OUTSIDE OF AFRICA)

South Africa is a destination country for long-distance flows for people (mainly women) trafficked from Thailand, Philippines, India, China, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Ukraine (Human Science Research Council Media briefs 2010:1). The main point of entry of these trafficking streams is OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg.

Human trafficking in the twenty first century has retained some of the core aspects of previous forms of servitude and human trade while also adapting to meet changing economical, cultural and political realities (Picarelli 2007:45). Human trafficking involves a variety of crimes and abuses associated with the recruitment, movement and sale of people into a range of exploitation situations (Lee 2007:1).

Women and young girls are trafficked for the following forms of exploitation namely sexual exploitation including prostitution and pornography, domestic servitude, forced labour, and begging, criminal activity (including drug

traffickers) and trafficking for the removal of body parts (or muti) and for sacrifice in rituals (Human Science Research Council Project. Tsireledzani 2010:19). Each one of these forms of exploitation will now be discussed.

DIFFERENT FORMS OF EXPLOITATION TO WHICH WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Women and child trafficking for purpose of sexual exploitation

The sexual exploitation of women and children is by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking (79%) (UNODC 2009:6). Trafficking for sexual exploitation is relatively well documented in South Africa, and has emerged as an issue of globalisation. In South and Southern Africa it is facilitated by porous borders, deprivation and advanced communication technologies. In a research project titled *Trafficking of children for purposes of sexual exploitation* Molo Songololo (2005:12) found that children are vulnerable to sexual exploitation because of economic inequalities, migration and urbanisation, family disintegration, poverty, lack of affective social welfare support, lack of effective safety and protection services, sexual abuse, high levels of domestic violence and increase demand for sex with children. It is thus clear that the factors which could contribute to the vulnerability of children in exploitation situation are diverse in nature. The victims of sex trafficking are enslaved often under threat of death, assault, or by the use of drugs (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010:150). Without their consent, they are forced to provide sex for pay. The payment goes directly to the traffickers. Traffickers often convince women to go abroad and work as prostitutes, seemingly of their own free will, but then enslave and brutalise them. In life they are nothing more than modern day slaves.

There is an immense diversity of trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in Southern Africa. Victims are African, Asian and European, from urban and rural backgrounds, some with high levels of education and others with little. They are predominantly female, although where children are targeted specifically, boys are also among these recruited. They include Basotho children as young as 12 and refugee women as old as 44 (International Organisation for Migration 2003:123). South African women and children

are trafficked into sex industries in European countries. The extended destinations are the Netherlands, United Kingdom and beyond. Women and children are trafficked to Europe (Italy, Germany, Spain, France, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands for commercial sex exploitation (Adepoju 2004:44).

With regard to the sexual exploitation of people the International Organisation for Migration Regional Office for South Africa has found in its investigation in Africa the following distinct patterns of trafficking in women and children (International Organisation for Migration 2003:123).

- Trafficking of women from refugee-producing countries to South Africa.
- Trafficking of children from Lesotho to towns in the Eastern Free State of South Africa.
- Trafficking of women and girls from Mozambique to Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.
- Trafficking of women from Malawi to Northern Europe.
- Trafficking of girl and boy children from Malawi to Northern Europe.
- Trafficking of women and girls from Malawi to South Africa overland.
- Trafficking of women from Thailand to South Africa.
- Trafficking of women from China to South Africa.
- Trafficking of Eastern European women to South Africa.

From the investigation it became evident that sex trafficking victims could be forced into the following exploitive situations, namely forced prostitution, (like street prostitutes, escort agencies, brothels, hotel brothels, prostitution on trucking routes, harbours and private homes of traffickers) pornography, stripping/exotic dancing, mail order brides and massage parlours.

In Southern Africa, trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation is neither perpetrated by a single group, nor are its victims from a single country or territory. It is a cross border trade that succeeds because vulnerable women and children may be found anywhere and everywhere. According to the Human Science Research Council (2010:148), respondents identified criminal elements like the Russia Mafia, Bulgarian crime syndicates, Nigerians as well as individual South African and Bulgarian agents as the traffickers.

