

BEING A KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. G. O. OSHODI REPRESENTING THE CHAIRMAN OF TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION (TESCOM) ON 23RD MAY, 2019 IN AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY LIVE ABUNDANTLY!® IN COMMENMORATION OF 2019 CHILDREN'S DAY

Let me first commend the organizer of this event (Live Abundantly!®) for being consistent in their drive to sensitize the Nigerians society on the challenges of women and the girl child in particular.

Today's topic is timely and I stand privileged and honoured to give the keynote address as stakeholder in the education sector and as a mother.

The victims in the ignoble trade of human trafficking, irregular migration and violence are mostly women due to their vulnerability.

They are usually at the mercy of their tormentors basically as well as societal expectations.

In the last 15 months quite a number of returnees from Libya alone were women.

In March 2019 report of the 174 returnees, 84 were females of 62 adults, 11 children and 11 infants.

In a report of May 10, 2019 about 140,000 migrants (not necessarily Nigerian only) and refugees were estimated to live in Tripoli alone and are being exposed to sexual abuse and airstrikes from different rebels group seeking to gain control of Tripoli. Most of these people are women and children. Majority of these ladies were pregnant and you all know what that also portends for them, they became single mothers without prospect of getting jobs immediately.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests and students. Let me end my address with a short story of a rat scavenging in a street gutter.

One day the rat thought to himself if only he could secure a hiding place in a man's room in order to escape rains day and night. Barely a day after sneaking into a human's kitchen where it thought it had food in abundance in a warm and cozy environment and being in a place of greener pasture, he was trapped in a rat gum because humans hate rodents. This typifies experiences of trafficked women and children and young irregular migrants. Where they think the grass is greener is usually a chamber of pain, sorrow and in many cases death.

At this juncture, I hereby plead with our young ones seated here not to be lured into modern slavery. Instead be focused in your academic and skill acquisition pursuits. The future is bright.

Thank you.

Mrs. Olabisi Ariyo
Chairperson
Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM)