

Experience from the Study Victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation: the willingness to make a statement

5/08 - 5/09, on behalf of Fed. Criminal Police Office
(BKA)

Meeting „Human Trafficking - The Nexus between Research and
Operative Work“
University of Uppsala, November 2010, 25th

**SoFFI F. :Sozialwissenschaftliches FrauenForschungsinstitut, Freiburg/Berlin
Prof. Dr. Cornelia Helfferich, Prof. Dr. Barbara Kavemann, Ass. jur. Heike Rabe, M.A.
Margit Wagner**

Research question

- Starting point: Importance of victims making a statement in a trial as a precondition for the prosecution of offences relating to human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- Interest of the **Fed. Criminal Police Office** to know more about factors influencing this willingness – especially the influence of police action; interest in the subjective perspective of victims

Study design

- Qualitative study: N=53 guided partly narrative-biographical interview
- victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation
- Access by **counselling centres** in 16 Fed. States in Germany

Sample

Sample construction: contrasting

- **Heterogeneity**

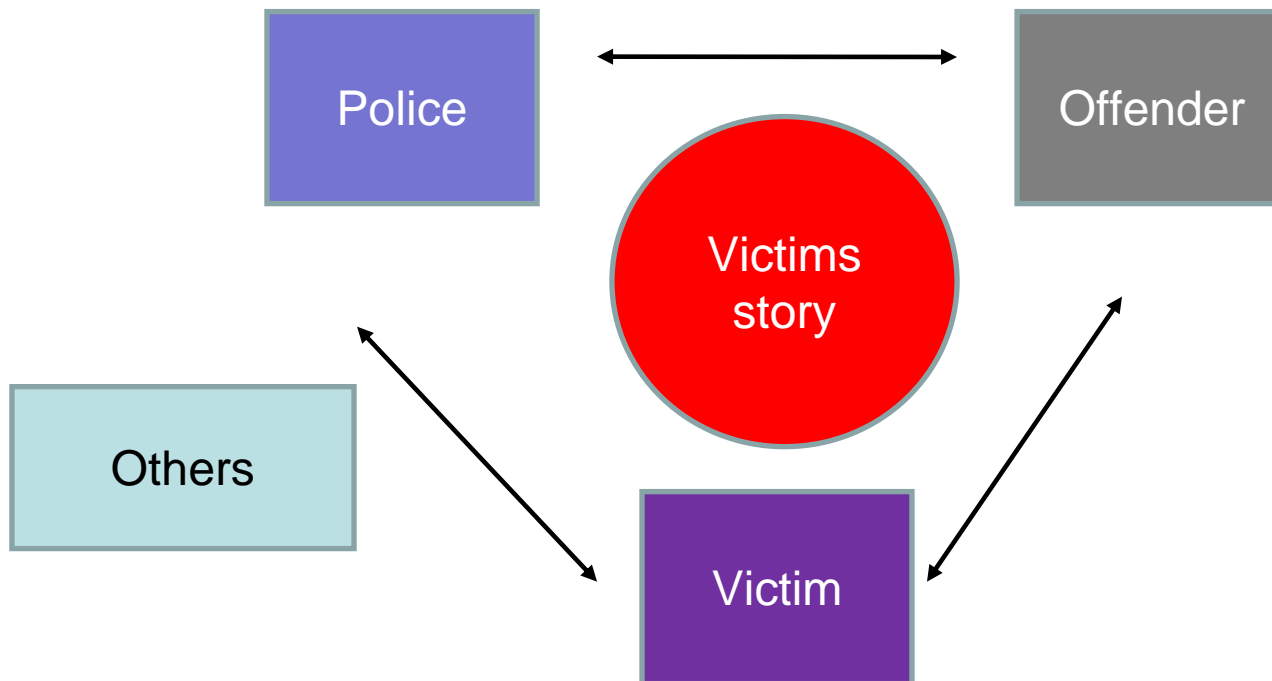
- **Status concerning contact with police/statement:** with statement (n=37), contacts with police, but no statement (n=11), no contact with police (n=5)
- **concerning countries of origin:** 19 countries, more from Middle and East Europe, 5 German women
- **concerning age at the beginning of trafficking:** 14 to 39 years,
- **concerning many other variables:** i.e. circumstances of migration, forced prostitution or „agreement“, relation to trafficker/pimp, degree of violence, duration of exploitation

