**FORUM:** General Assembly

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to Minimize Cases of Human Trafficking in Zimbabwe

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Iraq

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** South Africa, Ethiopia, Italy, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Algeria, New Zealand, Laos, Czech Republic

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Aware of the fact that* the act of human trafficking is defined to be an illegitimate subjugation of a person and that these abuses of the rights have deprived the freedom of citizens to be treated humanely,

*Fully aware of* the deteriorating socio-economic status, including high poverty and inequality, persistent inflation, slow structural transformation, and intermittent shocks,

*Acknowledging that* the inhumanity of the abuse and the violent and destructive nature of the crime has caused a deprivation in humanitarian assistance,

*Noting* *with concern* that human trafficking affects various regions, it was estimated that 11.7 million people are exploited in Asia, 3.7 million in Africa, 1.6 million in Europe, and 3.4 million in other areas, serving as a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children who are predominantly subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor,

*Noting* that the female and young population are more vulnerable to exploitation for both labor and commercial sex due to unequal socio-economic status,

*Alarmed* that the illiteracy rate in Zimbabwe is estimated as 89.7% of the adult population in 2021,

*Expressing concern* about the corruption of the Zimbabwe government, which scored 23 out of 100 in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index, ranking 157th of 180 countries, hindering economic growth and justice,

*Aware of* the long-lasting psychological effects that victims have after human trafficking: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD), and anxiety disorder,

*Affirming* the role of governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector in combating human trafficking,

*Noting that* there are 25 million people exploited in Zimbabwe annually, with its rate growing exponentially from 30,000 to nearly 120,000 between 2008 and 2019,

*Bearing in mind* that some Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) around the world still use human trafficking and other forms of illegal action to develop economy,

*Stressing the existence of* the Trafficking in Persons (TiP) National Plan of Action (NAPLAC) and the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC) in order to implement its obligations under the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish any sort of illegitimate means of control,

*Further addressing* the implementation of the 2023-2028 National Plan of Action, addressed by the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC), which was approved by the Cabinet government and partially resourced,

*Reaffirms* that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, states: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,

*Reaffirming* that this human trafficking crisis needs to be resolved as soon as possible to avoid more citizens going through physical, mental, or sexual violence and stress,

