

Human Trafficking: A Case of Trans-Border Organized Crime in Zambia

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Abstract

Zambia has been encountering cases of human trafficking. This is notwithstanding the fact that Zambia has advanced in terms of developing anti-trafficking legislations and adopting international standard. Indicators of this weakness are, for instance, manifest in the continued incidences of human trafficking, inability to convict human traffickers and inadequate protection services for trafficking victims. The objective of this article is to interrogate the question as to why the country is still faced with challenges in combating human trafficking. To this end, it defines the concept of human trafficking and highlights the existing juridical order as constituted by international, regional and national legislations related to human trafficking. With this backdrop, it explores the phenomenon of human trafficking in Zambia by focussing on its prevalence, causes and effects. It then analyses the pervasiveness of this transborder crime chiefly through the perspective of the Rational Choice Theory (RCT). This analysis engenders the conclusion that RCT fails to capture the entire complexity of human trafficking. It thus should be used in conjunction with other theories and empirical evidence to gain a comprehensive understanding of this complex phenomenon. Principally, the article recommends undertaking concrete and comprehensively reinforcement of the laws pertaining to this crime.

Keywords: Human Trafficking, cross-border, legislations, Causes, Effects, Rational Choice Theory

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1.0 Introduction

The Continent of Africa, just like other Continents of the world have, been grappling with the prevalence of human trafficking. “Human beings are sold, bought and traded much like objects. “The victims of human trafficking end up in the hands of traffickers because they are being deceived, forced or abducted” (<https://www.unhcr.org/human-trafficking.html>). Zambia is one of the Countries in the Continent of Africa that is not insulated against the intrusion of human trafficking phenomenon. According to the 2021 United States Department of State report on Zambia, the government still fell short of demonstrating “overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period, even considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity” (<https://www.refworld.org/docid/>). Indicators of this failure were, for instance, manifest in the inability to convict any human traffickers and inadequate protection services for trafficking victims. Evidently, Zambia's anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts have not achieved desired concrete results. This state of affairs has been compounded by the absence of a functional human trafficking statute (Documents/Publications/Book/Human_trafficking_in_Zambia.pdf).

This article interrogates the underlying causes of challenges the country is still faced with in combating human trafficking, given the legislative developments that the country has experienced, especially the domestication of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, and enactment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act 16, 2022, through an amendment of Act 11 of 2008, which had various challenges. To this end, the article begins by defining the human trafficking concept. Thereafter, it highlights the existing juridical order as constituted by international, regional and national legislations related to human trafficking. It then explores the phenomenon of human trafficking in Zambia by focussing on its causes and its security effects. Finally, it addresses the findings on the prevalence of incidence of human trafficking in the country, and discusses theoretical perspective on the implications of the practice.

2.0 Definition of Human Trafficking

According to the UN Protocol Palermo Protocol (2000), “trafficking in persons as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving of receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (<https://www.ohchr.org>). This definition is considered the international standard for

human trafficking and has been adopted by many countries in their national legislation. It recognizes that human trafficking is a serious crime and a violation of human rights that often involves exploitation of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. It emphasizes the need for prevention, protection, and prosecution of trafficking offenses, as well as cooperation among states in combating this crime.

3.0 International and Regional Regulations on Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a global issue, and various international and regional regulations have been established aimed at combating the scourge, but to no avail. In view of the fact that there were various international instruments developed with rules and practical mechanism to combat the exploitation of persons, in particular women and children, albeit there was no universal instrument that addressed all aspects of trafficking in persons in line with Article 1- Relation with the United Nations convention against Trans-border Organised Crime (United Nations Human Rights Instrument; 2000). The following are some of the international and regional regulations on human trafficking:

