



CHILD TRAFFICKING:

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PHENOMENON AND THE CASE OF GREECE

Master Student: **DORA TSIKKOU**

Supervisor: **Dr TOMOYA OBOKATA**

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ABSTRACT

Trafficking in persons and particularly in children is one of the most illegal actions against humanity. The phenomenon affects the population of all the countries, while it is estimated that 600.000 to 800.00 people are trafficked every year globally; yet 50% out of them are considered children, who are the easiest victims due to their age vulnerability. Family poverty, social gaps and the high demand for cheap labour and sex trade are some of the factors causing such phenomenon to become more and more extreme. Trafficking activities focusing on children are a real scourge. Children are forced to participate in sexual and labour actions, while their freedom is restricted even vanished and their human rights are violated. The international community provides several instruments to cope with such crimes against children and the states are encouraged to enforce their obligations in order to combat effectively the phenomenon. However, Greece does not comply fully with the international law and regulations deriving from the various conventions. Children working or becoming beggars can be daily encountered in the streets there.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study is dedicated to all those people who have experienced such nightmare of human trafficking and have, therefore been 100% humiliated as human beings. Describing this phenomenon is not enough to assimilate what is left after a crime is committed. This is the case of all those who manage to escape eventually from the human trafficking networks, if they do. Yet, we hope to raise awareness amongst those who are able to fight against it.

Furthermore, I wish to dedicate it to my parents who always knew how to respect a human being. They were also aware of how important protecting the human rights is. Thus, building a better and safer society, which will be bequeathed to the coming generations, is our main concern.

In conclusion I feel acknowledgments should be given to my Supervisor, Dr Tomoya Obokata for his valuable assistance provided and the guidance offered.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CRC	CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
CTOC	CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME
EU	EUROPEAN UNION
ILO	INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
IOM	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MIGRANTS
OPSC	OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
UDHR	UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
UNICEF	UNITED NATION CHILDREN'S FUND
US	UNITED STATES

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