

## Has Nothing Changed?

# An Exploratory Review of Secondary Victimization in Human Trafficking Cases



Retrieved from: <https://www.inspiredelementsco.com/blogs/inspiration/help-stop-human-trafficking>

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# Overview



Image retrieved from: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/human-trafficking.html>

Background: Secondary victimization

Methodology: Exploratory Review

Main part: Four relational contexts of human trafficking victims

Discussion: Victim-centered criminal justice system

# Background: Secondary victimization

- Secondary victimization in human trafficking criminal proceedings
- Legal context vs. personal context
- Connect these two contexts for an in-depth understanding of experiences
- Research question: How do the personal life contexts of human trafficking victims deepen our understanding of victims' negative experiences during criminal proceedings?

# Methodology: Exploratory Review

- Publications in English, available via online access in full text
  - Conducted in Europe, North America, and Australia
  - Only sexual and labour exploitation
  - Empirical studies: experiences of adult human trafficking victims
- = 45 articles met these inclusion criteria

## Main part:

# Four relational contexts of human trafficking victims

- Family and Community Context
- Relationship with the trafficker
- Cultural norms and practices
- Education and Empowerment

# Family and Community Context

## Before Trafficking:

- Origin: abuse, poverty, no future perspective
- Children as motivation to leave the home country

## During Trafficking:

- Pressure to support the family
- Feeling trapped because of children

## After Trafficking:

- Shame, taboo, stigma
- Often little or no contact

# Relationship with the trafficker

## Before Trafficking:

- Recruitment of vulnerable people
- Recruited by a friend or an acquaintance

## During Trafficking:

- Take away IDs, debt bondage, extra fees
- Horrifying conditions

## After Trafficking:

- Practical, social, economic, cultural barriers
- Secondary victimization

# Cultural norms and practices

## Before Trafficking:

- Search for a rescuer & hope for a better life
- Patriarchal rules and systems

## During Trafficking:

- Voodoo
- Suffering in silence

## After Trafficking:

- Victims wished to escape the stigma
- Gendered script and the ideal victim



# Education and Empowerment

- Restoring autonomy and independence
- Language and educational classes
- Voluntary work
- Finding a job
- Informed about their rights

# Discussion: Victim-centered criminal justice system

Practice	Policy	Research
Psychologists present	Victim-centered process	Personal & legal context studied together
Inform victims of their rights	Coordination and cooperation	More qualitative research needed
Training on implicit biases	Criminal law and migration law de-linked	Include victims' voices

# Thank you for your attention!

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