Report of Attending the 18th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANS AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY (EUROCRIM 2018)

Implications for Modern Criminology

August 29-September 1, 2018

Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

By

Jeanne Sarson & Linda MacDonald

Crimes Against Humans and Crimes Against Humanity

Jeanne Sarson & Linda MacDonald

This is the quote from the conference website

The Sarajevo conference, in addition to dealing with the usual topics criminologists are working on that one can broadly and generally define as "crimes against humans", simply has to tackle "crimes against humanity" as well. It is so because at the beginning of the 20th century the World War I started with the event that took place in Sarajevo (assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the royal Prince of Hungary and of Bohemia). And, unfortunately, the very same century ended with war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thus, it does not come as a surprise that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sarajevo have unfortunately been synonymous for "mass atrocity crimes" in Europe in the recent history. We therefore find the title "crimes against humans and crimes against humanity: implications for modern criminology" fitting for the ESC 2018 Sarajevo conference.

Post script: A feminist her-storical note is that Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg was also shot and killed along with her husband Prince Franz Ferdinand (wikipedia).

We share the above quote because reading it prior to attending the conference motivated us and prepared us—somewhat—to research and consider the environment we would be in. This is how the post script note came about.

The first task when arriving in Sarajevo was successfully finding our way to the University of Sarajevo to register for the conference. Walking to the University from the airbnb we rented we passed the first signs of the impact of the Bosnian War of 1992-1995.

These seven discs each with 75 children's names who were killed during the Sarajevo siege. However, media articles say that 1,601 children were killed.

We realized and spoke about the fact that as Canadians we had never been in a social environment where warring and its destruction had occurred. But we also continuously discussed that all the women we have supported and connect with who disclose non-State torture victimizations suffered since their earliest of memories or as adults that they must be globally acknowledged as having suffered a human rights crime committed against them as human beings, committed against their humanity. Non-State torture is a crime against humanity in our opinion. For us the title of the conference—Crimes Against Humans and Crimes Against Humanity—is very fitting for the presentation on non-State torture we would deliver.

Also, along the walk we saw these bombing red epoxied 'footprints' in the sidewalks. These are known as "Sarajevo roses". These are red to represent the blood of those who lost their lives in these places and meant never to forget the human rights atrocities that were perpetrated during the war. This is why we have inserted the red rose into our report.

Sarajevo rose

Real red rose images that we saw painted and displayed in various places were representative of *Sarajevo roses*.

Entering the University of Sarajevo grounds this building greeted us. The patches that dot the building are repairs being done to the bullet and bombing holes a consequence of the warring damage.

University of Sarajevo engineering building, August 29, 2018.

THE FIRST EVENING, August 29, 2018

We began our conference participation attending the evening "Opening Plenary & ESC Award Ceremony." Professor Nedžad Korajlic, Dean, extended greetings on behalf of the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies.

Professor Rifat Škrijelj, Rector, besides welcoming all participants, spoke about Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country that "at the end of the twentieth century saw unspeakable crimes against humanity whose scale are hard to comprehend in modern civilization." He went on to speak about the value of a scientific approach to address the global challenges facing peace and security, naming "terrorism, human trafficking, illegal migration, cybercrime, organized crime, seizure of illegally acquired property and juvenile delinquency" as some of the modern day issues.

Almir Maljevic, from the University Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies, also gave a greeting. He mentioned that there were over 1,600 attendees/presenters from 60 different countries. He compared the organization of this conference to that of hosting the XIV Winter Olympics held in Sarajevo in 1984.

Linda MacDonald and Jackie Jones at opening session.

For us, being at the conference to present non-State torture as a crime against human beings—to be the voices of women we know and deeply respect—must be added to Professor Rifat Škrijelj's list of "unspeakable crimes against humanity whose scale are hard to comprehend in modern civilization." Without question non-State torture victimization perpetrated in the domestic or private sphere must become a social consciousness issue as a specific human rights crime inflicted by non-State actors such as parents, other family members, spouses, human traffickers, pornographers, pimps and buyers for example.

DAY 2-4: ON-GOING PANEL SESSIONS

Panel sessions were held from 8:30 in the morning into early evening and covered crimes that confront our global societies.

PANEL: The panel we participated in was titled "***Contextualizing modern-day responses to human trafficking: Moving the agenda forward***." John Winterdyk, Mount Royal University, Calgary Alberta, Canada was the Chair. We are most respectful of John's invitation to us to join one of the two panels he chaired. Jackie Jones, Bristol University, UK, Minna Viuhko, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), plus John gave presentations.

Standing is John Winterdyk; seated from left is Jackie Jones and Sylvia Walby.

John discussed the major work on human trafficking he and Jackie Jones are editors of being published by Palgrave. We, along with Elizabeth Gordon, submitted a chapter about healing from the organized crime of family-based non-State torture and human trafficking victimizations that begin from Elizabeth's earliest of childhood memories.

Jackie Jones presented on the need for a new or updated transnational human trafficking treaty. Minna Viuhko's presentation addressed different kinds of "marriages". Examples included child 'marriages', marriages of convenience, arranged marriages, and "*sham marriages*" for example. Sham marriage issue was an important insight for Linda and me because the MOs of some family-based torturers used sham marriage rituals. These tricked the women as little girls when told these marriages bonded them to the pedophilic torturers who were torture raping them. In these organized non-State torture (NST) families sham marriage rituals are a form of psychological torture.

Our presentation was titled, ***Family-Based Torturers & Human Traffickers: 'Our' Population & Our Practice*.**

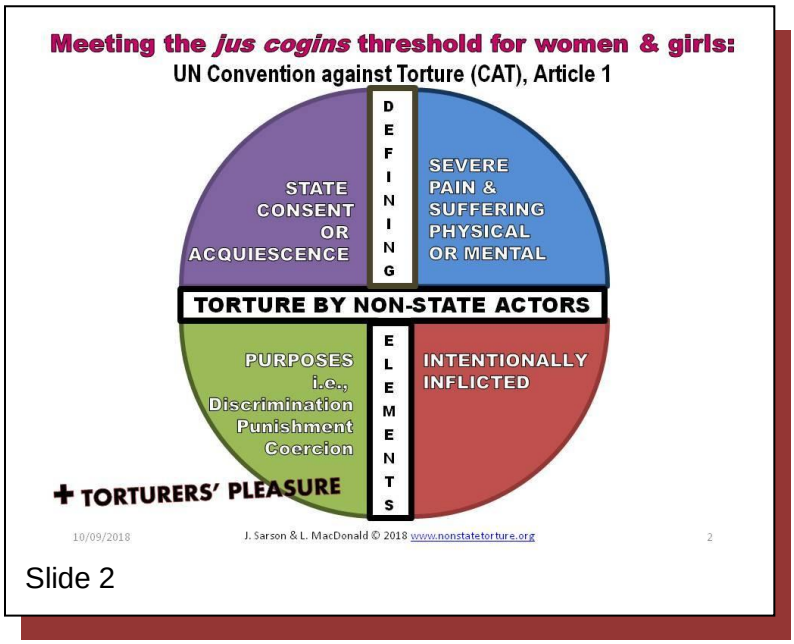
Slide 1

We began by showing Side 1 of the global extensiveness of countries that women who describe family-based NST and trafficking crimes come from.