- United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000): This protocol is an international agreement that provides a framework for preventing and combating human trafficking. It aims to protect the rights of victims and ensure that traffickers are brought to justice. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (2003): This Convention is a regional agreement that aims to prevent and combat corruption in Africa. It includes provisions on human trafficking, such as the criminalization of trafficking and the protection of victims.
- Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005): This convention is a regional agreement that provides a comprehensive framework for preventing and combating human trafficking in Europe. It includes provisions on victim protection, criminalization of trafficking, and international cooperation.
- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002): This convention is a regional agreement that aims to prevent and combat human trafficking in South Asia. It includes provisions on victim protection, criminalization of trafficking, and international cooperation.
- The Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Convention against Trafficking in Persons (2014): This convention is an international agreement that provides a framework for preventing and combating human trafficking in the Americas. It includes provisions on victim protection, criminalization of trafficking, and international cooperation.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has equally taken steps to address the issue of human trafficking through the adoption of various legal instruments. SADC has adopted various legal instruments to prevent and combat human trafficking in the region. These regulations recognize the need to protect the rights of victims and prosecute perpetrators. By implementing these regulations, SADC member states can work together to address the issue of human trafficking and promote regional security and stability. The following are some of the SADC regulations on human trafficking:

- SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2008): This protocol recognizes the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including human trafficking. It aims to promote gender equality and empower women in the region.
- SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2015-2020): This plan recognizes human trafficking as a priority area for intervention in the region. It calls for the development of a regional framework to prevent and combat human trafficking, including the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators.
- SADC Model Law on Eradicating Trafficking in Persons (2015): This model law provides a comprehensive framework for preventing and combating human trafficking in the region. It includes provisions on victim protection, criminalization of trafficking, and international cooperation.
- SADC Declaration on Combating Trafficking in Persons (2016): This declaration reaffirms the commitment of SADC member states to preventing and combating human trafficking. It calls for increased regional cooperation and coordination in addressing the issue.

From the foregoing, it therefore clear that international and regional regulations on human trafficking provide a comprehensive framework for preventing and combating this global issue. These regulations include provisions on victim protection, criminalization of trafficking, and international cooperation. By implementing these regulations, countries can work together to ensure that the rights of victims are protected and that traffickers are brought to justice.

4.0 Zambia's Legislative Framework

On the local level, Zambia enacted its comprehensive legislation Act No. 11 of 2008 regarding Anti-Trafficking in Persons. This piece of legislation was aimed at combating trafficking in persons. Furthermore, the Government developed a National Police to combat Human Trafficking. In 2010, the Government established an Inter-Ministerial National Steering Committee and adopted a Comprehensive Multiannual Action Plan (The Africa-EU Partnership Report, 2010).

However, the United States Department of State Report (2018) on Trafficking in Persons in Zambia indicates that the Government of Zambia did not fully meet the minimum standards on elimination of, despite making significant in terms of legislation trafficking. Similarly, the Department's Report of 2021 pointed out that the Anti Trafficking Act of 2008 was selective in criminalizing forms of sex trafficking and labour trafficking. Furthermore, it noted that "[i]nconsistent with the definition of trafficking under international law, the law required a demonstration of threats, force, intimidation, or other forms of coercion to constitute a child sex trafficking offense, and therefore did not criminalize all forms of child sex trafficking" (2022 United States Department of State Report on Zambia). On a positive note, the report affirmed the Zambian Government's integration of modules on Human trafficking into training curricula for law enforcement agents, identifying more victims and refurbishing a shelter for female victims as well as increased budgetary allocation towards the fight against the scourge.

By 2021, Zambia had ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000). This Protocol supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Zambia ratified the Protocol on September 15, 2006 (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/country-profile>). On the force of it, anyhow, Zambia has committed to taking measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, and cooperating with other countries in addressing the issue. The ratification also signifies Zambia's commitment to promoting human rights and combating organized crime.

In 2022, the Parliament of Zambia enacted the Anti-Human Trafficking (Amendment) Act, 2022, which was formulated in order to read as one with the Anti- Human Trafficking Act, 2008 the Principal Act. The most notable amendments to this Act were the redefinitions of 'abuse of vulnerabilities', 'coercion', 'exploitation' and 'victim' as related to human trafficking.

