

## IEPS MASTER THESIS ADVISOR REVIEW FORM

STUDENT NAME: Annmarie Aiello

THESIS TITLE: How Globalization is Enabling Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation especially in South East Europe.

ADVISOR NAME: Petra Levrincová

ADVISOR GRADE: 2

### REVIEW

*(Please fill your critique in here in about 2 pages, regarding the suitability of the students work, the structure of the thesis, methodology, resources used and overall grade for the thesis)*

The master's thesis of Annmarie Aiello discusses how globalisation has been enabling trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the Balkans since the fall of the Iron Curtain. It is a bit difficult to track a clear hypothesis in the introductory part of her work. It seems that the author attempts to prove that „globalization is a key aspect to why trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation is thriving“. The author explains that she decided to concentrate on the region of SEE (as it is currently a breeding, transportation and in some cases a destination region where human trafficking flourishes especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation; it is a place where one can track an increase in organized crime due to the instability in its socio-economic sphere).

In the first chapter (*Modern Day Sex Slave Trade*), the author presents an overview of the trafficking in human beings and the modern day slave trade practiced throughout the world. She attempts to answer the question of “what is human trafficking?” and how globalisation is changing the former methods that human trafficking was conducted. In this chapter, she also gives a brief background on SEE and the dynamics that shape the area. She introduces so called “Arizona Market” in Bosnia as the main thread showing how the results from military conflict, a change in politics, rise in organized crime and ease of transportation all support human trafficking trade to occur in SEE. She presents more detailed data on trafficking in human beings in relation to three countries of the region - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo.

In the second chapter (*Trafficking in Human Beings: The Business Behind the Trade*), she presents the way trafficking works from the beginning stages of recruitment through transportation until the final destination. The author uses stories of victims of trafficking to illustrate the different ways traffickers recruit victims thought SEE. She also attracts attention to refugees and IDPs as special and high-risk categories of potential victims.

The author focuses the third chapter (*Trafficking in Human Beings: Who's trafficking human beings?*) on the traffickers themselves. She illustrates that various organized groups and also military personnel and international peacekeepers are continually knowingly enabling the trade to flourish in SEE.

The forth chapter (*Why Trafficking is Flourishing in Today's World? European Union and Schengen-Crossing European border*) discusses the role of globalisation on how the trade in human beings is being conducted, who is trafficking human beings and how trafficking is changing with new information technologies and the expansion of the EU and the Schengen Area. She also describes the influence of Internet on pornography and subsequently on human trafficking.

The concluding part of the thesis includes recommended world responses to the 'globalized' rise in human trafficking. She recommends having a comprehensive database on data related to human trafficking (such as age, country of origin, profession, level of education, etc.) in place to improve the efficiency of eradicating practices of human trafficking throughout the world. Besides the use of new information technologies, she places a heavy emphasis on educating young people on the dangers of becoming a victim of human trafficking, especially educating them on the dangers posed through the use of internet.

I do appreciate that, already in the introductory part, the author has conceptualised that she researched only human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation of woman aged 18 and more in the region of Eastern Europe. She informs that she dealt with data mainly from early 2000s and mentioned that the empirical data on trafficking of human beings is scarce and not reliable especially taken from sources in SEE. The author has worked predominantly with secondary sources. She also visited websites where trafficking is advertised and used her first hand experience gathered while working on the issues of trafficking in human beings for the ICMPD based in Vienna and attending related conferences and seminars.

The thesis follows a logical structure. It also contains list of acronyms, elaborated contents and description of its structure thus adding to the clarity and style of the work. I do appreciate that she has also prepared and included well-written literature review in her work.

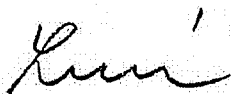
Throughout the whole work, the author refers to the sources she is using though there are some shortcomings. I wonder why she does not use the primary sources while including legal/paralegal definitions (see for example "the 1951 Convention" refugee definition, pp. 41-42), she also does not use the complete standard forms when it comes to citing conventions/UN documents (see for example footnote 91 and bibliography).

During her defence, the author may wish to elaborate on the following:

1. The author in the introductory part of the thesis informs that the empirical data on trafficking of human beings is scarce and not reliable especially taken from sources in SEE. She may wish to elaborate on this issue in more details, including the explanation why this is so and what further implications it can have.
2. Though I understand, it may fall outside the scope of her work, the author may develop the issue of what happens to victims once they are identified as victims of human trafficking and possibly repatriated to the countries of their origin.

I do recommend this thesis for defence.

My recommended grading of the work is 2 (B, very good).



Mgr. Petra Levrincová, LL.M.

*Disclaimer: Writing this opinion, I have only worked with a document sent to me directly by Annmarie Aiello before handing in the official copy to the IEPS office. Therefore I have refrained from commenting on the formatting of the thesis and on whether or not she has included the original proposal in the printed copy.*