



The Politics of Evidence in Anti-Trafficking Work: Implications and ways forward

Launch of Issue 8 of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* 'Where's the Evidence?'

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Despite increasing interest in human trafficking and related exploitation, a great deal of anti-trafficking work still appears to be based on assumptions that are not well-proven or adequately questioned. Policy formations, advocacy campaigns, concrete interventions and popular understandings of trafficking have all been accused of making exaggerated claims and resting on thin, if any, evidence. There is an almost obsessive desire to know the scale, proportion, size, major sectors and geographical concentrations of human trafficking, with far less attention paid to the actual experiences and circumstances of affected people. At the same time, the monitoring and evaluation of interventions is not robust enough to understand which ones are effective.

Issue 8 of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* explores the role of evidence, research and data in anti-trafficking work and how they influence our understanding of trafficking and responses to it. Contributions in this issue show how, even when evidence does exist, anti-trafficking policies can still be based on assumptions, morality, political agendas or external pressures.

At this event, four international academics and experts will talk about role of border guards at Heathrow airport in the formation of evidence-based anti-trafficking policies, as well as the role of research, statistics and estimates in anti-trafficking work.

Panellists:

Evelyn Probst, Coordinator at LEFÖ and Board Member of Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
Anne Gallagher, Independent Expert
Jennifer Lynch, Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire
Katerina Hadjimatheou, Research Fellow, University of Warwick

Moderator: Borislav Gerasimov, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Thailand