Basic ideas of analysis

1. → **Analyze isolated determinants** with regard to the victims' willingness to make a statement, i.e.
 - offender strategies (e. g. use or threat of violence),
 - residence status combined with migration goals
 - police action (e. g. apprehension)... but: generalisation for all the victims impossible, for all effects contradicting examples → more complex analyses
2. → **See the determinants in a context**
3. → **Analyze willingness to make a statement as a process over time**

Basic ideas of analysis: (2) Context

Determinants in the “*shared space of interaction*” as *context*: The relation and interaction between determinants as it is perceived and evaluated by victims



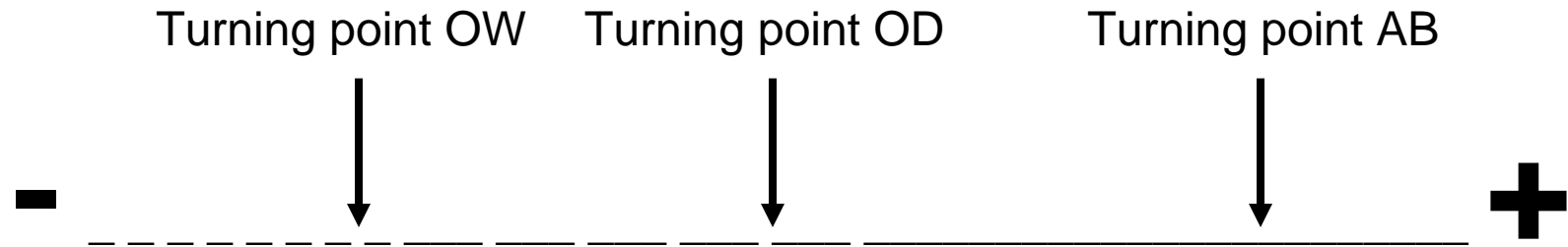
Basic ideas of analysis: (3) Process

Analysis of the biografic process with turning points

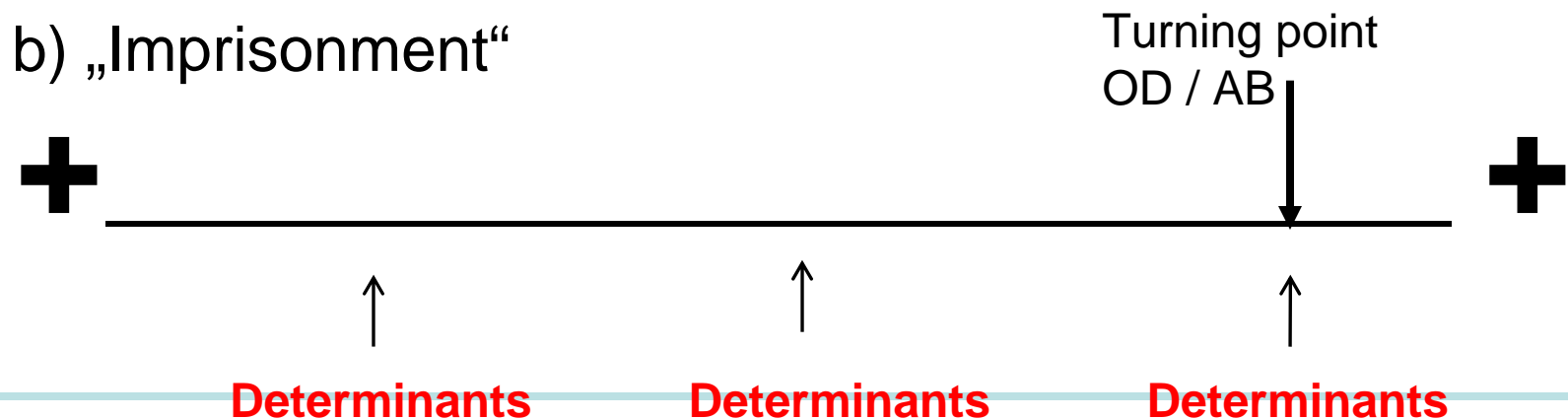
- Willingness to make a statement is not either given or not given, but it may change over time: It may emerge and it may be put aback and vanish.
- Differentiation of turningpoints concerning:
 - Victims identification as a victim (OW)
 - Victims declaration to be a victim (adressing another person, counsellor, police etc.) (OD)
 - Victims willingsness to make a statement (AB)
- Determinants promoting these turning points

