Trafficking in Human Beings, Challenges in the Identification Process: The Stavanger Case

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1 Acronyms and Abbreviations

AWF - Analysis Work Files
EC - European Communities
ECC - European Economic Community
ECHR - European Convention of Human Rights
EMN - European Migration Network
EU - European Union
EUROJUST - The European Union’s Judicial Cooperation Unit
EUROPOL - European Police Office
FRONTEX - European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
GRETA - Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
HTSP - Human trafficking Sexual Purpose
IACB - Inter-Agency Coordination Body
ILO - International Labour Organization
JIT - Join Investigative Teams
KOM - Coordinating Unit for Victims of Trafficking
NC - National Coordinator
NCM - National Cooperation Mechanism
NP - National Plan
NRM - National Referral Mechanism
NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and Technology
ODIHR - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE - The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SOCA - Serious Organized Crime Agency
STIs - Sexual Transmitted Infections
TAMPEP - European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers
TREVI - Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism, and International Violence
TRM - Transnational Referral Mechanism
THB - Trafficking in Human Beings
UDI - Directorate of Immigration
UNAIDS - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UKHTC - United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre
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From my part, I hope this work can improve comprehension and public’s awareness against Human Trafficking.
Part I

Introduction

Migration is a very diversified topic, where both positive and negative sides merge together providing aspects of complexity and a state of uncertainty that have repercussions on related arguments such as the case concerning Trafficking in Human Beings (THB).

The huge amount of actors involved within the trafficking networks, the complex cases it generates and the particular characteristics of this crime, including its transnational nature, provide a sense of confusion to those people who decide to improve their knowledge for professional reasons or for a sense of moral duty.

In order to facilitate this approach, I decided to research on the mechanism that lies behind the entire process of THB, starting from the protection to the rehabilitation of the victims. This is the identification process.

The reason why I chose this particular phase of the process is related to the THB characteristics that define, in accordance to the International Labour Organization (ILO)\(^1\), trafficking in human beings as one of the most difficult and “hidden” phenomena to measure.

Indeed, in despite of the huge efforts put in place by the States, the daily work NGOs perform at the local level, and finally, the high cohesion in terms of international cooperation, this crime is still able to survive and bloom, thanks to some lacks in the legal system and the deep complicity of uninterested people, who try to avoid any risk embracing everything the market can offer them.

This case is particularly highlighted by the sexual exploitation of victims (HTSP), which includes the most flourished typology of THB market within the European area. Indeed, “approximately 120.000 women and children are trafficked into the European Union every year, whereas a range from 700.000 to

an astounding 4,000,000 women and children seems to be trafficked annually. Furthermore, this situation is worsened by the slavery as a product of such ill market, in which the degraded role of the person remembers very well the marxist inversion of the “rei-fication”, as referred by the official ONU Supplementary Convention on Slavery Abolition in 1956: “Slavery means [...], the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised, and "slave" means a person in such condition or status”. At this point, it can be understood how the relevance of the issue is both related to its quantity (the dimension of the phenomenon) as well as its quality, since the impact on people have explosive effects on the economical situation, health sector and democratic institutions of the country in which the exploitation is performed. In addition, this phenomenon should be contextualized in the greater market of Globalization that, paraphrasing Bauman’s words, is polarizing instead of distributing resources and goods in those places where the economy is able to support and attract the demand. The city of Stavanger, with its international dynamics, demonstrated to have all the qualities for being taken as a “model” city in order to research on trafficking for sexual purpose (HTSP) and moreover, a place with a unique sensibility in terms of vulnerable people.

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3 A specific section 2.3 is devoted to this particular point.
