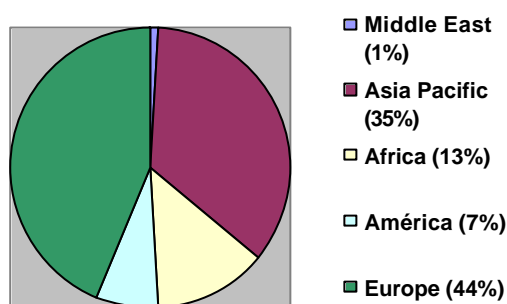


CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Research

Latin America is a region lacking in work around human trafficking (IMO, 2005), although, in general, studies have become more frequent and voluminous.

Regional distribution of studies on trafficking



Note: N=260 titles

Source: “Human trafficking bibliography”, IMO, Geneva.

“The Latin American and Caribbean regions are two of the most under-researched and under-funded regions in the world on trafficking in persons. The official data is extremely insufficient, and the available information on smuggling cases is scarce and does not provide much help to the researchers. Until very recently, governments have been reluctant to acknowledge the existence of trafficking, and in most cases the focus never moves beyond sexual exploitation. While this type of exploitation is extremely damaging to the mental and physical health of victims, and violates a number of human rights, there are other forms of trafficking for exploitation less visible but also severe: domestic servitude and labour exploitation” (IMO, 2005).

In light of this reality, it would be appropriate to take into account the following suggestions:

- To pay more attention to the need of researching case studies and collecting data of human trafficking. Universities, governments as well as international organizations should focus this theme as a priority for research²⁴.
- To involve governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies of the UN system in the building of an updated database.

²⁴ It has to be said that in the recent past years efforts have increased, specially the IMO research in the region, but also ILO, UNFPA, UNIFEM, OAS, ECLAC.

- To promote international cooperation among countries to share information and common studies.
- To use action oriented approaches with studies that can facilitate prevention and assistance interventions.
- To make “baseline studies” that include conditions and factors that propitiate trafficking in exporting countries as well as the existence of markets for trafficking, networks, entertainment and sex industries in importing countries.
- To include a diversity of topics:
 - the dynamics of demand-supply in sex industry
 - internal trafficking
 - sex tourism
 - forced labor and domestic servitude.
- To study the connections between corruption and weak institutions and trafficking.

B. Public Policies

“Governments and civil society must recognize the existence of trafficking in persons as a form of labour exploitation, more than just as the movement of migrants” (IMO, 2005). There is unequivocal evidence that neoliberal globalisation is exacerbating trafficking in Latin America. As such, policies and strategies against trafficking must take into account the complexity of the neoliberal context, rather than simply focusing one or another isolated cause. This perspective opens a broader view for public policies, which include legislation and governmental interventions.

The most frequent analysis of this theme is from the perspective of human rights violations. The focal point has been to sensitize political decision-makers and civil society in general and to promote practical action on the part of the government and social organizations to inhibit traffickers. In Latin American, the principal actions include widespread campaigns to raise consciousness around this issue. In the case of Colombia, prevention and assistance programs have developed, which provide support for victims during their return and reinsertion, as well as protection for them and their families and legal and psychological counselling.

The perspective of the conditions (of possibility, of facility and of opportunity) and the identification of principal actors and the dynamic of each of the links in the chain of value, widen the range of possible action, the efficiency of design, and the end results in policy. Research and coordinated action out of public and private organs are the keys to identifying the conditions and actors of traffic, and to therefore enable work against those conditions and actors. Efficiently directed action would permit the breaking of the chains and conditions that make traffic possible.

Some of the main recommendations in these areas are:

- **Legislation:**
 - To create adequate anti-trafficking legislation including the explicit definition of trafficking as a crime.

- To reinforce the existing laws against recruiters, traffickers and facilitators.
- **Governmental policies:**
 - To fortify public institutions at national and multilateral levels in order to ensure their position above the laws of the market and to strengthen their capacity to regulate liberalization of markets and financial flows.
 - To strengthen the role of Ministries of Labor, particularly labor inspectors, to identify situations of exploitation in a variety of workplaces.
 - To pay special attention to the authorization of work premises in entertainment areas.
 - To strengthen anticorruption policies at all levels
 - To reinforce migratory controls in borders and airports.
 - To promote orderly and legal migration.
 - To create institutions for help trafficked women to go back to their communities of origin
 - To provide assistance to victims, such as legal, social or health services, protection and places to be safe from traffickers.
 - To develop programs for national and local public agents in capacity building and awareness.
 - To design public campaigns to raise consciousness on this issue and its prevention.
 - To develop gender equality programs at local and national levels.
 - **NGO's actions:**
 - To develop training and prevention programs addressing young women and the community level in general.
 - To give assistance and shelter to the survival victims to help the reinsertion in their communities.
 - To promote local, national and international NGO networks to strengthen prevention and women's counselling.
 - To develop campaigns and training programs aimed at sensitizing the public to and raising consciousness around the problem of traffic.