

Namibia commemorates World Day against Trafficking in Persons

Windhoek, Namibia 28th July 2017 - Namibia joined the rest of the world in the commemoration of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (WDATiP). The commemoration took place in form of a press conference which was organized by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) in close coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The statements were delivered by IOM Head of Office Ms. Lilian Ambuso, U.S. Ambassador His Excellency Thomas F. Daughton, Deputy Prosecutor General Advocate Innocentia Nyoni on behalf of Prosecutor General Adv. Martha Imalwa, General Major & Deputy Inspector General for Administration Anne – Marie Nainda on behalf of Lt. Gen. Inspector – General Sebastian Ndeitunga.



Participants of the press conference

The press conference was attended by 50 officials from different media houses, representatives from all the line ministries involved in combatting Trafficking in Persons, relevant non-governmental organizations, the UN and students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

Speaking during the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, who is the chair of the National Committee on Combating TiP in Namibia, Honourable Netumbo Nandi –Ndaitwa, stressed on the need for collective efforts from all sectors in order to combat Trafficking in Persons in Namibia. *“This is a crime that can only be combated through national, regional and global efforts”*, said Deputy Prime Minister. Furthermore, she said that the MGECW in collaboration with other stakeholders developed a National Referral Mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures for the identification, referral and protection of Victims of Trafficking and it is in its final stage.

According to the US Ambassador to Namibia, His Excellency Ambassador Thomas Daughton, events like this one are essential in raising awareness to the community at large. He applauded the Namibian Government for efforts made to contribute towards global efforts in addressing TiP.

This event was a very important step in Namibia’s efforts to sensitize its people about the fact that Trafficking in Persons exists all around the world, also in Namibia and in order to strengthen the general public’s understanding of this phenomenon.

The press conference was preceded by a media training for journalists on the phenomenon of Trafficking in Persons and the role the media play in reporting. The training was jointly organized by MGECW and IOM and was attended by 15 journalists and media and communication students. The media training took place on July 26th in Windhoek and prepared the journalists for the press conference.

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