We showed a total of 17 slides. Six slides are shared in this report. Many of the other slides included women's voices or their drawing showing the NST and human trafficking human

Slide 1

right criminal violations they suffered and survived. Included in the slides were women's comments about healing and the benefits of answering the participatory questionnaires available on our website. Women frequently tell us that the questionnaires are validating of their victimizations.



Slide 2

Slide 2

This slide states that family-based NST crimes meets the defining *jus cogens* elements of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishments as listed in article 1.

We added that the torturers have pleasure in the destruction of those they decide to torture. We do so because *the defining element of purpose* includes that torture is inflicted for any other reason besides for punishment or for coercion. Examples include for discriminatory reasons such as being inflicted against women and girls because they are women or girls.

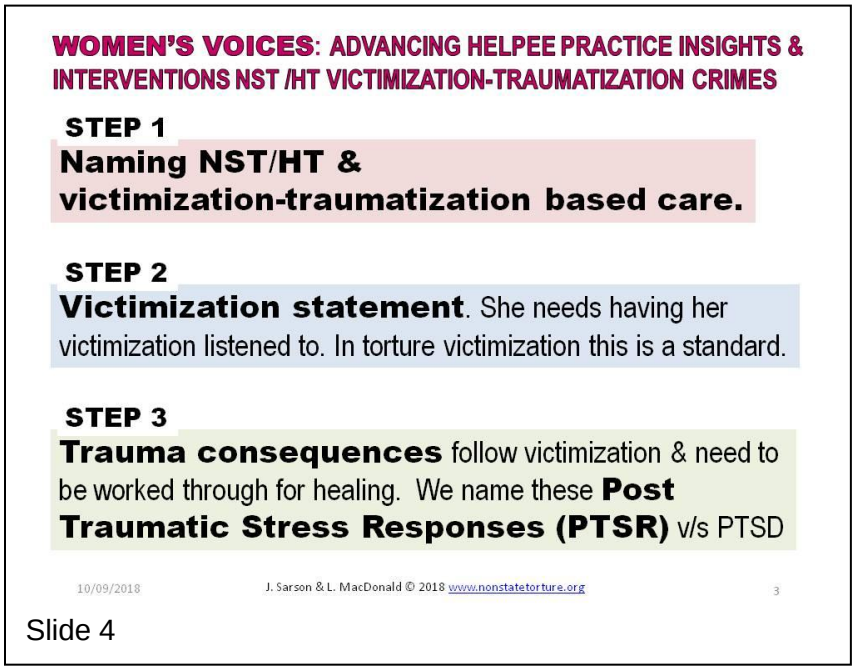
Slide 3

Sharing solutions was one of the stated conference outcome goals. This slide shares the NST Wheel connected to *The Non-State Torture (NST) Wheel A Fact Sheet*. It can be an intervention by offering persons insight into forms of NST violence they may have survived. It can also be an assessment tool for carers to help them understand the forms of violence a women or girl suffered when asking for healing support.

Slide 3: Jeanne displaying NST Wheel

Slide 4

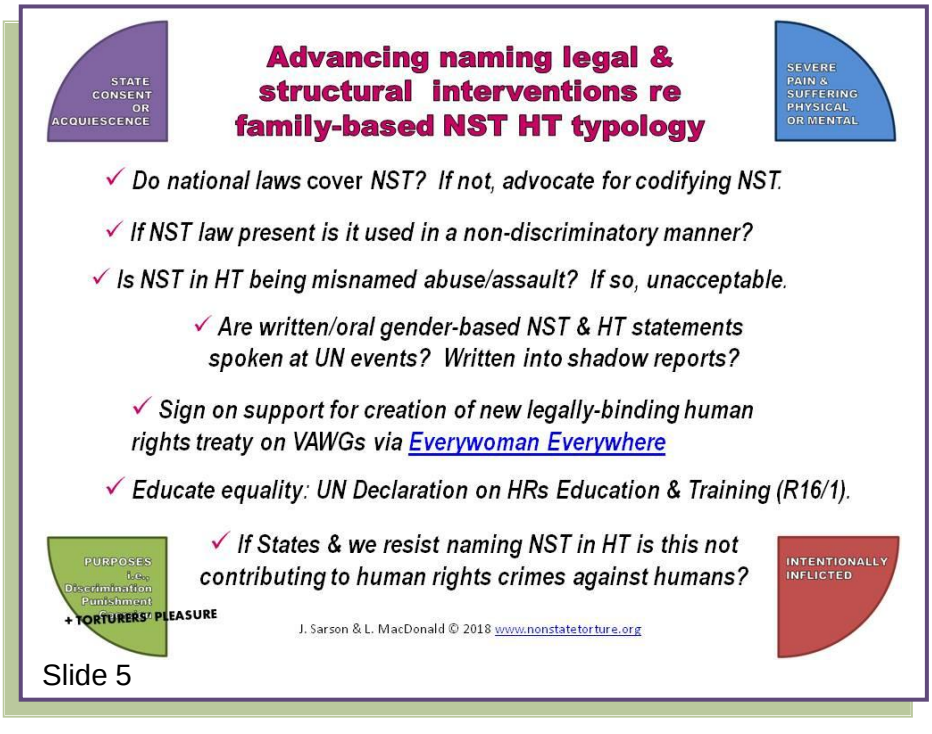
Slide 4 was sharing the fundamental framework of our practice as potential solutions for others who have suffered non-State torture or for helpers who may offer support. The steps identified in the slide represent the importance of naming both the victimization and the traumatization suffered. In our relationships with women so victimized it is their survival responses that require understanding and healing. Women have repeatedly told us they do not want a label of being "disordered". For them and for us the reality is: How does society expect a person who has been tortured and trafficked to act when they have suffered such human rights atrocities? Are their responses not normal? We therefore, use the term post traumatic stress responses (PTSR) when they are no longer being victimized but are suffering the consequential survival responses.



