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Women Trafficking in Ethiopia and its Mitigation:
The Case of Arsi Zone, Oromiya

Propositions

1. Although human trafficking is global, its root causes are local, and it is socio-economic and environmental crises which prevent the trafficked persons from pursuing other options for improving livelihood conditions.
2. Human trafficking in Ethiopia will likely continue to increase, regardless of the inhumane practices and suffering endured by the trafficked women and men.
3. Respecting the intrinsic value of freedom and emancipation of people engaged in (inter)national migration alone cannot compensate for the need for pro-poor policies that address the socio-economic and environmental problems which propel irregular migration and human trafficking and obviate free ‘choice’.
4. The *kafala* (‘guarantor’) system in Middle Eastern countries legitimizes the abusive bondage relations between the host families and the trafficked women, even if they migrated legally.
5. In certain circumstances, criminalizing the victims of trafficking could be a deterrent for people to consent to being trafficked again and again, to end up being victimized by the traffickers and others in the ‘value chain’ in the destination countries.
6. Some developing country governments adhere to international policies and legal instruments designed to mitigate human trafficking either half-heartedly or to look good in the international world of diplomacy, while ending up doing little or nothing about it.
7. Human trafficking is so much entrenched in Arsi zone and large sways of other Ethiopian regions that it has become part of the local fabric of society, so that mitigating it is constrained both by social values and toothless policies.
8. The “migrant hero metaphor” is a motivating factor both for poor and rich young aspirants to change their living conditions to the better but for different reasons.

9. The current level of fines levied on traffickers and their collaborators in Ethiopia are too insignificant compared with the rewards that accrue to them.
10. In Ethiopia as is many other developing countries, those responsible for human trafficking mitigation are poorly trained and the technical and financial resources are too meagre, their will fail their responsibility to prevent, protect and prosecute traffickers.
11. The ratification and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), entered into force on 30 May 2019, will encourage more migration within Africa and may reduce the extent of human trafficking.
12. A substantial proportion of the resources of the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) that supports poor people living in rural areas (who make up over 80% of the population), should be devoted to women trafficking mitigation policies.