

Critical Analysis of Ethiopia's Action against Internal Child Trafficking

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2009-1010

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Acknowledgements

Above all, to God the father of all, I thank for the strength that keep me standing and for the hope that keep me believing that this dissertation would be possible and more interesting.

I am heartily thankful to my supervisor, Dr. Tomoya Obokata, who sincerely devoted his time and service for every activities of mine. I gratefully received valuable comments and feedback on the paper from him. Moreover, whose encouragement, guidance and support from the initial to the final level enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject. This dissertation is a product of his guidance and persistent help. I would like to express the deepest appreciation to my advisor.

Many thanks go in particular the EUIC representative at Queens University Belfast, Dr. Aoife Nolan, for shaping up my ideas on the subject very fruitfully and advised in all matters during my stay in the Belfast.

Engineer Beminet through the invaluable contribution of you. To say “thank you” to you is not even enough to express my gratitude.

I also wanted to thank my family who inspired, encouraged and fully supported me for every trials that comes my way. In giving me not just financial, but morally and spiritually.

I offer my thanks to all the staffs of Queens University Belfast who have given their heart whelming full support during my stay in the University. Especially I would like to thank the post graduate school of law staffs, to the international student’s office (Helen Eastham), and the librarian.

ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children
ARS	Amhara Regional States
AU	African Union
ANNPCAN	African Network for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Child Abuse and Neglect
CPU	Child Protection Unit
EAPCCO	Eastern African Police chiefs Cooperation Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
ILO	International labour Organization
FEACC	Federal Ethics and Anti Cooperation Commission
FOSCE	Forum On Street Children Ethiopia
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno- efficiency Syndrome
IO	Institute of the Ombudsman
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ICCPR	International Covenant on civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic social and cultural rights
MOLSA	Ministry of labour and Social Affairs
MOWA	Ministry of Women’s Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Plan of Action
NDPM	National Disaster Prevention and Management
OAU	Organization of African Union
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
SNNPRS	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State

UDHR	Universal declaration of Human rights
US	United States of America
UNCRC	United Nations Child Rights Convention
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAC	Violence against Children

Abstract

Large proportions of Ethiopian children are exposed to violation without having care and treatment from the State and their parents by the mere fact of violation of their rights and interests of children. As a result, they face a multitude of risks to their lives due to various forms of exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Even after novel international instruments on the issues of human trafficking of children have come into force, greater recognition has given to the international trafficking. However, the majority of cases of child trafficking involve internal trafficking.

A few efforts by means of adopted legislation and policies, in national structures have been set up to stop trafficking in children. On issues such as legislation, national policies and national structures established to coordinate in anti-trafficking initiatives; this dissertation notes both progress and some gaps. In fact, some practices such as child protection unit have been identified to prevent children from being trafficked or to assist trafficked children. However, the protection and assistance of children who have been trafficked is not encouraging.

The dissertation argues that the term ‘trafficking’ is still interpreted to refer to different crimes such as child labour, sexual abuse and so on which can be the consequences of trafficking. Particularly in this regard how national legislation conforms to international standards.

The paper also recognises that the government of Ethiopia and NGOs have given priority to combating international trafficking of women rather than to child trafficking. This resulted in the protection of children and their specific rights and needs being completely neglected, as they have not been addressed explicitly.

However, the actions made by the Ethiopian government to the response of child trafficking are not enough. Moreover, Ethiopian children who have been trafficked are not entitled to adequate protection and assistance. Many legislation and international documents have been issued, but not enough has been done to implement them at the national level.

2010

Critical analysis of Ethiopias action against internal child trafficking

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<https://doi.org/20.500.11825/1053>

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