



Trafficking of African Children to the UK: The New Slavery

A community meeting

Thursday 25th February 2010

6:30-8:30 PM

Attlee Suite in Portcullis House

House of Common, Westminster SW1A

About AFRUCA

AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse is a leading charity promoting the rights and welfare of African children in the UK. We are the only UK based charity working exclusively to support young victims of trafficking from Africa.

The Issue

The trafficking of African children has become a major problem in the UK. Various agencies working with victims, including AFRUCA, are concerned about the growing numbers who are being trafficked from different parts of the continent to the UK to be exploited as sex slaves and for forced labour, especially domestic servitude. Between April and December 2009 alone, over 200 Africans were referred by charities and others as victims of trafficking to the UK Human Trafficking Centre. Many of them are children from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and other countries. We are very sure this figure is a tip of the iceberg and that many other children are still in different exploitative situations waiting to be rescued.

Child Trafficking is a multi-billion dollar high crime and sadly most of the perpetrators are Africans themselves. Traffickers use a combination of coercion and deception to lure parents and their children: false promises of a good education or a good job and a better life in the UK. The increasing use of juju and oath taking rituals to coerce and subjugate victims of trafficking is another dimension in this despicable trade in children.

This community meeting will explore the growing problem of the trafficking of children from Africa

and the role of the African community in addressing it. It will identify the steps that different members of the community can and should take to safeguard victims and prevent abuse.

The Speakers:

- Event Chair : Emily Thornberry MP for Islington South and Finsbury
- Nick Kinsella, Chief Executive, UK Human Trafficking Centre
- Debbie Ariyo, Executive Director AFRUCA
- Priscillia Nyathi, Executive Director Girls Child Network International
- Andy Desmond, Detective Constable, Metropolitan Police Service Human Trafficking Team
- Dr. Rose Nwanna, Director Refocus Youth Limited, UK

To Register

We are expecting a lot of interest in this crucial event. To register for a place and for further information please contact: Cherifa Atoussi, Anti-Child Trafficking Officer, AFRUCA on Tel: 0844 660 8607 Email: cherifa@afruca.org. Registration will be on a first come first serve basis.

For further information about AFRUCA, please visit our website at www.afruca.org.