Slide 4

Slide 5

This slide gives a list of legal and structural interventions that societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and governments can do to advance the human rights of women and girls—of all individuals—who have survived NST.



Slide 5

Slide 6

The United Nations has stated its work is achieving these 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. We have specifically highlighted three of these SDGs. These apply directly to the women and girls who have suffered and survived NST and human trafficking victimization. If any country, including ours of Canada, are to ensure that "no one is left behind" NST must be acknowledged, named, and criminalized to ensure the human right of women and girls not to be subjected to torture as declared in article 5 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We speak of women and girls because they are the persons we know—seldom have we been contacted by men.

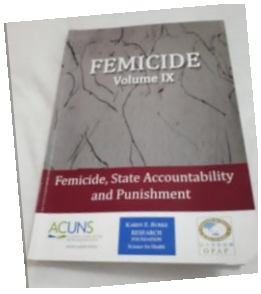
Slide 6

IN-BETWEEN SESSIONS: VISITING THE BOOK PUBLISHERS' TENT

There were various book publishing representatives present with display examples of hard or soft covered books and of journals on many topics. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss with the representative editors the possibilities of submitting drafts of articles or books on NST.

Linda examining books

During one of the panels there was a brief discussion of modern day slavery and torture. This conversation led to speaking with Michael Platzer of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS). He gave me a copy of their publication on *Femicide*, shown here. Linda and I have already submitted an article on suicidal-femicide conditioning as the modus operandi inflicted by organized family-based non-State torturers and traffickers. We now wait hopeful it will be published.



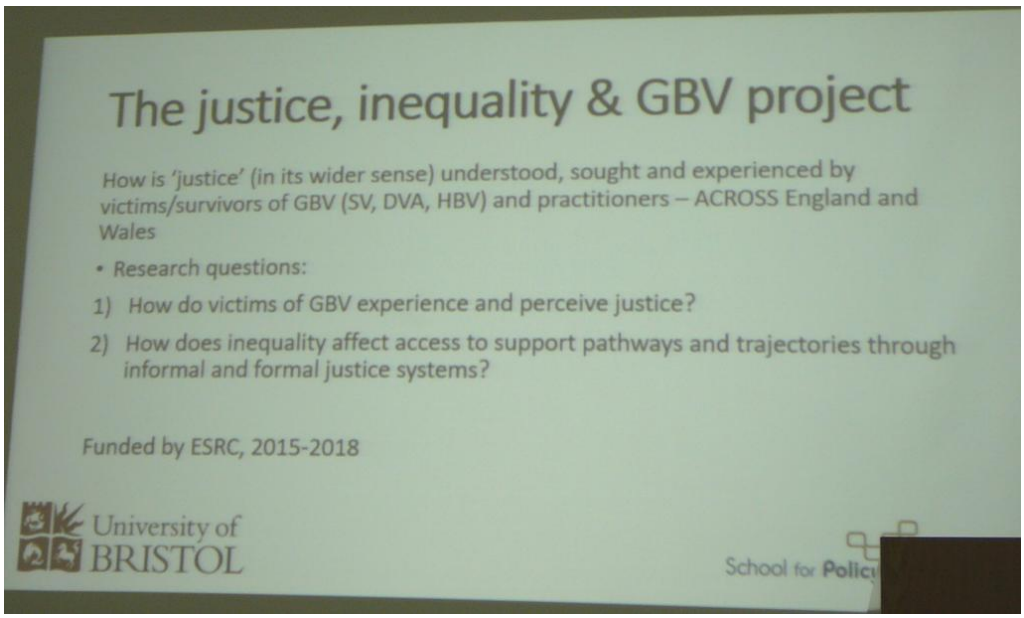
INSIGHTS INTO SOME SESSIONS ATTENDED

The days were packed full of panels covering many social and criminal realities within the global society. We attended a variety of panels with multiple presenters. Some examples of the panel presentations and the points made that stimulated conversations are:

PANEL: The researchers in the "***Criminal Justice, Inequality and Gender-based Violence***" panel presented findings of their research project titled, "The justice, inequality & GBV project."

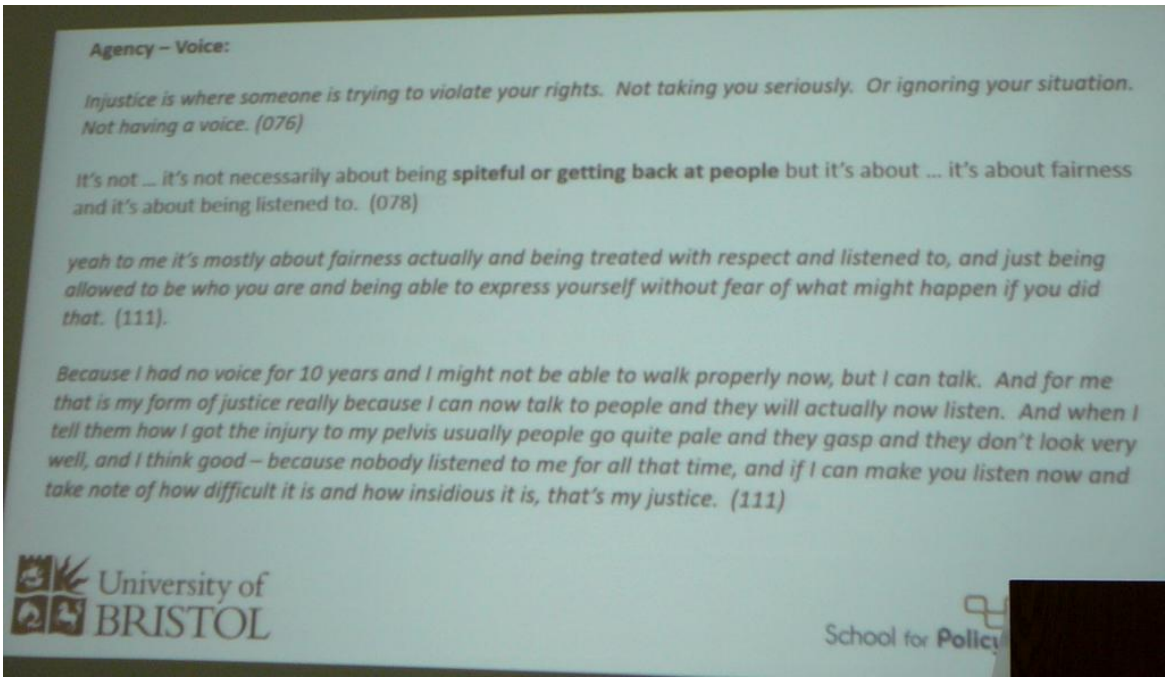
These researchers mentioned they had researched 85,000 pieces of literature and only 140 carried women's voices and stories. This was a validation for Linda and me as it has been and continues to be our goal to share women's voices and stories in every published article or presentation we can. Women's voices are shared with their consent. Many women tell us how healing speaking out in this way as it is safe for them to do so. It also achieves their altruistic drive to try and help others.

