

CHILDREN, VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AS SOCIAL UNIT

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Abstract: *The economic and political transition which Romania experienced as of 1990, allowed the appearance of the human trafficking phenomenon, and the children are vulnerable to this crime activity. Children's trafficking requires particular attention and specific responses of prevention and intervention, which presumes that the trafficked children are approached as social unit. This article brings arguments in favour of the recovery of the trafficked children considering the fact that they develop empirical systems of organisation and special social rules just in order to survive. Within this context, the clinical sociology and the clinician sociologist form an adequate working method with the children treated as social unit and social group with particular organisation and surviving rules within a special social and cultural environment.*

Keywords: *victims, children, recovery, prevention, clinical sociology*

Historically, the phenomenon of human trafficking existed permanently, but it grew in scale with the lapse of time. Towards the end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th century, massive migrations of European women were organised towards the American continent or towards North Africa. Two conferences were organised in Paris in 1902 and in 1910 with the attempt to end what was commonly known as "white people trafficking". The works of the two conferences resulted in the International convention on white people trafficking signed in Paris (May, 4, 1910), completed subsequently by the International convention on curbing women and children trafficking (30 September 1921) and by the International convention on curbing the trafficking of adult women (Geneva, 11 October 1933). The Convention for the control of human trafficking and of prostitution was signed in New York on 2 December 1949; this convention cancelled and replaced partially the dispositions of the previous international instruments.

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The above paragraph shows that the human trafficking concept doesn't belong explicitly to the contemporary history; the general term of **traffic** was used for the first time in the 16th century as a synonym for trade, with no negative connotations. However, towards the 17th century the traffic started to be associated to the illicit and/or unlawful sales of goods. Although in the beginning, the term of traffic largely signified to sales of drugs and weapons, towards the 19th century this notion also included the trade in human beings, treated as goods and sold in slavery. This "traditional "trade with slaves was banned towards the end of the 19th century. In early 20th century, the term of traffic referred most times to the "**trade in white slaves**" (van der Linden, Mariska, N.J., 2005, p. 9), which meant the circulation across the international borders of women and children for purposes of prostitution. Only in late 1990 decade was the traffic associated to the prostitution and sexual exploitation of the women and children.

The economic and political transition which Romania experienced starting with 1990, lead to a rapid increase of poverty, particularly in specific areas of the country. The high unemployment rate, the low level of the wages and the high expectations towards the new regime are just a few of the factors which determined the increase of the illegal migration for work in western countries. This made possible the appearance of the human trafficking phenomenon.

Within this context, the geographical position of Romania made the human trafficking an increasing profitable crime activity.

Romania is mainly a country of origin, most victims being trafficked in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Bulgaria. From these Balkan countries, part of the victims is transported towards western countries: Belgium, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Ireland, Spain and Austria. Victims have also been discovered in Turkey, Canada, Cambodia, South Africa and Japan.

Romania also is a transit country for the victims from the former soviet countries (Ukraine and Moldova) who are trafficked towards the former Yugoslavia. To a smaller extent, Romania also is a country of destination, the victims being sold to Romanian networks of exploitation (for prostitution).

In Romania, women appear particularly vulnerable situation in relation to the issue of violence and employment opportunities in the labor market (Popescu, R., 2011, p. 32). The often precarious financial situation is the reason women are victims of exploitation and trafficking. From this perspective, the phenomenon identified in other countries (Acharya, A., 2009, 2010).

The children are a vulnerable category to human trafficking because they have a higher probability for fraudulent border crossing, because they are much more

exposed than the adults and therefore much easier to manipulate. On the other way it is better to take in consideration the risks faced by the children at risk of losing parental care and the children's rights which are most often violated and the consequences thereof (Cojocaru, Ş, 2009).

Children's trafficking deserves special attention and specific responses due to the following aspects (Nicolăescu, D., 2004):

- Children vulnerability to trafficking. For instance, the children are perceived by the traffickers as more docile and cheaper than the adults used for work; the young people – girls and boys – are better for the sex industry because it is less probable that they are infected with HIV/AIDS, while the marginalised children are less prepared to resist to trafficking and exploitation and have less opportunities to work in an environment without exploitation than other children from the same community. The psychological, physical and social impact of children trafficking on the victims' perspectives of integration. For instance, a trauma suffered during an early stage of development may have much more serious consequences on the long-term development of the child and in his/her healing.
- The legal responsibility of the states to guarantee and protect the children's rights, as stipulated by the UN Convention on the right of children and other international norms and instruments.

