

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue

Trafficking, Smuggling and Human Labour in Southern Africa

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FOCUS AND SCOPE

Over the past decade, much international attention has been placed on the issue of human trafficking throughout the world. This international focus has resulted in pressure being placed on governments to enact and enforce human trafficking legislation. As a consequence, all the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, with the exception of Botswana, have now introduced legislative measures to curb human trafficking. At present there is a dearth of information and scholarly debate on human smuggling, trafficking and labour in the SADC region. The purpose of this issue is to address this deficit in our knowledge base by critically examining the: intersection between the region's complex historical and contemporary migration patterns; realities of and vulnerabilities to human trafficking; and the intersection between labour practices and both human trafficking and smuggling.

In this special issue we seek to deal with the following themes: trafficking and smuggling in the SADC, trafficking and human labour in the SADC, and smuggling and human labour in the SADC region. Under these themes this volume will address a broad range of issues such as: the differences between smuggling and trafficking in the region as well as the complex inter-relationships between the two; the barriers to implementing trafficking and smuggling legislation within the region as a whole or within specific countries; the extent to which an emphasis on trafficking can undermine existing migration policies; the extent to which migrant vulnerability can be as much the result of migration policies as the result of trafficking; the manner in which obstacles to migration can and do give rise to trafficking; and the ways in which the enactment of trafficking legislation can criminalise the actions of irregular migrants. Within the overall theme of the volume, we seek to focus on questions such as: what are the implications of implementing trafficking laws based on a UN Convention without reference to the local context? What data has been used by governments to support the need for legislation on human trafficking and how reliable and valid is this data? To what extent have Governments sought to contextualize their legislation? Whose aims and objectives does trafficking legislation serve? What overlaps are there between trafficking legislation and existing legislation? To what extent is smuggling within the region dealt with under trafficking legislation? To what extent do historical migration flows create individual vulnerability to trafficking? To what extent does internal trafficking exist within countries in the region and is this ignored due to the focus on cross-border movements?

This issue also concerns itself with issues of labour and human trafficking. In this respect, we seek to address issues such as: the extent to which exploitative labour practices may now be ignored due to the focus on human trafficking; the ways in which a focus on the victims of trafficking has created a hierarchical view of victims that prioritizes trafficking victims while little attention is paid to labour exploitation; the manner in which the emphasis on trafficking has impacted on or indeed undermined the livelihoods of those working in areas that have traditionally been associated with exploitative occupations; and the degree to which specific types of work such as sex work may be conflated with trafficking. In this focus on labour exploitation we seek to address a number of questions. Has the focus on trafficking for sexual exploitation led to an increase in other forms of labour exploitation? Does the labeling of the migrant as the victim of trafficking resonate with the experiences of migrants themselves? To what extent can a focus on trafficking enable Governments to deal with general patterns of labour exploitation? In what ways, might a hierarchy of exploitation emerge, whereby some forms of labour are associated with exploitation to the exclusion of others? To what extent is the movement of people in the SADC linked to concerns about labour and employment conditions? To what extent do those who are smuggled become victims of exploitative labour practices and how they view such conditions?

While contributions are welcome which seek to address any of the above themes and questions, papers on additional themes and topics relevant to the volume will also be considered. We particularly welcome contributions from authors within or outside the region who are conducting research in this area as well as from those who offer a comparative perspective on the SADC region.

Timeline and Important Dates

Abstract submission: December 31st 2014 (Abstract limit 500 words with 4-6 keywords)

Review of abstract/acceptance: January 31st 2015

Complete manuscript submission: April 30th 2015

Manuscript review completed: June 30th 2015

Final revised manuscript submission: August 31st 2015

GUEST EDITORS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE,

Treasa Galvin, University of Botswana (galvin@mopipi.ub.bw), *Rebecca Walker, University of Witwatersrand* (bexjwalker@gmail.com) & *Camden Behrens, University of Botswana* (camden.behrens@mopipi.ub.bw)

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