



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023: Volume 5, Issue 2



GLOBAL
ASSOCIATION
OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
SCHOLARS

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GAHTS NEWSLETTER

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Introduction to the Summer 2023 Newsletter

Dear Esteemed GAHTS Members and Allies,

As a social researcher who seeks to rationalize the intersectionality of the global developments and its consequences to people as well as the patterns of their resulting decisions, the introduction to our Summer Newsletter presents an opportunity for me to respectfully appreciate and call you to action. As we commemorate the momentous event of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (slated for July 30th annually), we congregate to reiterate our steadfast commitment to combat the grave threat of human trafficking and its interlaced complexities to migration and security.

Climate change, with its aggressive implications, including the perils of global warming, flooding, drought, and famine, stands as an unequivocal exigency of our era. It shoulders the potential capacity to disrupt ecological symmetry, imperil livelihoods, and upheave cultures and civilizations across the globe. As we immerse ourselves in the unfolding realities of the pains and disruptions of global warming and displacement of persons at different frontiers, it is incumbent on us to recognize the direct and indirect impacts of environmental vagaries on the discomfiting phenomenon of human trafficking.

The rising global average temperatures and its capricious effects on the quality of air and the wellbeing of people across the world may render entire regions inhospitable, forcing populations to seek safer havens somewhere else. The disarticulation of people from their cultures, homelands, and communities, compelled by factors such as wildfire, rising sea levels, hurricanes, deforestation, and scarcity of resources, exposes them to diverse exploitation and vulnerabilities. In this whirlwind, devious and unscrupulous human trafficking syndicates seize the opportune moment to prey upon the desperation of these displaced individuals, subjecting them to the yoke of forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other inhumane maltreatments.

Additionally, climate change concerns intensify extant societal and economic disparities, rendering marginalized groups (especially immigrants and the internally displaced) even more susceptible to heinous exploitation. As displaced populations grapple with the impacts of environmental adversities...

(Continued on next page)



**Adeleye Lewis Olatunji,
MSc, MA, PhD(c)**



20th Annual International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference

Join us for our 20th annual conference hosted virtually on September 20-22, 2023! Hear from 200 experts discuss a variety of topics and connect with thousands of attendees from all corners of the world.

Register today at

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

If you are interested in learning more about GAHTS and how to get involved, we are having our annual informational meeting during the conference on **Thursday, September 21st @ 12:30-1:30 pm EDT.**



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Introduction to the Summer 2023 Newsletter Continued...

...they metamorphose into prime targets for despicable traffickers who seek victims amidst their vulnerability and deprivation.

The entangled challenges of climate change and human trafficking require a multi-dimensional response from the research community, law enforcement agencies, survivors, and scholars alike. By understanding the elaborate interaction between environmental factors and human displacement, we can forge astute and judicious policies and strategies to deconstruct trafficking networks and protect those at risk. Likewise, by advancing resilience within vulnerable groups, we establish a formidable bulwark against the treacherous contrivances of human trafficking in the face of environmental disruptions.

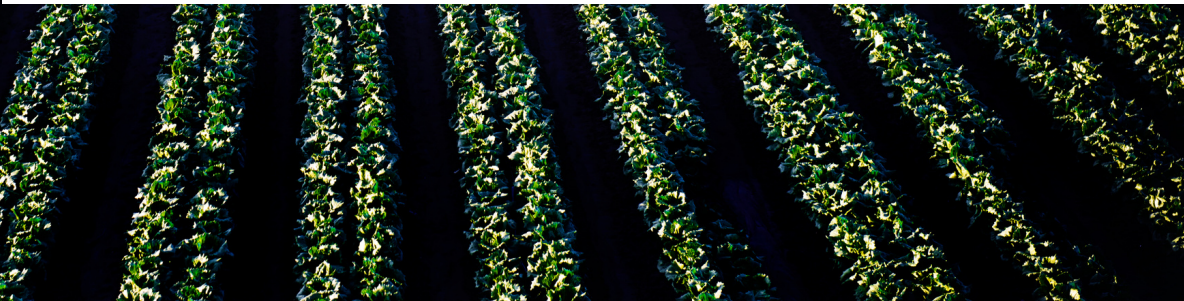
Amidst our intense efforts to address human trafficking, we also acknowledge the importance of restorative and transformative justice approaches in redressing the enormous harm inflicted upon trafficking survivors and affected populations. By adopting a holistic model and paradigm of justice, we strive continuously to empower survivors with the support, resources, and recovery needed to reclaim themselves and take the lead towards rehabilitation and restoration. Similarly, we passionately advocate for transformative justice approaches that center not only on punitive measures but also on tackling the root causes of human trafficking, addressing social discriminations, and stimulating societal transformation.

Within the highly venerated space of GAHTS, we are presented with enormous opportunities for scholarship, partnership, and collaboration. Current and future members of GAHTS leverage on the academic prowess of our vast resources to champion research endeavors that illumine the intricate nexus of human trafficking and the society. Plethora of resources that can potentially augment our professional careers, recently published works by GAHTS Scholars, updates on our activities, and a valuable contribution from researcher Madeline Stenersen are some of the interesting pieces to look forward to in this edition.

As I emphasize the exigency of climate change concerns within this edition of the Summer 2023 Newsletter, I passionately hope to amplify the awareness and preemptive actions among our valued members. Together, we harness our collective resolve and commitment to initiate transformative shift in the lives of those threatened by the linking challenges confronting our civilization.