The exploitation and abuses suffered by the trafficked children are a serious breach of the human rights of these children. Many suffer emotional, sexual and physical abuses and are exploited by the traffickers, panderers or clients. Even worse, the trafficked children may be frequently exposed to beating, rape and torture. Some were intently maimed by their so-called "owners", with the purpose to make a profit. Their freedom of movement is often restricted and many children are threatened with physical punishment if they don't make enough money or if they don't give the bulk of their earnings to the people controlling them.

The factors contributing to the higher vulnerability of a child to be victim of sexual exploitation have been identified by the reference studies as economic, cultural and social factors (IASC, 2005). We may also say that the risk factors are different for different types and subtypes of exploitation of the trafficked children. These risk factors also depend on the socio-cultural norms of the community to which the child belongs, and the identification of these norms may be of help in identifying the risks run by the children within a community or group of individuals. These factors can be grouped as follows (Petrovai D., 2006):

Table 1
Protecting and Risk factors

	Exploitation by work	Exploitation for sexual purposes	Exploitation by illicit work (drug smuggling)
<i>Risk factors (most frequent)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poverty/low incomes of the parents - Rural environment - Gender - Educational level of the parents - Large families - Parents' attitude toward children's work - Parents' problems of mental health - School dropout by the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse - The child runs away from home because of parents' abuses - Poverty/low incomes of the parents - The child is abandoned by the parents in social institutions or in the street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The children or parents consume alcohol or drugs - Delinquent behaviour of the child resulting from the abuses in the family - Community with high risk for drug smuggling - Sexual and/or physical abuse of the child
<i>Protecting factors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocational training of the parents - Prevention of school dropout - Development of the abilities for an independent and autonomous life - Career development and training for a career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent physical, emotional and sexual abuses - Intervention to recover the children who are victims of abuses - Prevention of school dropout - Development of the abilities to cope with risk situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interventions in the community with risk: development of the abilities to recognise and to cope with the risk situations - Counselling the children who consume alcohol or drugs - Prevention of school dropout - Training for a career

Being a social phenomenon, the children who are exploited sexually and commercially must be approached from a two-fold perspective. First, that of the victim, which means a subjective approach. We can speak here of what the victim represents due to its bio-psycho-socio-cultural resources. Second, the victim must be analysed from the angle of human trafficking, i.e. from the angle of its involuntary participation, as means of production, to the illicit economic activity which derives from the imperative of self-imposing, at any cost on the financial market, of those people wanting to recover from their financial and social handicap (no money, no prestige, no acknowledgement, no esteem, therefore nothing to lose), activity which is directed towards making money. Because the victim doesn't participate voluntarily, deliberately, consciously, to the illegal process, we can speak of the victim as of an effect.

The children are victims of the traffickers from much of the same reasons why the adults are. However, the children lack the wisdom and life experience of the adults, thus being more vulnerable.

There is no “pattern” of the victim child, but there are a lot of factors which make the children become vulnerable. One of the typical scenarios is that of the child who accepts to go to another place, without being conscious of the exploitation which he/she is about to bear. The children are tempted by the opportunity to make money and they believe in the stories they are told; many young people falling victims of the traffickers actually believe they will have a real job – in a hotel, bar or private house. Some believe they will actually get married. They may be unhappy with the situation in their homes and they want to escape; many of them didn't have success at school and see themselves having no future in their environment of origin. Some belong to a minority which is discriminated in their country and want to escape from poverty. Other times, they are simply abducted by the traffickers and sold out.

