Rebecca Bishop

**Relationship Between European Union Citizen's Public Awareness of Human Trafficking
and Demographic Characteristics**

Abstract

There are currently over 27 million people that are trafficked throughout the world
(Bales, 2010). Of the cases that are identified, a small percentage is fully prosecuted (OMCTIP,
2010). Few victims come forward on their own and may even be suffering or lacking rights that
other citizens assume such as the freedom to move about unrestrained (Roby, Turley & Cloward,
2008). Unfortunately, the general public does not easily recognize, identify, and advocate for
victims of human trafficking (Sigmon, 2008). This may be because of the lack of public
education concerning human trafficking.

Public awareness to human trafficking has been researched within the U.S. (Farrell, 2009;
Hounmenou, 2010; Wilson 2008), in Israel (Herzog, 2008), Turkey (Gulcur, 2002), and China
(Chin, 2003) but not in Europe. My research will look at how European citizens view human
trafficking and what factors affect whether they think action should be taken. This study
examines if there a relationship between a European Union citizen's attitude towards human
trafficking and demographic characteristics such as gender, education, income, nationality, and
age. There is a lack of research concerning both human trafficking and public awareness of the
problem. I will present my preliminary findings using descriptive statistics to analyze variables
contained in the Eurobaramoter, wave 59.2, with a total sample size of 16,161 from 15 European
Union (EU) countries.

Given the lack of previous research on this topic, it can be expected that this research will
show that many variables affect whether European citizens are more likely to identify human
trafficking as a problem. I hypothesize that younger, more educated, female European citizens

from coastal countries are more likely to recognize human trafficking than other European

citizens.