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**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FORUM MEETING MINUTES**

**29TH AUGUST 2018**

**BELLVILLE SOUTH Library**

**9:30-11:30**

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**PRESENT:** Miemie Kristoffel (Belhar youth), Veronica Geduld (VRCID), Jacque Pietersen (VRCID), Nyameka Mzama (PPG), Khanyisa Nkala (PPG), Ghairunisa Johnstone-Cassiem (Mustadafin), Ameena Jumat (Mustadafin), Jessica Dewhurst (Justice Desk), Danielle Mutserwa (Justice Desk), Kayla Britten (Justice Desk), Alois Aloo (SOS), Ellen Morta (HARAMBEE), Colleen Brookes-Gain (WCSCF)

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| |  | | --- | | **APOLOGIES**: Janice King (WCSCF), Bobby Chetty (PAL), Watson Moyana (Adonis Musati Projects), Catherine de Valance | |

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1. **WELCOME &** I**NTRODUCTION**: Colleen welcomed everyone and introductions went around the room. Each delegate gave a brief description of their organisation.
2. **MEETING TOPIC: HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SA**

**Guest Speaker: Jessica, from The JUSTICE DESK**

**What is their mission?**

* **To ​advocate, educate and equip in the area of Human Rights, Justice and Advocacy for all!** 
  + Many people still don’t know about or have access to their fundamental Human Rights?
  + We believe that by empowering ordinary people to understand and defend their Human Rights, they can transform society and create a more just and equal world.
  + The Justice Desk makes resources accessible to people around the globe. In order to achieve this, they develop and offer Education, training, bridging and advocacy initiatives across South-central Africa.
  + We also work alongside civil society, NGOs, businesses, and governments to challenge and eliminate the root causes of injustice.
  + Since 2013, they have directly impacted the lives of over 20,600 people by working with vulnerable communities in order to empower them with the knowledge and skills needed to identify their challenges, and lead their own positive change. Teaching young people to solve their problems at root level.
  + They empower people in the community to run their own community projects as they believe that a community knows its needs better than an outsider. They resource and assist for sustainability and are currently in Nyanga, Khayalitsha , Bonteheuewel, Bishop Lavis and Ottery.
  + They are lobbying to get rid of “Tampon Tax” as girls in communities still can’t afford sanitary ware.
  + The Justice Desk's *Human Trafficking Month* works towards raising awareness about Human Trafficking in South Central Africa and across the globe. The campaign also focuses on creating opportunities for schools to be engaged in advocating against this grotesque human rights violation.  If your school or group would like to take part in this campaign, email their Edu Coordinator on [info@justicedesk.org](mailto:info@justicedesk.org). Each participating group will receive a complimentary information pack with activity breakdowns, resources and links. Please note that although this campaign usually runs through September, participants are welcome to use the campaign at any time that suits them.

**The Justice Desk will continue to voice their strong disapproval of the growing number of reported human trafficking cases by hosting an annual awareness month every September.** [**www.justicedesk.org**](http://www.justicedesk.org)

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

* **Human trafficking has been going on for a very long time, but is only recently getting the attention it warrants.**
* **About 10 -30 million people are being trafficked globally.**
* **Human trafficking is a global multimillion industry and Metro Cities are target areas of trafficking.**
* Human trafficking is a ‘low risk’, very profitable crime. It’s the 3rd biggest business in the world next to drugs and guns and is fast eclipsing drugs.
* **Today, there are more slaves than during the normally considered ‘time of slavery’.**
* The trafficking of men, women and children is a real issue in South Africa, and across the world. It can be happening as close as next door without your knowledge.
* It is a tragic reality that a child goes missing in South Africa **every 6 hours**. In the past 10 years, 900 of these South African children have yet to be found.
* You can be sold SOLD from as little as R10.00 to R10 000.
* Out of the 196 countries in the world, 136 have criminalized human trafficking. **However, there are few prosecutions, making it a crime with little deterrent. In that regard, the law will use the term “kidnapping” or any other charges to bring these traffickers to book.**

WHAT EXACTLY IS Human Trafficking?

**Human trafficking is:** “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threats or use of force or coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

**Human trafficking has three core components – the ‘act’, the ‘means’, and the ‘purpose’.**

* **The ‘act**’ refers to the way in which the person is recruited or moved.
* **The ‘means’** is the coercion used to carry out the recruitment or movement, and includes deception. This could be when someone decides to makes a trip to take up a job, which doesn’t actually exist.

#### All three of these components must be present in a case of human trafficking, a form of modern slavery. There is one exception.

* Finally, the ‘purpose’ refers to the **motivation** of the trafficker, the way in which they are seeking to exploit the victim.

#### This could be for:

#### For sexual exploitation where getting you addicted to drugs is first priority/ and being raped repeatedly in the first 24hrs to break you down completely.