Among the underlying **causes** of human trafficking, there are several factors characteristic for each single situation:

- Poverty as social phenomenon, as expression of any type of frustration (usually, the victim doesn't adapt his/her ideals of life to the type of psychic resources and to the means he/she is naturally endowed).
- Non-diversification and insufficiency of jobs;
- Lack of specialisation in a specific profession demanded on the labour market;
- The resounding success of another person, known, from the same social environment;
- Mistrust in the public authorities from the country and crediting overtrust the authorities from a foreign country;
- University education in a field of no value on the labour market;
- Financial dissatisfaction with the job – insufficient income;
- Over-motivation for success (I can, I want, I must...now, there and as soon as possible), correlated with a superlative image of the self (misunderstood genius, thinking such as “I can do anything, I can do this too”);
- Contracting mortgages, other debts (factor independent of poverty) – may also be favouring condition;
- Multiple failures (can't keep the job, is in family conflicts – divorce, one of the family members is alcoholic, can't make himself/herself understood, serious illness of one of family members, in his/her care);
- Victim of family aggression, which results in leaving the environment of references, as form of self protection;

- Has complexes of inferiority and is convinced that already is the victim of a social “injustice” (often rejected, evaluated negatively), that it can’t become any worse, provided he/she changes the social environment;
- No risk analysis, exclusion of the risks from the very beginning, or favourable risk analysis;
- No feeling of own value (is convinced that he/she didn’t deserve everything bad that had happened, that faith has to show the bright part of life too);
- The lack of information (an information has value if valorised and used – this makes it different from a rumour) correlated with the total trust in public sources (paper advertisements) or in physical sources’
- Blind faith in providence, being convinced that the practice of religious rituals will protect him/her from the worse;
- Poor affiliation to a social group (no friends, most friends changed domicile, changed social status, have other purposes, don’t have time) correlated with the trend of conformism towards other group norms;
- Obedience (submissiveness) towards the recruiter;
- No knowledge of the language of the destination (target) country, no knowledge of any international language;
- Belief that if he/she participated in the “process of selection” with small tokens, gifts, the success is guaranteed;
- The belief that if he/she signs several forms (higher bureaucracy) everything is safer;
- Tendency to sign without reading everything written, more so as it is in a foreign language, insufficiently known;
- No knowledge of the legislation, rights and duties both in the country and abroad;
- Shyness to demand more information or better conditions, fearing not to appear ridiculous (stupid) or fearing not to be rejected;
- The lack of elementary information on the “cost of living” in the destination country, climacteric conditions, working conditions, internal regulations of the employing company, working norms, physical preparation necessary for the job and culture of the destination and/or transit country (there are unknown social practices, rituals, which may affect adversely the health or adaptation of the employee);

- Signing work contracts abroad without the counselling of a specialist (for instance, payment of the wage after three month of employment);
- Inexistence of a protocol between the two countries (target and destination) in the field of workforce;
- The “special bond” of unconditioned trust between the recruiter (who made a choice and by this created the premises of recovering the self trust of the selected person) and the victim;
- Is convinced that this is the big opportunity, correlated with the fact that some have been rejected;
- Acceptance of travel documents procured by transporters/recruiters and the feeling of the moral indebtedness under the pretext of less bureaucracy, saving money or additional travels and the belief in their legal value – derived from the indiscernible trust in people (thinking such as “a gift is a gift”);
- Lack of provision regarding some activities, events that might occur during the transit or during the stay in the destination country (lack of contact people, of a phone number);
- Desire to make something completely special, specific to the teenagers;
- Has running law suits of whose outcome is afraid and decides that it might be better to go abroad;
- Most victims are women (for prostitution), children (beggary and traffic of organs) and men (forced work in agriculture, constructions etc.).

The children and young people who were victims of trafficking operations will have suffered physical and/or sexual abuses, most time of extreme nature, such as rape and torture. They experience all this at small ages when they should normally be trustful, healthy and full of life young people. The consequences are devastating and will affect in all the aspects of their life. Following are some effects of the various forms of exploitation suffered by the children victims of human trafficking (Nicolăescu D., Barbu, B., 2004).

Effects on the physical and mental health:

- The victims get various diseases, venereal diseases and AIDS;
- Very often, the victims become alcohol and drug addicts;
- The victims become depressive and often attempt suicide;
- The girls become pregnant;

- The girls may have complications during the pregnancy and have to make abortion;
- The victims are often maimed, beaten, starved;
- The victims suffer post-trauma stress; the memory of the traumatic experiences comes again and again, insistently, they have nightmares and they panic, are irritable and also have other symptoms of stress;
- The victims suffers nervous breakdowns, sometimes with permanent effects;
- The victims may suffer physical diseases, such skin disease, headaches, spine aches etc.

