

INTRODUCTORY TALK
HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE
9-12 APRIL, 2013

SR MELANIE O' CONNOR, CTIP

SOCIAL CONTEXT .

1. SOCIAL MIX
2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY.
3. LEISURE
4. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS
5. FABRIC OF SOCIETY - EFFECTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON :
 - THE INDIVIDUAL
 - THE FAMILY
 - THE COMMUNITY
 - THE ECONOMY
 - GOVERNMENT
6. INCREASED SOCIAL SERVICES
7. SOUL OF SOCIETY
 - THE MORAL LANDSCAPE

1

SOCIAL MIX

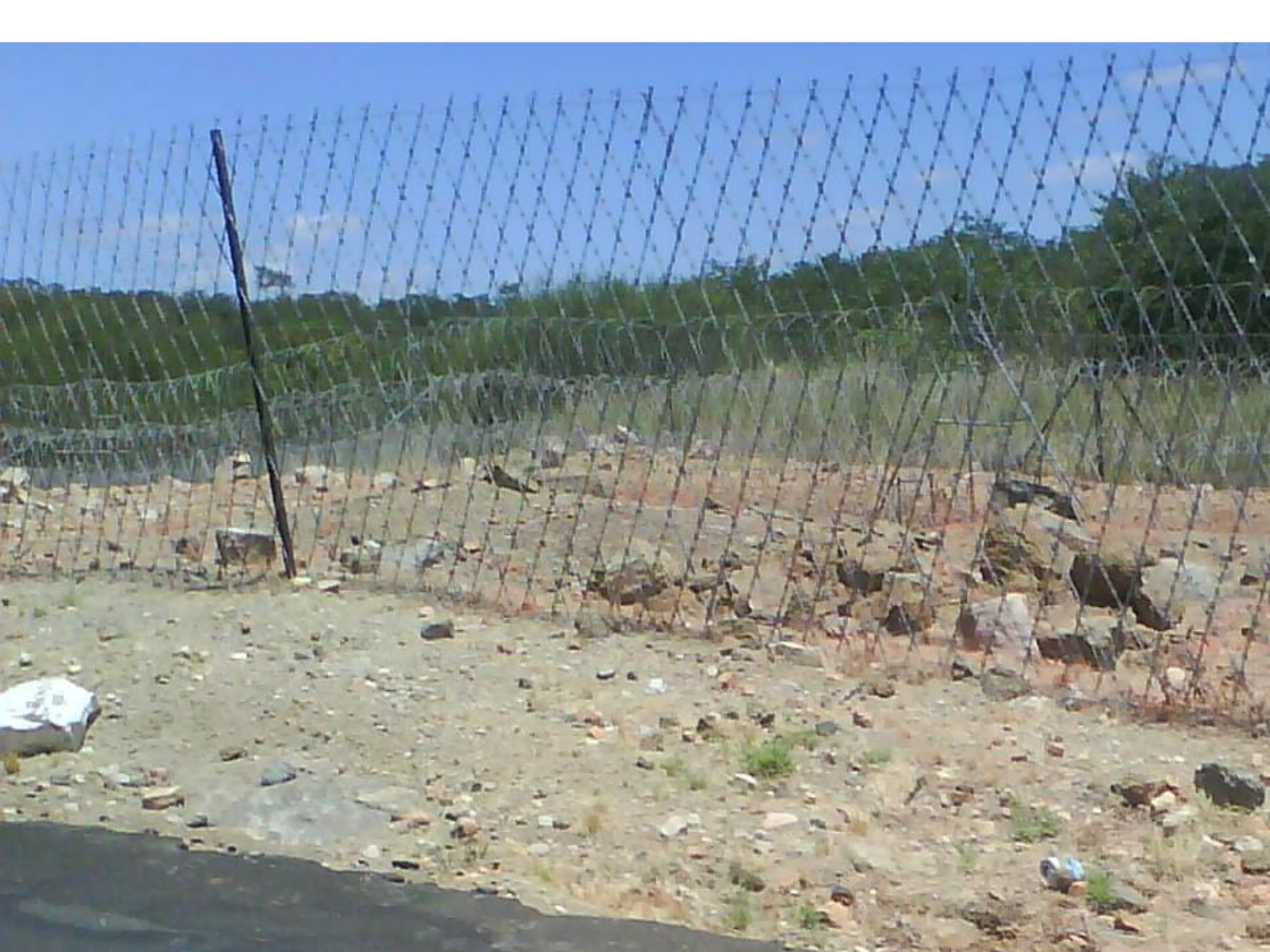
MIGRATION PHENOMENON

- SOUTH AFRICA IS REGARDED AS THE ECONOMIC GIANT OF AFRICA –HENCE THE PULL TOWARDS IT.
- PEOPLE WHO WANT TO FLEE DESPERATE SITUATIONS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY TEND TO GRAVITATE TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA.
- SOUTH AFRICA HAS A NUMBER OF PORUS BORDERS, PEOPLE COME IN AND OUT UNDETECTED – LEAVES US SOMEWHAT VULNERABLE.
- THIS ALREADY MAKES IT AN ATTRACTIVE OPERATION FIELD FOR TRAFFICKERS – who can easily cross borders

South Africa has 72 ports of entry.

- Swaziland : 11 border crossings
- Lesotho : 14 border crossings

- There are many holes in the fences round the Beitbridge Border because of the numerous border jumpers.



- Many women especially who are usually guided through the bushes to get to the fences have been attacked by the ama-gumaguma who hide in the bushes, strip them of their belongings and rape them.
- On our visit to Beitbridge the police took us through the fences and showed us the clothes strewn in openings of the thicket. The clothes were mainly women and children's underwear.





- South Africa is commonly regarded as the main country of destination in the SADC region for human trafficking
- According to ISS as many as 500 organised crime syndicates operate in South Africa.
- Malawian women are sold by Nigerian syndicates to Germany, Italy and Belgium and this happens via South Africa.
- South Africans are trafficked to Hong Kong and Macau (China)
- Thai women ARE debt bonded in Johannesburg, in Kwazulu- Natal, and port areas.

- **Socio – economic
vulnerability**

Vulnerability of migrants, especially migrant women

- There are migrants who could not make it in South Africa. Unfortunately they have learnt from the tactics of others and sent for relatives and sisters back home to earn money by prostituting them.
- One young woman invited to South Africa by her boyfriend came along with her little baby and younger sister. The latter two were left at a friend's house while the young man took his girlfriend to answer a job offer. That was three years ago. She never returned.
- We are helpless in trying to trace the young woman.

