



AFRUCA – AFRICANS UNITE AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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AFRUCA WELCOMES SIGNING OF ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING PACT BY UK AND NIGERIAN GOVERNMENTS

AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse has welcome the recent signing of a bilateral agreement by the governments of Nigeria and the UK to combat human trafficking.

The pact signifies both countries' intention to work together to frustrate the efforts of traffickers who smuggle Nigerian women and children into the UK for forced labour and prostitution.

In her reaction to the pact signing, Debbie Ariyo, AFRUCA Director, commended both countries for taking the significant step to combat the trafficking of Nigerian children.

She said: "AFRUCA is a strong advocate of increased collaboration between the UK and African countries in terms of combating child trafficking. We strongly believe that more could be achieved if there was better joint working between source countries as Nigeria and destination countries as the UK".

She further said: "Despite the signing of the pact, we at AFRUCA are still very much saddened by the state of affairs on child trafficking in the UK. We are concerned that no government department is willing to take policy responsibility for the subject, despite the seriousness it deserves. We are alarmed at the high rate of victims who are being deported because of the claim by the Home Office that there is no proof of persecution when they are returned home as young adults, even when we know this is not the case. We are worried that victims of trafficking continue to be seen as immigration concerns and not as child victims. We equally deplore the lack of safeguards to protect victims at risk of re-trafficking".

"Ultimately, the work to combat child trafficking is not just a matter for both governments. More should be done to support charitable organisations who play a key role in the fight against trafficking and exploitation. Collaborative work is also required here in the UK between the government and other agencies, not just between the UK and other countries", she added.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse is an organisation concerned about cruelty against the African child. Our aim is to promote the welfare of African children in the UK and in Africa.
2. For further information about our work visit our website at www.afruca.org
3. For further inquiries and interviews contact

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