

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEES ON DIASPORA AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS; JUDICIARY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL MATTERS; FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND SPECIAL DUTIES ON THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT NIGERIANS FROM TRAFFICKING, SLAVERY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN LIBYA

(OCTOBER 2026)

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON DIASPORA AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS; JUDICIARY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL MATTERS; FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND SPECIAL DUTIES ON THE *URGENT NEED TO PROTECT NIGERIANS FROM TRAFFICKING, SLAVERY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN LIBYA.*

1.0 PREAMBLE

The Senate, at its Plenary Sitting of **Tuesday, 14 October, 2025**, deliberated on a Motion, titled: ***Urgent Need to Protect Nigerians from Trafficking, Slavery and Human Rights Abuses in Libya.*** The Motion was ably moved by ***Distinguished Senator Aniekan Etim Bassey*** *(Akwa-Ibom North-East Senatorial District),* pursuant to Orders 41 and 51 of the Senate Standing Orders, 2023 (As amended). After extensive deliberations, the Senate resolved to refer the Motion to the Committees on Diaspora and Non-Governmental Organisations; Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; Foreign Affairs; and Special Duties, for further legislative action. The Committee on Diaspora and Non-Governmental Organisations is the lead Committee.

The Motion was referred to the Committees vide Senate Resolution No. ***No. S/Res/3/24/25)***, with a mandate, among others, to ***Investigate Human trafficking and fraudulent Travel Agencies in Nigeria that are involved in trafficking of people out of the country.*** The Committees were further mandated to examine the circumstances surrounding the reported trafficking, enslavement and human rights abuses suffered by Nigerian citizens in Libya and to report back.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

The membership is comprised of members from the four standing Committees.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

In furtherance of this mandate and pursuant to the *Terms of Reference,* the Committees adopted a comprehensive methodology for the discharge of its assignment. Accordingly, the Committees resolved to:

(a) invite and receive memoranda, submissions, and other relevant inputs from stakeholders on matters relating to the subject matter;

(b) conduct interactive sessions with relevant stakeholders as well as consultations and engagements with stakeholders to obtain first-hand information and perspectives on the issues under review;

(c) examine and evaluate the submissions received, together with the findings arising from the stakeholders' engagements and interactive sessions; and

(d) consider any other matter necessary for the facilitation of effective discharge of the Committees' assignment.

4.0 COMMITTEES' LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Committees held series of meetings during which it extensively considered the legislative implications, objectives and issues, arising from the Motion. Following its deliberations, the Committee resolved to engage relevant stakeholders by inviting memoranda and submissions on issues raised in the Motion.

Consequently, request letters were transmitted to relevant stakeholders and institutions. The following organisations responded to the Committees' request and submitted their memoranda:

1. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP);
2. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC);
3. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI);
4. Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL);
5. Amnesty International;
6. Network Against Corruption and Trafficking (NACAT); and
7. National Association of Nigeria Travel Agencies. (NANTA).

5.0 ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS MADE BY STAKEHOLDERS

Consequent upon the receipt of the submissions and subsequent engagements with relevant stakeholders, the Committees carefully analysed the submissions and presentations received, as follows:

Firstly, stakeholders unanimously acknowledged that human trafficking and modern-day slavery constitute some of the most pervasive and complex human rights challenges confronting Nigeria and the international community today. They noted that human trafficking is a transnational crime that thrives on vulnerabilities arising from poverty, unemployment, insecurity, weak governance structures and irregular migration pathways. Stakeholders further observed that Libya has become a major transit route for irregular migration,

thereby exposing many Nigerian youths to grave dangers, such as human trafficking, slavery, ransom extortion, and widespread human rights abuses. It was also alleged that, in the first quarter of 2025 alone, thousands of Nigerians were repatriated from Libya, with many reportedly losing their lives, while survivors recounted harrowing experiences, which involved forced detention, torture, organ exploitation and modern-day slavery.

Secondly, they alleged that the activities of trafficking syndicates are facilitated by unscrupulous travel intermediaries and agents whose operations continue to expose vulnerable Nigerians to serious human rights violations. They noted that such violations include infringements of the right to life, dignity of the human person, personal liberty, freedom from slavery or servitude, freedom from forced labour, and freedom of movement, as guaranteed under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, (As amended), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and other international human rights instruments ratified by Nigeria.

Thirdly, they submitted that certain travel agencies and intermediaries engage in conducts amounting to criminality and human rights abuses by recruiting individuals under false pretenses or through deceptive promises of employment, education or migration opportunities for the purpose of facilitating trafficking and related exploitative activities.