Article 2 of the Amended Act has thus recast abuse of vulnerabilities to cover physical or psychological abuse of a person and is not limited to taking advantage of the vulnerabilities of that person resulting from various circumstances such as disability of the person, addiction to the use of any substance and diminished capacity to form a judgment by virtue of being a child. The interpretation of coercion has equally been broadened to encompass violent physical or psychological pressure or persuasion and other kinds of non-violent physical or psychological pressure or persuasion. As for exploitation, the Amended Act now includes all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery (such as debt bondage or forced marriage) sexual exploitation; servitude; forced labour; child labour; the removal of body parts; forced involvement in armed conflict or any labour or services obtained through threats or other forms of coercion or the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability. Then, the term 'victim' is applicable to a person who has suffered harm or is at risk of suffering harm. This could be "mental and physical injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of the person's fundamental human rights through acts that are a violation of this Act, and has been certified as a victim in accordance with this Act" (Article 2, Cap. 1).

Incidentally, the UNICEF 2022 Country Office Annual Report on Zambia affirmed that the country had made key strides in strengthening the regulatory framework among which was for the protection of children, the Anti-Human Trafficking, Migration Policy; Human Trafficking and Smuggling Policy; Volunteerism Policy; Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Policy.

5.0 The Phenomenon of Human Trafficking in Zambia

Zambia has ten Provinces with control borders neighbouring with some SADC members' states. Zambia has a total length of 5,600 kilometres (3,500 miles) of borderline, and it is both a source and a transit point of human trafficking victims (<https://www.dw.com/en/zambia-beefs-up-its-borders>). Some of these are recruited from within the country while others merely pass through en-route to their destined countries like Namibia, South Africa and some European countries or other parts of the World (www.ilo.org/sapfl/Profect).

In December 2022, notwithstanding the Amendment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (2008) in the same year, the Lusaka Times featured a report on the Department of Immigration had "charged a 31-year-old Zambian man for harbouring, conduct facilitating trafficking, and aiding and abetting. John Mukulama of 12 Miles area, Chibombo District was apprehended on December 9, 2022 after being found at a partially completed house in 12 Miles, in which Immigration Officers found eight Ethiopians and six Somalis" (<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2022/12/14/immigration>). During the same month, the eight Croatians were charged with attempting to traffic four children, from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), within the

territorial boundaries of Zambia for the purpose of exploitation. In the same case, a senior officer in the Department of Immigration was also implicated on allegation of having acted contrary to section 3A (1) and 12 of Human Trafficking Act No.11 of 2008 as Amended by Act No. 16 of 2022 of the laws of Zambia (<https://zambianobserver.com/senior-immigration>). The children in question were aged between one and three years, and the youngest was only 15 months old.

Similarly, on December 11 of the same year, 27 people, believed to be of Ethiopian origin were found and dumped in an agricultural area north of Zambia's capital, Lusaka (<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/12/27-suspected>). The official explanation from the State police was that they had been suffocated to death while in transit. In any case, whether illegal migrants or victims of human trafficking, this incidence drew a line under the country's weaknesses in the detection of the passage of such illegal individuals.

Zambia's borderlines, notwithstanding the updated legislation on anti-human trafficking, have remained porous and permeable to human trafficking. According to the UN Refugee Agency, Zambia is a major transit point which is used by human traffickers to smuggle people into the country through South Africa (<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/africa>). In the same vein, the President of the country, Hakainde Hichilema, once expressed his concern over the matter when he remarked, "Government has continued to intercept illegal migrants, who, with the assistance of some of our own citizens, have continued to enter. Some stay in the country; others move on to other countries." He added further that, "We have also noted, with dismay, that some of our people are harbouring illegal immigrants" (<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/africa>).

The cases of human trafficking transiting through Katima Mulilo border, which is in Western Province of Zambia in Sesheke district bordering on the northern and southern bank of Zambezi with Namibia, have in the recent past increased to the extent that the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Government of the Republic of Zambia have constructed a protective shelter in Sesheke district to offer a place of safety to vulnerable especially children and women victims of related migrant issues (Migration News Desk, 2018). Livingstone borderline is another hotspot for human trafficking and a transit city along multiple trafficking corridors. Among sources of this trafficking include Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan (<https://www.stophetraffik.org/intelligence/zambia>). Victims of traffickers are made to cross into the country at specific points that include Nakonde, Kasumbalesa and Chitipa, until they reach Livingstone where they are hoarded in guest houses on the outskirts of the town until they cross the border, most likely into Zimbabwe and Botswana. Intelligence reports indicate that several methods are employed to secure the cooperation of victims such as physical abuse, starvation, financial dependence, threats to family and the confiscation of documents (<https://www.stophetraffik.org/intelligence/zambia>). Incidentally, in most cases, the victims are women and children.