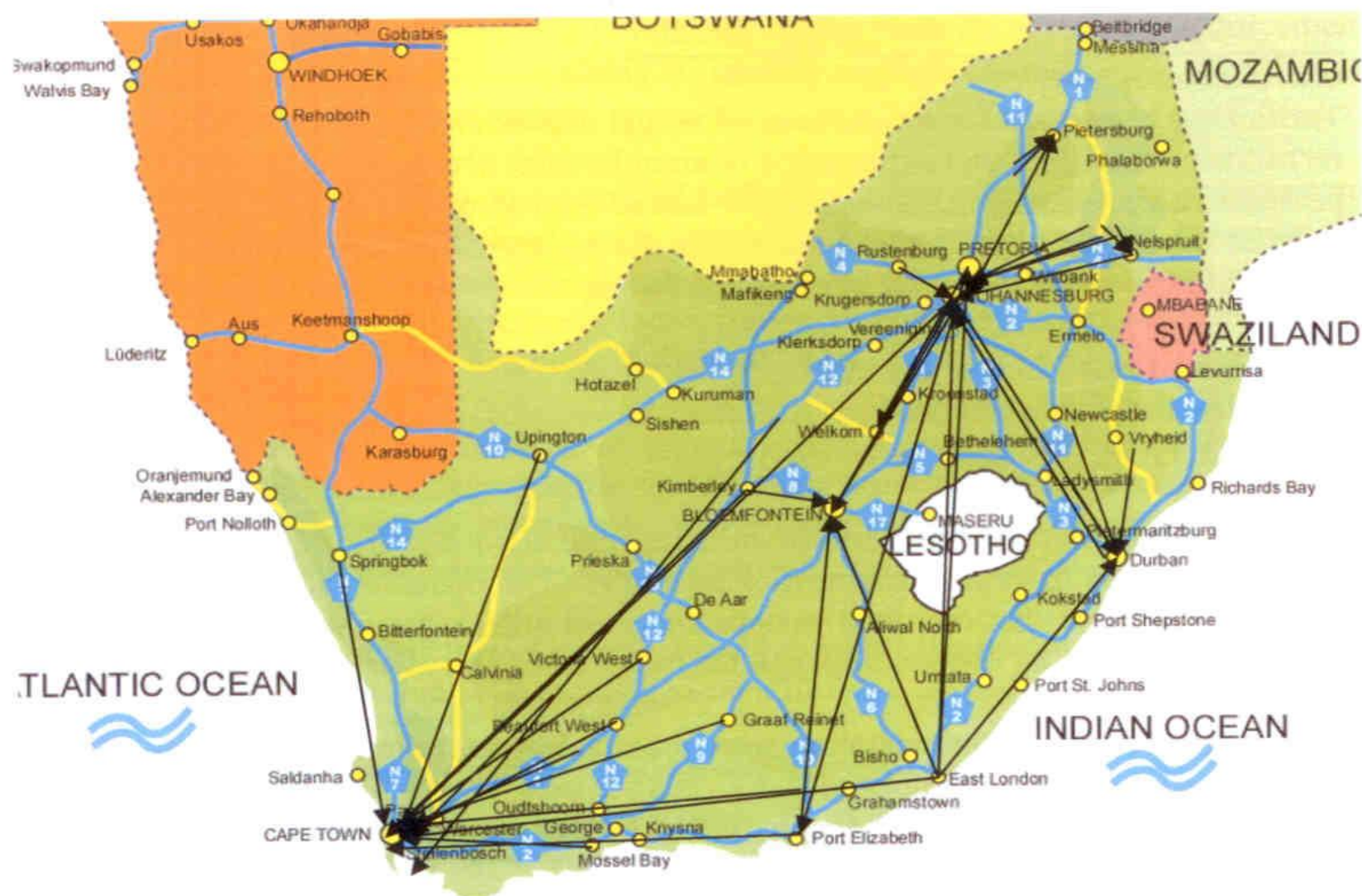
Vulnerability of children

- Gap between rich and poor is widening
- Poor are getting poorer.
- While Poverty is not a cause of human trafficking it certainly is a push factor.
- Traffickers tend to exploit the vulnerable in societies.
- Poverty stricken parents/guardians tend to do things they normally would not do – eg. sell their children.
- There is also the critical situation of many children in the country. We have a lot of Street children who are used and abused and there are also drop outs from school.

- Children live in the streets as a result of fights at home or hunger – no food at home or the like.
- Children are beaten by gangsters – often gang raped and will eventually submit to do what asked.
- There are no official statistics of child trafficking in South Africa.
- It is estimated that 100 children are trafficked from Mozambique every month.
- Children are often brought to South Africa under false pretentions as has been the case with Zimbabwean children.

- It is estimated that between 28 000 and 30 000 children are in prostitution in South Africa, half of them between the age of 10 and 14 and the other half between 15 and 18 years of age (CPU).
- As many as 26 000 children sold for sex.

Fig. 6 Internal Trafficking Routes



3

LEISURE

Traffickers capitalise on some leisure spots:

- Taverns
- Sheebens
- Strip Clubs
- Night Clubs
- Spending nights in hotels
- (Brothels : illegal in South Africa).

ESCAPE FROM A SEX HELL!

Forced to sleep with 20 men a day

By KOLA ALLI

SHE travelled hundreds of kilometres ... she was hopeful because she was getting a job ... but the young girl's hopes soon turned into hell when she was forced to be a mago-sha!

But Ayanda Mamabolo was lucky ... she escaped the evil clutches of the Nigerian man who forced her to sleep with 20 men a day.

She told *Daily Sun*: "My days of being a sex slave are over."

Ayanda (17) caught a bus to Pretoria from Umlazi in KwaZulu-Natal. She was promised a job in the big city. But this young woman never thought the job would mean becoming a street-walking prostitute!

