



# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022: Volume 4, Issue 1



**GLOBAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
SCHOLARS**

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## Introduction Letter from Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz



Dear GAHTS Members,

The past two years have been some of the most challenging for many of us personally and professionally due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Research of all kinds, including human trafficking research, became more difficult for many reasons. Federal travel funding is halted. Finding subjects to study has become more complicated. Universities banned face-to-face research. We have been forced to pivot, think outside the box, and many researchers have become increasingly innovative and found new ways to do human trafficking research. Using virtual tools to connect, build collaborations, and spread knowledge has just been one of them.

Sadly, research has found that the suffering of victims of human trafficking has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Let this be the fire that keeps our research pursuits moving forward! Together as a community of human trafficking researchers, we can build knowledge that can impact victims of human trafficking even during these difficult times.

The GAHTS Winter 2022 Newsletter will feature a progress update of what we accomplished in 2021, helpful resources for members, and a spotlight on Einat Peled's research.

- Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, PhD  
GAHTS Senior Research Scholar Member

### 19th Annual International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference

Now accepting presentation submissions through  
March 31st for the IHTSJ Conference hosted VIRTUALLY  
on September 21-23, 2022.

Submit today at

<https://www.traffickingconference.com/present>





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## GAHTS 2021 Progress Report

2021 was a successful year for the Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars. Below are some of the highlights:



Increased Membership to **370 MEMBERS!**

Expanded globally with members from 39 states and 37 countries



Revamped membership levels to be more inclusive & created an application for members in need of financial assistance to pay their membership dues

*Stay tuned for many more exciting developments to GAHTS coming in 2022!*

## Valuable Resources:

- **Journal of Human Trafficking (JHT)**
  - JHT supports the greater understanding of human trafficking by publishing diverse scholarship on all forms of contemporary slavery.
- **Human Trafficking Search (HTS)**
  - HTS hosts a global database on human trafficking & modern-day slavery which includes thousands of multilingual resources.
- **Global Resource Epicenter Against Human Trafficking (GREAT)**
  - GREAT increases public awareness, promotes research, improves professional skills, and provides information sharing and analytical support to the fight against human trafficking in all its forms.
- **Emancipation Nation (EN) Podcast & Network**
  - The EN podcast & online Network is devoted to educating and connecting advocates around the world.
- **Peace-Work**
  - Peace-Work connects statistician volunteers with organizations needing analytic support in the fields of social justice & human trafficking.

*GAHTS members have created or work with all resources listed above.*





## Spotlight on a Researcher:

### Einat Peled, PhD

Einat Peled is a Full Professor and the Head of the Bob Shapell School of Social Work at Tel Aviv University. Throughout her academic career, she has sought both to expand and to challenge the understanding of gendered dynamics in social work theory and practice. Her research is focused on the domains of domestic violence, at-risk youth, mothering under violence and duress, and – in the last decade – prostitution, commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), and paying for sex.



As a critical constructivist qualitative researcher, many of her studies center on developing a theoretical understanding of the experiences, perceptions, and identities of people whose lives have been impacted by violence, abuse, and marginalization – and of their interactions with social care systems. A continuing focus of her research is on at-risk youth. She has explored the gendered experiences of runaway and CSE adolescents, the experiences of CSE Israeli youth, and the perceptions guiding professional interventions with them. As part of developing knowledge aimed to advance best professional practice with this population, Einat and her colleagues have recently completed a two-year evaluation study of a therapeutic intervention program for sexually exploited youth, and a longitudinal study on helping people in prostitution during the COVID-19 crisis, and are currently conducting a large qualitative study on help-seeking of commercially sexually exploited youth from an intersectional perspective. Finally, Einat is committed to expanding the knowledge on men who pay for sex. Her studies in this domain focus on the experience of Israeli men who have paid for sex; the attitudes of Israeli men toward paying for sex; the identity construction of men who pay for sex, and gendered power relations in interviews with men who pay for sex. All her research on prostitution and the sex industry is guided by and aims to facilitate a complex, multifaceted theoretical understanding of this personal and social phenomena. Her commitment to expanding research- and theory-based knowledge in this domain in Israel has led her (with colleagues) to found the Israeli Association for the Study of Prostitution, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking (IASPSS), in 2019. In the past two years the IASPSS has held two annual conferences and a monthly forum for Graduate and Post-Doc Israeli students whose research is focused on this domain.

### Einat Peled's recent publications:

- Prior, A. & **Peled, E.** (2021). Gendered power relations in women-to-men interviews on controversial sexual behavior. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2021.1882193>
- Prior, A., & **Peled, E.** (2021). Identity construction of men who pay women for sex: A Qualitative Meta-Synthesis. *Journal of Sex Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2021.1905763>
- Shilo, G., Gewirtz-Meydan, A. & **Peled, E.** (2021). Men who pay for sex once, more than once, or not at all: A new typology of behavior and attitudes. *The Journal of Sex Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2021.1907527>
- Lahav-Raz, Y., Prior, A., Shilo, G. & **Peled, E.** (2021). Helping individuals in the sex trade during COVID-19: The perspectives of Israeli aid Organizations. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000602>

