

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HITTING EDUCATION

Kagisho Secondary School hall was full to the brim with almost 1500 learners from eleven different schools around Bloemfontein who came to acquire knowledge about human trafficking, its effects, how and where to report if there are possible suspicions o.

Learners were addressed by representatives from different government Departments of which Social Development was the main participant. The HAWKS Warrant Officer Mr. Bongani Mfazwe said human trafficking had become a serious problem in the Province. He added that there are many foreign nationals who were brought to Bloemfontein to work as prostitutes and were exploited by the traffickers.

The executive manager for Specialist Social Services Me. Reitumetse Senatle warned the learners that they too could be vulnerable to human trafficking if they become too ambitious. 'You must concentrate on your studies and don't take offers from strangers that promise you short cuts to a good life', she advised

The practice of trafficking poses not only a criminal problem, but can also be viewed as a human rights violation as exploitation of individuals lies at the heart of it. It is a crime that cannot be qualified because it does not have clear specification as crime, you only realize it once it has happened", said Advocate Xolisile Khanyile from the National Prosecuting Authority. Of importance, is to note that it is a criminal based business to achieve monetary gain or benefit for traffickers.

Human trafficking has been found to be difficult to detect as it conceals and presents itself in a form of drugs, prostitution, rape and labour exploitation. In some instances it has been found to be presenting itself through recruitment for employment with ulterior motives of trafficking. The learners were advised to share all the information with their families as Human trafficking affects everybody.