

Prospects and Challenges in the Investigation of Human Trafficking in the Tshwane Policing Area of the Gauteng Province, South Africa

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Abstract

This article explores the prospects and challenges that are associated with the investigation of human trafficking in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. The study employed a qualitative research approach that used semi-structured interviews to collect data. The study targeted participants from three key stakeholder groups: (1) the South African Police Service, (2) the Sunnyside Community Service Centre, and (3) the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation officials with expertise related to human trafficking. The sample consisted of 15 participants, utilising purposive and snowball sampling. This study found that there is a specialised unit assigned to investigate the crime of human trafficking. It was also found that many investigators of human trafficking are unable to draw a distinction between operational and technical concepts relating to human trafficking and that they face multiple challenges in the course of investigations.

Keywords: human trafficking, modern-day slavery, sexual exploitation, prostitution, child labour.

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