



AGA-AFRICA
AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

AGA-AFRICA NEWSLETTER

In this issue we highlight Human Trafficking



June 2021

CONTENT

01 Foreword

02 Area of Focus

03 Attorney General, USA

04 Newsbytes

05 Upcoming Events

FOREWORD



Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the June 2021 Issue of the AGA-Africa Newsletter. AGA-Africa joins the Zambian people and the international community in mourning the passing of His Excellency Kenneth Kaunda, the first president of the Republic of Zambia. We extend to his family and the people of Zambia our deepest sympathies and condolences.

During the month of June, AGA-Africa participated in the launch of the Excellence Charter by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Kenya on 8th June 2021. The Charter is aimed at transforming the ODPP into a prosecution service which is more responsive to the needs of the citizens.

The Attorney General Alliance (AGA) also held its Annual Meeting from 14th – 18th June 2021 in Grand Wailea Maui, Hawaii.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs - Malawi, AGA-Africa organized a two-day workshop on “Combating Trafficking in Persons” from 25th - 26th June, 2021 in Malawi. AGA-Africa signed an MoU with the Director of Public Prosecutions – Malawi on behalf of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Malawi.

We are grateful to Hon. Titus Mvalo, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Malawi and Dr. Steven W. S. Kayuni, Director of Public Prosecutions, Ministry of Justice, Malawi, for their continued support for AGA-Africa’s objectives.

In this month’s issue we focus on Human Trafficking. We are grateful to Dame Julie Okah-Donli, Chairperson, United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) and Executive Chair, Roost Foundation for adding her voice on the subject.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our friend and partner Thomas J. Donovan, Attorney General Vermont State, for gracing in this month’s Issue.

We look forward to an exciting July 2021 as it promises more opportunities for growth and learning.

Regards,
Markus Green ESQ.
AGA-Africa, Board Member

AREA OF FOCUS

According to the Global Slavery Index 23% of global human trafficking happens in Africa with over 9.2 million people living in modern slavery. In Africa, over 40% of those trafficked in Africa are in forced labour which takes many forms including work in agriculture, mining and fishing industries. Victims are often forced to work long hours with low or no pay in extremely abusive environments. Additionally traffickers force an estimated 63% of victims into marriage without their consent, many of whom are children. According to the International Labour Office, forced marriage of young girls and women can be in exchange for money, paying off debt or to settle disputes among families.



Source: Trafficking in Persons Report by the United States Department of State. In the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, each country is placed into four tiers, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). This placement is based not on the size of the country's trafficking problem but on the extent of governments' efforts to meet the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking. The data above is derived from data provided by foreign governments and other sources and reviewed by the U.S. Department of State. (From 2020 TIP Report, Page 56.)

There has also been a rise in trafficking of victims from Africa to the Middle East under the guise of employment but are then enslaved either working for different households with little or no payment or are pushed into prostitution. This trafficking is entirely run by East Africans and according to research by Enact, victims were received in foreign countries by familiar faces. They were then held in trafficking houses owned and run by East Africans in the Middle East.

<https://enactafrica.org/research/policy-briefs/the-new-slavery-kenyan-workers-in-the-middle-east>

AGA-Africa is currently working with the legal systems in different countries across Africa to help the Justice departments learn how to identify, investigate and prosecute human traffickers. Additionally AGA-Africa is able to share best practice in the protection and rehabilitation of actual or potential victims of trafficking. As a partner in justice, AGA Africa organises seminars and conferences as forums to enhance awareness, knowledge and the skills required to combat human trafficking.

Q&A WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING EXPERT, DAME JULIE OKAH-DONLI



Dame Julie Okah-Donli, Chairperson, United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) and Executive Chair, Roost Foundation

Briefly tell us your name & titles

My name is Dame Julie Okah-Donli. I am the Chairperson, United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) and Executive Chairman, Roost Foundation, a non-governmental and non-profit Organisation that is committed to uplifting vulnerable members of the society notably victims of Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking, Sexual and Gender Based Violence. I was until December 2020, the Director-General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

How prevalent is Human Trafficking in Africa? and has the situation gotten worse during the Covid-19 pandemic?

Human trafficking is very prevalent in many parts of Africa and the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation. The COVID-19 pandemic came with its attendant challenges and restrictions but human traffickers have diversified other means of recruiting innocent victims. These challenges include loss of jobs and the pausing of several businesses. These challenges have made people more vulnerable and desperate and this has caused many people to respond to online fake job recruitment advertisement from traffickers. People have become desperate to travel anywhere to get jobs and earn some money and human traffickers have capitalized on this to carry out their illicit activities since an idle mind is the devil's workshop.