Basic ideas of analysis: Process

Examples: a) „Wake up“



b) „Imprisonment“



Results

Context:

- The influence of action of police is part of the (power-)relation between police, offender and victim's own aims (i.e. to stay in Germany, safety) as it is perceived by the victim

For migrant women, who fear to be sent back and who are treated by violence in case of a statement, it is most important: What can be offered?

Process:

- Typical processes of victimisation can be identified. Different strategies are necessary in different stages of this process.

Cooperations: Actors

- **KOK** = „Koordinierungskreis gegen Frauenhandel und Gewalt an Frauen im Migrationsprozess“: Nationwide umbrella for all **organisations** for counselling of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation
 - 36 organisations with 48 **counselling centres** (covering nearly all centres)
 - funded by the **Fed. Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)**
- National Level: Ministry for Internal Affairs, Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA; Special Department
- Level of Federal States
 - Each of 16 Fed. States has its own police organisation (LKA) and „Polizeigesetz“, regulated by 16 Ministries of Internal Affairs in the Fed. States

Institutionalized Cooperation

- National: Fed. Ministry for Internal Affairs (head of the national police) cooperation with Fed. Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth
- National/federal level: Police – Counselling in several Working groups
 - Most important: **Bund-Länder-Arbeitsgruppe**: KOK, national Ministries, Ministries of 16 Fed. States; task: to work on strategies
- Local/regional cooperation: Counselling is strictly independant from police; but the improvement of the situation of the victim is limited by the law (Police, migration law, penal code). Cooperation might be neccessary to find out the best way (What can be offered?).

How does research fit in this cooperation?

- Most of the research is carried out by the BKA itself or funded by it.
- SoFFI F. carried out research before on behalf of the BMFSFJ, i.e. evaluation of the Law on Prostitution, and on behalf of other Ministries on national and federal-state-level, i.e. on domestic violence
- long history of cooperation with organisations and counselling centres for advising and helping victims
- Special expertise on (qualitative) research

Cooperation – a question of trust

What they feared:

- **Police:** Results cannot be used for improving own strategies, no control over information
- **KOK:** The perspectives of women are not take seriously, if a study is funded by police; police might get knowledge of illegal behaviour and might be obliged to prosecute this
- **Counselling centres:** The victim is retraumatized by the interview
- **Victims:** The interview is not be strictly anonymous and causes damage

Cooperation - benefits

What they gave and what they gained:

- **Police** funded the research – gained important insight
- **KOK** opened access to counselling centres – strengthened the cooperation
- **Counselling centres** opened access to victims – strengthened the cooperation
- **Victims** were willing to tell their story – general improvement in prosecution of offenses?

Results of research were presented to all actors and were discussed in the „Bund-Länder-Kommission“. The research could not give a systematic answer as evaluation of police action, but it is important for the discussion of strategies in general.

Thank you for your attention!

Bundeskriminalamt

Helfferrich Kavemann Rabe

Determinanten der
Aussagebereitschaft von
Opfern des Menschen-
handels zum Zweck
sexueller Ausbeutung

Eine qualitative Opferbefragung