



**STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERFAITH LEADERS
PSYCHOSOCIAL TRAINING ORGANIZED BY ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF
CHURCHES IN COLLABORATION WITH SYMBOLS OF HOPE PROJECT NIGERIA
HELD ON 12-15 AUGUST 2024 AT KANEM SUITES ABUJA**

Preamble

We, religious leaders from Christian and Muslim communities in Nigeria, gathered for an Interfaith Leaders Psychosocial Training organized by All Africa Conference of Churches in collaboration with Symbols of Hope Project Nigeria, from 12-15 August 2024 at Kanem Suite Utako, Abuja, Nigeria.

Having met, we received lectures and reflected together on the subject of human trafficking in Nigeria from perspectives of both Christian and Muslim faith with the theme “Psychosocial Support: Our Collective Responsibility”.

Convictions and Resolutions

We understand that human trafficking is evil, and it is a serious issue in Nigeria. We affirm the right to human dignity and we condemn all forms of human trafficking and ill-treatment of persons.

We have also noted with concern the following facts:

1. Over 60% of people trafficked out of the country are dying in the desert and on the high seas.
2. Victims human trafficking are being forced into prostitution, slave labor, torture, and organ harvesting.
3. Victims human trafficking are being lured daily in immediate societies through social interaction and advertisements on social media platforms, in schools, markets, and streets by people such as family members, relatives and acquaintances. We have also noted sadly that sometimes the people who perpetrate such evil acts take advantage of our gatherings in our various worship centers.

Having affirmed that human trafficking exists within our communities and neighborhoods. We therefore, resolve to:

1. Stand up and to speak out about this issue in our worship centers.

2. Adopt a holistic approach in our fight against human trafficking, putting humanity above our religious differences.
3. Collaborate with government agencies to combat human trafficking.
4. Work together to reduce and if possible eliminate victim blaming and stigma in our communities.
5. Teach and create awareness on dangers of human trafficking among our followers.
6. Remain committed to providing all-round support to victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Recommendations

Having seen the need to reduce the risk of victimization, we recommend that:

1. Children should not be left alone with electronic devices unchecked and unmonitored.
2. The government should improve efforts in combating human trafficking and strengthening the existing legal framework.

Call to Action

We call on fellow religious leaders to join us in this fight against human trafficking. Together, we can make a difference and create a safer society for all.

Signed,



Rev. Angele Dogbe

All Africa Conference of Churches



Rev. Emmanuel Gabriel

Symbols of Hope Project Nigeria