The researchers' questions are identified in GBV slide 1.

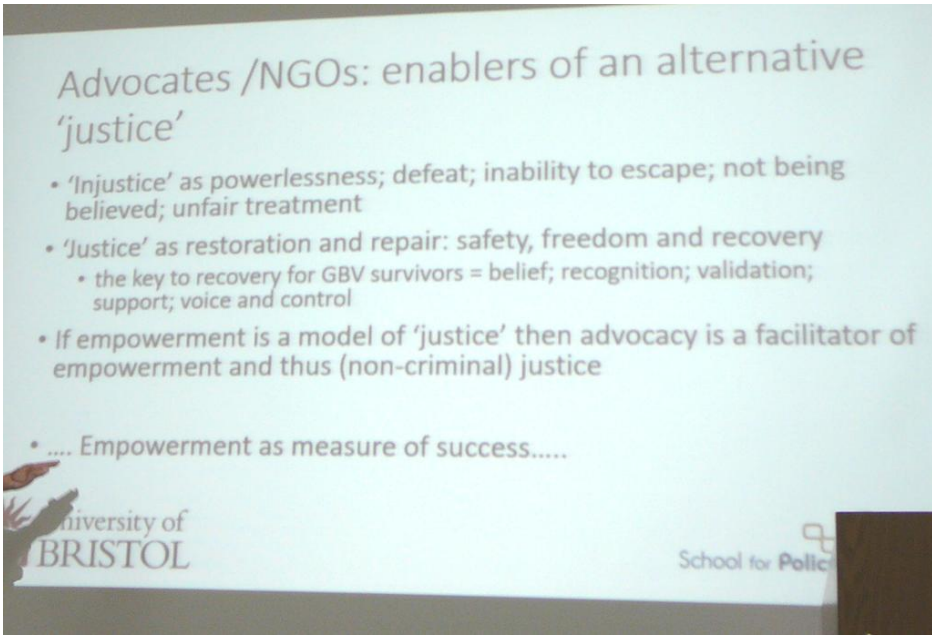


GBV slide 1

Women's perspective about their description of personal "Agency – Voice" is shared on GBV slide 2 on the next page.



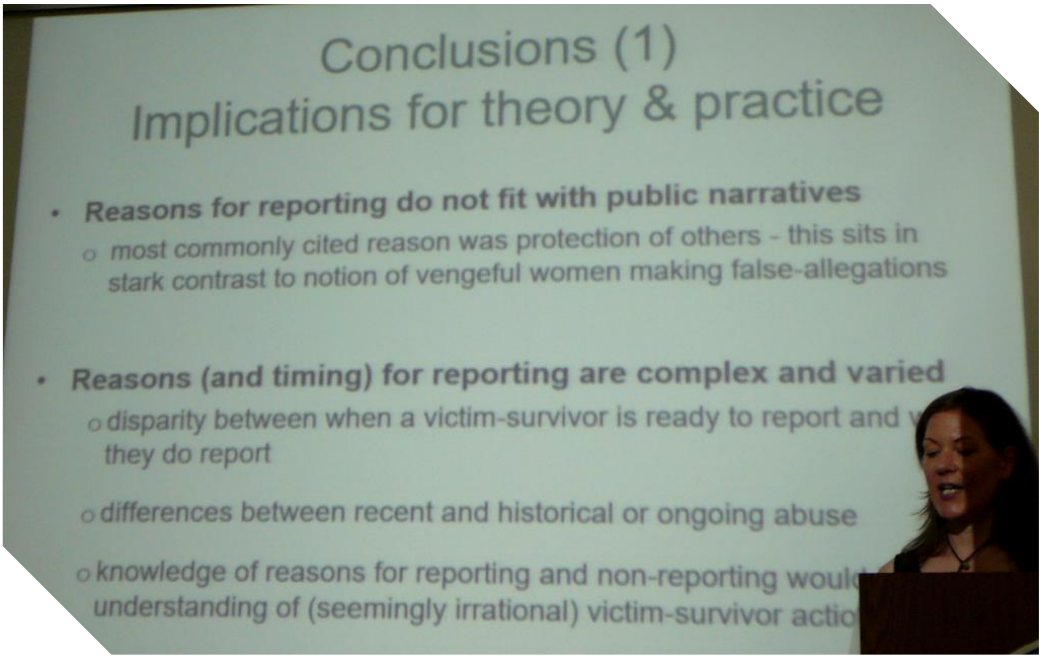
GBV slide 2



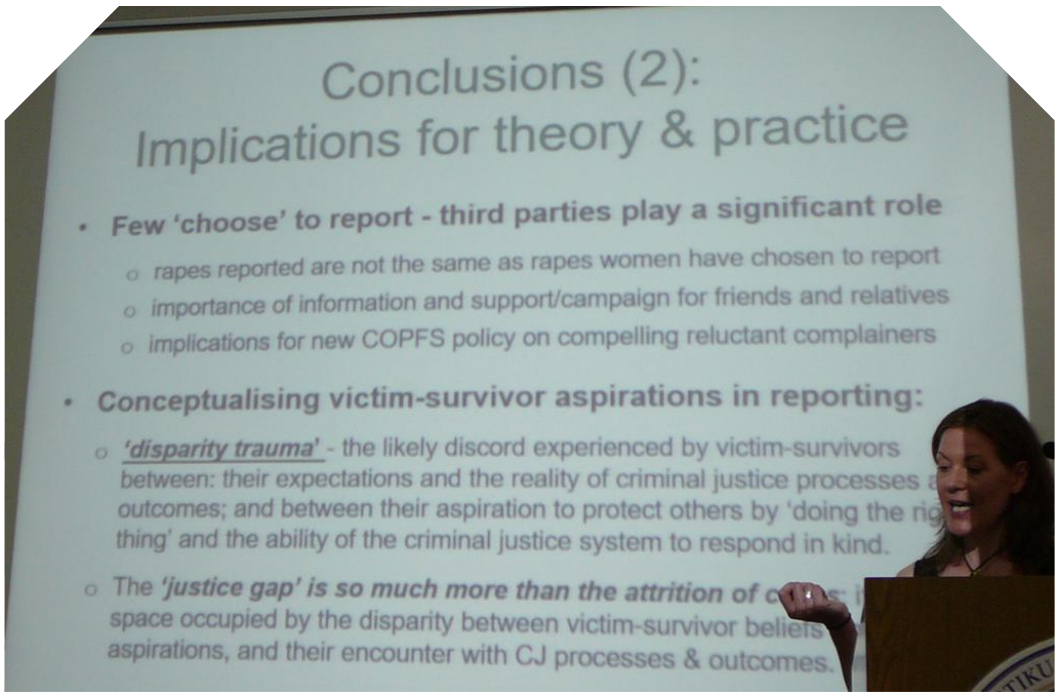
GBV slide 3 shared thoughts about injustice and justice.