As an organization, we extend our profound gratitude for your firm support and dedication to our shared mission in GAHTS. On this World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, let us purposefully stand united in our resolve to exterminate the scourge of human trafficking in all its nefarious forms and manifestations.

Adeleye Lewis Olatunji, MSc, MA, PhD(c)
GAHTS Senior Research Scholar
GAHTS Executive Committee Member





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Spotlighted Resource: Journal of Human Trafficking

The [Journal of Human Trafficking](#) (JHT) supports the greater understanding of human trafficking by publishing diverse scholarship on all forms of contemporary slavery.



For several years, GAHTS has been a proud partner of JHT. This past year, we had a very exciting expansion to our partnership...**Now, all GAHTS members have FREE online access to the Journal of Human Trafficking!** This is a huge step forward in making research more accessible to people working directly in the anti-human trafficking field.

If you are not a member of GAHTS but are interested in receiving the latest information and research in the anti-trafficking field to take back to your organization, clients, and funders, consider signing up today to take advantage of this amazing membership perk! Learn more about becoming a member on our website:

<https://www.gahts.com/become-a-member>

GAHTS offers several more great resources and perks in our various membership levels. Learn more about these here: <https://www.gahts.com/membership-perks>

Recent Journal Publications by GAHTS Research Scholar Members:

- **Multiple GAHTS Members as Authors:** *Societies'* Special Issue "Frontiers in Organizing Processes: Collaborating against Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery for Impact and Sustainability". https://www.mdpi.com/journal/societies/special_issues/collaborating_against_human_trafficking
- **Gerassi, L. B.;** Cruys, C.; Hendry, N. & del Carmen Rosales, M. (2023). How do providers assess young people for risk of sex trafficking? Observed indicators, follow-up, and assessment questions from a sample of social service providers. *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilgyouth.2023.106906>
- **Meshelemiah, J.** (2023). How the Jezebel Stereotype has been Weaponized Against Black Girls and Made Them Vulnerable to Sex Trafficking: An Examination of Carceral Public Systems. *Journal of African American Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12111-022-09596-0>
- **Recknor, F.;** Mason, R.; Jacobson, D.; Kelly, C. E.; Montemurro, F.; **Bruder, R.** & Du Mont, J. (2023). Challenges to Supporting Domestically Sex Trafficked Persons: In-Depth Interviews with Service Providers. *Journal of Human Trafficking*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2023.2219224>
- **Richie-Zavaleta, A. C.;** Butler, E.; Torres, K. & Urada, L. A. (2023). Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Involved in the Justice System: Mental Health Outcomes, HIV/STI Risks, and Perceived Needs to Exit Exploitation and Facilitate Recovery. *Sexes*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/sexes4020017>
- **Yagci Sokat, K.** & Altay, N. (2023). Impact of modern slavery allegations on operating performance. *Supply Chain Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/SCM-08-2021-0387>

Check out our website for over 750 journal articles on human trafficking!
<https://www.gahts.com/research-publications>





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Spotlight on a Researcher: Madeline Stenersen, PhD



Madeline Stenersen, PhD is a licensed psychologist and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at Saint Louis University (SLU) in Missouri, USA. Her research centers on the intersection between the criminal legal system, LGBTQ+ communities, and individuals involved in the sex industry. She began this work as a mental health counselor at a drop-in center for street-based sex workers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and has since focused her work on serving people along the continuum of agency within the sex industry including sex trafficking survivors, sex workers, and everyone in between. Dr. Stenersen has a particular interest in giving voice to the sex worker community in their efforts to combat exploitation and violence against all people involved in the sex industry. Her research uses advanced quantitative analyses of big data as well as community-based research and evaluation in partnership with local, national, and international organizations. Practically, her partnerships often involve equipping small national and international non-profits to use free, non-intrusive, and automated strategies to collect and analyze program data to sustain funding and expand of their scope of work. Recent projects of hers include 1) working with Urban Light Thailand and fellow GAHTS scholars, Dr. Glenn Miles and Jarrett Davis, to map the landscape of online sexual exploitation of boys, young men, and trans/third gender youth and young adults in [Thailand](#), 2) working with a higher education collaborative in Missouri to train college mental health professionals to provide supportive and destigmatizing counseling to college students involved in sex trade, and 3) creating an automated data infrastructure to evaluate and report results on national law enforcement anti-trafficking training in real time. More information about Dr. Stenersen's current projects and partnerships can be found at her website: madelinestenersen.com.

Dr. Stenersen's Recent Journal Publications:

- **Stenersen, M.;** Pederson, A.; Dominguez, S. & Bridges, S. (In Press). "Please describe a person who sells sex": (De)humanizing prototypic perceptions in the United States. Submitted to *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*.
- Davis, J.; Miles, G.; Mounsher, M. & **Stenersen, M.** (2022). "Tell them what happened to me": An exploration of the online and offline sexual exploitation of boys and young men in Thailand. *World Childhood Foundation*: New York, NY, USA.
- **Stenersen M.;** Thomas, K. & McKee, S. (2022). Police interaction, harassment, and violence among transgender and gender diverse sex workers in the United States. *Journal of Homosexuality*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/009183969.2022.2132578>
- April, K.; **Stenersen, M.;** Deslandes, M.; Ford, T.C.; Gaylord, P.; Patterson, J.; Wilson, B. & Kaufman, J.S. (2023). Give up your mic: Building capacity and sustainability within community-based participatory research initiatives. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12674>