

2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Theme

Child Trafficking:
Effects and Consequences

Conference Communiqué

Communiqué issued at the end of the National Association of Women Judges, Nigeria (NAWJN) conference 2009 held at Asaba between 23rd - 24th October, 2009.

Communiqué presented at the 2009 Annual General Conference of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJN), with the theme “Child Trafficking; its effect and consequences” held at Grand Hotel Convention centre and resort, Asaba, Delta State on 23rd-24th October, 2009 and after deliberations on the various topics of the Conference;

WHEREAS trafficking in persons has continued to be prevalent throughout Nigeria and that though men and women are its victims, children are the most affected;

WHEREAS trafficking in persons is the most rewarding illegal activity put at par with drug trafficking and arms smuggling;

WHEREAS poverty is the root cause of trafficking in women and children amongst other causes;

WHEREAS trafficking in women and children entails grave physical, mental and psychological health consequences for women and children;

WHEREAS there are adequate statutes criminalizing trafficking but perpetrators are still very much with us;

NOW members of the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) hereby resolve as follows:-

- A. That Judges are to play a dual role i.e. personal and official, in combating trafficking in women and children. In their personal capacities Judges should;
 - i. Rehabilitate victims of trafficking;
 - ii. Orientate persons and relations within their immediate environment to enable them fight trafficking in women and children;In their official capacities, Judges are to be pro-active in interpretation of laws dealing with trafficking especially by imposing stiff penalties to serve as deterrent to perpetrators
- B. That trial of cases of trafficking be conducted in camera to protect witnesses and victims of trafficking;
- C. That the Association of Women Judges should partner with likeminded organizations e.g. FIDA, UNICEF, NGOS and Nigerian Foreign Missions to fight the scourge;

- D. That there is the need for training of prosecutors (police and law officers of the state) in order to enhance their capacity to effectively prosecute trafficking cases as a species of organized crime;
- E. That such assets including monies seized is to be applied in the rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking;
- F. That there is need for Witness Protection Laws in Nigeria

In conclusion, the Association calls on all arms of governments in the Federation, State and Local governments to urgently take steps to improve and enhance the living standards of Nigerians by providing the basic and essential social amenities, invest in the education and development of youths as future leaders of tomorrow; and create opportunities for employment of the teeming mass of unemployed educated youths without jobs.

The Association expresses its deep appreciation to all those who contributed in one way or the other to the success of its conference. Its appreciation goes to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Delta State, Prof. Amos A. Utuama SAN. Her Excellency, the First Lady of Delta State, Mrs. Roli S. Uduaghan, the Chief Judge of Enugu State , Hon. Justice I.A. Umezulike (OFR), the Delta State Executive Council, the resource persons, DAVNOTCH Nig Ltd., and others too numerous to mention