



## Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Trafficking of Children as a Form of it

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### Abstract

Research on human trafficking has attracted increasing attention since the early 1980s and is extremely important as it highlights the problems and through it identifies the appropriate ways that can provide solutions. The object of this paper is the treatment of trafficking in human beings and in particular will focus on the sexual trafficking of minors. This topic is very current not only in Albania but also in the international arena (due to its nature) and requires the commitment of all states and international organizations to combat human trafficking and protect victims of trafficking as part of the field of human rights. Therefore, this topic is covered in section I of this conference. The research questions of this paper are: what does trafficking in human beings involve, what are the needs of the victims, what is the exploitation and sexual abuse of children, what are the consequences that trafficking leaves on children and why children are recruited. Numerous studies and studies have concluded that trafficking represents "a denial of the individual's rights to freedom, integrity, security and freedom of movement" Victims of human trafficking need, among other things, emotional support, family, health care and especially for reintegration into society. On the other hand, child sexual exploitation is a form of human trafficking and consists of adult sexual abuse and monetary or in-kind reward for the child or a third person or persons. and it is precisely the commercial element that separates sexual exploitation from other sexual crimes. Juveniles are recruited more easily because small victims are the most optimal, useful and lower cost, they are easy to be guided by traffickers and slave owners and to adapt to the new situation. Current studies show that some effects of Sex trafficking is sexually transmitted diseases, diseases and other infections, physical harm, substance abuse and malnutrition.

**Keywords:** trafficking, sexual, human, child, victim, etc

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### 1. Introduction

Human trafficking is a major problem for human society and is present everywhere in almost every country and society, somewhere more widespread and somewhere less, in one country it appears in one form and in another in another form. Even more difficult and challenging is the sexual trafficking of minors. The involvement of minors in trafficking carries and then brings many challenges, problems and requires the undertaking of many measures, programs to solve them. Sexual trafficking of children is present everywhere and even in our country and this is talked about very little or not at all our time. Human trafficking is a difficult crime to detect and prevent. Human trafficking includes the trafficking of human beings for the purpose of commercial sexual activities as well as forced labor. These crimes are occurring all over the world. Research shows that organized crime, prostitution, massage parlors and brothels are closely related to the crime

of human trafficking. Government corruption and international criminal organizations contribute significantly to this crime, and financial gain is usually the primary motive. Definitions of “human trafficking” include the use of force for the purposes of labor or sex. A major report published by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime<sup>29</sup>. The Global Program Against Human Trafficking (GPAT) specifically defines human trafficking as<sup>30</sup>:

Recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving persons, by threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, kidnapping, fraud, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability or giving or receiving payments or benefits for obtain the consent of a person who has control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, exploitation of the prostitution of others, or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or similar practices with slavery, servitude or removal of organs.

## 2. What does Human Trafficking Involve?

Human trafficking refers to “the illegal trafficking of human beings through the abduction, use or manipulation of force, deception, or sale for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor”<sup>31</sup>. This form of trafficking generally includes sex trafficking and labor trafficking, where victims are distributed through brute force, psychological coercion or abuse for sexual or labor manipulation. In particular, the child is treated as a commercial object and the return may be financial or in kind. For example, a child involved in prostitution may be compensated monetarily or sexual acts may be exchanged for basic needs such as food or shelter. This exchange of sexual acts for basic needs is also known as survival sex.

### 2.1 Victims of human trafficking

Close examination or investigation of victims of human or sexual trafficking is very difficult, however, various authors and researchers have managed to carry out such studies. Obtaining reliable information has proven to be as difficult as finding an agreed definition, as noted above. The reasons for this are various. For example, individuals who may be considered victims of trafficking are already in vulnerable positions and often fear the consequences of explaining their situations to the authorities. Furthermore, the individual who may be trafficked, is likely to believe that he/she has had some involvement in accordance with the traffickers' instructions and may be reluctant to self-identify as a victim or provide relevant information about offenders.<sup>32</sup>

In research, there are common needs seen in most victims of human trafficking. These include, “emotional and moral support, legal assistance, safe housing, high school diploma or general education diploma assistance, identification documentation, job training, resume and job search assistance, medical and dental appointments, cell phone assistance, childcare, transportation, safety planning, and clothing and food assistance” . However, this is not all-inclusive, and new needs may arise with each client. Victims' needs may increase every day, e.x:

- Emotional support - Emotional and mental health needs may be the most critical of all, as they are most debilitating to their daily lives. All literature has highlighted that many of these victims experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, self-loathing, detachment, despair, and difficulties with interpersonal and intimate relationships. In addition, victims have been known to suffer from other mood disorders including panic attacks, obsessive compulsive disorder, fear and hopelessness about the future
- Physical health - Physical health needs are of great concern to victims after trafficking, because it can also affect their daily life activities. Children who are involved in sex trafficking may be more prone to physical illness due to their immature physical systems.
- Support from other victims - It is necessary for victims of human trafficking to have contact with others who have also been victims of human trafficking. Often, victims are unwilling to accept the trauma and exploitation they have experienced. As a result, many survivors are reluctant to seek treatment. However, when working with others who have had similar experiences, many individuals feel more at ease<sup>33</sup>.
- Family Support - Family involvement in helping victims post-trafficking is an important need, as their family members can be a great support system for them as well.