The researchers' conclusions were: (1) "Justice is not revenge," (2) "Justice operates at different levels simultaneously and sequentially," and (3) "Justice as social transformation and equality."

PANEL: "***Understanding why rape victim-survivors engage with the criminal justice system,***" was a presentation by Oona Brooks-Hay from the University of Glasgow. She concluded with these two slides:

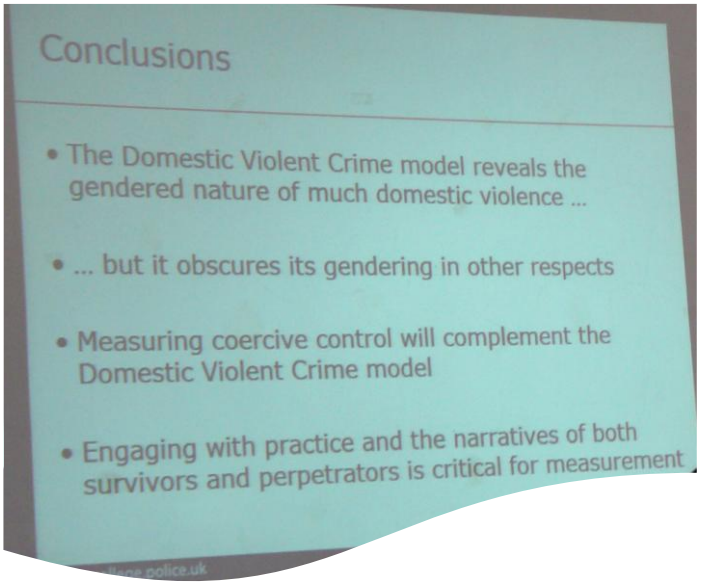


Oona Brooks-Hay slide 1



Oona Brooks-Hay slide 2

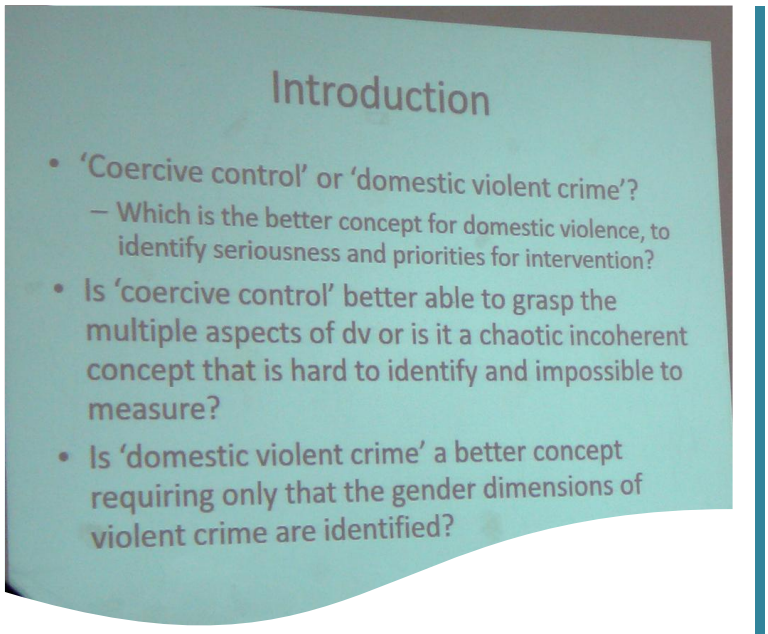
PANEL: From the College of Policing, Andy Myhill presented, "***Measuring domestic violence and coercive control***" concluding with this slide. For perpetrators of NST the conclusion of engaging in the narratives with the perpetrators is impossible because there is no negotiating with torturers. And of all the presentations Linda and I attended NST was not mentioned. Our conclusion is that there is a serious lack of insight into the fact there are non-State torturers in the domestic or private sphere. There is no negotiation with family-based non-State tortures and the organized crimes they commit against children of all ages or against women who were once NST victimized and trafficked female children or were tortured by a spouse.



Andy Myhill's slide.

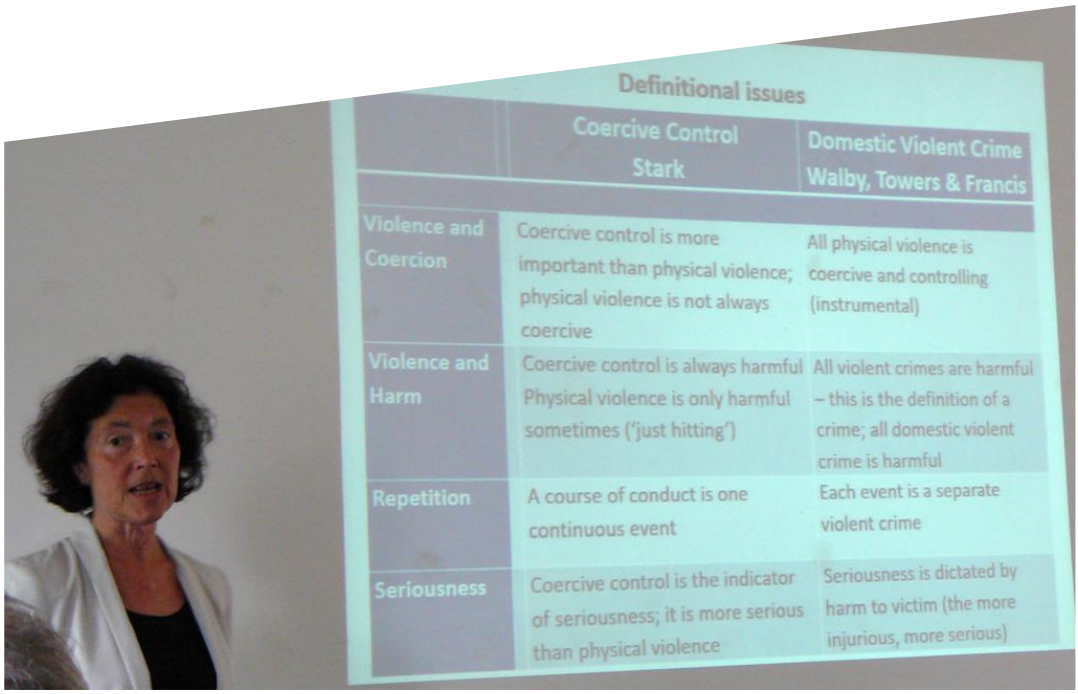
PANEL: Sylvia Walby presented "***Violence in England and Wales: a gender based approach taking account of high frequency victimisation 'Coercive control' or 'domestic violent crime'?*** Her co-authors were Jude Towers and Brian Francis. Here are a few of her discussion slides.

