The Counter Human Trafficking Trust-East Africa (CHTEA) is a regional Non-Governmental Organisation registered as a Trust in Nairobi, Kenya. CHTEA is slowly rolling out into all the six East African Member countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan).

Founded in 2006 as a response to an emerging human trafficking dynamic in Kenya and the region of East Africa, the Medical Missionaries of Mary, Counter Human Trafficking (MMM CHT) unit started work in the Makuru slums of Nairobi, Kenya. In the subsequent years, the volume and complexity relating to trafficking in persons grew by leaps and bounds. Following an evaluation report of 2016, during the ten year anniversary, it was recommended that the future of counter human trafficking work required a more robust institution to engage in more comprehensive programmes and interventions; thus, the Counter Human Trafficking Trust-East Africa (CHTEA) was formally registered in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2018 to spearhead this cause. CHTEA has a Board of Trustees as the apex within the governance structure whose key role is policy formulation and overall oversight. A Secretariat headed by a Chief Executive Officer is in place to spearhead implementation and execution of the day to day operations.

Mission

As an institution dedicated to the elimination of Trafficking in Persons, CHTEA shall endeavour; in partnership with others to crush this evil vice from the world.

CHTEA has a strong passion to drive in the culture of what is encountered in the trafficking of millions of women, children and men who are enslaved for the sole purpose of amassing billions of wealth by the greedy and inhumane members of the society.

Vision

A world free from the shackles of Human Exploitation and the prosecution of every woman or man who dares take up this evil task to the detriment of the most vulnerable in our society.

CHTEA seeks to redefine counter Trafficking in Persons (TFI) strategies through promotion of enhanced coordination, capabilities, skills, exposure, research and documentation; while at the same time seeking to offer holistic solutions to victims’ plight and design an arresting intervention for the perpetrators and/or traffickers. Working collaboratively with Government agencies, CHTEA seeks to advocate, train, advice and prepare policy briefs for sub-regional government policy makers as it may apply appropriately in an effort to create a synergized approach towards Trafficking in Persons and other transnational organized crimes.

Programmes

Policy Advocacy and Awareness

Monitor implementation of the 2010 Act in Kenya and other efforts by Member States of the East African Community on Counter Trafficking in Persons. Mount campaigns on awareness of trafficking in persons – in collaboration with States and other stakeholders. Preparing and disseminating IEC materials (posters, banners, fliers, etc.) alongside distribution of IEC materials (posters, banners, fliers, etc.)

Understanding Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the trade of women, men and children for the sole purpose of exploitation by use of deception. The victims are normally promised good life, well-paying jobs, marriage or even education prospects.

Human trafficking can be classified in two categories:

A. We’ve All Worked with the Familiar

- Prostitution
- Child Trafficking, Child Marriage, Child Soldiers
- Forced Labor (hard physical labor mainly for men)
- Domestic Labor
- Gay Sex
- Debt bondage
- Organ Removal

B. New and Emerging Trends

- Surrogate Pregnancies
- Rural-Urban Child Slavery (Ethiopia-Kenya)
- Kidnapped to Slums for Ransom
- Remote Rural Recruiters/ Victim Culture Shock

Human trafficking is not the same as illegal migration and counter human trafficking does not intend to stop migration. It rather helps the would-be victims to better understand the risks associated with their travel and migration and proposes options for safe migration. Migrants must know their rights and protections, whether in Kenya or abroad. For example, employers cannot abuse their employees, either physically, sexually or psychologically. They cannot restrict free movement, communication and freedom of association (obscure or confute travel or identification documents (passport or identity card). Employers cannot force employees to work in dangerous or in poor health conditions or even longer than hours specified in contracts.