#### Forced marriages **- there’s a documentary done in 2014 in the Eas**tern Cape** about girls aged 14 who soon as they have had their first period a.re forced into marriage with elderly men.**

#### Forced labor on farms

#### Child soldiers

#### Even for their organs (muti)****.****

In the case of children, human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and/or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. Only the ‘act’ and the ‘purpose’ are included on account of children’s vulnerability

**Human trafficking is different from “people smuggling”.** Smugglers transport people so that they can reach a destination, usually illegally and for a fee. Sometimes a person pays to be smuggled but finds on arrival, that they have been **trafficked into exploitation.**

**Cape Town has access to rail, air, and sea** travel and is thus a perfect point of entry, or exit or residence. People are brought down from other provinces or other African countries and housed in Cape Town and since Cape Town is the furthest that they can go……people are then trafficked to other countries. There are also people trafficked into forced domestic labour from other provinces or rural places.

**WHAT MAKES PEOPLE VULNERABLE TO TRAFFICKING?**

* Desperate for work - People don’t do their research **when looking for work, like googling the address and researching the company who had placing the advert. (If it sounds too good to be true…..then it’s exactly that.)**
* Seeking love partners on the internet, etc.
* People trusting too easily.
* People not looking out for one another.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO? HOW CAN WE MAKE OURSELVES AS SMART AS THE TRAFFICKERS?**

* **Create awareness in your street and community.**
* **It’s important that vulnerable children and street children have knowledge of HT as it can save them from abductions.**
* **Don’t engage with strangers on the internet/ Facebook**
* **Two young ladies raised HT awareness by knocking at each door in their community and leaving them with a slip of paper with a cell number on to message if they suspected human trafficking was taking place. Over two weeks messages came in to warrant an investigation and a human trafficking ring operating in their community was uncovered.**
* **A school also raised awareness and it was instrumental in saving a learner and other young people from other areas from being trafficked.**

**Don’t stay silent - Report suspicious behaviour:**

**Call the TOLLFREE HUMAN TRAFFICKLING HOTLINE NUMBER 0800 222 777**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

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| **SIGNS of TRAFFICKING**:  **Evidence of being controlled:** the person is accompanied by a controlling person, and does not speak on their own behalf.  **The person is transported to or from work;** lives and works at the same place and is rarely allowed in public.  **Lack of control over personal schedule:**  the person is not able to move freely or leave a job. For example a woman who works 24/7, sees an important number of clients and has no time for themselves.  **Lack of control over money**: the person is not able to keep the money earned. It is “withheld for safe-keeping”. Most of the time, the person owes debts to the employer.  **The person recently arrived in the country**: they often don't speak the language, or only knows sex related words in English.  **Fear, depression and overly submissive behaviour:** the person is frightened to talk to outsiders and authorities as a result of threats.  **Poor health:** Sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain and traumas, urinary difficulties, pregnancy resulting from rape and prostitution, infertility from chronic untreated STDs and unsafe abortions. Malnutrition and serious dental problems.  **Bruises, scars and other signs of physical abuse and torture**: although, sex trafficked victims are often beaten in areas that won't damage their appearance, like their lower back.  **Substance abuse problems or addictions**: the person is often coerced into drug use by her traffickers or turn to substance abuse to help cope with her dreadful situation.  **ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS**:  **KEY QUESTIONS**: - What type of work do you do? Are you getting paid to do your job? Do you actually receive payment or is your money being held for you? Can you come and go as you please? Are you supervised when you are in public places? How do you feel about the police? Have you been threatened if you try to leave? Have you or your family been threatened? Have you been physically harmed in anyway? Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care? Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom? Are there any locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out? Has your identification or documentation been taken from you? Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?  **BE AWARE**: - Many victims have a strong sense of distrust, and often do not speak the language of the country. Before questioning a person who may be a victim of sex trafficking, try to separate the person from the individual accompanying her/ him. This individual could be the trafficker, acting as spouse or any other family member. - Evidences of possible “Stockholm” syndrome where kidnapped victims, over time, become sympathetic to their captors.,  **In the case of CHILD sex trafficking:** LOOK FOR (in addition to the above):   * Child who does not trust adults * Child who is afraid of being deported by authorities * Child who seems to have an inappropriate behaviour towards male adults * Child who has a cell phone despite a lack of other basic belongings * Child who travels alone or with a group of children accompanied by one adult who seems to guard them.   **ASK QUESTIONS**, making sure that the child is approached in a manner that reflects his/her age, development, culture, and language. - Why did you come to (country’s name)? - Do you have any papers? Who has them? - Are you in school? Are you working? Can you leave if you want? Where do you live? Who else lives there? Are you scared to leave? - Has anybody ever threatened you or your family, to keep you from running away?  **Sourced 0800222777**.org.za |

1. **Other Matters:** None
2. **Next meeting: 27th September 2018 – 9:30-11:30**

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