



## **NAM commemorates World Day against Trafficking in Persons**

**30 July, Windhoek:** Human trafficking is a serious crime and a violation of human rights and dignity. This is a global issue which every country has fallen victim to as either a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

In an effort to raise awareness, the UN Migration Agency (IOM) in Namibia joined the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGE CW), the Namibian Police Force, the Embassy of the United States of America and other stakeholders to commemorate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July in Windhoek. The day was commemorated under the theme “Responding to the trafficking of children and young people.”

In 2013 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution (A/RES/68/192) and designated 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, as it is crucial for societies and communities to be aware about the phenomenon of Trafficking in Persons. The Resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”

In a statement delivered on behalf of IOM by Florence Situmbeko, she commended the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) for the leadership and initiative to commemorate the World Day against trafficking in Persons which is crucial for raising awareness. “The commemoration of World Day against Trafficking in Persons is an important moment for us as human rights defenders to show our solidarity with the victims of human trafficking globally and to stress that we are totally against this phenomenon happening in our societies,” said Situmbeko.

In its efforts to work together and implement Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 target 2 “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation,” IOM has directly assisted 8,700 victims of trafficking globally in 2017. 48.9% of those assisted were women, 51% men and a disturbingly 13% children. 85% of the cases were cross-border, and 80.8% of those registered suffered through labour exploitation, 18% suffered under sexual exploitation and the rest suffered under various forms of exploitation. These figures, however, are not a true representation of the situation at hand as the majority of cases are not reported.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Hon. Netumbo Nandi- Ndaitwah cautioned Namibians to be alert in their daily lives and beware of human traffickers, especially young people who are often being tricked and misled with greener pastures by traffickers who come with attractive offers yet ill intentions.

Combatting Trafficking in Persons is not the responsibility of one single institution or organisation but it is a shared responsibility among all people.