

Commission on the Status of Women

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PANEL IV

Remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussions at the High-level round table organized in the 48th session of the Commission 2004 as well as available data from the World's Women: Trends and Statistics (2005) and the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (2005)

Collecting Data on Human Trafficking

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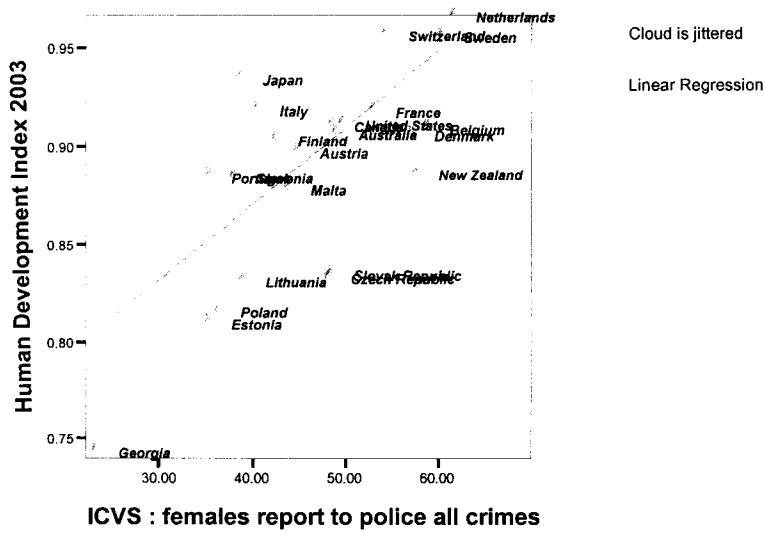
This paper will focus on data collection on trafficking in women as a form of serious crime. In the 2004 World Survey of Women and Development it was noted that in general, data on the international movement of women are lacking. Trafficking in women is part of this

international movement and it has been agreed that the lack of reliable data is even more acute in the case of human trafficking.

be in compliance with the definition. It can be expected that this will lead also to more harmonized practice in recording crime, allowing collection and comparison of trafficking data.

The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is also supplemented by the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air⁴ including a definition of such smuggling. The difference between the definition of human trafficking and migrant smuggling is important to stress because in some countries, there is no clear distinction between trafficking and smuggling cases in official statistics. This is usually based on the lack of clear legal definitions of these crimes. This could lead to the under recording of trafficking crimes because the police might prefer to categorise some of the trafficking cases as smuggling crimes because often collection of evidence is easier. In general, there are only few countries which publish official statistics on trafficking cases so the global comparison of

It is generally understood that official crime statistics do not reflect actual levels of crime but rather give information on the operations of criminal justice systems. The existence of hidden numbers of crime including all those crimes which are not reported to the authorities, is a well known phenomenon. These figures include particularly cases of rape and violence



Even though general victimization survey can give a better understanding of the levels of crime, they cannot be used to collect data on the number of trafficking victims because the

crime is not common enough to be represented in a small sample of the population. However, a focused victimization study on trafficking experiences could be carried out among, for example, young women from developing countries returning from abroad. Several analyses have been made of data collected from clients of service-providers. A good example of such

can be established. In this assessment the number of citations in different sources was

calculated¹⁰. Based on the analyses it can be seen that the main origin regions are Asia and Central and Eastern Europe, main transit regions CEE and Western Europe and Asia, and main destination regions are Asia and Western Europe (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of times a country has been cited as a country of origin, transit or destination, by region, % of all citations

100%

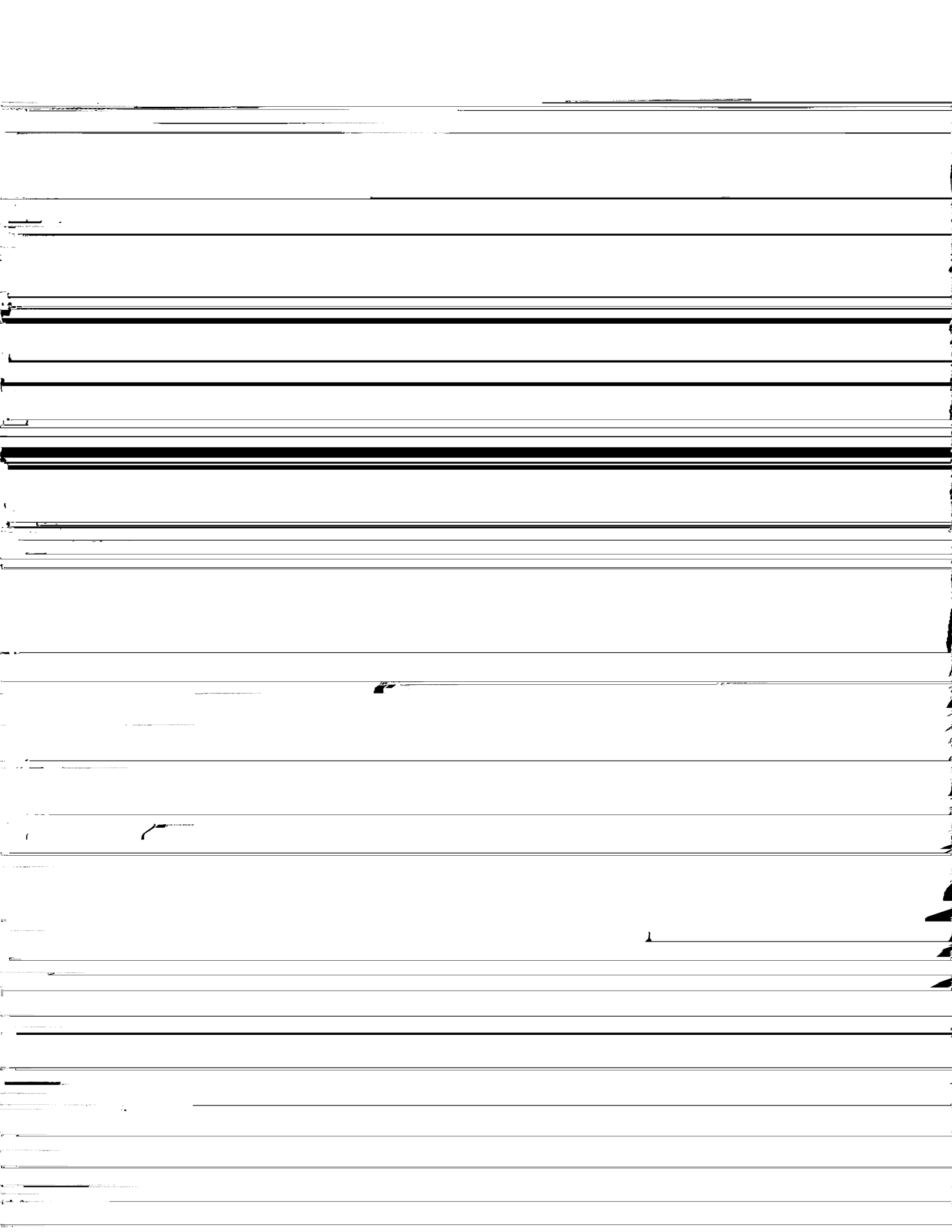


Figure 4. Trafficking in women



Figure 5. Involvement of women and men in trafficking as offenders

Offender Profile

Men and

