

Psychological effects on the victims of trafficking: Revision of the legal framework

Research Summary

The aim of the thesis is to analyze the psychological and social aspects in which victims of trafficking are, in order to improve the legal and preventive care systems that currently exist in relation to victims of trafficking.

The research is mainly focused on the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation (as are 80%) (Blazquez, 2010), but also covers the differences between symptoms and situations in which people become victims of trafficking for other exploitative purposes. The aim of the study is to analyze the situation of people in the country of destination, as well as in their country of origin (once returned).

Objectives

- Show the psychological effects suffered by victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in the country to which they have been trafficked.
- Analyze the legal issues relating to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation in the main European destination countries.
- Show the psychological effects suffered by victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in their country of origin once they return.
- Analyze the legal issues relating to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation of the major European countries.
- Show the psychological effects suffered by victims of trafficking for different types of purposes in the country of destination.
- Analyze the legal issues relating to trafficking in destination countries.

Hypothesis

- Victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation show a similar psychological picture as abused women.
- There will be differences in psychological pictures of victims of trafficking and for other purposes.
- Legal issues relating to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation in destination countries will not be adjusted to the needs of victims.
- Legal issues relating to the return of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in the main countries of origin do not conform to their requirements.
- Legal issues relating to different types of human trafficking will not fit their different needs.

Work plan and methodology

The research will analyze the psychological and legal status of trafficked persons from three different perspectives. This analysis will begin with the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in destination countries, continue in the second part in which will analyze the situation of trafficked women which returned to their countries of origin and end with a third part which focuses on a comparative study of the situation of women trafficked for different purposes.