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# **BREAKING THE CYCLE OF TRAFFICKING IN VIETNAM: A CRITICAL SYSTEMIC POLICY REVIEW**

**Huong Nguyen<sup>1</sup>, Janet McIntyre Mills<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *PhD candidate, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences college, Flinders University*

<sup>2</sup> *Adjunct Assoc Prof, Flinders University, Hon Prof University of South Africa*

## **1 Introduction**

The paper addresses human trafficking from an intersectional perspective and gender and rights-based approach and makes policy suggestions based on a critical systemic approach. It examines human trafficking from both the demand and supply sides and reviews a reintegration shelter for trafficked persons in Vietnam. The paper examines a gender responsive-rights approach to understand why some women are more vulnerable than others, and the need to re-frame policy to enable and empower women so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking. In Vietnam, statistics documented throughout the country over the past ten years have shown that women and girls are being trafficked as labourers, domestic workers, sex workers, and brides throughout the region, as well as globally. An increasing demand for sex workers has not only fuelled mobility, but also trafficking. Although reintegration services are vital for their safe resettlement, it is also of paramount importance to prevent trafficking by empowering women.

## **2 Approach**

The paper is developed by reviewing literature of international, regional, and Vietnam reports on human trafficking coupled with the prior primary data collected in Vietnam by the first author for her Master thesis.

## **3 Results**

In this paper the problem of trafficking is represented as an issue linked with gendered vulnerabilities and the need for more policy development to ensure gender mainstreaming to give women a voice based on access to education, employment, financial independence and control over their own bodies –which comes with agency and power.

## 4 Conclusion

A critical systemic analysis poses suggestions as to how public policy in Vietnam could be improved by making the case that the cycle of trafficking needs to be broken through more emphasis on preventative measures and appropriate education and training so that vulnerable people are not victimized or at risk of also becoming perpetrators.

### Author biography

**Huong Nguyen** Huong Nguyen is a Ph.D. on Women and Gender's studies in Flinders University. She got an MA on the degree of International Development and Social Change in America and an MA of Law in Vietnam. Huong has 18 years of experience working culturally and politically diverse teams and collaboratively with government, UN agencies, INGOs, and academic institutions targeting social development and gender equality. Huong worked as a gender expertise and development practitioner as a country director for an American NGO and program director for CARE International in Vietnam, and Vietnam's Women Union. Her research currently focusses on gender equality, women human rights of marginalized population.

**Janet McIntyre Mills** Prof Janet Judy McIntyre (née Mills) publishes as McIntyre-Mills. She was nominated 'Sociologist of the Month' by the Current Sociology Journal and has published widely in the areas of social and environmental justice [.orcid.org/0000-0001-7733-1228](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7733-1228) She is Visiting Research Fellow at Adelaide University, based in the Yunus Social Enterprise Centre, in the College of Professions, Adelaide University. She is Adjunct Professor at the University of Indonesia and Honorary Professor at the University of South Africa. She is also a Research Associate of Universitas Padjadjaran. The adjunct appointments recognise over 30 years' experience in policy research addressing complex social challenges. Her current research focus is in the ecological humanities with a focus on vocational education, training and development to re-generate eco-systemic living by drawing on indigenous wisdom.