



FIRST AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SANTA MARTA GROUP

GROUP WORK ACTIVITIES

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

DAY ONE

This was carried out in 4 groups. Each group was assigned a topic posed in the form of a question as follows:

Question 1: *How far can the church go in combating human trafficking?*

Answers:

- Through outreach structure
- Using Advocacy at all levels/ collaborate with community leaders
- Tasking Government to engage in the fight against trafficking through advocacy.
- Incorporating in school curriculum
- Using family live values
- Teaching Religious Education through Catechesis
- Partnership with both state and non state actors combating trafficking in persons
- Engagement of various groups within the space of the Church
- Awareness at grass root levels
- Promoting good parenting through the pulpit
- Promoting referral mechanism to inform NAPTIP/Police of traffickers thereby naming and shaming traffickers
- Educating young people on alternatives to earn a living rather than irregular migration.
- Empowering community on prevention, protection and partnership to tackle issues of trafficking

QUESTION 2: How can agencies like the Catholic Church be encouraged to generate Fund?

Answers:

- Through investments in enterprises by setting up structures like industrial hubs : farm settlements , cottage industries for youths(vulnerable and returning migrants)
- Special collections/ source for funding
- Disseminate Global compact
- Pro human resources
- Capacity Building
- Documentation on human impact.

QUESTION 3: Some have resources still not happy in their country. What kind of sensitization and awareness makes them happy?

Answers:

- Video clips on the reality of migration (Film screening)
- Counseling and Pastoral care – Government make the country conducive, work security
- Church not tired of supporting national effort
- Teaching of morals from home and school
- Virtue of contentment inscribed, educate to migrate safely.
- Lives and property be protected
- Policies that aid economic and political stability be ensured
- Training youths on mindset

QUESTION 4: How best can other religious bodies be involved in the struggle?

Answers:

- Rallies and awareness organized by different religious bodies
- Church embrace partnership; interfaith activities
- Church's primary concept of ecumenism
- Invite them in future
- Protection network for victims.
- Adapt messages over time that speaks against trafficking in persons.

The perpetrators are rebels and soldiers of foreign forces. Criminal Courts ought to prosecute the perpetrators but usually handicapped by International law.

DAY TWO

Just as in the day 1, four questions were posed to each of the groups to answer.

QUESTION 1:

HOW CAN WE HAVE EFFECTIVE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN THAT BEST PREVENT IRREGULAR MIGRATION SITUATIONS IN AFRICA?

Answers:

- Advocacy and town hall meetings , seminars, workshops with communities
- Harmonize awareness raising messages which are action oriented
- Use victims to share experiences to deter others
- Train Peer educators in schools
- Governments should return schools to the Mission
- Training teachers to talk to students on irregular migration

QUESTION 2:

TRAFFICKERS HAVE ROBUST SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER REFERRAL NETWORKS. HOW CAN THE CHURCH PROVIDE COUNTER –REFERRAL SYSTEM THAT WOULD BEST PROVIDE SAFE HAVENS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING?

Answers:

- Creating credible alternatives on social media
- Church and state need to partner more
- Data gathering on traffickers' strategies
- Training students and vulnerable groups on media education
- Training of Church personnel on how to use media to counteract traffickers
- Church should strengthen existing structures/networks

QUESTION 3:

NO ONE BODY CAN EFFECTIVELY FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ; IT TAKES THE EFFORTS OF THE CHURCH, STATE AND NON STATE ACTORS TO TACKLE THIS UGLY TREND . WHAT WAYS CAN THE CHURCH, STATE AND NON- STATE ACTORS EFFECTIVELY HARNESS THEIR EXISTING STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES?

Answers:

- Agencies in state fighting human trafficking, should be replicated in Churches / communities
- Effective collaboration to be promoted
- Joint conferences should be held
- SOPs
- Regional;/Diocesan referrals mechanisms established
- Periodic evaluation of Anti-trafficking activities

QUESTION 4:

USING THE GROW EDO INITIATIVE AS A PROTOTYPE, WHAT OTHER ALTERNATIVES CAN LEVERAGE ON TO REDUCE VULNERABLE GROUPS FROM FALLING TO TRAFFICKERS BACK IN OUR VARIOUS RELIGIOUS REGIONS?

Answers:

- Redefinition of Agro -Business
- SILC
- Impact investment
- Small loans to poor groups
- Establishment of youth centres
- Establish Agro- Business Hub
- Develop clusters and make it less expensive
- Create Market linkages for vulnerable groups