



AFRICA FAITH AND JUSTICE NETWORK NIGERIA

Venue: St. Dominic's Catholic Church - YCC Hall, YABA, Lagos.

Date: 29th March, 2025

Led by: Africa Faith and Justice Network Nigeria (AFJNN) and Dominicans for Justices and Peace



Africa Faith and Justice Network Nigeria in collaboration with Dominicans for Justice and Peace, successfully organized a workshop on Ending Domestic Servitude and Child Labour. The event was held at St. Dominic Catholic Church - YCC Hall, Yaba, Lagos, and brought together a diverse group of 120 participants. Attendees included representatives from various Catholic parishes, NGOs, religious bodies, facilitators, and members of the media. Participating parishes included St. Mary Catholic Church, St. Augustine Catholic Church, St. Thomas More Chaplaincy, Our

Lady of Nigeria, SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, St. Luke & Divine Physician Chaplaincy, and St. Jude Catholic Church. Other organizations represented included Makolo Empowerment Foundation, FOMWAN, Youth Empowerment Foundation, PAPADEF, and CPN.

Objective

The workshop aimed to raise awareness, educate participants, and promote actionable solutions to eradicate domestic servitude and child labour. It sought to empower communities, religious bodies, and NGOs with knowledge and tools to identify, address, and prevent these societal issues. The event emphasized advocacy rooted in Catholic social teachings, legal reforms, and community-driven initiatives to protect vulnerable children from exploitation.

Speakers and Key Discussions

The workshop featured distinguished speakers who addressed critical issues related to domestic servitude and child labour:

1. Rev. Fr. Aniedi Okure, OP
 - Role: Director and Promoter at the United Nations and former Executive Director of AFJN.
 - Focus: Advocacy rooted in Catholic social teachings; emphasized the dignity of all humans created in the image of God and the need to end domestic servitude due to its lifelong trauma.
2. Rev. Fr. Frederick Obananya, OP
 - Role: Africa Regional Promoter for Justice & Peace in IAOP.
 - Focus: Broader justice issues such as migration, climate change, governance, and their intersections with child labour.
3. Mr. Fredrich Uche Oko



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- Role: Head of Public Enlightenment Unit at NAPTIP Lagos Zonal Command.
- Focus: NAPTIP's efforts in combating human trafficking and child labour; shared the NAPTIP hotline (627) for reporting cases.
- 4. Rev. Sr. Joseph Olagunju, SHCJ
 - Role: Representative of Lagos JDPC and Center for Migrants and Refugees (Dominicans).
 - Focus: Justice and peace initiatives targeting vulnerable populations.
- 5. Sir Uche Ajuruchi & Francisca Anaeme
 - Role: Coordinators of the Center for Adolescence Concern and Health Initiative.
 - Focus: Identified forms of child labour (domestic servitude, street hawking), tell-tale signs (malnourishment, excessive dependence on guardians), and shared success stories from Christo Community Development Initiative.
- 6. Barristers Phil Nneji & Roma Wayo
 - Role: Advocates for legal reforms addressing child labour issues.
 - Focus: Highlighted existing legal frameworks that prevent child labour while citing real-world cases.
- 7. Mrs. Atinuke Odukoya
 - Role: Coordinator of CEWHIN (Centre for Women's Health and Information).
 - Focus: Empowerment strategies for women and girls; recognized the struggles faced by victims of child labour.
- 8. Rev. Sr. Bernadette Okure, SHCJ
 - Role: National Coordinator for AFJN in Nigeria.
 - Focus: Campaigns against domestic servitude, child marriage, trafficking, violence against women/children.

Key Observations by Participants

Participants from various parishes under Yaba Deanery identified several factors contributing to child labour and domestic servitude in their communities:

- Economic hardship forcing families to send children into servitude.
- The "get-rich-quick" syndrome among youths.
- The presence of uneducated young children from rural areas or foreign countries living with affluent families.
- Clear disparities between employers' children and young servants in terms of physical appearance, education levels, well-being, or signs of abuse.



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Recommendations

To address these concerns effectively, participants proposed the following actions:

- Reporting suspected cases to appropriate authorities.
- Strict enforcement of laws against child labour.
- Parental monitoring of children's welfare.
- Establishing advocacy groups within parishes to raise awareness through seminars.
- Using banners/cards to draw public attention.
- Leveraging existing parish societies to take action against child labour.

Group Activities and Call to Action

Participants were divided into groups to brainstorm actionable steps toward combating domestic servitude and child labour:

- Formation of core advocacy groups within parishes.
- Coalition-building among individuals with influence or interest in addressing child labour issues.
- Organizing informative seminars to educate communities on the dangers of child labour.
- Strengthening collaboration between NGOs, religious bodies, and government agencies like NAPTIP.

Conclusion

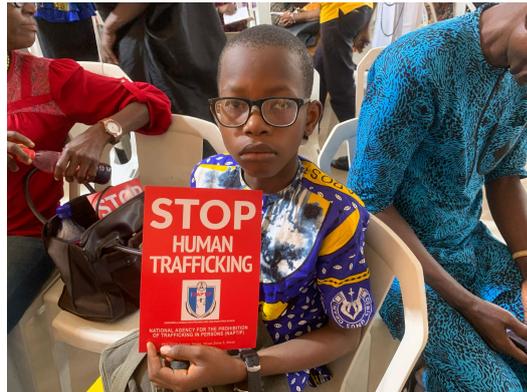
The workshop was a resounding success in raising awareness about domestic servitude and child labour while equipping participants with practical tools to address these issues within their communities. The collaborative efforts between Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN), Dominicans for Justice & Peace, religious bodies, NGOs, legal advocates, and media representatives underscored the importance of a united front in eradicating these societal challenges.

This report highlights the critical discussions held during the workshop while providing actionable recommendations for stakeholders moving forward.



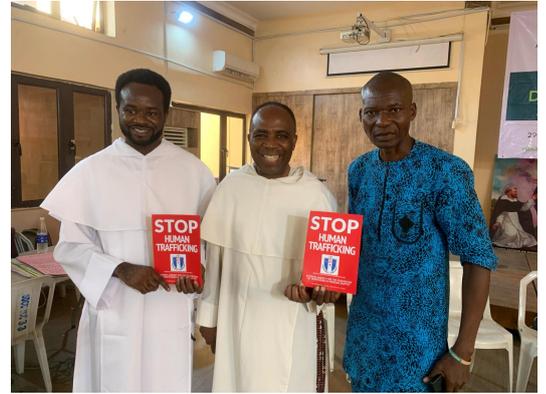
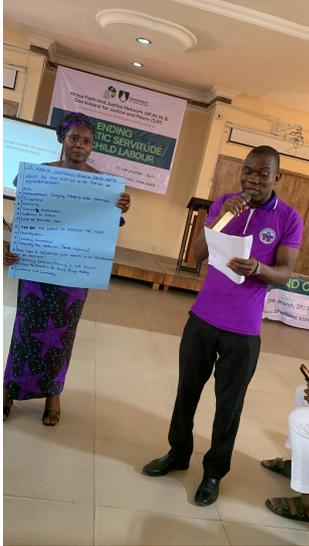


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