Investigation into the flows of trafficking shows that it is a cross-border trade that succeeds because vulnerable women and children may be found anywhere and everywhere, and because of the expedient cooperation of recruitment, transporters and exploiters (International Organisation for Migration 2003:124).

The scope and magnitude of women and children trafficked from and to Southern Africa remains unknown. According to Justice Pias Langa (2008:1) at least 28 000 children have been trafficked to South African cities for purposes of sexual exploitation (Independent Online Human Trafficking 'modern day slavery' 2008:1). The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (2003) estimates that 1 000 Mozambican women and children are trafficked to South Africa each year for sexual exploitation (Martin 2010:3). Zimbabwean and Malawian women and girls are trafficked to Mozambique for sexual exploitation (US Department of State 2008:1).

Forced prostitution

The most common form of sexual exploitation in South Africa seems to be forced prostitution. The scope or magnitude of women and children forced in prostitution remain unclear. No official available data exists on how many women and children are trafficked into South Africa for the purpose of sexual exploitation in general and into forced prostitution in particular.

An investigation into the phenomenon and reports by research projects, for example Human Science Research Council (Project Tsireledzani 2010) and the IOM's Seduction Sale and Slavery: Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in South Africa (2003), however, revealed that victims who were drawn or forced into prostitution originate from a wide range of nationalities. It is evident that women and children from our neighbouring states like Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland and Angola are trafficked into South Africa for purpose of forced prostitution.

In Cape Town it was found that children as young as seven years old have been trafficked into the area from a wide range of countries from the Africa continent to include Zambia, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Human Science Research Council Project: Tsireledzani 2010:150).

Women and children in forced prostitution are

controlled by criminal syndicates (reportedly of Nigerian nationality) operating in South Africa. Several tactics are used to control victims like:

- A dependency on narcotics is created.
- Often threatened and sexually raped to create fear for fleeing.
- A debt bondage of anywhere from 60-70,000 ZAR depending on the value traffickers place on the victims.
- Seizure of passports.
- Guarding victims by means of guards and dogs to create fear.
- The creation of the perception that criminal syndicates have close links with the police which mitigates the risk of victims reporting their perspective cases to law enforcement.
- Threatening victims, their families and family members.

The profile of twelve (12) victims which were identified by the Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani (2010:23) indicated that ten (10) were female and two (2) were men, 6 came from Mozambique, 2 from Swaziland, 1 from Zimbabwe and 3 from South Africa. The ages of the victims range from 7-19 years and the average age of the victims is 13, 4 years. From these twelve (12) cases, five (5) were forced into sex work.

Pornography

Pornography is defined as material that is “predominantly sexually explicit and intended primarily for the purpose of sexual arousal”. Pornography may use any of a variety of media, ranging from books, magazines, postcards, photo's, sculptures, drawings, paintings, animation, sound recording, films, videos or video games and television. (Anderson 2010:1).

According to Anderson (2010:1-2) pornography can be classified into five types: The first type is adult magazines (like Playboy and Penthouse). The other four types are video cassettes, motion pictures, television and audio porn.

Lots of pornography features trafficked women and teenagers. The pornography business justifies the buying and selling of women and young girls (Rice 2011:1). According to Lara Janson, a former porn star, trafficking victims are forced to watch porn and initiate it as a form of training.

Rice (2011:1) however indicates that pornography has become the foundation to the human trafficking business. South Africa is a transit zone for international child pornography

(South Africa Coalition against Trafficking of Crime 2011:1). Data on people who been trafficked and exposed or forced into pornography is scarce. According to the HSRC Project Tsireledzani (2010:215) young Lesotho girls between the ages 17-21 years were exploited for purposes of pornography. Traffickers have recently extended the destination of children to the European Union, especially the Netherlands, United Kingdom and beyond. Women and children are trafficked to Europe (Italy, Germany, Spain, France, Sweden, United Kingdom and the Netherlands) for sexual exploitation and pornography (Molo Songololo 2005:17). The forms of pornography to which victims were exposed to were not indicated. The scope and magnitude of the phenomenon also remains unknown.