Sylvia presented the theoretical and practical or behavioural comparisons between the coercive control model by Stark versus the domestic violent crime model by Walby, Towers & Francis as shown in slide 1.



Sylvia Walby's slide 1

Slide 2 compared definitional issues. Her conclusion was that using the coercive control model "decreases the number of violent crimes against women that are recorded in official statistics on police recorded crime, which [negatively] affects policy on resources."



Sylvia Walby and slide 2

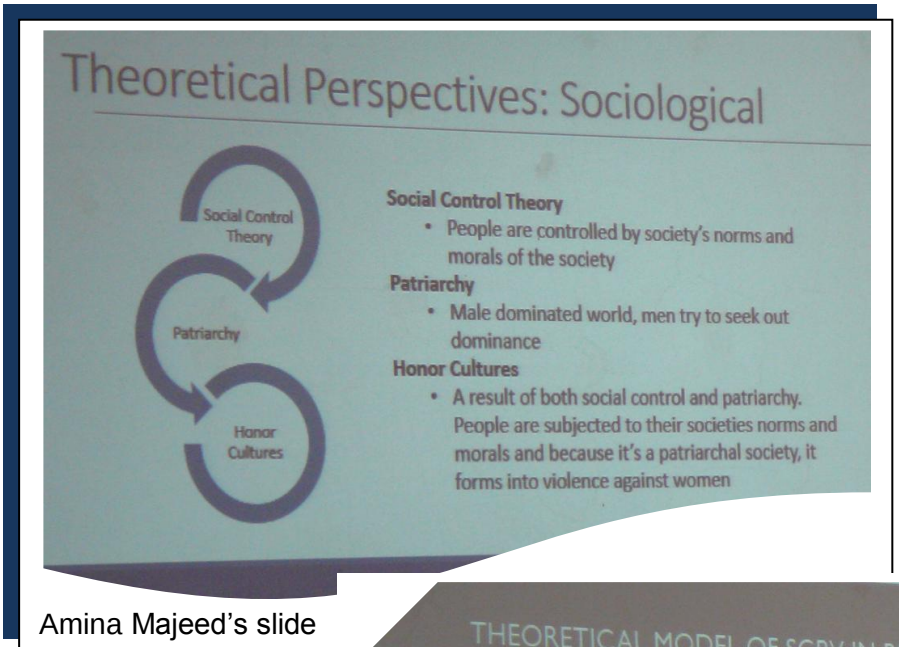
PANEL: Three students from John Jay College of Criminal Justice presented:

1. "***Child Soldiers in Asia: A Criminological Inquiry***" by Raymond J. Hilker.

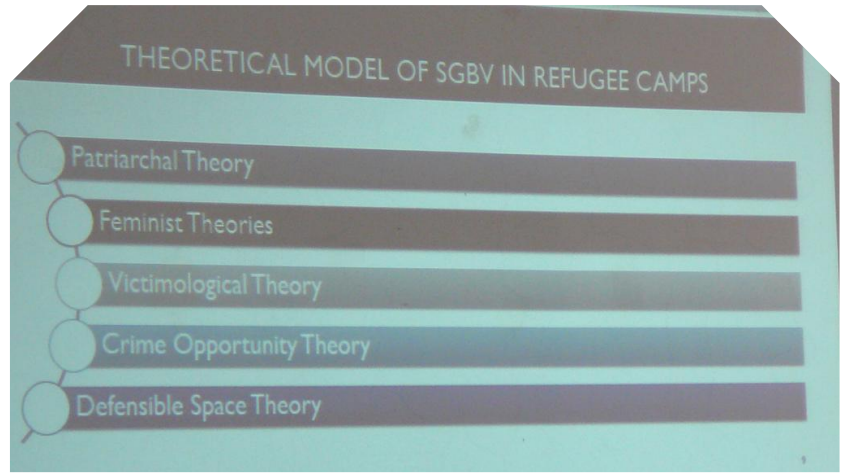
2. Amina Majeed presented "***Ending Honor Based Violence in Immigrant Communities: a Comparative Analysis of Criminal Justice Policies in the US, UK and Canada***".

3. And Aline Shaban presented "***Gender-Based Violence in Refugee Camps***."

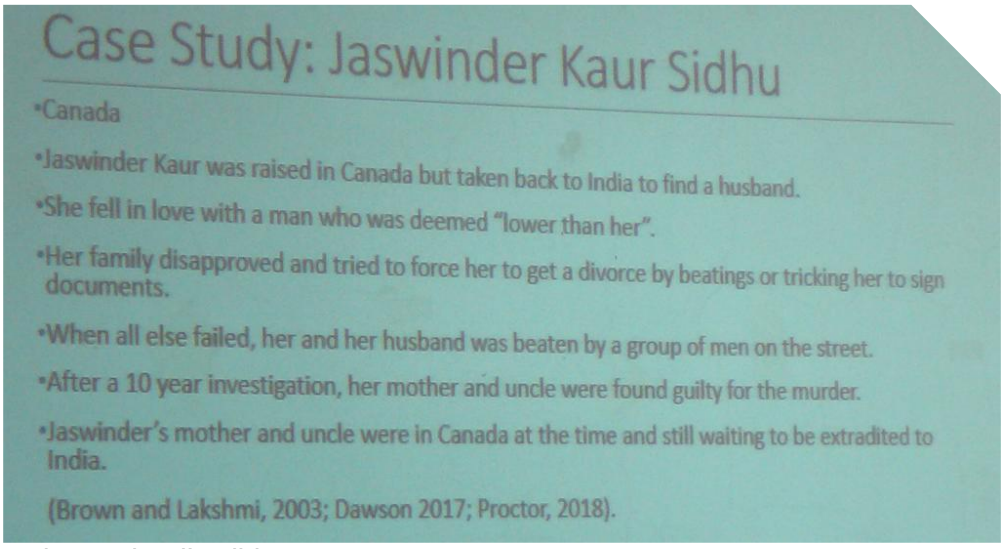
The students' presentations were excellent. We did, however, raise concerns that torture was not mentioned whether perpetrated by State or non-State actors given that literature does raise this fact. We asked Raymond to rethink his theoretical concept of labelling child soldiers with mental illness such as "bipolar disorder." We asked that the question is: What are the normal responses of children who have been subjected to such atrocities? Answering therefore leads to understanding the children's responses as normalized versus pathologized. Non-State torture victimization was also missing from the "honor killing" research, this we questioned. Amina Majeed gave examples of honor killing victimizations, including of Jaswinder Kaur Sidhu of Canada. Both Amina Majeed and Aline Shaban incorporated patriarchy into their presentations. This was refreshing.