When she arrived in Pretoria three weeks ago she found herself sucked in

He sent men into the room to sleep with her.

"I was locked up and forced to sleep with more than 20 people a day. I was only given food to eat at night," said Ayanda.

"My evil boss brought clients into a room. I was not allowed to go out, but on Sunday he let me out to get clients on the street. That's when I saw a chance to save my life," said Ayanda.

"I just wanted to get a job so I could send cash to help my brothers. My grandfather and gogo look after them because our parents died years ago," she said.

Sergeant Asnath Malatsi told *Daily Sun* cops bust a Nigerian (30) and charged him with human trafficking.

She said young job seekers should be careful! People trap young girls into be-



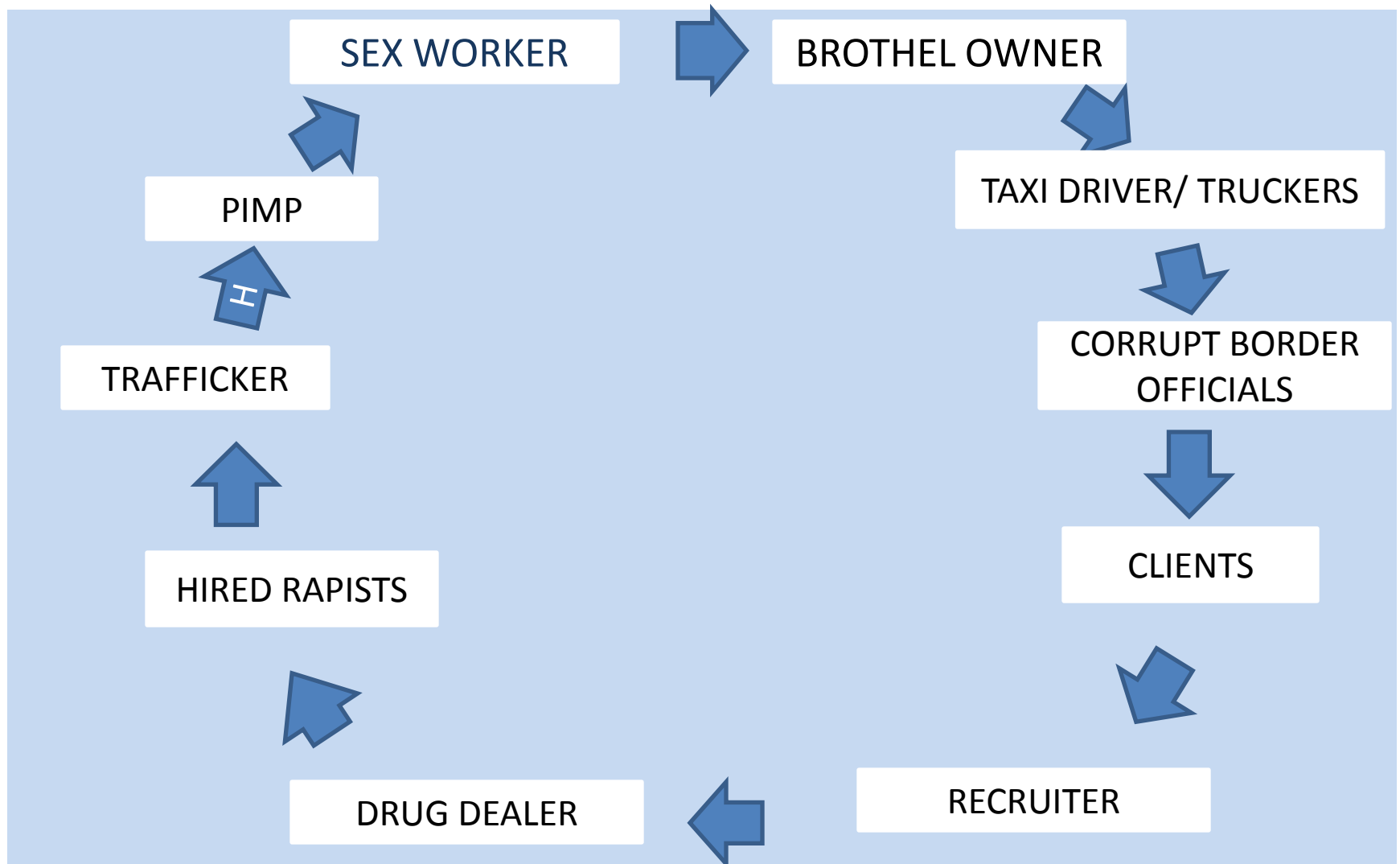
A police woman with the Nigerian man bust for human trafficking.