The legal status of pornography varies widely from country to country. Most countries allow at least some form of pornography. In some countries soft core pornography is sold but hard core pornography is usually regulated. The production, sale and possession of child pornography is illegal in most countries. Children in South Africa are protected by means of certain legislation against pornography. The Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act, No 32 of 2007, makes special provision for addressing offences relating to sexual exploitation or grooming, exposure to or display of child pornography or pornography to children and the creation of child pornography. Other acts which also could be used to combat trafficking, are the Children's Act No 38 of 2005, specifically chapters 17 and 18, which address child abduction and the trafficking in children, Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, and the Films and Publications Amendment Act, No 3 of 2009.

Brothels and massage parlours

The exploitation of women and girls in brothels and massage parlours could be seen as an extension of the forced prostitution practice. Brothels are controlled by syndicates and brothel owners. According to Project Tsireledzani (2010:215) a number of brothels using Mozambican women have been identified in Komatipoort. Zimbabwean women and children are also trafficked for sexual exploitation and they are also used in brothels along the country's border with Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010: 169).

Research by the Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani (2010:214) has discovered the trafficking of Thai women to South Africa by Thai women who were previously trafficked to South Africa themselves and now have their own brothels. In the case of Thai victims, the trafficking network appears to be extensive. Brothel owners are able to place 'orders' for women who are then trafficked into the country. Thai women are trafficked to South Africa with employment offers in massage parlours but are then forced to become prostitutes in brothels (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010:18). Women and girls from the Philippines, India, China, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and the Ukraine are of the victims trafficked to South Africa and exploited by means of prostitution in brothels and massage parlours. South African children are also trafficked to European countries. For example, the London-based newspaper, *The Observer*, reported in February 2001 that under-aged South African children were being used in brothels in London (Molo Songololo 2005:22).

Domestic servitude

Women and children in domestic servitude may well be the most vulnerable and exploited people as well as the most difficult to protect. From the research conducted by Molo Songololo it became clear that women and children from Africa have been trafficked into South Africa for domestic servitude. The largest movement of trafficked women and children for domestic servitude in South Africa is internally, from rural areas to cities. Children have also been trafficked within provinces. An investigation by Molo Songololo (2005:43) into "Trafficking in Children in the Western Cape Province", indicated that children are especially trafficked from the Western Cape and from the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and in some instances from Limpopo into domestic servitude.

The internal or domestic trafficking, as well as cross border trafficking of women and children in some of South Africa's neighbouring states, are also prevalent. In Botswana many Batswana households employ Zimbabwean women as domestic workers, often without proper work permits or the adequate payment of wages. Children engaged in work as domestics in towns or shepherds at remote cattle posts were also identified (U.S. Department of State 2008:2).

In Lesotho women and girls have been internally trafficked for domestic servitudes.

(U.S. Department of State 2008:8). In Namibia there is evidence that small numbers of Namibian children are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude. There have also been a few reported cases of Zambian and Angolan children trafficked to Namibia for domestic servitude (U.S. Department of State 2008:8). In Swaziland anecdotal evidence indicates that Swazi girls, particularly orphans, are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude in the cities of Mbabane and Manzini, as well as to South Africa for the same purpose (U.S. Department of State 2008:11).

Women and girls, often with promises of employment or education, are trafficked from rural to urban areas of Mozambique, as well as to South Africa for domestic servitude. Research by the US State Department has found that Mozambicans often labour for months in South Africa without pay and under coercive conditions before their exploiters have them arrested and deported as illegal immigrants (U.S. Annual Report: Mozambique 2008:1).