Emotional effects:

- The victims lose trust in the adult people and acquire anti-social behaviour;
- The victims have difficulties in their relations with other people, with their family, or work fellows included;
- The victims lose trust in self and have a bad image of the self, considering themselves useful and of no value;
- The victims may turn aggressive and nervous with the people around;
- The victims may develop relations of dependence on their abusers;
- The victims are fearful and tensed;
- The victims are afraid they will never be able to lead a normal life again;
- The victims are afraid the members of their family and community will find out what has happened to them and this is why they are afraid to return home;
- The victims lose the ability to focus;

All the children who have been exploited sexually will experience some kind of physical or psychical sufferance. Usually, the longer the exploitation, the more numerous will be the health problems. For some children the long-term devastating effects may take a very short time to appear if they get AIDS.

The children involved in trafficking with the purpose of exploitation by work and/or sexual exploitation are confronted with major physical and psychical risks. The physical consequences may be the result of physical abuse (repeated beatings, torture), of inappropriate feeding (malnutrition or unhealthy feeding), of the lack of dwelling, of risky sexual behaviour (higher risk of HIV/AIDS, BTS, hepatitis), of the lack of medical care, repeated illness. Consequently, the traffic is a phenomenon

which affects the physical development of a child both in the short-term, such as diseases, and on the long-term, by the development of chronic diseases.

We are speaking of the **trafficked children as of a social unit, because we can say that these children, within the residential system of psycho-social recovery form a special social group, which develop their own systems of organisation and own social rules due to their life history.** Generally, the life of children is organised and determined by the school, group of friends and preferred playgrounds, affiliation to religion, ethnic group, economic situation and social status of the parents etc. The **trafficked children, however, develop atypical systems of organisation and special social rules**, just to be able to survive.

As we well know, according to the sociological rule, the social unit “*designates any human group, collectivity or community, association, organisation or social institutions*” (Zamfir, C.; Vlăsceanu, L., 1998, p. 645). The social unit “*is characterised by a structure of relations between its members and has specific forms of manifestation either at the level of community life, either at the level of the economic, social, political, cultural etc. activity; all these become “object of study for sociology, as elements composing the social life, parts forming the social, investigating their genesis, their structure and way of existence, their influences within the society*” (Zamfir, C.; Vlăsceanu, L., 1998, p. 646).

In turn, the social group is the “assembly of persons characterised by a specific structure and with a specific culture which result from the psycho-social relations developed within it” (Zamfir, C.; Vlăsceanu, L., 1998, p. 269). The children victims of human trafficking are generally deprived of the parental care, they come from families with precarious socio-economic status, their development is not harmonious, most times their interaction with the groups of peers is not positive, which is why they are much more vulnerable to the risk of being victimised and they try to integrate into other social groups where they may not feel discriminated. Child socialisation starts in the early years of life and continues throughout their life; however, even though “it is a global social process, it is accomplished within the framework of groups” (Mihăilescu, I., 2003, p.87) which most times may have a positive form, but in the case of these children we mostly notice a negative form of socialization.

The successful reintegration in society of the child victim of human trafficking may be accomplished only by understanding the characteristics of the childhood and by placing the interventions within a local cultural context. The interventions of rehabilitation, led by the social assistants, are much more efficient if they recognise, strengthen and encourage the natural process of recovery of the child. The restating of individuality and power to be active within the society refer to the development through flexible interventions based on the acknowledgement of child abilities and by asserting the inherent values and of the respect as human beings. The interventions

must be adequate to the cultural situation in which the victim thinks, communicates and looks for meanings of his/her recovery. The integration of the indigenous knowledge and practices in counselling and assistance acknowledges behaviours, social relations, patterns of communication and healing options which are of great value during the process of rehabilitation and social reintegration of the child returned from trafficking.

Most children who were the **victims of repeated experiences of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse, have a high risk of falling again as victims**. The most important factor of maintenance of the risk of re-victimization has been identified as the **dysfunction in the perception of the risk situations**. A child who was victim of trafficking for sexual exploitation run a higher risk to be involved subsequently in illicit working such as drug smuggling also because of underestimating cognitively the risk situations.