1. Strongly suggests all citizens, member states, and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to spread awareness to the public to educate and to address the prevention of human trafficking both nationally and internationally, since human trafficking is a severe crime that should be recognized seriously, through ways such as but not limited to:
2. Informing citizens in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) that has access to technology more often, through online mediums such as Social Network services (SNS) to efficiently target worldwide users to be aware, through ways such as:
3. Requests nations to post social media card news which shows the risks and signs of human trafficking in Zimbabwe on official government account,
4. Creating videos that showcase the severity of human trafficking happening in Zimbabwe to aware people around the world effectively,
5. Proclaiming current situations in various websites such as The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), International Justice Mission, including governmental websites to evoke people’s awareness across the globe,
6. Informing citizens in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), who do not have access to utilize advanced technologies through offline promotions such as but not limited to:
7. Holding offline exhibitions about human trafficking cases among the national community platforms during the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair and Zimbabwe Agricultural Society (ZAS),
8. Conducting campaigns which focus on raising public awareness in higher and tertiary institutions during school events,
9. Encouraging other developed countries to support non-profit human rights organization (NGO) such as United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children, World Vision etc. that can increase the awareness such as but not limited to:
10. Supporting them by providing spaces to perform a campaign about saving people who have already been subjected to human trafficking,
11. Cooperating with non-profit human rights organization to create advertisements that shows risks and signs of human trafficking,
12. Mobilizing communities to prevent and combat human trafficking in Zimbabwe, particularly in the context of education promoting inclusivity, and community development globally, explicitly about the topic of human trafficking, in ways such as:
13. Integrate age-appropriate human trafficking education into the national curriculum, ensuring that students receive relevant knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to trafficking situations,
14. Developing curriculum modules on human trafficking awareness by creating educational materials that address the root causes and consequences of human trafficking,
15. Conducting awareness campaigns to educate students, parents, and teachers about the dangers of human trafficking and the importance of reporting suspicious activities,
16. Collaborating with government agencies to integrate anti-trafficking measures to advocate for the inclusion of human trafficking prevention in official education guidelines,
17. Establishing partnerships with relevant organizations for curriculum enhancement to collaborate with NGOs and anti-trafficking organizations to develop and refine educational materials,
18. Establishing public libraries with the help of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNICEF to commit to harnessing unique resources;
19. Urges the Zimbabwean government and other member states to further attempt to enhance the nation’s security as a way to reduce crime rates in the nation, through ways such as but not limited to:
20. Requesting the Zimbabwean National Police and Fire team to cooperate through retraining, to develop and improve protocols and strategies for human rights, abuse prevention and recovery, in which will focus on:
21. Collecting biometric evidence,
22. Installing surveillance cameras,
23. Verifying authenticity devices,
24. Creating a border patrol, in order to minimize human trafficking coming into or out of Zimbabwe to prevent illicit trade of people and to better monitor visitors’ identity through means such as:
25. Cooperating with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to assist Zimbabwe by enhancing the border security system and educate officials to follow strict and reliable security procedures,
26. Cooperating with the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC) to combat and prevent bribery in both border and court in order to create a non-corrupted government,
27. Improving on existing human trafficking tracing systems, in order to increase victim identification and protection efforts, by enhancing the system and expediting the processing of trafficking cases in courts in order to better inform government anti-trafficking efforts and address the significant number of backlogged cases, through ways such as:
28. Detailed information regarding the data of human trafficking trends and the increase rate of human trafficking criminals,
29. Personal identity documents with information regarding name, age, citizenship, as well as date of performing a human trafficking act,
30. Periodically updating information;
31. Encourages nations and Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) to provide comprehensive and effective support towards Zimbabwean citizens, as well as migrants, as in finding ways enhancing the nation’s security and ensuring safety to citizens, by creating referral and assistance system for victims that protect human rights revictimization, and lives from a potential of human trafficking, through ways including as, but not limited to:
32. Providing immediate protection and strengthening measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation on victims to assist them with physical, psychological and social recovery through ways such as but not limited to:
33. Establishing appropriate temporary shelters and providing basic necessities such as water and food, for identified trafficking victims and provides assistance such as renovating existing shelters and construct new shelters,
34. Recruit and train shelter management staff,
35. Establishing medical treatment, family reunification and reintegration assistance, counseling, and income-generating assistance,
36. Offering counseling services and training sessions on vocational skills and livelihood for victims of trafficking,
37. Providing training sessions for the survivors on vocational skills and livelihood,
38. Providing temporary financial support for victims until they are economically stable,
39. Supporting fundamental education for the women and children who are vulnerable to human trafficking,
40. Providing financial support to establish mechanisms for the identification of trafficking victims, making sure that front-line responders are trained to recognize signs of trafficking and to take victim-centered approach through ways such as but not limited to:
41. Training labor inspectors to carry out initial investigation in suspected forced labor cases,
42. Training prosecutors and judiciary officials to always take victim-centered approach and conduct a fair trial;