According to the US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report (2009:204) South African women are trafficked to Europe and the Middle East for domestic servitude. Nigerian syndicates are moving trafficked women from South Africa to the United States for African clients in that country.

The extent and scope of women and children drawn into domestic servitude in South Africa and Southern Africa remain unknown. It is prevalent that women and children are trafficked internally, intra-regional and inter-continently for purpose of domestic servitude. Internal or domestic trafficking for domestic servitude were found in countries like South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique (U.S. Department of State 2008:16). Domestic servitude and particularly the involvement of children is a serious problem which needs intervention.

Trafficking for forced and bonded labour in Southern Africa

Forced labour is defined as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself/herself voluntarily (International Labour Organization Convention Concerning Forced Labour (No 29) article 2.1. South Africa ratified this Convention on 5 March 1997.

There is a general concern that trafficking for forced labour is less frequently detected and

reported than trafficking for sexual exploitation. Prostitution (whether forced or voluntary) involves the general public because it must be visible - taking place in streets, bars or public spaces in urban areas – to attract potential clients. Conversely, most of the victims of forced labour often work in hidden locations, such as agricultural fields in rural areas, mining camps and garment factories or within the closed environment of a house in the case of domestic servitude. As a consequence, the detection of victims of trafficking for forced labour is less probable than the identification of victims of trafficking for forced prostitution (UNODC 2009:51).

There are numerous forms of labour trafficking like: agriculture/farm labour, factory work/“sweat shops”, domestic servitude/ house-keeping/nannies, construction, food services, entertainment/ modelling/peddling (Bakirci 2009:163).

According to the US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Annual Report 2008:1, Mozambique is a source and, to a much lesser extent, a destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labour. The use of force and bonded child labourers is a common practice in Mozambique's rural areas, often with the complicity of family members. Young men and boys are trafficked to South Africa for farm work and mining. Small numbers of Mozambican children are reportedly trafficked to Zambia for agricultural labour, while adult women are trafficked to Portugal for forced labour.

The real extent and scope of forced labour in Southern Africa is hampered by insufficient knowledge, lack of resources to investigate the problem and very little official data or analytical research.

Debt bondage versus women and child exploitation

Debt bondage can be described as the practice of lending money or services to a person or people in exchange for their labour or services should the debt not be paid (Fowler, Che & Fowler 2010:1347).

Debt bondage could be seen as a tool used by exploiters to get hold of women and children. It is probably the least known form of labour trafficking today, and yet it is the most widely used method of enslaving people.

Debt bondage usually occurs when traffickers assist women in travelling, making illegal

border crossings, and finding employment, often in the form of commercial sex work, domestic servitude and farm labour. Trafficked women and children are then required to “work off” the debt they own for the services provided.

For the victims of trafficking, debts are held over them as long as possible. The cost of transporting the victims, their food and shelter will be increased by traffickers through high interest and false accounting (Fowler, Che & Fowler 2010:1347). In situations of debt bondage, women become virtual prisoners, as they are unable to ever earn back the amount purportedly owed to the traffickers. Trafficked women are prevented from escaping their situation through debt bondage as well as retention of travel documents, violence and threats of violence against themselves or their families (Advocates for Human Rights 2010:10).

Debt bondage is usually placed on the victims trafficked for sexual exploitation. It appears that the amount of the debt bondage varies according to the nationality/ethnic group of the victim. Whereas debt bondage may be 100,000 ZAR for Thai Victims, debt bondage for African women is far less than women from Thailand, Russia and the Ukraine. Debt bondage can range from as little as 2500-5000 ZAR for black women, 5000-7500 ZAR for coloured women and 7500-12000 ZAR for white women (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010:218).

Trafficking for ritualistic killings and satanic cults

Ritual murders have been reported in many African countries including the Southern Africa region. Victims are the poor, those who have no voice or defence, or the strength to defend themselves (British Broadcast Corporation News Africa 2010:1).

