

Reaching out to Ethiopian Youth | Blue Heart Campaign | Libawi Academy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Youth and event participants from Libawi Academy and guest schools, Blue Heart Campaign, Addis Ababa Ethiopia, 29 November 2018

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime together with the Libawi Academy in Addis Ababa supported the first Blue Heart Campaign event on 29 November 2018.

The purpose of this event was to promote, support and raise awareness amongst youth (secondary school students) on human trafficking and the of the Blue Heart Campaign, a UNODC initiative to support victims of trafficking. The event also provided the youth with a better understanding of existing resources and organisations who play active roles in preventing and addressing trafficking and provide services to victims. During the event, there was an exhibition showing how human trafficking issues are portrayed through art and media.

This event promoted UNODC's Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative under the Doha Declaration which seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through education activities designed for primary, secondary and tertiary levels. These activities will help educators teach the next generation to better understand and address problems that can undermine the rule of law and encourage upholding lawfulness among youth to actively engage in their communities and future professions in this regard.

During the event, there were a number of presentations provided by the youth demonstrating their knowledge on the issues of human trafficking, related statistics and ways that youth can be part of

the solution in combatting and

prevention measures (e.g. by ensuring they are informed consumers and resist buying products from companies that exploit workers through forced labour).



Presentations were also provided by expert panellists from UNODC by Justice Expert Dayan Farias Picon; the Organisation for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPFRIS) by Planning, M&E and Learning Manager, Mr Muluken Shiferaw; Agar Ethiopian Charitable Society by Programme Manager, Mehari Getaneh; and Expertise France by expert researcher, Solomon Abebe.

The floor was then opened to questions from the youth with a focus on human trafficking push and pull factors which leave youth vulnerable to becoming victims and how to build resilience.

Quick facts

The Victims of Trafficking in Persons

♥ Children trafficking is a major concern. Children are exploited for forced labour, petty crime and begging, child pornography and sex. Children account for 1 in 3 victims of human trafficking worldwide, though in some regions these figures are higher. Children who are forced to serve as soldiers are also considered as victims of human trafficking.

♥ Women and girls make up 70% of overall trafficking victims worldwide. The vast majority are young women who have been forced into the sex trade. Women are also exploited for domestic servitude and forced labour.

♥ Men are often exploited for forced labor, enduring harsh physical conditions and abuse. Male victims are frequently overlooked because of a common misperception that men are not trafficked.



sexual exploitation



domestic servitude



forced labour



forced criminality



emerging trafficking



removal of organs