1. Urges Member States to strengthen, implement, and consistently enforce anti-trafficking laws, as well as strong regulations, ensuring that all forms of trafficking including sex trafficking and forced labor are criminalized and that penalties for perpetrators are sufficiently severe to serve as a deterrent, through ways such as but not limited to:
2. Encouraging member states and the United Nations (UN) to abolish and change Zimbabwe’s current Labor Relations Amendment Act that criminalized forced labor and prescribed penalties of up to two years’ imprisonment, in which serves to be not sufficiently stringent, into laws that follow the following rubric:
3. Member states should review and enhance their legal frameworks to explicitly criminalize all forms of human trafficking, including but not limited to sex trafficking, forced labor, domestic servitude, and child exploitation, the definitions within these laws should be precise, encompassing all methods and means of trafficking, and reflecting international standers,
4. Member states should ensure that the penalties for individuals engaged in human trafficking are not only severe but also proportional to the gravity of the crime, considering the different forms and scales of trafficking, these penalties should serve as a strong deterrent, and a clear message that trafficking will not be tolerated,
5. Member states are encouraged to take a victim-centered approach in the enforcement of anti-trafficking laws. This includes prioritizing the identification and protection of victims, providing them with legal assistance and support, and avoiding criminalization or prosecution of trafficked individuals for offenses committed as a direct result of their trafficking situation,
6. Legislating new laws or strengthening the existing laws on traffickers with imprisonment, to reinforce legislation and fortify prosecutions based on the three conditions listed in the 2000 UN TIP Protocol with the following means:
	* 1. act (i.e., recruitment),
		2. means (i.e., through the use of force or deception),
		3. purpose (i.e., for the purpose of forced labor);
7. Encouraging all nations to develop and enact National laws on an anti-trafficking law aligning with the 2000 UN TIP Protocol are covered by legislation, in order to criminalize all forms of trafficking, which states “The consent of a victim of trafficking in person shall be irrelevant” and regulations should be enforced through ways such as but not limited to:
8. Recalling the 2000 UN protocol tip, amend current policies of penalty to extend the length of imprisonment of perpetrators,
9. Increase the length of imprisonment of human trafficking from 2 years to more than five years,
10. Imposing more severe fine and imprisonment for those that are criminally accountable,
11. Develop and publish the 2019 draft of the Trafficking in Persons Act Amendment Bill,
12. Establish mutual legal assistance treaties and other agreements to facilitate the collection and sharing of information with foreign governments through ways including but not limited to:
13. Setting guidelines and certain requirements that businesses and commercials should follow before arresting criminals,
14. Being enforced such as setting penalties if not following the treaties;
15. Requests member states to hold biannual conferences cooperating with the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC), which discusses topics of reducing the cases of human trafficking, treaties for traffickers, and treatments of victims in Zimbabwe in such ways but not limited to:
	1. Discusses specific topics for the prevention and protection of human trafficking, in order to prevent revictimization such as but not limited to:
		1. Implementing the protocols to prevent and suppress the trafficking in person, which will be the legal instrument to combat trafficking,
		2. Current socio-economic situation including inflammation and low productivity in various industries that cause the high rate of human trafficking of Zimbabwe,
		3. Restricting replication of travel or identity document,
		4. Preventing and addressing sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives and to support international children support activities,
	2. Recruiting NGOs to the conference for the presentation of statistics and analysis of the economic and social situation of Zimbabwe for technical support, recognition of issues, and generating solutions, such as but not limited to:
		1. International Labor for Organization (ILO),
		2. Ministry of Public Service Labor and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW),
		3. Ministry of Information Publicity and Broadcasting Services (Moi PBS);
16. Asks for clear and specific approaches for the prevention of revictimization and cooperation of human trafficking to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons such as sex trafficking and forced labor by:
	1. Strengthen security and control of documents which can be vulnerable to human trafficking such as but not limited to:
		1. To ensure that travel or identity documents issued by it are of such quality that they cannot easily be misused and cannot readily be falsified or unlawfully altered, replicated or issued,
		2. Institutionalize immigration rules applied by immigration officers to potential victims of human trafficking,
	2. Requesting nations to increase the gender equality for especially women and children who are vulnerable to human trafficking in such ways but not limited to:
		1. Recommending Zimbabwe’s government to cooperate with NGOs like Save the Children, Doctors without Borders, World Vision to support direct services project about safety planning, counseling and medical advocacy,
		2. Confirming strong law enforcement about gender equality to prevent human trafficking happening in Zimbabwe, such as encouraging National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE) help women to be a female officer and grasp the opportunity to achieve these leadership;