



Press Release

29 April 2008

British Airways and the Treatment of Deportees

The recent brouhaha generated by the treatment of deportees on British Airways flights (The Independent 12, 26 April 2008) is a cause for concern for us at AFRUCA. This is because the issues are more far reaching than is being reported. Not all deportees come to Europe of their own free will. Many of these young people have been trafficked to Europe against their will and are being deported after many years of being in the country illegally.

For this reason, it is about time we put pressure on European governments to stop the dehumanisation of deportees many of whom are victims of human trafficking. Many of these young people whose lives have been blighted through their experiences of trafficking for different purposes including domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and forced labour, who spent many years being exploited and abused are also deported by governments across Europe as failed asylum seekers. Their terrible experiences, the failure by governments to recognise their plight and the subsequent inhuman and degrading mode of deportation is evident of a system that dehumanises people without any consideration given to their personal circumstances.

AFRUCA campaigns against the trafficking of children and young people. We are appalled by the treatment metted out to victims who really need to be protected and assisted by governments to overcome

their terrible experiences. That BA will allow such inhuman practices on its flights is evidence that it does not care about the plight of the vulnerable and is complicit in the ill treatment of victims of human trafficking.

For this reason, as an organisation, we will never again fly BA in the course of our work. We will actively encourage our all our supporters and friends to boycott BA and will continue to do so until BA changes its policy of allowing the inhuman treatment of victims and other deportees on its flights.

Note to Editors

1. AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse is the charity promoting the rights and welfare of African children in the UK.
2. visit [www. Afruca.org](http://www.Afruca.org) for further details about the organization