Leisure - Increased Demand for sex.

- Little attention has been given to the demand side of trafficking or the dynamics of supply and demand.
- The trafficking process begins with the demand for women, or boys or young girls to be used for pleasure - prostitution for example.
- It begins when pimps place an order – they contact someone who can deliver them – is what initiates the chain of events of sex trafficking.
- Where the trafficking will occur is determined by the presence and activities of traffickers, pimps and collaborating officials running criminal operations.

- **PROSTITUTION IS ILLEGAL IN SOUTH AFRICA YET WE HAVE A THRIVING SEX INDUSTRY**

SEX INDUSTRY



Components of the Demand

1. Men who buy commercial sex acts
2. Exploiters who make up the sex industry
3. The countries that are destination countries
4. The culture that tolerates or promotes sexual exploitation.

4

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS

Gender and Human trafficking

- Gender for example – is a social construct. We are socialised into roles.
- Some customs spur human trafficking eg. a form of Ukuthwala

cults

- Certain Beliefs & practices to bring health and wealth.eg. Child sacrifice is big business now in places. It depends on how the customer wants it done. Eg, a child can be buried alive on a construction site. In older days we used to hear that it was the skull of a child that was used.
- Witch doctors are now getting big sums of money from the new elite in a bid to increase their wealth.
- Juju rituals on the continent are playing a part in the demand for African children.
- (anti – human sacrifice police task force now in Britain?).
- Satanic cults

Child Protection

- The African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the child(1990) defines the child as “every human being below the age of 18..” and calls for children’s legal protection as well as particular care with regard to health , physical, mental, moral and social development, protection from abuse etc.
- South Africa ratified the Charter on 7 January 2000.