Very little is known in South Africa about the linkage between ritualistic killings, practiced by satanic cults and human traffickers. The Human Science Research Council (2010:16) however comments that interviews with key informants, reveal a belief that satanic cults operate within all areas of South Africa. According to these respondents, who were former members of satanic cults within South Africa, these cults are very well connected and can be very dangerous. These cults seem to have significant financial resources and their members are usually white and include both men and women. They are

often affluent members of society, including doctors, lawyers and business people. Krugersdorp in the Gauteng province was identified as the main centre for the operation of satanic cults in South Africa (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010:153).

Where satanic rituals require human sacrifice, children are usually sacrificed. Respondents involved in Project Tsireledzani (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010:16) believe that victims are either recruited by cult members or purchased from criminal syndicates that specialise in human trafficking. Nigerians seem to be mostly involved in these practices. Alternatively, satanic cults will kidnap victims often from rural areas. Street children and prostitutes are also targets because they are less likely to be missed or reported to the police. It also became clear that if the ritualistic killing requires a man, they will target gay men in bars and sedate them through the use of drugs, as it is more difficult to kidnap men directly from the street due to the level of resistance (Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani 2010: 20). Information obtained at this stage is clearly cursory and preliminary, but indicates an urgent need for further investigation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MUTI KILLINGS

Historically the people of Southern Africa used Traditional Healers (TH) to aid them in terms of health and to help them improve their life situation in various ways (Ward and Makotsi 2009:1). Access to Government Services and Western medicine remains low in many areas, and the use of TH is widespread and for many it remains a first choice. TH has developed many remedies using herbs and plants which alleviate patients' problems. According to Ward and Mokotsi (2009:2) the World Health Organisation (WHO) called for an integration of traditional medicine into the national health care system and also wanted to promote the proper use of traditional medicine by developing and providing international standards, technical guidelines and methodologies. In the WHO definition of traditional medicine, the use of human body parts is not considered part of traditional medicine. Rather, the use of body parts can be considered witchcraft and a harmful traditional practice. In practice the term witchdoctor and Traditional Healer is something used interchangeably. "Witchcraft" typically refers to malevolent or harmful magic (Ward &

Makotsi 2009:2)

"Muti murder" refers to the killing with the purpose of harvesting body parts for use as traditional medicine or "muti". South Africa is currently witnessing an "epidemic" of occult-related violent crime (Vincent 2008:1). Muti killings is a way of life in some rural areas in Southern Africa. According to Bailey (2010:1) one in five people in South Africa's rural areas has had first-hand experience of a human body part being trafficked after a muti killing. The trafficking of body parts between Mozambique and South Africa is a well known practice, and was verified by research undertaken by the Human Rights League in Mozambique and supported by Childline in South Africa (Baily 2010:1). According to Simon Fellows (2008:8), project manager of the Human Rights League in Mozambique, there was a demand in South Africa for body parts and a supply from Mozambique. However, it is unclear if there is a demand in Mozambique too because the checks at the South African borders going to Mozambique are far more superior.

A recent NGO report found that human trafficking of Mozambican children and adults for the forcible removal of body parts is significant, so-called witchdoctors in Mozambique and South Africa seek various body parts of live victims for traditional medical concoctions commonly purchase to heal illness, foster economic prosperity, or hurt enemies (US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2009:1).

Research by the Human Rights League in Mozambique (Mogakane 2009:2) found that it is a commonly held belief in South Africa and Mozambique that traditional medicine, when made with body parts, is stronger and more powerful than herbal medicine. Body parts that are usually harvested are male genitals, female genital organs, breasts, hearts, fingers, tongues, ears, eyes, hands, legs, lungs, guts, skin, arms, jaws and lips. The real extent and scope of trafficking in body parts remains unclear. The dealing in and trafficking of human body parts however is not human trafficking. Human trafficking requires that a person be moved within a country, across borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of exploitation. Victims are humiliated and killed frequently. Investigation and research done by the Human Science Research Council Project Tsireledzani and the Human Rights League of Mozambique could not confirm that women and children are trafficked internally or domestically or inter-

continentally for the harvesting of body parts. They confirmed however that body parts are trafficked in such ways.

