

Campbell Crime and Justice Group Title Registration Form

1. Title of the review

A systematic review of strategies and interventions to counter cross border trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

2. Background and objective of this review (briefly describe the problem and the intervention).

The last couple of years have shown a growing attention to the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings (THB). The UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish THB, supplementing the UN convention against Transnational Organized Crime, stimulated anti-THB legislation and interventions in many countries all over the world. Although there has been a huge increase in the number of publications on THB and on ways to prevent and suppress it, knowledge on 'what works' in this area is limited. Few interventions are accompanied by research, and not all research on THB is of an evaluative nature. Many of the publications are primarily descriptive (for example describing the hardship of or social assistance to victims), others mainly aim at collecting trustworthy numbers to define the scale of the phenomenon. (Rigorous) evaluations of anti-trafficking interventions seem to be scarce while at the same time more and more is heard about collateral damage caused by various interventions in this area.

The above, as well as the severity of the crime and the impact on its victims, makes it of utmost importance to gain more insight into the working and effectiveness of anti-trafficking strategies and interventions in order to improve the fight against THB. At the same time increased knowledge about the strengths and weaknesses of research activities in this area can be expected to have a positive effect on future research.

The questions to be answered are the following:

- what types of anti-THB strategies and interventions that have been accompanied by some form of empirical analysis can be distinguished?
- which of these analyses incorporate (quasi) experimental evaluation that are rigorous enough to determine the effects of these anti-THB strategies on preventing and suppressing THB?
- what are the outcomes of these (quasi) experimental evaluations?

3. Define the population

The population will be all programs and interventions - world wide - designed to counter THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation, accompanied by some form of empirical analysis and described in articles, books, reports, and conference papers, in English, French, German, Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and possibly Spanish.

We define THB in accordance with the first universal and widely accepted definition in the above mentioned UN trafficking protocol: "Trafficking in persons shall mean the 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.”

We will focus on cross border trafficking for exploitation in the sex industry only.

For pragmatic reasons we will leave internal trafficking, as well as trafficking for forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (all included in the UN definition) out of consideration.

Internal trafficking is not recognized (and thus not addressed) in many countries and trafficking for forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, and servitude is a more recent concern that has not yet been addressed as often and as extensively as trafficking for exploitation in the sex industry. Besides, a discussion is still going on concerning the scope of the phenomenon: where is the boundary between bad employership and illegal employment on the one hand and trafficking for the purpose of exploitation outside the sex industry on the other.

4. Define the intervention

Strategies (policies) and interventions to prevent or suppress cross border THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation, targeting individual perpetrators or criminal groups, as well as interventions meant to prevent THB, for example by informing and educating (possible) victims. Because of the breadth of interventions that may have a (side) effect on THB (examples are general migration measures and economic policies), we focus on interventions explicitly developed for or targeted at the prevention or suppression of THB.

5 Outcome(s) (what is aimed to accomplish – Primary and secondary outcomes should all be mentioned)

- a) Insight into the outcomes and effectiveness of strategies and interventions to prevent or suppress cross border THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation;
- b) Increased knowledge about the strengths and weaknesses of research concerning anti-trafficking strategies and interventions (the types of anti-THB strategies and interventions that have been accompanied by some form of empirical analysis and the (quasi) experimental evaluations rigorous enough to determine the effect of anti-THB measures).

6 Methodology (What types of studies are to be included or excluded and what will be your method of synthesis? Will you use meta-analysis?)

As we do not expect to find many (quasi) experimental studies, all empirical analyses with respect to anti-THB interventions and strategies will be included at the beginning of the analysis and roughly described and categorized.

We do not anticipate finding many (if any) experimental studies, so at this time we intend to include quasi-experimental studies (level 3 and higher of the SMS) as well as one-group pre-post studies (level 2). Although the nature of the crime asks for macro-level interventions, we are cautious to include macro-level studies as the macro-level data that are available (official statistics on numbers of identified victims and/or numbers of

prosecutions) are strongly influenced by the level of attention to the phenomenon, and therefore no trustworthy indicators of intervention impact.

We will use meta-analysis if enough rigorous evaluations are found.

7 Do you need support in any of these areas (methodology, statistics, systematic searches, field expertise, review manager etc?)

We would appreciate the possibility to consult the authors of the systematic review on counter terrorism strategies. Knowledge of/experience with meta-analysis is 'on-board' (Geert Jan Stams).

8 Lead reviewer(s) with contact information

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