5.1 Causes of Human Trafficking in Zambia

Human trafficking is a significant human rights issue in Zambia, with individuals being subjected to forced labour and sexual exploitation. The root causes of trafficking in Zambia are multifaceted and include poverty, lack of education, gender inequality, and corruption (International Organization for Migration, 2021).

Poverty is one of the primary drivers of human trafficking in Zambia, as many individuals seek employment opportunities that are not available in their home communities. These individuals may be lured by the promise of better wages or working conditions but end up being exploited by traffickers (International Organization for Migration, 2021). As evidenced by the cases of the number of Zambians who have been trafficked to Namibia through Katima Mulilo Border Control, the quest for employment as cattle herders or house servants so that they can meet the required food, shelter and clothing made them susceptible to being trafficked. Alcohol abuse by either the husbands or parents who eventually fail to provide the basic necessities have also made some women and children vulnerable and consequently victims human trafficking (Ng'andu and Chilufya, 2019).

Lack of education also contributes to human trafficking in Zambia. Many individuals who are illiterate or have limited education are more vulnerable to exploitation, as they may not be aware of their rights or legal protections. This lack of awareness can make it easier for traffickers to deceive or coerce them into forced labour or sexual exploitation (International Organization for Migration, 2021).

Gender inequality is another factor that contributes to human trafficking in Zambia. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, as they often face discrimination and limited opportunities for education and employment. Traffickers may prey on their vulnerability, luring them with false promises of employment or marriage and then subjecting them to forced labour or sexual exploitation (International Organization for Migration, 2021).

Corruption in Zambia also contributes to human trafficking, as corrupt officials may turn a blind eye to trafficking or even participate in it themselves. This lack of law enforcement can make it difficult to identify and prosecute traffickers, further perpetuating the cycle of exploitation (International Organization for Migration, 2021). Consistently, Zambia has ranked poorly on the Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International, and state of affairs creates fertile grounds for failure to eradicate human trafficking (<https://tizambia.org.zm>).

Conflict and displacement can create situations where people are forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in unfamiliar places, making them more vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers. This is especially true for women and children who may be separated from their families or left without protection and support (UNODC, 2021). Zambia has hosted many refugees such as those from neighboring Congo DR, Rwanda and Angola. Such displaced people always remain potential victims of human trafficking.

Cultural beliefs and practices, such as early marriage or traditional practices that involve forced labour, can also contribute to human trafficking in Zambia. These practices may be deeply ingrained in communities, making it difficult to address them through education and awareness-raising initiatives (UNODC, 2021).

Lastly, inadequate legal frameworks can make it difficult to prevent and prosecute human trafficking in Zambia. There may be gaps in the law, lack of resources or political will, or limited coordination between law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations working to combat trafficking (UNODC, 2021).

5.2 Security Effects of Human Trafficking in Zambia

Human trafficking has several security effects in Zambia. According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2019), human trafficking is a significant security concern in Zambia. The following are some of the security effects of human trafficking in Zambia:

- **Increased crime rates:** Human trafficking is often associated with other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism financing. These activities contribute to an increase in crime rates, which can threaten the security of the country.
- **Violation of human rights:** Human trafficking involves the exploitation of vulnerable people, which is a violation of their human rights. Victims of human trafficking are often subjected to physical and psychological abuse, and their freedom of movement is restricted.
- **Spread of diseases:** Trafficked persons may be subjected to poor living conditions, including overcrowding, poor sanitation, and lack of access to healthcare. This can lead to the spread of communicable diseases, which can pose a security risk to the general population.
- **Destabilization of families and communities:** Human trafficking can destabilize families and communities by separating family members, disrupting social networks, and eroding trust in institutions. This can lead to social unrest, which can pose a security risk.
- **Loss of economic productivity:** Human trafficking can lead to the loss of economic productivity as victims are often exploited in industries such as agriculture, mining, and domestic work. This can result in a loss of tax revenue, which can impact the country's economy and security.
- **Corruption:** Human trafficking can contribute to corruption in Zambia, as traffickers may bribe officials to avoid detection and prosecution. This can undermine the rule of law and create a culture of impunity that can weaken the security of the country.
- **Security threats:** Human trafficking can pose security threats to Zambia as it may provide an opportunity for terrorists and other criminals to exploit the porous borders and weak law enforcement. Traffickers may also use the proceeds from their activities to fund other illicit activities, including terrorism.
- **Child trafficking and child labour:** Child trafficking is a form of human trafficking that is prevalent in Zambia. It involves the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of children for labour or sexual purposes. Child labour is also a common issue in the country, and it is often linked to human trafficking. Children who are forced into labour may not have access to education, which can hinder their future prospects and pose a security threat to the country.
- **Psychological effects:** Human trafficking can have long-lasting psychological effects on victims, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These effects can impact the victims' ability to integrate into society, which can contribute to social unrest and undermine the security of the country (Gondwe, 2018).