CONCLUSION

It is inconceivable that in modern times, women and children can be held captive against their will and be physically, sexually and psychologically exploited. However, this takes place every day in the lives of women and children who have been trafficked. Human trafficking and the exploitation of people know no boundaries. Victims of this criminal activity can be of either gender, any age or any nationality. In Southern Africa as elsewhere in the world women and children are the targets for trafficking and exploitation.

The ultimate objective of human trafficking is the exploitation of victims. The exploitation of women and children is a huge but silent problem that exists in all the neighbouring countries of South Africa. The clandestine nature of the criminal activity and the lack of comprehensive data makes it very difficult to discover the real scope and magnitude of the problem but also prevents a precise count of the number of people victimised by the industry each year.

Research into the different forms of exploitation which women and children are exposed to revealed that sexual exploitation and domestic servitude are the two most commonly forms of exploitation in South Africa and its neighbouring states. Women and young girls are trafficked inter-regional for some forms of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. Forced labour seems also prevalent in some countries.

The internal or domestic trafficking of women and children from rural areas to cities for sexual exploitation seems to be a large problem. Intercontinental trafficking of women and children from outside of Africa was discovered with Mozambican women and girls prominently. Intercontinental trafficking of women and girls from several countries and nationalities were also prominent. It became clear that there is an immense diversity of trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in South Africa. The most common form of sexual exploitation seems to be forced prostitution. The sexual exploitation of trafficked women and children in pornography and brothels is not well documented. Although it was mentioned by HSRC (2010), little information exists on the real scope and nature of these acts.

Some other forms of exploitation associated with human trafficking are ritualistic killings and satanic cults and muti killings. Ritual killings are reported in many African countries including the Southern African region. Very little is known in South Africa about the linkage between ritualistic killings practiced by satanic cults and human trafficking. Children are usually sacrificed but it still remains unclear if they are recruited, kidnapped or trafficked.

“Muti murder” where people are killed for the harvesting of body parts for use in traditional medicine or “muti” is prevalent in South Africa as well as Mozambique. The trafficking of body parts between these two countries occurs frequently. It remains unclear if people are trafficked and then killed to harvest body parts. Data on these practices is cursory and preliminary and relies on hearsay, but also indicates an urgent need for further investigation.

Insufficient data exists to provide a comprehensive portrait of the exploitation of women and children in Southern Africa. This, however, highlights the urgent need for more research, new statistical methods and centralised record keeping on human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institution of a formal victim identification mechanism to distinguish trafficking victims amongst undocumented immigrants.
- Development and employment of national procedures for victim protection, extended to the victims of sex trafficking.
- Compilation of national statistics on the number of trafficking cases prosecuted and victims assisted.
- Continuation to seek active participation from NGO's on anti-trafficking efforts and assistance to victims of trafficking.
- The government must provide regular funding and other supportive services to a wide range of NGO programs that service the needs of victims of trafficking.
- Enactment of legislation that creates trafficking in persons as a statutory offence (The Prevention and Combating in Persons Bill) so that traffickers could be punished and victims protected.
- Addressing inter-related economic factors like poverty, unemployment and disempowerment so that the most vulnerable such as women and children be protected from

- falling prey to traffickers.
- Border fences between South Africa and neighbouring countries should be reinstalled and border control and the patrolling of borders must be sharpened.
- Border officials and policemen must be trained and informed how to look out for trafficking women, children and traffickers.
- A national collaborative approach between Government and Private Organisations to assist victims of human trafficking will be essential.
- Enough shelters should be established to assist the victims of human trafficking.
- Communities and households must be informed about the negative effects of human trafficking and the consequences it holds for victims.

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