

Please see below a synopsis of the lecture and a profile of Professor Conny Rijken

Synopsis of the lecture:

Based on her experiences and research, Dr. Conny Rijken will elaborate and unravel European and Dutch anti-trafficking measures that have been implemented to realize an effective and comprehensive approach to combating Human Trafficking.

She will show insights in the recently adopted EU Directive on trafficking in human beings which the European Union has taken in the field of migration.

Another highlight of her lecture will be the discussion of the struggle that exists in the Netherlands defining labour exploitation. Dr. Rijken will introduce a practical tool that was developed in the Netherlands to cooperate with the various stakeholders when combating trafficking of human beings.

The central message of Dr. Rijken's lecture is that we can't solely rely on the response of the law enforcement to tackle trafficking of human beings. This would be a limited approach. Only by exploring new avenues and discussing alternatives can trafficking of human beings be combated more effectively.

The three Ps, representing Prosecution and Prevention of trafficking in human beings and Protection of victims, constitute a useful framework to identifying the areas in which anti-trafficking action should take place. However, such action has primarily been adopted in the field of prosecution and less so in terms of preventing trafficking in human beings and protection of victims. When considering a comprehensive approach to trafficking in human beings, where these three obligations are addressed in a more balanced way, a variety of questions and issues will have to be dealt with. Questions arise around labour laws for foreigners; the responsibility of the identification of cases and victims; cooperation of victims to assist with criminal prosecution; sharing of information and the criminalization of consumers.

This is just a small selection of the many questions we are confronted with when trying to combat trafficking in human beings in a more effective way. The big challenge is to integrate these issues in regulations, laws and policy not only at national level but also at regional and international level.

Profile of Dr. Conny Rijken:



Dr. Conny Rijken is Associate Professor at Tilburg Law School, Tilburg University and Senior Research Fellow at INTERVICT. Dr. Rijken has done extensive research on Trafficking in Human Beings especially from a European point of view. Dr. Rijken was project coordinator of the project 'Combating Trafficking of Human Beings for Labour Exploitation', funded by the European Union, and wrote the national report in the Netherlands for the project on forced labour for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Furthermore she is specialised in the field of European Criminal Law. Some of her other notable recent assignments include the establishment of Joint Investigation Teams, raising awareness in the Judiciary on Trafficking in Human Beings, and the certification of the prostitution sector in the Netherlands.