Amina Majeed's slide

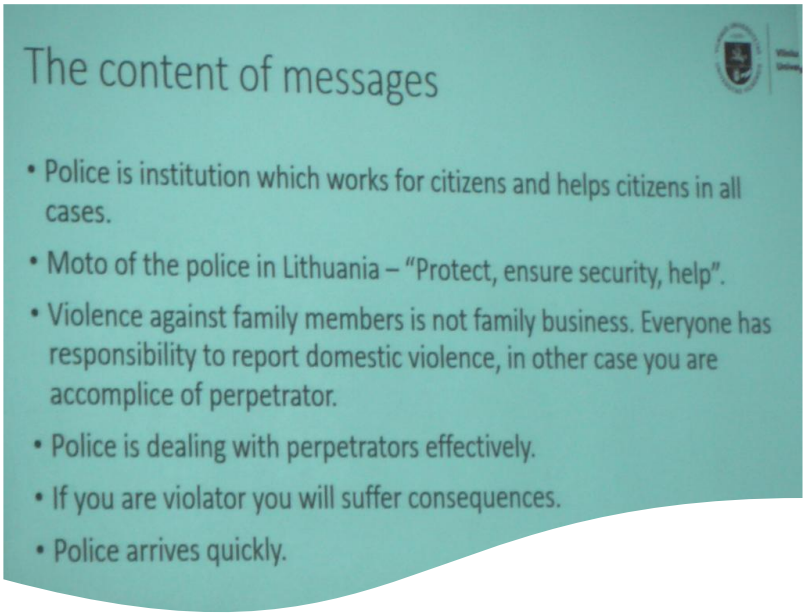


Aline Shaban's slide



Amina Majeed's slide

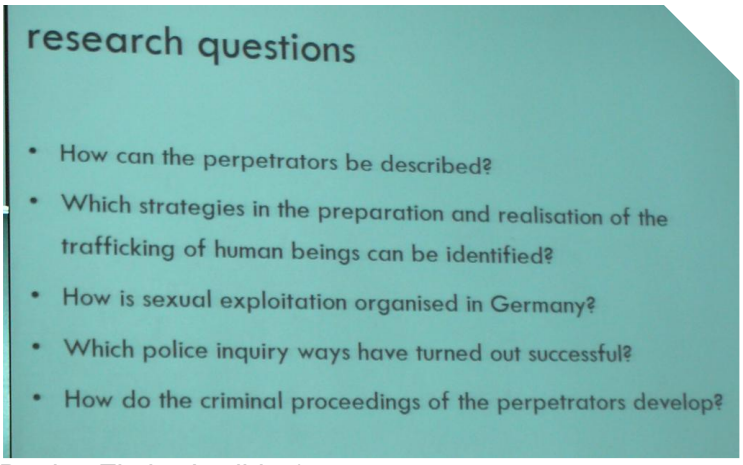
PANEL: Evaldas Visockas, from Vilnius University, Lithuania, presented "***Communication as tool for crime prevention***." The focus was on the responses of police to domestic violence. His message was that communicating effectively is necessary in developing trust in the police who respond to domestic violence situations. I asked whether there was research indicating that women may stay in domestic violence situations because of concerns for the safety of their pets or that violence against animals can be an indicator of domestic violence and violence against children. Evaldas Visockas responded that this awareness was not present in the work he is doing.



Evaldas Visockas' slide

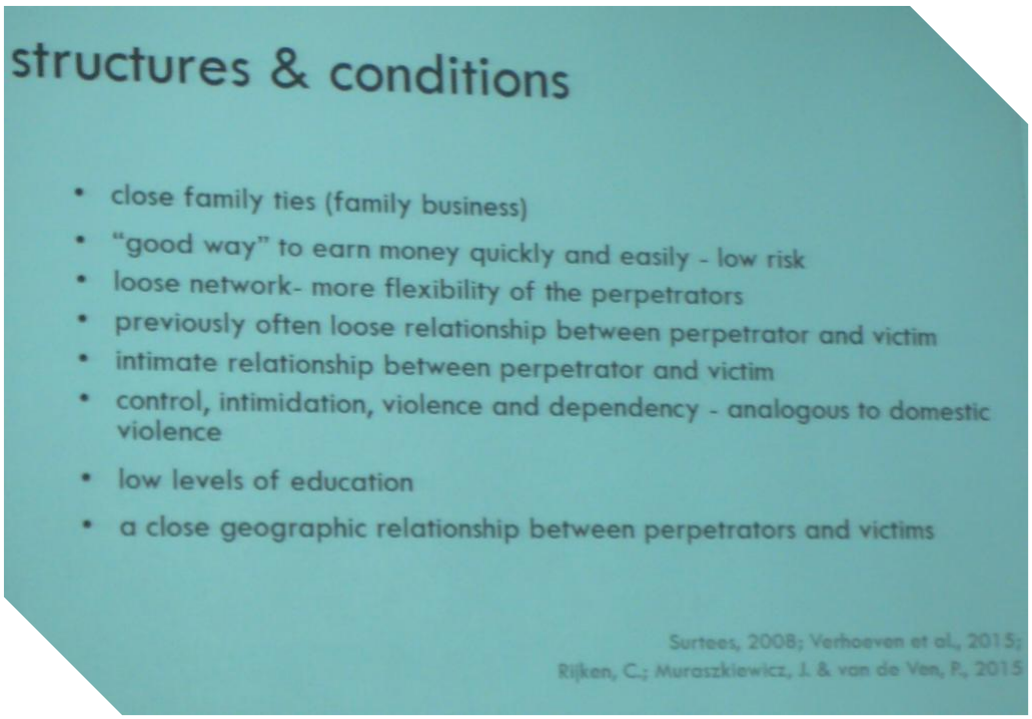
PANEL: "***Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation – the Unprovable Criminal Offense?"*** was presented by Bettina Zietlow, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony in Germany. Bettina spoke about the situation regarding the prostitution of women which is legal in Germany versus human trafficking victimization.

