

Partner University	University of Central Lancashire
Faculty/School/Department/Research Centres	Lancashire Institute of Citizenship, Society and Change
Supervisory Team: please provide details of first, second, and where relevant, third supervisors for this project, and any external supervisors/advisors, where applicable	
First supervisor	Professor Nicky Stanley https://www.uclan.ac.uk/staff_profiles/nicky_stanley.php
Second supervisor	Professor Stuart Kirby https://www.uclan.ac.uk/staff_profiles/professor-stuart-kirby.php
Third supervisor	Dr Sarah Shorrocks https://www.uclan.ac.uk/staff_profiles/dr-sarah-shorrocks.php
External/industrial supervisor	Professor Maria Roth, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Contact details for project (for informal applicant queries)	nstanley@uclan.ac.uk
DTA Programme(s): please tick which DTA programme(s) this project relates to:	
DTA Social Policy	
Project title	Effective Policy and Practice Addressing Supply and Demand in Sex Trafficking
Project description: please provide a brief description, using the headings given below, of the project (max. 450 words) which will be used as part of the advertising material and will be placed in the public domain. Please also indicate whether there are any confidentiality/sensitivity/IP issues of the research which should not be made publicly available.	
<p>I. Scientific excellence</p> <p>From a transdisciplinary perspective, this research will develop new knowledge and practice based learning about preventing the trafficking of women and children by addressing the factors that influence supply and demand in two communities.</p> <p>II. Clear aim and hypothesis</p>	



The study will aim to understand:

- a. what are the contextual factors that lead to the involvement of women and children in human trafficking between Romania and the UK;
- b. what are the contextual factors that influence the demand for the involvement of women and children in human trafficking between Romania and the UK;
- c. how can this knowledge can be translated into preventative and disruptive approaches to respond to trafficking at an operational level?

III. Methodology and innovations

The research will use mixed methods and will draw on methodologies informed by situational analyses (UNICEF, 2012) and by Smallbone and Rayment-McHugh's (2013) sexual violence field based public health prevention framework. Conceptually, the research will draw on the International Organisation for Migration Determinants of Vulnerability Model (IOM, 2016), considering the interaction between individual, relationship, community, situational and structural factors that create vulnerabilities to trafficking for women and children in different contexts. The research will require consultation with stakeholders, analysis of documentary sources and available data and interviews with trafficking victims. The supervisory team have access to multi-agency teams that tackle human trafficking in the UK (Greater Manchester and Lancashire) as well as Romania. This will provide unprecedented information at an operational level not previously analysed resulting in exploration of strategic interventions to reduce demand and improve safeguarding.

IV. Strategic relevance

Organised Crime is estimated to cost the UK £24b per annum and human trafficking is viewed as one of the fastest growing areas in this field. It creates untold misery to the individuals involved and is a priority for HM Government. Between 2010-2012, there were 30,146 victims identified in the EU, which was reported as only a small proportion of the problem. Even so, of these identified cases there were only 8805 prosecutions and 3855 convictions (Eurostat 2015). This shows that human trafficking is a growing but hidden problem and further research is needed to identify how individuals become victimised and how offenders can be tackled more effectively.

V. Interdisciplinarity and Fit with Relevant DTA Programme

The research brings together social work & social policy, policing, forensics and public health perspectives. It will be based in UCLan's newly established Lancashire Institute of Citizenship, Society and Change and the interdisciplinary supervisory team will be drawn from social work and forensic science.

National and international policy to combat sex trafficking is relatively recent and still developing. This study will feed into policy in this field at local, national and internal levels.

Lay summary (max 200 words) to be used for reference as part of the selection process where non-specialists are involved



Sex trafficking involves the exploitation of women, men, young people and children. It inflicts long term damage on its victims and contravenes principles of human rights and dignity. It is underpinned by and contributes to global inequality. To date, policy and interventions aimed at ending sex trafficking have largely focused on the identification of traffickers and their victims. This study aims to capture and analyse the experience and views of policy makers, practitioners and trafficked people themselves to develop proposals for tackling those factors that contribute to the supply and demand for sex trafficking. The study will be undertaken in Romania and the UK and will focus on both adult and child victims of sex trafficking. The research will be located in UCLan's new Lancashire Institute of Citizenship, Society and Change and the interdisciplinary supervisory team will be drawn from social work and forensic science. The supervisors have a history of collaboration on this and associated issues with Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania, and Professor Maria Roth at Babeş-Bolyai University has agreed to assist with recruiting, selecting and supporting the PhD candidate.

Industrial/Employer placement opportunity please include details, where known, of any external placement opportunities or collaborations available to the student as part of the project

There may be opportunities for a placement with greater Manchester Police.

International placement opportunity please include details, where known, of any potential international placement opportunities or collaborations available to the student as part of the project

Scientific, economic and societal impact of the project

The research has potential for high impact upon both the academic research community and for crime and violence prevention. The transdisciplinary focus of the research will provide an opportunity to develop conceptual and methodological innovations in the process of situational analysis. Findings from the research will be shared with key stakeholders in Romania and the UK and will be used to inform local operational practices. The research team have previously worked with relevant organisations in the UK interested in trafficking such as the College of Policing, ACOP, BASW, National Crime Agency/CEOP and with international bodies such as UNICEF, the Oak Foundation, ECPAT, ISPCAN who would be likely users of the research findings.

Additional admissions requirements: please state if there are any specific admissions requirements for this project i.e. subject specific degree qualifications or disciplines, relevant skills, experience etc

The successful candidate will require a first or upper second-class degree in a relevant discipline such as social work, forensic science or policing, law or psychology. Relevant experience of practice or policy work in relation to human trafficking, policing or crime prevention would be desirable.

