

## **Trafficking Women and Girls in Brazil: Challenges for National Defense Policies in the Global South.**

**Lara Denise Góes da Costa**

*Superior War College (Escola Superior de Guerra/ESG)*

This paper aims to present an overview of the transnational crime of trafficking girls and women and its current prevention measures. To this end, reports from national and international agencies and interagency cooperation documents were analyzed as they enable the exchange of intelligence to access criminal networks. The impact of mixed, irregular or complex migratory flows is due to a variety of factors, however, national states do not consider the specific individual elements that motivated asylum seekers and, in general, the reception of migrants or displaced persons or refugees is based on justification policy that give it refuge status.

However, mixed and irregular migration flows are a challenge for the state in terms of sovereignty because people who participate in these movements suffer deprivation, human rights violations and discrimination and therefore require individualized assistance. The issue is aggravated as human trafficking as a transnational crime persists in recent decades despite efforts to contain, prevent and punish the networks of criminal organizations involved beyond the national state. According to an Interpol report, most victims are girls between 10 and 19 years old for sexual exploitation and/or forced domestic work. They are generally chosen according to their vulnerabilities and trafficked between countries through the use of coercion or deception.

Upon reaching their destination, “they are stripped of their autonomy, freedom of movement and choice, being forced to work in precarious and inhumane conditions. In addition, smuggling of people is linked to various other crimes, including illicit cash flows, use of fraudulent travel documents and cyber crimes, as well as their connection to factions of drug trafficking networks. Even so, the punishment for human trafficking is lenient with the perpetrators and preventive measures are still insufficient to eradicate this transnational crime.

From the construction of policies for specific migratory situations in the region, there is a need to adapt to the global south and its premises and diversities in the international scenario, and to turn to a project to ensure the role of the State, where it welcomes individuals and communities, promoting human security with respective access to fundamental rights. While we see the need for acceptance as well as understanding, we know how much the State must act together with bodies and other institutions that consolidate legal regulations and specific public policies.

In this wake Rover (2006, p. 313) “affirms that it is the responsibility of the international community of States to prevent these acts against women and girls, in the same way that the judgment and punishment of these crimes against humanity are the responsibility of the State. In this way, in recent years, the Brazilian government has taken several steps towards implementing an intelligent border control system in the country.

Since 2014, the country has been signing cooperation and information exchange agreements with the US Departments of State and Defense, the European Union Agency for Police Cooperation (Europol), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the Organization International for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), among others. . Brazil is also massively investing in information and communication technologies to collect, store and exchange personal and biometric data between the country's customs and migration agencies. Actors as diverse as the Superior Electoral Court, State and Union Public Attorneys, Catholic charities, humanitarian NGOs, private security companies, as well as hardware and software companies, are increasingly involved in border control as as a result of this process.

Among other initiatives adopted in this regard, body measurement technologies that have been put into operation in dry and wet ports and airports with the largest circulation in the country. It is anticipated that by the end of 2018 all Federal Police Migration Precincts will have completed the transition to computerized systems for the collection and processing of fingerprints from migrants and asylum seekers, replacing dactyl receipts still used in many precincts. In another example, the Ministry of Justice of Brazil launched in 2018 a new 'Electronic Protocol Program', through which all documents gathered by asylum seekers, their lawyers and case owners are expected to be presented. Finally, a decree signed in February

2018 established that all migrants in the country will be re-registered for a new “Temporary National Migration Registration Document.

The current panorama of the transnational crime of trafficking in girls and women and its current prevention measures regarding organized crime, however, is "outside" of international norms given the peculiar relationship of trafficking that is placed as regional, international, or transnational, as it is perpetrated by criminal groups that use state control “gaps”. Reports from national and international agencies and interagency cooperation documents only partially enable the exchange of intelligence to access criminal networks, as the impact of mixed, irregular or complex migratory flows is due to a variety of factors, however, national states do not they consider the specific individual elements that motivated the asylum seekers and, in general, the reception of migrants or displaced persons or refugees is given by the political justification that grants them a refugee status.

Currently, there are 241 routes in Brazil that have been mapped for human trafficking. Most of them are concentrated in the northern region of the country, which has the worst human development rates in the country. In this index, in which longevity, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living would enable human development, the north of Brazil, especially the states of Roraima, have the worst unemployment rates, while the state of Pará remains one of the lowest rates of unemployment. human development. in Brazil it is mostly female in cities in the North and Northeast detected on farms for “export” to the sex industry in European countries and the United States. While in São Paulo, Brazil, human trafficking is directed towards slavery, mainly male immigrants from other Latin American countries.

In both cases, there are few measures and containment policies. Even with the national policies of repression of organized crime and assistance to victims, the lack of financial resources and the State's involvement in the fights, shows the continuity of human rights violations through human trafficking in Brazil. The latest figure is about 250,000 people who were trafficked between 2011 and 2015. And there are only 940 cases of documented forced labor lawsuits. There are, among others, two forms of exploitation in Brazil via human trafficking: internal trafficking, that is, between regions of the country for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced prostitution or forced labor, usually girls from rural farms and cities to urban areas. And International Traffic, that is, via immigration from neighboring countries mainly: Bolivia, Venezuela for jobs analogous to slavery. Combined with the lack of

prioritization in the anti-trafficking agenda with the few transnational initiatives to contain organized crime, in Brazil, the social patriarchal discourse maintains the rhetorical structure that moralizes prostitution and makes victims responsible. Furthermore, Brazil still lacks public policies to repress crime and support victims. In this sense, organized crime such as trafficking people and women is not politicized, as the State, in theory, is absent.