



SPEECH

BY THE

***SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION
MR BOSS MUSTAPHA***

***TO MARK
THE WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING***

AT

TUESDAY, 31ST JULY, 2018

**SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION, BOSS
MUSTAPHA, ON THE OCASSION TO MARK THE WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN
TRAFFICKING, 31ST JULY, 2018**

PROTOCOLS,

It is an honor and pleasure for me today to address this gathering as Nigeria joins the rest of the world to mark the World Day Against Human Trafficking. The theme of this year's day-celebration **Responding to the trafficking of Children and young people-** is apt.

2. The objective of this day is to remind ourselves that a global crime requires a global effort to fight it effectively. We are all gathered as allies in the global fight for human life and dignity, regardless of the differences in our mandate, nationalities or religion. The fight against human trafficking is indeed an enormous fight and a difficult struggle.

3. The United Nations Organization has set aside today as the **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**, to raise awareness, encourage vigilance and gain support for the prevention of human trafficking. Furthermore, it is intended to mobilize nations around the world to move from promise to action and make good on solemn vows to reduce the factors that exacerbate vulnerability of persons, enhance

capacity to improve the lives of victims and combat the pervasive crime of human trafficking. This government has a deep understanding of the clear and present danger that human trafficking posits to human security in Nigeria. As we witness the sad tales filtering in about Nigerians who have found themselves in some regions in Africa and in Europe, we can no longer think about our economies, societies or cultures without thinking about human mobility.

4. As a result of the global economic, political, and humanitarian crisis in some parts of the world particularly, Africa, migration has been on the rise thereby making it increasingly easy for traffickers to lure potential victims.

5. The current trend is the migration of young qualified people due to unemployment and lack of opportunities caused by economic crisis in developing countries like ours. This complexity is reflected in the composition of the migration flow of a diversity of economic migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied migrant children as was gleaned from the recent evacuees from Libya. The factors pushing migrants to leave and those pulling migrants towards particular destinations are also more complex and interlinked.

Time has therefore come for the European Community to invest in discouraging the demand in the Sex industry through the adoption of the Nordic Model as currently in practice in Sweden, France, Norway, Iceland etc.

6. The rights of individual must be upheld regardless of where they are in the world through existing laws. Human Rights protection and dignity of victims is a necessary aspect of good migration governance. It is important to incorporate a victim centered and rights-based approach in assisting and protecting vulnerable victims who have been trafficked, exploited or abused.

7. The Government of President Muhammadu Buhari expects that state parties even beyond those who are signatories to the United Nation Conventions against transnational organized crime must effectively demonstrate political will to defend and enforce the principle of this convention and to the letter. Criminal groups have wasted no time in embracing today's globalized economy and the sophisticated technology that goes with it while our efforts to combat the menace of human trafficking remain to be modernized and lacking in collective political will.

8. Efforts to ensure that victims are protected through law enforcement and judicial processes need to be strengthened and measures related to their protection expanded thereby ensuring that they are not further harmed or re – victimized while the perpetrators are brought to book. This was the reason Nigeria enacted the law against human trafficking and has since then re-enacted same to increase the penalty and to target the assets traceable to the crime of human trafficking.

9. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, combating human trafficking is not possible without sustainable cooperation with all partners/stakeholders utilizing the tools available to government and the society. Slavery feeds on human misery to produce even more misery. We are therefore faced by a big, complex, self-sustaining criminal machine which must be stopped.

10. The strategy to combat this crime must work across all borders, languages, culture and religious beliefs and the need to build and expand networks across law enforcement and civil society. When we act together we become ambassadors of hope. Human traffickers will face justice no matter where they operate. We will not relent in our

efforts until we have a more humane and safer world devoid of slavery. Human and material resources should be mobilized to holistically tackle the issue of trafficking.

11. The time to value human liberty and dignity is now. Our citizens must be free to choose and not to be chosen for. This is an inalienable ingredient that makes human beings truly human. We cannot afford to do otherwise as we all have a crucial role to play.

12. I congratulate all stakeholders on this very unique and auspicious occasion and I reassure you of the genuine commitment of the Federal Government of Nigeria to the extermination of this criminal enterprise.

13. Thank you for your attention.