Her research questions are listed in slide 1. Because "no independent study has so far solely focussed on research about perpetrators . . . or the demographics . . . or their modus operandi" this was the intent of the research.



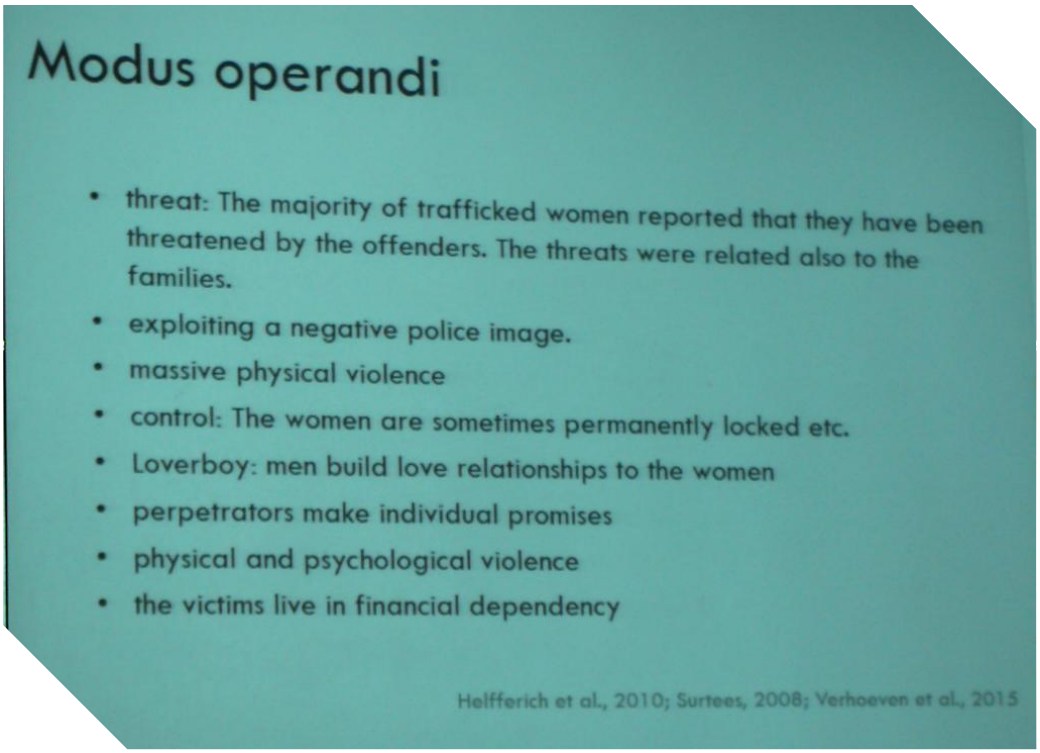
Bettina Zietlow's slide 1

The following slide 2 listed insights gathered about the perpetrator's relational organization and associations.

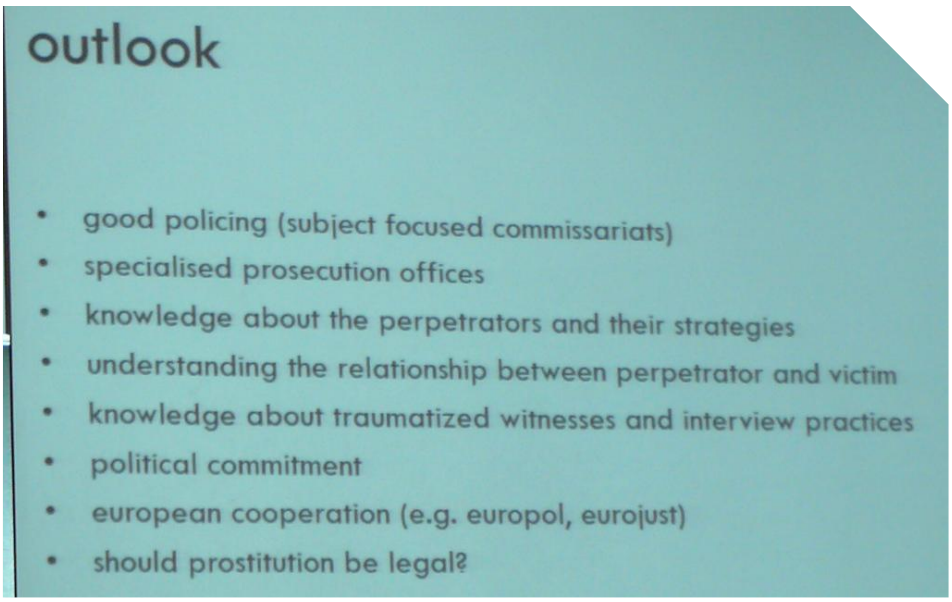


Bettina Zietlow's slide 2 explaining the demographics of the human traffickers

It is important that family systems are being exposed as perpetrators because this is the reality that women disclose to us of being born into NST and human trafficking family systems.



Bettina Zietlow's slide 3 explaining the modus operandi of the human traffickers



Bettina Zietlow's slide 4

In slide 4 Bettina Zietlow list interventions. Her final statement framed as the question: "should prostitution be legal?" was most telling. Jackie Jones and I had the opportunity to ask her and a research colleague if doing this research challenged their thinking about the lives of women in prostitution. It has. The concept of the dehumanization of the women in prostitution was a point they agreed with.

THE END OF THE DAY AND THE END OF THE CONFERENCE

The last panel session ended with walking past the physical reminders that the Sarajevo University and the community of Sarajevo and the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina have unfortunately survived "mass atrocity crimes" in their recent history. That on their conference website they say that the title "crimes against humans and crimes against humanity: implications for modern criminology" are fitting for the ESC 2018 Sarajevo conference.

These are the war reminder buildings that we and possibly all who attended walked by when entering and leaving intact university buildings that housed the panel sessions.

Last day: Linda and Jeanne

We are extremely grateful for the experiences we gained from being at the EUROCRIN 2018 conference and for the community of Sarajevo for sharing its truth and reality.

We also extend our respectful appreciation to John Winterdyk for his invite and the opportunity to be part of the panel he chaired. It is always a success story when we can break the silence about the organized non-State torture and human trafficking family-based criminal systems. One day it will be socially safe for women and girls – for all individuals – so NST harmed to openly seek justice because there will be no hesitation for any country to deny that it is the human right of all peoples—of women and girls—not to be subjected to torture in the domestic or private sphere.

Thank you all!