

Human trafficking: gender and globalization

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Syllabus on human trafficking

- Aas, K. F. (2007): Globalization and Crime. London: Sage , chapter 2
- Skilbrei, May-Len and Marianne Tveit (2008), “Defining Trafficking Trough Empirical Work. Blurred Boundaries and their Consequences”, Gender, Technology and Development 12(1).

Where does the definition come from?

- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime from 2000
 - Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
 - Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

What is human trafficking?

- Simply put: To through the application of various means (of which to deceive someone who is in a vulnerable position is the mildest) exploit someone in e.g. prostitution, labour, organ donation.

A more complex definition

- The Palermo Protocol's § 3

[T]he recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

- Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.
- Consent of the victim irrelevant.

Forced to start and forced to stay on

- Lack of other options than to become involved
- Lack of possibilities to quit

- What constitute vulnerability?
 - Structurally
 - Culturally
 - Individually

Who defines?

- Social workers
- Police
- Researchers
- Court
- People themselves

Definition of people smuggling

- Smuggling Protocol § 3

[T]he procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident

Definitions of globalisation

From Aas page 4 (built on David Held's definition):

- Globalisation as the growing interconnectedness of states and societies and the progressive enmeshment of human communities with each other.
- How exchange leads to similarities of ideals
- Also a reference to the speed of information and exchange.
- Example: information both ways create the demand for and supply of prostitution: "I wish I didn't know".

What do we mean by gender?

- Often referring to processes on three different levels
 - Processes on an individual level
 - Ascription of gendered meanings
 - Structural difference

What does trafficking have to do with globalisation and gender?

- Framework: laws and their implementation
 - Local, state, regional or global levels of policy making and implementation
- Vulnerabilities and possibilities
 - Mobility for whom?
 - What kind of mobility open for whom?
 - Exploitation of whom?
 - Who becomes vulnerable for and by mobility?
- Demand and supply: gendered globalised markets
- More open and more closed borders at the same time: a need for migration and recruitment brokerage

Globalisation, gender and the organisation of trafficking

- How does it take place?
- How much of it is there?
- What is the most common form?
- Who falls victim of trafficking?
- How to recognise a victim?
- Who are the traffickers?
- How to recognise something as trafficking?

Globalisation, gender and trafficking policies

- The three Ps of anti-trafficking policies:
 - Prevention
 - Prosecution
 - Protection
- Concerns:
 - Balance
 - Gender
 - Hierarchy
 - Interaction with immigration policies

What is the difference between human trafficking and people smuggling?

- Intent to exploit
- Levels of exploitation
- Who/what is the victim
- End-result

Example of complexities

- Nigerian women in prostitution in Norway
 - Are they victims, and of what?
 - How can they be assisted?
 - How can their stories lead to prosecution?

Are they victims, and of what?

- The situation and migration of Nigerian women in prostitution in Norway
 - Long travels in many steps
 - Responsible for many
 - Complex roles
 - Forms of payment
 - Intent and vulnerabilities
- People smuggling a precondition for refugee flight and asylum
- A lot of people profit from migrants, where do we draw the line?

How can they be assisted?

- Framework for assistance
 - Residency permits
 - Housing
- Differentiated needs
 - Language
 - Skills
 - Realism
- Rights and assistance
 - “Why teach them Norwegian when they will not be able to stay?”.
 - Time: how long time does it take to help someone?

How can their stories lead to prosecution?

- Prosecution equals rights
- Who benefits from taking trafficking to court?
- What works in court
- The ideal witness is the ideal victim
- Problematic delineations