



SANTAC

Southern Africa Network against Trafficking and Abuse of Children

Press Statement on the First Regional Referral System Meeting

1. Introduction/Justification

During the Civil Society Regional Conference on Trafficking and Abuse of Children, held in March this year by SANTAC and under the auspices of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Madam Graça Machel, the around 130 participants, among representatives of civil society, government and its partners, noted that despite the efforts and initiatives already in place, are still required concerted and coordinated actions to prevent the trafficking of children in the countries of origin, and to protect the victims of exploitation in the countries of transit and destination. According to various studies by members of SANTAC and other national and regional organizations, all the countries of the SADC serve as points of origin, transit or destination, while South Africa is the first and primary destination. However, so far no member state of SADC adopted a law against trafficking, although nearly all have ratified the Palermo Protocol.

Members of SANTAC and other organizations involved in field work (both against the provision as against the demand) have reported that the lack of legislation not only legitimizes and facilitates action networks of traffickers but, also, legitimizes the criminalization of victims, usually addressed under illegal immigration tools, in destination or transit countries. Thus, at demand side, civil society organizations have been limited to proceed with actions of identification and rescue of victims from their captivities or from the places where they are exploited. When denounced by communities, perpetrators, even when become under police custody, are rarely sentenced with the gravity that deserves a typified crime like a human trafficking, particularly in children, allegedly due to the absence of a law.

2. Objectives

In order to fulfill the needs of its members and other civil society organizations who aims to strengthen, consolidate and build powerful networks to advocate their governments for the adoption of a law against human trafficking in various countries of SADC area, SANTAC is launching its "Regional Referral System" project, by December 2007. This project aims, also, to facilitate the communication and build synergies to give visibility to victims under exploitation in the demand countries.

Also, it is estimated that with the above socio-political environment, aggravated by the constant family income deterioration, and by the military and social conflicts in some countries of the southern African region, could increase the vulnerability of children to human trafficking in the context of the FIFA football World Cup that will take place in South Africa, by 2010. This meeting is an

opportunity for a primary reflection of SANTAC and its strategic partners to prevent sexual exploitation of children in the context of this event.

3. Specific objectives:

- A) Introduction to the project for establishment and strengthening of a regional system of reference for prevention and victim support in the countries of SADC;
- B) Identification and establishment of strategic partnerships at national, regional and international levels to prevent sexual exploitation of children during the FIFA football world cup in 2010;
- C) Add Synergies for a joint action to lobby and advocate SADC governments for adoption of legislation against human trafficking before the realization of FIFA World Cup.
- D) Release of the project of the Conference of Civil Society to assess the social impact of the crown of 2010 on children, especially in southern Africa, and for identification of strategic preventive actions at local, national and regional levels;
- E) Analysis of the roles that each participating institution can play in the project of regional referral system and in the context of the football world cup in 2010.

4. Date and venue

After a consultation with its partners, SANTAC has agreed with them to establish 7th December as the date for the workshop, at Girassol Bahia Hotel, in Maputo, Mozambique.

5. Participants:

Mozambican Government, Save the Children Alliance, Terre des Homes Germany, Terre des Homes Italy, Unicef, FDC, IOM, Plan International, Child helpline, UNODC, SABA (Southern African Broadcasting Association), SANTAC members, Nelson Mandela Foundation, EU, UK High Commission, Norwegian and USA embassies in Maputo, with interviews to local, national, regional and International Press.

Nr	Name	Organization	Country
1	Marija Nikolouska	IOM	JHB, SA
2	Joan Van Niekerks	Child Helpline S. A.	JHB, SA
3	?	UNICEF (Pretoria)	JHB, SA
4	?	Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF)	JHB, SA
5	Zithabile	ZITHABILE	JHB, SA
6	Patrick Solomon	Eye of the Child	Cape Town, SA
7	Aziza Throne	SANTAC	PTA, SA
8	Daniel Sikhonza	Amazing Grace	Mpumalanga, SA
9	Carol Bews	JHB Child Welfare/SANTAC	JHB, SA
10	Maxwell Matewere	Eye of the Child	Blantyre, Malawi
11	Merab Kiremire	MAPODE/Zambia	Windhoek, Namibia

12	Simon Fellows	Save the Children Norway	Mozambique
13	Ivo Santela	TdH -Italy	Mozambique
14	Margarida Guitunga	SANTAC	Mozambique
15	Rafa Machava	Rede Came	Mozambique
16	Silvio Macamo	SANTAC secretariat	Mozambique
17	Lea Boaventura	TdH Germany	Mozambique
18	Dr. Marta Cumbi	FDC	Mozambique
19	Dr. Félix Mulhanga	Tdh-Germany	Mozambique
20	Nelly Chimedza	IOM	Mozambique
21		UNICEF	Mozambique
22	Anne Betha	Embassy of Norway	Mozambique
23	Francisca Sales	Government	Mozambique
24	Carlos Manjate	Rede Came	Mozambique
25	Jennifer Constantine	European Union	Mozambique
26	Dr. Amelia Fernanda	Rede da Crianca	Mozambique
27	Leonel Miranda	US Embassy	Mozambique
28	Lily Chauque	UK High Commission	Mozambique
29	Anne Betha	Embassy of Norway	Mozambique

DRAFT AGENDA

5th December 2007 -----arrival of Malawian, South African board members

6th December 2007.....Board meeting and arrival of Cape Town, Pretoria, Namibia/Zambia and Kenya participants

7thDecember 2007:

Chairmen : Nelly Chimedza (IOM Maputo) and Carol Bews (SANTAC Gauteng)

8/8.15H.....	Registration	
8.15/8.30H.....	Introduction	
8.30/8.35H.....	Welcome and objectives by Maxwell Matewere (Malawi)	Maxwell Matewere (Malwi)
9.00/9.10.....	Regional referral System By Margarida Guitunga	By Margarida Guitunga
9.10/9.30.....	Lessons from the World Cup 2006 and a role to Play by 2010 W.CUP	By Marija Nikolouska (IOM)
9.30/9.45.....	WW project on World	By Lea Boaventura (Tdh-Germany)
9.45/10.00	Coffee break	
10.00/10.20.....	World Cup Conference	By Aziza Throne -Santac
10.20/10.45	Rapid assessment on the	By Merab Kiremire –

	World Cup social Impact	(SANTAC)
10.45/ 1115.....	Discussions	
11.15 / 12.30	Working Groups	
12.30./ 12.45	Plenary Session:	
Save the Children Tdh- Italy and Germany UNICEF Plan International Child HelpLine South Africa Mandela Foundation IOM	10 Minutes each	
13.00/13.15	Closing remarks	Patrick Solomon - SANTAC
13.30	Lunch	Regina Arouca -SANTAC
14.30/15.30	Departure to the airport	Sílvia and Regina