Irrespective of the reasons why they get involved in a trafficking chain, the children suffer the same adverse effects like the adult people and, besides this, they lose their childhood. They are beaten, tortured and even killed. They end up getting involved in illegal activities. They are sexually abused, infested with sexually-transmitted diseases, the girls get pregnant, they get infected with HIV/AIDS; all this has long-term adverse effects on their health state and life expectancy. They may lose independence, self-respect and capacity to live a normal life of adult people. They may suffer depressions and may become drug addicts. They may suffer the syndrome of post-trauma stress, becoming withdrawn and less communicative. When returning home, they may be stigmatised by the family and community. If they survive, but are not saved and supported in time, they are likely to become abusers in turn when they become adult people, recruiting more victims for their “bosses” or even establishing their own systems of exploitation. The trafficked child lacks the security of a stable environment. The frequent move from one place to another, the lack of a stable dwelling, of a stable social environment doesn't allow the child to develop a personal network of support (can't make stable friends, for instance) which to give him/her the feeling of control and safety. A child may also be submitted to the negative restrictions of the other people, to marginalization, stigmatisation and labelling (“beggar”). Both the lack of a stable environment, and the reactions of the other people create confusion on the formation of own identity. Understanding the risks is limited by the age and by the level of comprehension. This is problematic because a child may persist in a traumatic situation without being aware of the risks and negative consequences, attempting to “normalize” the event. For instance, the children who were forced to prostitution by their parents perceive the behaviour of their parents as one of “love and care”. This increases the vulnerability of the children to the formation of negative perceptions and representations about life, which increase the risk of falling victims again.

All this and several other factors which, in any combination, make the children vulnerable to trafficking, the age category (children aged 10 to 17), are arguments showing another context in which the children are a social unit, a special social group.

An efficient prevention of human trafficking presumes a better understanding of the phenomenon in the countries of origin. The strategies in this field include evaluations in the areas with a higher incidence of the phenomenon, contacts with the nongovernmental organisations and the development of regional plans of action. The process of reintegration presumes unconditional efforts from the doctors, lawyers, social assistants, sociologists and from the members of a network of communities such as the teachers, civil protection organs, hospitals and local clinics, administrative-political leaders.

Another way of improving the prevention of human trafficking is to help the vulnerable populations from the countries of origin understand the situation in which they are in relation with the labour market and with other social and economic factors.

The sexual and commercial exploitation of the children from Romania is not a new subject or a subject foreign from the preoccupations of the nongovernmental organisations and governmental institutions, because it preserves its actuality even if the Romanian state, through the agencies empowered to promote and observe the right of the child, ratified the international instruments, elaborated strategies and plans of action to curb and prevent human trafficking.

The international effort of Romania vary from the small projects of purchase of equipment to the large programs spanning on several years, with costs of million euro for the development of a comprehensive regional and national strategy to control the most serious forms of children exploitation by forced work.

The types of assistance with impact on human trafficking include: alternative economic programs for the vulnerable groups; educational programs; training the governmental officials and the medical staff; anticorruption measures; development or improvement of the anti-trafficking laws; supply the necessary equipment for law enforcement; establishment or restoration of the shelters, of the anti-crisis centres or of the safe houses for victims; support provided by the nongovernmental organisations, international organisations and governments for psychological, legal and medical assistance of the victims.

Other prevention means that can be taken into consideration are the public-private partnerships for the integration of the risk populations within the community and within the labour force. The collaboration with other countries must be intensified with the purpose to gather information reflecting more accurate the reality in terms of the

trends, number of victims, legal suits and convictions. The **measures and mechanisms preventing the reoccurrence of victimization** must be part of a standard strategy for the reduction of the risk factors favouring children trafficking and re-trafficking.

The ideal way to control human trafficking is to prevent the people from becoming victims. The conceptual and methodological delimitations, beyond their theoretical value, offer the opportunity of an adequate understanding of the reality of **human trafficking, of children particularly, in Romania**, of its trends of evolution; they also allow identifying the causes and conditions determining this phenomenon and they also allow prefiguring solutions and measures for gradual prevention and decrease.

The discussion and analysis of these risk situations/contexts and the exercise of the correct estimation of some causes and consequences are objectives and measures that can be analysed by the clinical sociology, focusing on the prevention component in order to identify the protective factors which decrease the risk of getting the child involved in other situations of exploitation. The prevention of risk behaviours at the individual and family level by enforcing quality standards of the social protection will decrease the risk for the reoccurrence of victimization states among the children. The prevention of reoccurrence of victimization states is a considerable challenge within the context of Romania.

