

Call for papers for PhD students and researchers for the conference

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

a crime with too few convictions and too many victims

The Council of the Baltic Sea States* in cooperation with the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies** at the Södertörn University, Sweden aims to bring together PhD students, researchers and research scholars from European countries and the CBSS Member States to exchange and share their experiences and research results in order to contribute to more effective prosecution of human trafficking cases.

Prospective authors are kindly encouraged through the submissions of their papers to contribute to and help shape the international conference **"Human trafficking - a crime with too few convictions and too many victims"**.

The conference will focus on prosecution of human trafficking cases and victim's rights in legal proceedings and is organised in the framework of the Latvian CBSS Presidency on 21 -22 February 2019 in Riga, Latvia.

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is a severe crime violating the human rights of victims exploited for sexual, labour and other purposes. Women, children and newly arrived irregular migrants are especially vulnerable to trafficking.

Countries have an obligation to identify victims, and to investigate and punish perpetrators. Measures must be adopted to provide effective and appropriate protection for victims and witnesses during and after investigation and prosecution of traffickers.

In the Baltic Sea Region, the number of convictions remains low, and does not correspond well to the number of identified victims.

Prosecuting human trafficking cases presents many challenges. States must seek to ensure that prosecutions are not dependent upon the report or accusation made by a victim. In practice, testimony from victims frequently remains the most vital evidence during a trial.

Victims do not always enjoy the rights they are entitled to, including the right to compensation from the perpetrators. Some victims receive penalties for their involvement in unlawful activities, even though they have been compelled by the traffickers to break the law.

In order to find a solution to challenges linked to criminal proceedings and prosecutions it is crucial that we also understand the reasons for why victims are not provided with their rights and which factors determine whether a case of THB is prosecuted or not.

We welcome research papers from relevant disciplines as law, social sciences and humanities. Contributions should describe original results of conceptual, empirical, experimental or theoretical work focusing on the prosecution of human trafficking cases and victim's rights.

Papers will be reviewed by a committee, and authors of selected papers will be invited to present their findings at the international conference on 21-22 February 2019 in Riga, Latvia

Research should primarily focus on or be linked to the countries of the Baltic Sea Region: **Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.**



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Questions of interest include, but are not restricted to

Why are there so few prosecutions and even fewer convictions for human trafficking?

What are the features of this crime that complicate prosecutions?

Are there challenges linked to victim's rights in human trafficking cases? Should victims of different forms of human trafficking have different sets of rights?

How can we mitigate harm to victims of human trafficking in the criminal justice process?

What impact does compensation have on victims? How successful are these mechanisms? Why are victims not granted compensation or even refuse to receive compensation?

What is the impact of the trauma on the victim and on the reliability of the testimony?

How can we improve implementation of the non-punishment principle to ensure that victims of human trafficking are not prosecuted for crimes committed as a result of having been trafficked.

Submission of papers

Please submit an abstract (appx. 2000 words) by email. Include title, author(s) affiliation and contact email addresses and submit the paper to trafficking@cbss.org both as a Word document and a pdf file.

Language

English

Important dates

Deadline for abstract submission: **1st of December 2018**

Outcome of reviewing process by: **20th of December 2018**

Deadline for full papers by: **1st of February 2019**

Papers will be reviewed by the following committee

Ninna Mörner, editor-in-chief, Baltic Worlds, Sweden

Anna Markina, Tartu University, Estonia

Inga Godmane, Ministry of Justice, Latvia

Aija Lulle, PhD, Associate Professor, Loughborough University, UK

Reda Sirgediene, PhD, Senior Adviser on trafficking in human Beings, Ministry of Interior, Lithuania

Jürgen Thomas, PhD, Deputy Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Germany

Joakim Ekman, PhD, professor political science, director of CBEES, Södertörn University, Sweden

Urban Larssen, PhD, senior lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Södertörn University, Sweden

Participation in the conference

Authors of the selected papers will be invited to present their findings and analyses at the international conference on 21-22 February 2019 in Riga, Latvia. Travel and participation costs will be covered by the organisers.

Publishing of papers

Selected papers will be published in the upcoming theme section on Human Trafficking in the scholarly journal Baltic Worlds (www.balticworlds.com) during 2019.

Guest editor

Aija Lulle, corresponding member of the Baltic Worlds' Scholarly Advisory Board.



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Key note speakers of the conference



Anette Brunovskis, Cand. Polit., University of Oslo

Anette Brunovskis is a Sociologist and Researcher at Fafo, an independent research institute in Oslo, Norway. She has conducted numerous studies on prostitution and human trafficking, with a particular focus on assistance provision and anti-trafficking responses in Norway, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans. She has also published several articles and chapters on research methodology and ethics in the study of vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.



Dr. Märta C. Johansson, Ph.D.

Dr. Märta C. Johansson is associate professor in law at the University of Örebro, Sweden, where she has taught since 1999. In 2010 she began a three-year research project that examined the Swedish courts' application of national human trafficking legislation. The results led to a second research project (2014-2017) on human trafficking. During 2014-2016 she participated in the Swedish government inquiry reviewing Sweden's practice on human trafficking and proposing legislative amendments, which provided the basis for the Sweden's recently adopted legislation (2018:601). She also has authored two studies on human trafficking of children in Sweden.

*The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) is an overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation. Members of the CBSS are: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, as well as the European Union. The CBSS operates through its networks and expert groups. The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) and the expert group on Children at Risk (CAR) engages with States and NGOs in policy/capacity building to counteract trafficking in human beings in all its forms of exploitation. Since its establishment in 2006, the TF-THB has developed in to an important arena for knowledge transfer and presentation of best practices in the region. The TF-THB provides a platform for cooperation to a variety of actors. The CAR has specific expertise in trafficking and exploitation of children. The objective of the CAR is to promote comprehensive and sustainable child protection to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children. Education and knowledge are powerful tools to counteract human trafficking and academia, researchers and students are important stakeholders in this work. Academia has the unique opportunity to produce knowledge-based evidence that can help the efforts against human trafficking.

** The Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES) is a multi-disciplinary research centre at Södertörn University, focusing on the Baltic Sea area and Eastern Europe. Since it was founded in 2005, CBEES has become a strong and thriving multidisciplinary research environment. The centre is a hub for cooperation throughout the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe, organizing international conferences, seminars and workshops. The researchers' expertise is in demand both within academia and in public debate. Research in the area is reflected in the scholarly journal *Baltic Worlds*, distributed in 50 countries. Many international visiting researchers have passed through the centre through the years, and more than 90 doctoral students have studied at BEEGS, the Baltic and East European Graduate School hosted by the centre. At CBEES you will find professors, senior researchers and research leaders with a theoretical or empirical focus on critical area studies.