

AACC Statement on the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons – July 30, 2025

Theme: "Human Trafficking is an Organized Crime –End Exploitation"

Today, July 30th, we observe the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Before we proceed, let us take a moment of silence to honour the memories of those who have lost their lives in the struggle against this grave injustice. May their souls rest in peace. Amen.

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), steadfast in its commitment to addressing the critical issues of migration, trafficking in persons, and modern slavery, reiterates its unwavering dedication to combating one of the most serious and inhumane crimes of our era. Human trafficking—manifesting in various forms such as sexual exploitation, forced labour, organized begging, or the trafficking of organs—is a blatant violation of human dignity and fundamental human rights.

This year's theme, "Human Trafficking is an Organized Crime – End Exploitation," serves as a powerful reminder that this issue extends far beyond isolated incidents. It involves a complex, structured, and often transnational system characterized by well-organized criminal networks that operate with alarming impunity.

Initially, the focus on trafficking in persons was largely connected to irregular migration. However, the narrative has evolved with the introduction of Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements (BLMAs) signed between African nations and countries in the Gulf and Europe. These agreements are intended to regulate the migration process, offering benefits to both destination and origin countries. For origin countries, they provide a pathway for nationals to secure employment and ensure their protection; for destination countries, they serve to address labour shortages.

Regrettably, the reality often falls short of these intentions. Particularly, the clauses designed to prevent the exploitation and abuse of migrant workers frequently go unheeded. As a result, individuals who travel with proper documentation can still find themselves vulnerable to human trafficking upon reaching their destinations.

In light of these challenges, we must reaffirm our commitment to

- Advocate for the rights and safety of all migrants, ensuring that policies and agreements prioritize their protection and dignity;
- Ensure that effective monitoring mechanisms are in place to ensure the agreements are implemented fairly and effectively
- Strengthen prevention mechanisms through education, community awareness, and support for vulnerable populations.

- Relentlessly pursue the perpetrators of these crimes through enhanced national, regional, and international cooperation.
- Protect and support victims by providing them with appropriate medical, psychological, legal, and socioeconomic support.
- Eliminate impunity through clear legislation, effective justice, and strong political will.
- Advocate for the Africa we want to make Africa a home and a Future for the Africans.

Together, we can work towards ending the scourge of human trafficking and safeguard the rights of those most at risk.

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