In what countries is the situation dire and how bad has the situation gotten?

Every country in Africa is experiencing terrible human trafficking situations. African countries serve as countries of origin, transit and destination. In other words, human trafficking is very common in Africa and this is quite worrisome. Nigeria, Libya, Egypt, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote de Voire, Mali etc. experience different forms of human trafficking such as organ harvesting, sports trafficking, drug trafficking, human smuggling, trafficking for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, child trafficking etc. Because of some harmful cultural practices in Africa, trafficking for domestic servitude is very prevalent. In many African homes, children serve as domestic servants, hawk and beg on streets and this is seen as the norm.

What is the impact AGA-Africa trainings have on the law enforcement officers in Africa more so in Nigeria?

AGA-Africa trainings has noticeable positive effects on law enforcement officers in Africa. These trainings have provided more opportunities for law enforcement officers to sharpen their intellect and broaden their horizon on investigations and prosecution. This is particularly important because if Law Enforcement Agencies do not carry out proper investigation, there cannot be prosecution and if there is no prosecution, human traffickers will continue to get away with impunity and there will be no protection and justice (which serves as a form of closure) for victims and this means that our efforts would be an exercise in futility.

How was your experience in the AGA-Africa trainings in which you have participated?

The trainings were very insightful and impactful. It broadened our knowledge on the various means in which human trafficking can be prevented through awareness raising and grassroots sensitizations and better ways of combating human trafficking including prosecuting offenders, partnering with relevant stakeholders and implementing various policies on human trafficking, offering protection for victim's etc.

What support is AGA-Africa offering different law enforcement agencies in Africa to be able to tackle human trafficking?

AGA-Africa has been very helpful to different Law Enforcement Agencies in Africa in terms of providing training opportunities, seminars, webinars, symposiums, workshops and resource materials for law enforcement officers.

How has your journey been like as a woman who is at the top and who is advocating against Human Trafficking?

My journey to the top has been quite steady. I have moved from one level of glory to the other. I have worked as a lawyer in a law firm, as an administrator, company secretary and I have been running the Julie Donli Kidney Foundation for years now. Currently, I serve as the Chairperson, United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) and Executive Chairman, Roost Foundation, and this gives me the opportunity to continue the fight against irregular migration, human trafficking, sexual and gender based violence.

What have you achieved so far in Anti-Human Trafficking advocacy that you are most proud of?

I am passionate about fighting for justice especially for vulnerable members of the society and so each time I am able to get a conviction for perpetrators and justice for victims, I get excited. So far, my most proud achievement will be getting justice for victims and offering them protection, medical, and humanitarian support as well as ensuring their proper reintegration into the society.

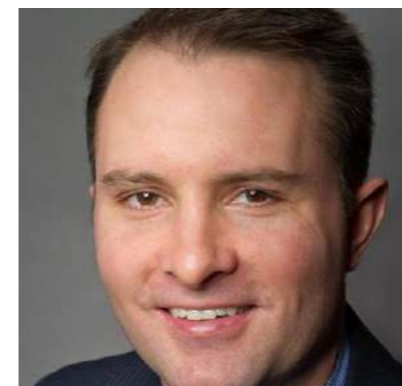
What would be your advice for women interested in pursuing your field?

Be hardworking, determined, dedicated, focused and passionate about the job. As a lady, you must not allow yourself to get intimidated or bullied into silence. You must strive to create a niche for yourself and leave land marks that will inspire other women and girls in the sands of time.

What do you do in your free time?

I love to dance, cook, play golf, travel, study and write. I use my free time to do all of these.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, U.S.A



Thomas J. Donovan Jr., Attorney General of Vermont, US

During the Crypto Assets and Emerging Trends Webinar organized by AGA-Africa, you said 'We are in a brave new world in financial innovation with Crypto', could you explain further what that meant?

We are all learning how to address changes in the financial sector spurred by cryptocurrency. Consumers and governments have a shared interest in determining whether crypto will become a mainstream way of conducting business. If so, establishing clear regulations in the crypto market will allow governments to protect consumers, provide transparency, and drive innovation.

Are the global law enforcement investigatory practices keeping up with Crypto Criminals?

Keeping up with Crypto criminals is an ongoing, resource-intensive process as we saw in the South African case. Global partnerships among law enforcement are pivotal to successfully track down, investigate, and eventually prosecute transnational criminal networks and identify best regulatory practices that can be shared. These efforts require applying 20th century laws (and perhaps make changes) to 21st century technology, a task that is supported by AGA-Africa.

What opportunities do you see presented by Crypto innovation in economic development?

