

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

BRINGING THE STORY BACK HOME: September 10 – 20, 2015

Former Education Reporter, Bukola Oriola is joining forces with the National Agency for The Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) to educate Nigerians at home about the ordeal of human trafficking in the United States. In her 2015 Lagos, Abeokuta and Abuja upcoming week-long tour of public and private colleges, tagged, *Bringing the Story Back Home*, Oriola hopes to enlighten higher institution students as armor bearers in the community about the vulnerability of becoming victims of human trafficking while looking for better opportunities abroad. The event is planned to help them understand that travelling abroad does not necessarily mean a better life or greener pasture, but one that could pose as a trap for becoming a victim of human trafficking. “The reason I have chosen this audience is because they are the youth and they are armor bearers in the community. They form the perfect niche to spread the message to the younger generation and also leverage it to the older folks in the community. More so, they are passionate and are talented, always looking for opportunities within and outside the country. It will be of immense help to this sub-group to understand the fact that going abroad by visa lottery, marriage, further education, or other means can be a potential trafficking trap,” Oriola stated.

Oriola, who is a survivor of labor trafficking has chronicled her experiences in form of a book entitled, *Imprisoned: The Travails of a Trafficked Victim* to both expose one of the ways that a person can become a victim and how victims can reach out for help. This tour, scheduled for September 10 to 20, 2015 is not set to discourage the Nigerian youths from pursuing their dreams of finding opportunities abroad, but to equip them with adequate knowledge that will prevent them from becoming victims, or finding help, if they become victims of human trafficking.

Oriola is Founder, The Enitan Story/Producer, Imprisoned Show. The Enitan Story is a local nonprofit organization in Minnesota, United States with a mission to advocate for victims and empower survivors of human trafficking. Imprisoned Show is one of the organization’s programs dedicated to educating the public about human trafficking around the world. Since the launch of Imprisoned Show at one of the local TV stations in Minnesota, she has produced over 20 episodes featuring expert opinions, events, public presentations, students, members of the local law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, attorneys, and advocates to help victims reach out for

help. “I believe that education is the greatest tool for preventing this heinous crime in our communities. One of the episodes on Imprisoned Show featured the Hubert Humphreys fellows at the University of Minnesota from Malaysia, Vietnam, and Nepal. Evaluating and discussing various forms of providing services, in addition to advocacy, will further help both government and nongovernmental efforts to effectively combat the crime. The show was also documented as President Barak Obama’s accomplishments in fighting human trafficking in the United States in 2013.

Oriola is a consultant for the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) and was among 20 survivors at a Forum and Listening Session at the White House in January 2014, which was the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month in the United States. The event, which was put together by the Office For Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVCTTAC) was the first of its kind event by the federal government to effectively engage the voices of survivors in its program to provide a better life for victims and survivors of human trafficking in the United States. The government has rolled out a five year strategic plan which was made public on January 14, 2014 at the Forum and Listening Session. A documentary featuring Oriola among other survivors was completed recently and will be used to train service providers, federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations and the general public about the issue, using real life people and not actors to pass the message across in a way that will fully engage everybody. OVC has issued an advance copy of the documentary to be featured during Oriola’s tour in Nigeria.

You can learn more about Oriola’s work on the issue of human trafficking by watching some of the episodes of Imprisoned Show online at www.imprisonedshow.com. The Enitan Story’s website is www.enitan.org, and the official website for Bringing the Story Back Home is www.bukolaoriola.com/bringingthestoryackhome. You can even find out more about her using Google. For questions contact Oriola at Bukola@bukolaoriola.com.

Below is the itinerary for the tour and list of colleges.

| Bringing The Story Back Home (BTSBH) Itinerary | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Date | Activity | Time |
| Friday, September 9 | Media Appearances & Press Conferences @ U.S. Consulate, Lagos | 9:00 a.m. |
| Monday, September 14 | Bells University of Technology, Ota | 7:00 a.m. |
| Monday, September 14 | Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta | 2:00 p.m. |

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| Tuesday, September 15 | Caleb University, Ikorodu | 9:00 a.m. |
| Tuesday, September 15 | Lagos State polytechnic, Ikorodu | 2:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, September 16 | University of Lagos | 9:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, September 16 | Yaba College of Technology | 2:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, September 17 | Grand Finale at the U.S. Consulate, Lagos | 10:00 a.m. |
| Friday, September 18 | Courtesy Visit to NAPTIP's Executive Secretary, Abuja | 10:00 a.m. |

Thank you.

Signed.

Bukola Oriola

Founder, The Enitan Story

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