



## **PROBLEMS IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: LESSONS FROM INDONESIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper discusses the challenges in the fight against human trafficking practices in Indonesia. Despite Indonesian central government's commitment to eradicating human trafficking since 2000s, the number of cases of human trafficking remains significantly high. Field research was conducted on the anti-trafficking enforcement in three provinces in Indonesia, i.e. West Jawa, West Kalimantan, and East Nusa Tenggara, through depth interviews and archive studies. This research found that most of trafficking cases in Indonesia are illegal labor migration category where victims voluntarily travelled abroad for jobs without proper documents and sex trafficking. Institutional arrangement to cope with the crime and rehabilitation of the victims also lacking resources. The lack of clarity in defining the crime appears to have affected greatly anti-trafficking policies and law enforcement. This paper proposes a better understanding of human trafficking based on the practice in Indonesia and a more integrated policy to include not only the operational aspects of the crime, but also the proximate factors, i.e. institutional, economic, social, and cultural.

### **Keywords**

Illegal labor migration, sex trafficking, transnational crime, anti-trafficking policy, multidisciplinary approach.