New technologies in the financial sector spur innovation, change, and opportunity. It is crucial to complement new developments with appropriate consumer protection. Increased use of cryptocurrency provides the opportunity to be more user-friendly and become a more reliable platform. A transparent, consistent set of laws governing the cryptocurrency space will build trust amongst consumers and governments.

In your opinion, how do webinars and workshops organized by AGA-Africa help in combating transnational crimes?

AGA-Africa has fostered a platform for information sharing and relationship/partnership building. AGA-Africa convenes and brings together a global network of law enforcement officials and subject-matter experts on transnational crime and many others. Small states like Vermont working alone lack the resources needed to combat transnational crime. Working in partnerships derived from AGA-Africa's webinars and workshops, which facilitate sharing expertise and best practices, is value-added to my office. We need to keep moving forward, and I thank AGA Africa for taking a lead in this direction.

What do you think the justice system in African countries can learn from the American system when dealing with transnational crime cases?

I think that we can learn from each other. We must understand that these are not problems existing in just one country but exist in all our countries. Justice system experts should be willing to ask questions and learn from one another. Crime utilizing cryptocurrency has no borders and exists everywhere, so we must recognize that we are all in this together and confronting the same issues.

Why is it important for the justice system in African countries to work hand in hand with organizations such as AGA-Africa in dealing with transnational crimes?

Transnational crimes need a transnational focus and approach based on critical points like information sharing, case studies, relationship/partnership building, and lessons learned. AGA-Africa creates the space for law enforcement officials and subject-matter experts to come together and share information in an environment in which they can trust each other's insights on transnational crimes.

JUNE 2021 EVENTS

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) – Kenya launches Excellence Charter

AGA-Africa's Programme Coordinator and Strategic Advisor Chuks Unamba-Oparah participated in the launch of the Excellence Charter on 8th June 2021. Developed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Charter is aimed at driving fundamental reforms in public prosecution over the next three years (2020-2023) as well as transforming the Office the ODPP into a prosecution service which is more responsive to the needs of the citizens.



Launch of the Excellence Charter on 8th June 2021

AG Alliance 2021 Annual Meeting

The Attorney General Alliance held its Annual Meeting from 14th – 18th June 2021. The meeting was held in Grand Wailea Maui, Hawaii.



AG Alliance 2021 Annual Meeting

Combating Trafficking in Persons workshop in Malawi

In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Malawi, AGA-Africa organized a 2-day Anti-Human Trafficking Workshop on 25th and 26th June 2021. The workshop was graced by among others, Hon. Justice Chipeta on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Hon. Titus Mvalo, Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola, Supreme Court Judge of Kenya and Markus Green, AGA-Africa Board Member.



Combating Trafficking in Persons workshop in Malawi

UPCOMING EVENTS



MALAWI 8TH – 9TH JULY

Training on Oral Advocacy Commercial Law Aspect
The University of Malawi, Faculty of Law



ZAMBIA 12TH – 14TH JULY

AML / CFT requirements for VASPs Workshop
– Financial Intelligence Centre

ZAMBIA 13TH – 15TH JULY

Prosecution of Election Cases
Workshop - National Prosecution Authority



SOUTH AFRICA 22ND – 23RD JULY

Illicit wildlife trade and financial crime –Financial
Intelligence Centre



KENYA 28TH JULY

Mentorship Programme –
International Association of Women Judges



SOUTH AFRICA 29TH JULY

Beyond Covid: The Way Forward Regarding
Data Privacy – Department of Mercantile Law,
Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria (UP)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

11 TH JULY	World Population Day
15 TH JULY	World Youth Skills Day
18 TH JULY	Nelson Mandela International Day
30 TH JULY	International Day of Friendship World Day against Trafficking in Persons

THANK YOU!

A hearty thank you to the facilitators of the month:

Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola, Supreme Court Judge of Kenya, Carolina Holderness, Chief, Human Trafficking Response Unit and Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Bureau, New York County District Attorney's Office, Hon. Justice Violet Palikena-Chipao, Judge, High Court of Malawi, Dzikondianthu Malunda, Acting Chief State Advocate – Mzuzu, Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Malawi, Andrew Salamba, Senior Assistant Chief State Advocate, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Malawi, Eunice Ndingo, Senior State Advocate, Ministry of Justice, Malawi, Joel Immanuel Matonga, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malawi, Stephen Kiptinness, Senior Partner, Technology & Intellectual Property, Evalyne Mboya, Officer In-charge, Cyber Division, Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU) and Sophie Otiende, Regional Operations Manager- Africa, Liberty Shared.

A special thank you to Gift Caroline Chikwakwa, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Malawi for passionately leading AGA-Africa's efforts in Malawi.



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