Thus, human trafficking has several security effects in Zambia, including increased crime rates, violation of human rights, spread of diseases, destabilization of families and communities, and loss of economic productivity.

6.0 Theoretical Perspectives on the Implications of Human Trafficking

From the aforementioned international, SADC and Zambian legislation concerning human trafficking, it can be correctly inferred that this practice constitutes a serious crime. However, it is also true to observe that it is a complex and multifaceted crime involving multiple stakeholders at the institutional and commercial level. Historically, the emergency of globalization since the end of the Second World War has also been a major factor that has contributed to the exacerbation of the magnitude and thrust of trans-border crimes such as human trafficking, smuggling (Mobolaji & Alabi, 2017). By its definition, the latter crime constitutes contemporary

slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced into labour or sexual exploitation(https://www.indexmundi.com/zambia/trafficking_in_persons.html).

According to the Article 3 (UNODC, 2014) of the trafficking in Persons Protocol, which has been alluded to earlier, trafficking in person is defined by the following three constitutive elements:

- There must be an act of recruitment of victim person, transported, transferred, harboured or being received of a person;
- The means used to carry out this act should either be the threat, use of force, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability; and
- The purpose of perpetrating the act should be exploitation of the person, sexual exploitation, exploitation through forced bagging, exploitation through the removal of organs.

Though the above elements compound the difficult of understanding the scope of the nature of human trafficking, it is clearly not an accidental or an unintended endeavour. From this perspective, the Rational Choice Theory (hereinafter RCT) sheds light on the activity. This theory principally anchors on the understanding that the human person is a rational actor whose actions stem from a cost-benefit analysis. It is a utilitarian conviction that a man must reason as an actor to weigh means and ends, cost and benefits and make a rational choice (Becker,1968). Precisely for this reason, this theory can be applied to the study of human trafficking.

In the light of the RCT, it follows that before someone engages in the recruitment, transportation by means of either coercion or abduction for perhaps the purpose of exploitation for prostitution of the victims, he/she must have weighed the means, ends, cost and benefits before undertaking such a crime. traffickers and victims may make decisions based on the potential financial gain, perceived risks, and available alternatives. For instance, traffickers may choose to engage in trafficking due to the high profitability of the illicit business, the low likelihood of being caught and punished, and the limited economic opportunities in their home countries. On the other hand, victims may be lured into trafficking by the promise of a better life, job opportunities, or education, but may not fully comprehend the risks involved or have few other viable options. For instance, traffickers may choose to engage in trafficking due to the high profitability of the illicit business, the low likelihood of being caught and punished, and the limited economic opportunities in their home countries. On the other hand, victims may be lured into trafficking by the promise of a better life, job opportunities, or education, but may not fully comprehend the risks involved or have few other viable options.

