

Santa Marta Group Recommendations
2nd AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SANTA MARTA GROUP
Sensitizing Local Communities on the Dangers of Human Trafficking in Africa
Dates: 1st – 4th October 2019,
Venue: Dimesse Sisters, Karen – Nairobi – Kenya

The Santa Marta Group (SMG) is an international alliance of leaders in law enforcement and the Church from around the world working together with civil society to counter human trafficking. This is the second African Regional Conference of the Santa Marta hosted by the KCCB Commission for Refugees Migrants and Sea Fares on the theme, “Sensitizing the local communities and Government on dangers of Human Trafficking.” The 1st Conference was held in Abuja, Nigeria in November 2018.

The Nairobi conference brought together the Church, Law Enforcement Agencies, regional and international actors, and organizations that work in the areas of migration and control of human movements to reflect on our roles in addressing issues of human trafficking in Africa.

Human dignity is something that can’t be taken away from any individual. Catholic Social Teaching states that each and every person has value, are worthy of great respect and must be free from slavery, manipulation and exploitation. It stresses that human beings, created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27), have by their very existence an inherent value,

Recommendations

Pope Francis has stated, “This immense task, which requires courage, patience and perseverance, demands a joint and global effort on the part of the different actors that make up society.” At the end of the Nairobi conference the delegates proposed the following recommendations;

- Each Bishops’ Conference and diocese to create a Desk dealing with Human Trafficking in the spirit of Santa Marta.
- Bishops Conference to identify hot spots/ endemic to address three levels of human trafficking being origin, transit and destination that facilitate human trafficking
- Governments should avail adequate infrastructure that is family oriented which is women and children focused.
- Promote Safe migration in order to discourage the activities of human trafficking.
- Each Bishops’ conference to create safe houses for victims of human trafficking
- Develop programmes particular to their situations that will provide and establish means of livelihood such as agribusiness and entrepreneurship.
- The bishops’ conferences to collaborate with the law enforcement authorities, judiciary, immigration department, police forces on addressing issues of human trafficking
- The Catholic Bishops to involve other faiths in the fight against Human Trafficking
- The Catholic Bishops should help in integrating the victims of Human Trafficking and those caught in the business of prostitution.
- The Catholic Bishops to use the existing platforms such as Catechism classes, Small Christian Communities, religious retreats and gatherings to create and deepen awareness on human trafficking.
- Training on human trafficking to be included in the curriculum of the religious houses of formation, seminaries and, catechetical centers and catholic schools.
- All the commissions of the conference to create synergies and reach out to the grassroots.

- Capitalize on the annual forum that brings all the catholic principals together and sensitize them on human trafficking. To target the annual meeting for primary school head teachers too.
- Work with Embassies in addressing the issue.
- Workshops to be conducted for the clergy to understand the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) (Ref. 8.7) and its importance to our work and why the church should network with the government.
- Combine efforts with academia, civil society and state to curb Human Trafficking.
- Catholic Bishops Conferences to initiate standard operating procedures to detect misuse of the institutions by traffickers
- The Catholic Bishops Conferences to set up social desks and centers to support victims of human trafficking and open up legal referral pathways for victims.
- Lobby the Government to support centers financially and in kind that support vulnerable groups and not just to leave the burden to the institutions to support the individuals that are also referred by the different government offices.
- Create a rapport and use the systems to push the Government and other stakeholders to act.
- The Church to escalate campaigns using drama, poetry and music
- Translate the pastoral document (POHT) into local languages
- Engage county commanders to unveil and bring to light cases of human trafficking
- Engage National and regional governments to enact laws to curb human trafficking
- Strengthen networks founded in the 2nd African Regional Conference of The Santa Marta
- At the next Santa Marta Conference, each bishops conference to issue a progress report on their achievement in the fight against human trafficking.

We are stronger when we stand together. “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing.” (Edmund Burke)