Fourthly, stakeholders presented accounts of victims who had been rescued by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in persons and other non-governmental organisations, engaged in anti-trafficking interventions. The testimonies and findings from these victims revealed significant deficiencies that require urgent attention. Stakeholders therefore advocated for the strengthening of regulatory oversight of travel and recruitment agencies,

enhancement of inter-agency collaboration and increased investment in public awareness campaigns, targeted at the vulnerable populations.

Fifthly, they observed that many Nigerians repatriated from Libya often return with severe physical injuries, untreated medical conditions; psychological trauma resulting from detention, torture and sexual violence; loss of livelihoods and family separation; and forced labour. They further noted that many returnees remain vulnerable to re-migration due to the absence of sustainable re-integration support mechanism. Consequently, they advocated for the establishment of a deliberate national programme or policy framework to address these challenges.

Sixthly, stakeholders strongly advocated for greater collaboration among relevant government institutions, including the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons; the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation; the Nigeria Police; the Nigeria Immigration Service; the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons; Economic and Financial Crimes Commission; Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM); and relevant international partners, to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response to the multifaceted challenges posed by human trafficking.

Seventhly, they emphasised the need for diplomatic engagement and cooperation between Nigeria and Libya, having regard to the transnational nature of trafficking. They stressed on the importance of sustained collaborative efforts, aimed at protecting detained Nigerians; investigating trafficking routes and detention camps; facilitating access to justice for victims; and improving migrant protection system.

Eighthly, available records covering the period from January, 2023 to April, 2026, indicated that NAPTIP undertook numerous investigations, arrests, prosecutions and convictions in connection with trafficking-related offences. The Agency's interventions were presented as follows:

- cases received - 3,585
- Victims identified - 8,883 (Male: 2,682; Female: 6,201)
- Suspects arrested - 2,805 (Male: 1,566; Female: 1,236)
- Convictions secured - 252 Convictions

Furthermore, stakeholders identified certain traveling agencies allegedly involved in facilitating travel through the use of false or fraudulently obtained documents for destinations in the far East, such as Jakarta, Bangkok and Delhi as well as Toronto and Canada. The agencies named are:

(a) *Dees Travel and Tours Investment Ltd;*
(b) *Finch Glow Travel Agency, Nigeria;*
(c) *De-Angelo Travel & Tours Ltd;*
(d) *Bon Voyage Travel Agency (Nigeria) Ltd;*
(e) *Taskcon Travels;*
(f) *Peacock Travel and Tours Agency;*
(g) *Pan Atlantic Travels; and*
(h) *KETBIM Manpower Services Ltd.*

The above-named agencies had been investigated in relation to the procurement of travel documents and the facilitation of travel for young Nigerian girls and women to Baghdad for labour-related purposes. However, it was reported that NAPTIP had been unable to institute criminal proceedings against them due to insufficient evidence to support prosecution.

In conclusion, stakeholders drew the attention of the Committee to findings contained in a report published by Amnesty International, following a research conducted between 2020 and 2021. According to the report, Libyan authorities allegedly legitimised informal detention facilities with documented histories of abuses by integrating them into the country's official migration detention infrastructure. The report further alleged that thousands of refugees and migrants were subjected to enforced disappearance, following interception at sea by European Union-supported Libyan coastguards, and subsequent disembarkation in Libya, as well as transfer to informal detention centres operated by armed militias.

Finally, travelling agencies under the auspices of the National Association of Nigeria Travel Agencies (NANTA), stated that the Association remains committed to cooperating with law enforcement and regulatory authorities in eliminating unlawful operators within the travel industry. They explained that the Association maintains disciplinary mechanisms, which include, suspension and expulsion for members found to have violated Nigerian laws. NANTA further stated that Visa racketeering, migration brokerage, human trafficking and all forms of unlawful facilitation are expressly prohibited under its regulatory framework. However, the Association contended that no accredited member of NANTA has, to date, been convicted of offences relating to trafficking or unlawful migration facilitation.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS/FINDINGS

The Committees, having carefully and painstakingly reviewed the submissions made by the relevant stakeholders and the outcomes of the interactive sessions held, hereby made the following observations and findings:

1. That human trafficking, whether for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, organ harvesting or any other form of exploitation, constitute a form of modern slavery and a violation of both national and international human rights obligations. Accordingly, perpetrators of such crimes should be made to face the full weight of the law;

2. That the alarming and rapidly expanding incidence of organised job scams operating across Nigeria, which target vulnerable youths under the guise of overseas employment and wealth creation opportunities, through fraudulent and deceptive recruitments schemes, constitutes a matter of serious national concern. Accordingly, it is imperative for the Senate to take decisive legislative and oversight measures to strengthen enforcement in order to safeguard vulnerable citizens from exploitation;