The **clinical sociology** and the clinician sociologists have a role to play within this context, forming a working method which is sufficiently adequate for the intervention on the trafficked children seen as social unit and social group having particular systems of organisation and particular rules of surviving within a special social and cultural context. Clinical sociology is a multidisciplinary field of science because the major paradigms (the humanist paradigm, the cognitive-behavioural paradigm, the psycho-dynamic paradigm) fundamenting the strategies and techniques of social recovery of the trafficked children can be found as working method of it. The clinical sociology became a distinct orientation within the sociology of the social problems, proposing three main objectives (Wirth, L., 1931):

- a. The „clinical" analysis of a collective stat with critical character, materialized in a „diagnosis" formulated be experts, who consider this state as a problematic aspect of the social life;
- b. Investigation of the causes and states which determine this state, evaluation of the public opinions, of the existing social policies and practices for its improvement and eradication;
- c. The activity of practical intervention by the development of operational solutions.

The clinical sociology involves the use of an analytical perspective (clinical-operational interpretation) in most problematic areas of the social life, among which the collective incidence of diseases, the state of delinquency, the “third age” (old age), divorces, abortions, abandoned children, and children submitted to bad treatments etc.

What distinguishes the activity of the clinician from that of other professionals working in the field of social assistance of policy is the use, with priority, of the participating observation; the consequence of this approach is the adoption of an intrinsic perspective on the social problematic, identifiable with the point of view of the involved populations or groups.

Overall, the diagnosis evaluations used by the clinical sociology join the theory of systems with the orientations of the phenomenological sociology, considering the social problem as a life situation lived in a dramatic manner by the participants, whose causes can be only identified from the perspective of an integral, systemic and functional approach which associates related problematic aspects. For this reason, the theoretical interpretations in this field have an eclectic character, being result of the conceptual loans and transfers from other theoretical disciplines and orientations: for instance, the theory of the conflict and behaviourism, the symbolic interactionism and the structural functionalism, the ethno-methodology and the theory of systems.

The main contributions of the clinical sociology to solving or improving the social problems are as following (Zamfir, C.; Vlăsceanu, L., 1998, p. 567):

- a. Theoretical analysis – elaboration of a complex and integral evaluation of the problem on the basis of synthetizing the main theoretical models existing in the disciplines covering the studied field (psychology, sociology, demography, medicine, criminology etc.);
- b. Applied research – acquiring data and information on the studied population, investigation of its opinions and the opinions of the experts regarding the different ways of solving the problem; confronting these opinions with the efficacy of the official social policy measures, inventory of the social assistance measures etc.;
- c. Operational intervention by actual support to the individuals or groups to change their life situation.

The main technique used by the clinical sociology is the case study; however, the use of the systemic perspective expands the analysis and practical intervention to the level of entire groups, organisations of local communities.

The basic role of the clinical sociology actually is to start an adequate activity of intervention, before the effects of some social problems affect the entire community, and this action takes place on the basis of a decision elaborated by confronting the objective conditions which generate the problematic social state with its way of perception by the involved population. As Jonathan Freedman said, "the clinician sociologist tries to understand the nature of the societal factors which prevent the individual or the collectivities to activate in an efficient manner"; to this purpose, he "has to be able to go beyond the way in which the client formulates the problem, in order to take into consideration the social trends with a broader character" (Wirth, L., 1931).

The critical analysis of the methods used to evaluate the risks of reoccurrence of victimization using the clinical sociology may lead to the development/elaboration of quality standards for the social protection in the field of human trafficking which to provide actual assistance and social support to the victims; transparent and responsible practices of professional assistance must be developed and maintained, and the social assistants must be aided and supported in their difficult undertaking.

From the multitude of interventions which characterise the cases of human trafficking one can observe that the working instruments used for the social protection of the child prove to be most times maladapted to the situation of the child and unintegrated in the quotidian context of the past trauma. Hence, the necessity to approach the children victims of trafficking as a social unity. Within this context, the scientific analysis by the elaboration and adoption of optimal quality standards to be used as scientific tools adequate to the situation of the trafficked children and of the Romanian population will standardise the interventions and will generate a distinct approach, characteristic to these social groups.

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