ABSTRACT

THE PROSTITUTION OF SEX AND SEXUAL TRAFFICKING. CONTEXT, ACTORS AND ATTITUDES IN MOLDOVA, ESTONIA AND SWEDEN

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The construction of male sexuality is here seen as key factors for understanding sexual trafficking and the prostitution of sex. Two ways of looking at these phenomena are here discussed: ‘the prostitution of sex – a violation of intimacy’ and ‘individual consent – voluntary ‘sex work’’. Actors on seven levels in this process are presented. Actors facilitating the sexual trafficking are discussed; and the concept ‘organized crime’ is questioned. The methodology for researching these phenomena is discussed and compared to studying undocumented and illegal immigrants. The extent of sexual trafficking and prostitution could not be measured by valid and reliable data, due to the clandestine and criminal nature of the activities. Moldova, Estonia and Sweden are chosen for empirical studies based on the assumption that they differ in the societal context, norms and attitudes on sexuality and gender relations. At the same time they are similar in that sexual trafficking and prostitution do occur. The social cost of transition, economy and labour market, corruption and crime, gender relations and sexual trafficking are illustrated. New survey data from Moldova is compared to survey data from Estonia. Moldovans tend to view unemployment as a reason for going abroad, and if in trafficking these women are deceived by a suggestion of a job. They are might also be offered marriage to a foreigner. Estonians tend to se expectation of quick money as a reason for going abroad. The women are believed to get offers for domestic work, but also jobs at bars and model agencies. If they are trafficked this could be voluntarily, or by deception. Moldovans where asked about why there is prostitution in their country. Their answers indicates a view that it is because men seem to need it and not for the survival of their families.