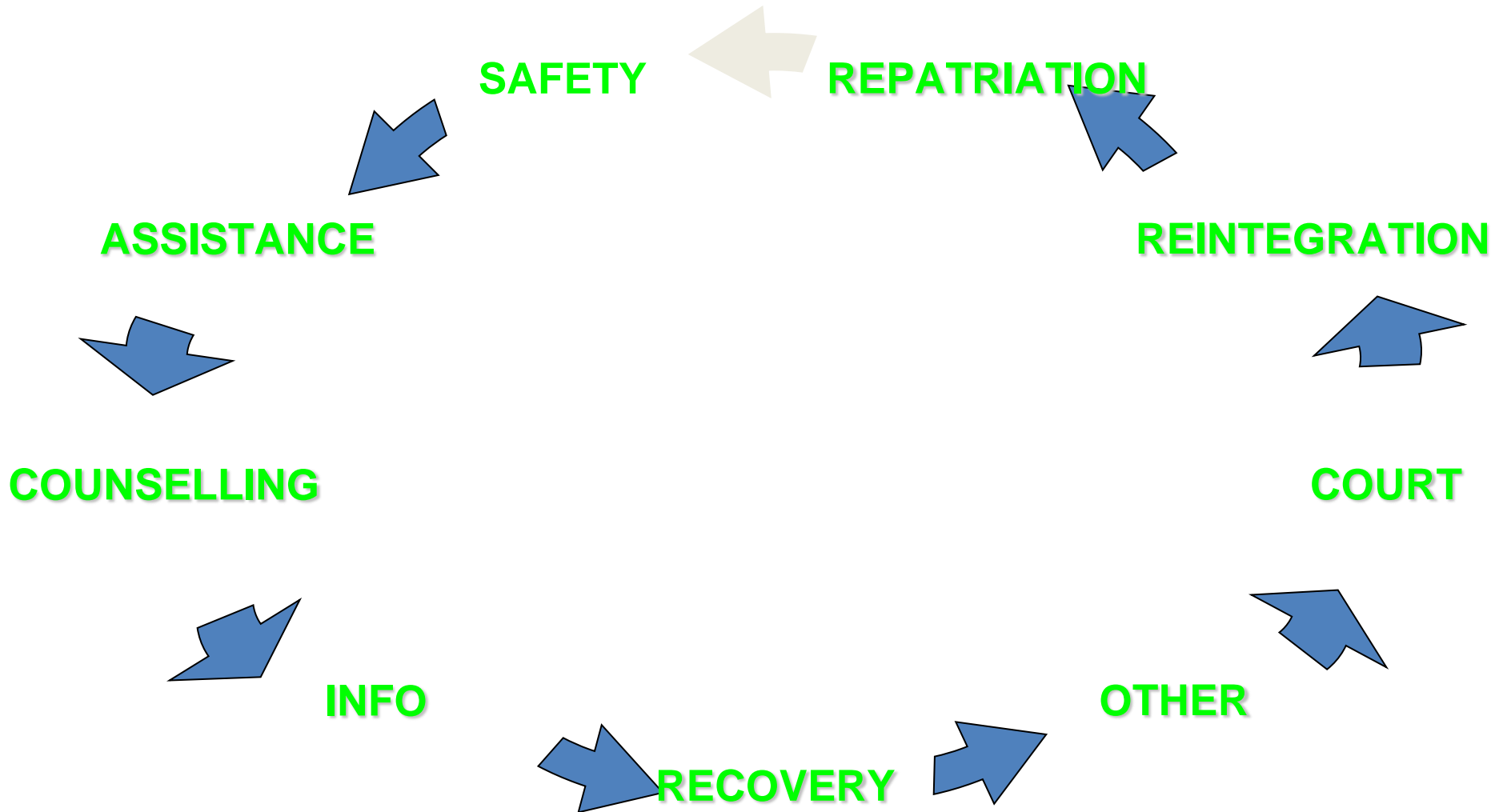
- There is the Social Assistance Act (1992) through the South African Social Security Agency(SASSA) to assist families, amended in 2008 to prevent children from taking to the streets.
- The South African Schools Act (1996) made schooling compulsory for all children between the ages of 7 and 15 or until they have completed Grade 9 . Parents and guardians are obliged by this Act.

Towards the elimination of worst forms of child labour (TECL)

- TECL is working with the NPA to strip perpetrators- of worst forms of child labour-of their ill-gotten gains in:
 - -commercial exploitation,
 - use of children to commit crime
 - trafficking of children.

PROTECTION & ASISTANCE

after exploitation / rescue



5.

FABRIC OF SOCIETY

Human Trafficking has effects not only on the Individual.

It also has dire consequences on

- The Family – We have broken families as a result.
- The Community :
is in places ruled by fear. It sinks into a culture of tolerance – turns a blind eye to what is going on.
- The Economy if affected – traffickers do not pay tax.
- The Government might be unable to stop the criminal element from taking over. Traffickers bribe officials . This leads to more corruption.
- Result - The Social Fabric disintegrates.

**SOUL OF SOCIETY – THE
MORAL FIBRE.**

To keep our soul we need Moral Regeneration and recognise :

- Importance of the spiritual in our lives.



- **WE ARE PROTECTORS OF SOCIETY(Pope Francis)**

- The vocation of being a "protector", has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us.

- It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about.

- It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents.

- It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!

- Whenever human beings fail to live up to this responsibility, whenever we fail to care for creation and for our brothers and sisters, the way is opened to destruction and hearts are hardened. Tragically, in every period of history there are "Herods" who plot death, wreak havoc, and mar the countenance of men and women.

- Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be "protectors" of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow omens of destruction and death to accompany the advance of this world! But to be "protectors", we also have to keep watch over ourselves! Let us not forget that hatred, envy and pride defile our lives! Being protectors, then, also means keeping watch over our emotions, over our hearts, because they are the seat of good and evil intentions: intentions that build up and tear down! We must not be afraid of goodness or even tenderness!

- To fight this scourge of human trafficking we need:



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LET US GO FORWARD