Several studies have applied RCT to human trafficking to explain the decision-making process of traffickers and the individuals who become victims. For example, a study by Cho and Dreher (2013) examined the determinants of human trafficking across countries using RCT. They found that economic factors, such as poverty and income inequality, as well as political instability and weak rule of law, were significant predictors of trafficking. Another study by Zhang and Chin (2017) used RCT to analyze the decision-making process of traffickers and victims in China. They found that traffickers were motivated by high profits and a low risk of being caught. They make calculated decisions to exploit individuals for financial gain. For example, a trafficker may choose to recruit individuals from impoverished areas where there is a high demand for cheap labor or sex work, and where individuals may be more willing to take risks for the promise of better economic opportunities (Shelley, 2010). On the other hand, victims of trafficking may make rational decisions based on their perceived economic opportunities and lack of viable options (Chuang, 2006). They may be lured into trafficking through false promises of well-paying jobs or better living conditions (Chuang, 2006). For example, an individual in a low-income country may see migration or engagement in sex work as a viable option for economic gain, but may not be aware of the risks of trafficking and exploitation. It is also equally true that victims of trafficking may be influenced by social norms or pressures that make them vulnerable to exploitation. For example, women and girls in certain societies may face limited opportunities for education or employment, and may be expected to marry young and have children (Chuang, 2006).

Notwithstanding, the elements that have created fertile ground for human trafficking, particularly in Africa, brings to the fore the urgency for countries on the continent to put in place effective border management systems that, on the one hand, should minimize border tensions, reduce organized crime activities by syndicates and traffickers in borderlands. Zambia's borderline control can, for instance, be enhanced by introducing border guards along this entire stretch. On the other hand, anyhow, these systems should be system designed to increase joint enforcement and surveillance efforts, generate common understanding of border insecurities and approaches to addressing them, secure flow of goods and people in the spirit of regional and continental integration, integrate and develop marginalized border areas through provision of essential infrastructure and promotion of a sense of security and wellbeing among the border population, enhance communication and information exchange between neighbouring countries, maintain borders in ways that do not obstruct cross border trading and legal movements of people, harmonizes, and enables borders to be sources of mutual trust and harmony between neighbours.

As can be deduced from the foregoing, the study confirmed the reports of international agencies that despite

the efforts to curb human trafficking, the SADC region with the inclusion of Zambia still face challenges. From a positive perspective, Zambia has amended, in the 2022 Act, the anti-trafficking law to define child sex trafficking as not requiring force, fraud, or coercion. Furthermore, the amended law no longer requires a demonstration of threats, force, intimidation, or other forms of coercion to constitute a child sex trafficking offense. However, law enforcement officers lack required capacity to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. Sometimes, the allocated resources are not adequate and that victims lacked legal knowledge about the crime of human trafficking (Ng'andu and Chilufya, 2019). Furthermore, Zambia's immigration department needs to speed up the comprehensive implementation of the new law on anti-human trafficking. Furthermore, it is essential to address the root causes of human trafficking in Zambia through a comprehensive approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution efforts. This includes addressing issues of poverty, gender inequality, lack of education, and corruption, as well as investing in stronger legal frameworks and law enforcement capabilities.

Thus, though the rational choice theory can provide insight into the decision-making processes of both traffickers and victims in the context of human trafficking, it is important to note that the theory does not take into account all the complex social, cultural, and political factors that contribute to human trafficking.

7.0 Conclusion

On the whole, the Trans-border crime of human trafficking remain a challenge for Zambia, and poses security threats to the country. The porous state of borders and corruption among security agents, poverty, and unemployment, lack of knowledge by the general public couple with incompetence and ineffective in implementing the legislative framework are all drivers of the crime of human trafficking. However, implementation of relevant laws is not a defacto panacea to this crime. Conversely, the actual implementation of such legal instruments requires assiduous and comprehensive enforcement in order to diminish the demand for various forms of trafficking in persons. Besides, there is invariably the necessity to raise public awareness about both incidences of trafficking and the attendant laws. This can be chiefly done by governments in the SADC region and other stakeholders such Intergovernmental Organisations, Civil Society Organization and Non-governmental Organizations especially in constantly monitoring for human trafficking indicators among vulnerable groups such as refugees, sex workers and foreign nationals. Certainly, under RCT, the risks and disadvantages of trafficking in persons outweigh the benefits, and therefore should be rationally averted and militated against. As such, the complex of human trafficking requires that the RCT be used in conjunction with other theories, approaches and empirical evidence to gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex phenomenon of human trafficking. Furthermore, it is crucial to address human trafficking as a security concern in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the country's citizens and non-citizens. By addressing human trafficking as a security concern, Zambia can guarantee human protection and welfare. This would count for a significant contribution to regional and global efforts to combat trans-border human trafficking.

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