29 <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/human-trafficking/>

30 United Nation's report on Trafficking in Persons (GPAT), December 2011

31 ARONOWITZ, A., & KONING, A. (2014). “Understanding human trafficking as a market system: Addressing the demand side of trafficking for sexual exploitation.” *Revue Internationale de Droit Pénal*

32 US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Report, 2004, pg 8-9.

33 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S019074091830094X>

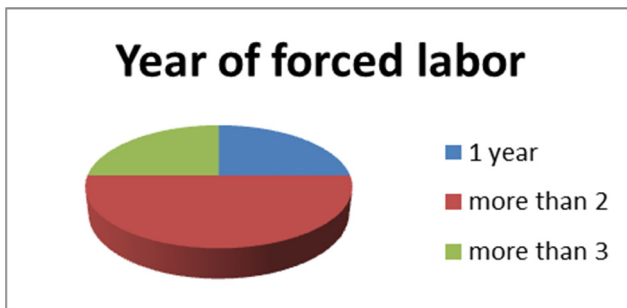
- Proximity of services - While there are some services available, they are not many and they are often spread over large areas. This forces customers to have to travel long distances and without their own means of transport this can mean long journeys on public transport.
- Reintegration - Many of these individuals may lack the skills necessary to find a job and achieve economic stability after escaping their trafficking. In many cases, these clients do not receive the full range of integration services they need, such as assistance in finding and maintaining employment, finding affordable and long-term housing, or assistance with citizenship status.

### 3. Results

This chapter presents the results of the study, which were generated, of course, by the process of analyzing data collected through interviews. In the development of this chapter, all the research questions raised in the introduction of this study are answered.

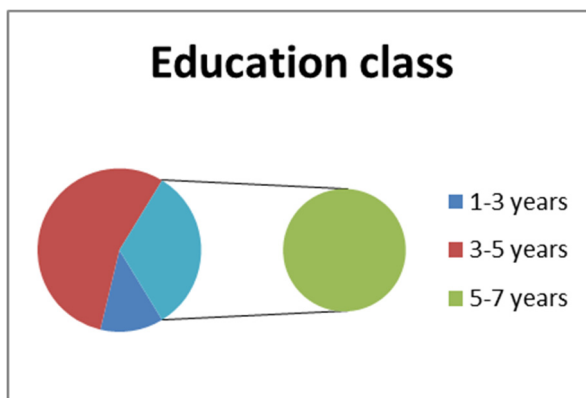
For the purposes of this study, 40 children were questioned, of which 15 were girls and 25 were boys. Their ages ranged from 7 to 12 years old. The interviewees stated that they were in the situation of forced labor for 3 to 5 years, specifically:

- 20 of them had more than 2 years of work;
- 15 of them 1 year;
- 4 of them more than 4



Regarding their education, they said that none of them had completed a full education, but had completed only a few years separated, thus:

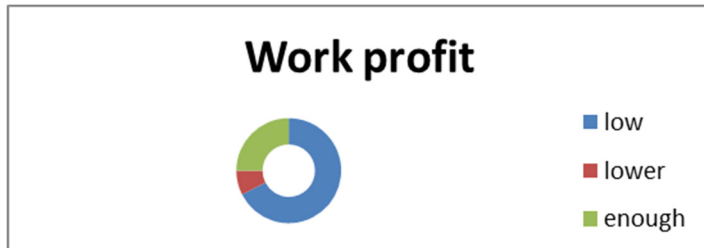
- 5 of them had 1-3 years of primary education;
- 22 of them had 3-5 years of primary education;
- 13 of them had 5-7 years of education



Regarding ethnicity, they stated that 35 of them belonged to the Roma community and 4 of them belonged to the Egyptian community.

In terms of income or profit from work, they said that:

- 27 of them had very little profit;
- 3 of them not at all;
- 10 of them enough



When asked who they work for, they said that they mostly worked for others, specifically 28 of them and only 12 worked for their parents.

Regarding the question of whether they have made any attempt to leave the situation they are in, only 5 of them said that they had tried without success and 35 of them said that they had never made an attempt to leave and this due to pressure, coercion or lack of hope for a better future:

"...you can't do anything because we are being protected all the time..."

"...if we think we're going to leave, we'll be beaten, no matter where we go..."

In the closing, they were asked if they have ever been stopped by any representative of the state bodies or any police officer, knowing that they are always found on the road and there are also traffic police or others right next to them. They categorically stated that they were never stopped or questioned!

#### 4. Conclusions

Human trafficking in general, without being banned in the categories or forms of its manifestation, constitutes a serious problem for human rights and for the international community as long as it is a phenomenon that extends beyond the borders of a country.

Human trafficking is mainly more problematic and very painful when it extends to children, children are victims of trafficking in various forms, such as sex trafficking or forced labor. For the latter, for the purposes of this paper, a field study was conducted to see the situation closely, and from this study, what requires a solution and raises the alarm in my personal vision is the silence of state employees in front of small children who see day, at every hour on the streets of Tirana or Durrës asking for alms, offering services such as washing car windows, etc., and no one comes to ask them. In this way, we are all co-authors of this crime. And as long as no one tries to free them, they will continue to be in this state because, as they themselves have expressed, it is impossible for them to try to leave forced labor because they are subjected to physical, psychological violence, pressure and are always under guard.

Moving on to the general plane of human trafficking, it must be said that there are significant unmet needs of trafficking victims, and a lack of evidence-based research to focus on the main issues related to this type of trauma. However, there is a good research base from which to begin an assessment of these needs. There is also a variety of services available, but not nearly enough to facilitate "healing" for a larger number of survivors of human trafficking. This leaves room for further research, particularly with survivors themselves. In general, the services that are most effective in dealing with this population are health, physical support and reintegration services.

Further research will identify more of these needs, as many develop each day depending on the individual. Conducting further research will determine ways to better implement strategies to serve victims and survivors of human trafficking. In conclusion, I would add that it is necessary to train the appropriate authorities in the recognition of trafficking, as well as in cooperation and communication between police forces and relevant human service organizations. Better, well-defined laws are also needed to assist law enforcement agencies in locating traffickers. Having the best interests of victims in primary consideration is essential to help prevent trafficking.

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