3. That unless urgent and decisive measures are taken to address this ugly menace, criminal networks will continue to strive, thereby exposing countless Nigerian youths to exploitation and placing their lives, safety and future prospects at significant risks;

4. That it is particularly disturbing that these fraudulent activities are not isolated incidents but part of a broader and coordinated criminal ecosystem that subject victims to systematic financial exploitation, psychological manipulation and false assurances, designed to sustain compliance and perpetuate continued abuse;

5. That the perpetrators of these crimes employ sophisticated and carefully structured strategies designed to create an appearance of legitimacy, while systematically exploiting their victims. Consequently, sustained and robust public enlightenment and sensitization campaigns

are essential as proactive measures to reduce vulnerability and prevent victimisation;

6. That for Nigeria to effectively confront the challenges of human trafficking and related transnational crimes, it must adopt a holistic approach that is anchored on prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. Such approach should address the underlying drivers of trafficking, such as poverty, access to good and qualitative education and unemployment, while also strengthening institutional capacities of relevant agencies as well as enhancing cross-border cooperation to dismantle trafficking networks;

7. That while diplomatic engagement with the Libyan government may contribute to addressing some aspects of this challenge, greater efforts should be directed towards discouraging Nigerian youths from embarking on irregular migration expeditions. This is particularly important given that many of the atrocities associated with trafficking and exploitation in Libya are perpetrated by armed militias, operating beyond the control of the Libyan Government;

8. That previous investigations conducted by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), did not yield sufficient evidence to support criminal prosecution against the identified agencies. Notwithstanding this limitation, the gravity of the allegations and the potential implications for human trafficking, irregular migration and related transnational crimes, underscore the need for sustained, coordinated, and intelligence-driven law enforcement interventions. Such efforts should be strengthened through effective inter-agency collaboration and information sharing to identify, disrupt and dismantle any unlawful operations being conducted within the territory of the

Federal Republic of Nigeria and to ensure that all persons or entities found culpable are brought to justice in accordance with the law;

9. That notwithstanding the commendable efforts of NAPTIP in the investigation, prosecution and conviction of offenders involved in these heinous crimes, there remains a pressing need for concerted and enhanced collaboration among all relevant authorities in view of the increasing incidence and evolving nature of these offences; and

10. That there is an urgent need for increased and sustainable funding for NAPTIP and other relevant agencies, statutorily mandated to combat human trafficking, modern slavery and related crimes in the light of their expanded responsibilities, which include but not limited to victims rescue; shelter provision; rehabilitation; integration; and other support services.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Committees, to which this Motion was referred, having carefully considered and analysed the submissions of stakeholders, and pursuant to the foregoing observations and findings, recommends as follows:

1. *"That existing anti-trafficking laws be strengthened, through more effective enforcement mechanisms and enhanced rehabilitation frameworks for returning victims, and this should include comprehensive review of extant laws, such as the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015; the Child Rights Act, 2003 and other related legislation, addressing human trafficking and allied offences;*

2. *That the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), in collaboration with the Nigeria Police, the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant regulatory and law enforcement agencies, undertake a comprehensive investigation of the activities of the identified travel agencies, which should also include their directors, officers, agents and affiliated entities, with a view to tracing recruitment networks, financial transactions, travel arrangements and other relevant evidence connected to the alleged trafficking and exploitation of Nigerian citizens abroad;*

3. *That increased funding for the effective discharge of the statutory mandate of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and other related agencies be increased in order to strengthen their institutional capacities to investigate and prosecute offenders, support victims and address the existing operational and institutional gaps;*

4. *That the Federal Government should, as a matter of priority, establish a National Re-integration and Protection Programme to be coordinated by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in collaboration with NAPTIP, with clearly defined institutional mandate and sustainable funding framework;*

5. *That the Nigerian Government, through the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, should intensify diplomatic engagement with the Libyan Government, through bilateral and multilateral channels with a view to developing coordinated strategies for combating human trafficking, modern-day slavery and irregular migration, which should focus on*

intelligence sharing, enhancing border management cooperation, dismantling trafficking networks, ensuring the protection and repatriation of vulnerable migrants and promoting the prosecution of perpetrators; and

6. *That the Nigerian Government should also collaborate with relevant international organisations to address the root causes of irregular migration, through awareness campaigns, economic empowerment initiatives and promotion of safe, orderly and legal migration pathways."*

WE SO MOVE.

8.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, on behalf of Members of these Committees, I wish to use this medium to humbly thank Mr. President and my Distinguished Colleagues for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Thank you.

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