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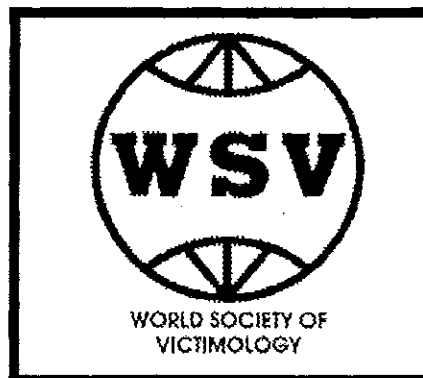
Measures Against the Trafficking of Women and Children in Greece: Is There Enough Being Done for the Victims?

Georgios A. Antonopoulos¹

1. Introduction

It is estimated that there are about 27 million people worldwide who have been trafficked for various purposes.² This is a striking figure especially when we compare it to the eleven million people, who were trafficked within four centuries of slavery.³ At this point it should be useful to distinguish between *smuggling* and *trafficking*, two terms, which although they are much different they are often confused. Although both trafficking and smuggling involve the smuggling of people in most (but certainly not all) of the cases, trafficking has an identifiable victim, whereas smuggling has no victim in the traditional sense. Moreover, trafficking involves the exploitation of the smuggled individuals in the transit countries and the countries of destination unlike smuggling, and finally trafficking is a crime against the person whereas smuggling is a crime against public order.⁴

A very large percentage of the trafficked people are women (and children), who are being trafficked for commercial sex.⁵ In Greece, there is a wider perception that the number of trafficked women (and children) for commercial sex is rapid growing.⁶ According to data



presented at a seminar in Athens in December 2002 outlining the situation in Greece with regard to the economic exploitation of the sexuality of women (and children), the number of the women (and children), who have been trafficked in Greece from the beginning of the 1990s to 2002, reaches 200,000.⁷

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Third Central American Course on Victimology and Victim Assistance

John Dussich

From June 7-18, 2004 on the beautiful campus of the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in the city of San Salvador in El Salvador, forty students registered for the Third Central American Course on Victimology and Victim Assistance. Three students from the Supreme Court came for their third time. True to form, El Salvador reminded us, as it has before, of the fragile balance between life and death by presenting us on Sunday with a medium size earthquake. Joining this annual course were teachers from abroad: Antonio Beristain – Spain, Sonia Rivera – Puerto Rico, Annette Pearson de Gonzalez – Colombia, Felipe Sarti – Guatemala, and myself – United States. From El Salvador were: Salvador Menéndez Leal, René Castellón, María Santacruz, Jon Sobrino, Benjamín Cuéllar Martínez, Gloria García-Prieto, Maurizio García-Prieto, María Anonieta

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According to the data by Lazos there was an average of about 13,400 females trafficked in Greece every year from 1990 to 2000, and about 7.5 per cent of those were children. The trafficked women (and children) come – in their vast majority – from countries of the former Eastern bloc, and they are introduced into the street and brothel prostitution, or in prostitution, which is covered behind other provision of services such as bars and clubs, and massage parlours. It is suggested that the trafficked women (and children) primarily stay in Greece, as it is a destination country, however, there is strong evidence that a number of women are transported to other countries such as Italy. Despite the fact that this phenomenon has been acute for some years now, it has been largely neglected by the Greek state up until recently. The purpose of this article is to provide an account of the measures against the trafficking of women and children in the country, and show whether enough is being done for the victims. This article derives from a larger research, which has focused on the relationship between migrants and crime in Greece. The methods that were used in order for information to be obtained in respect to the measures taken against the trafficking of women and children in Greece in particular were:

- a) Interviews with a number of police officers in the city of Patras in 2002.
- b) Investigation of police files from the Prefecture of Achaia Police Headquarters in 2003. Patras, the capital of the Prefecture of Achaia, was selected for this study because it is considered as a hot spot for this criminal market being the third largest city in Greece and the ‘gate’ to Western Europe being situated in the coast of the Ionian Sea, and because in this particular city it was easier for the researcher to have access to the police officers and to the police files.
- c) Study of the laws in relation to the trafficking of women (and children) in Greece.

2. Measures Against the Trafficking of Women (and Children) in Greece

There have been a number of measures taken against the trafficking of women (and children) in Greece on a local/prefecture, national, and international level. It is worth taking a look at these measures separately.

2.1 Local/Prefecture Level

On the local/prefecture level the combating of trafficking of women (and children) is left to the police. Let us examine the prefecture in which the bulk of the fieldwork took place, the prefecture of Achaia, although it should be noted that despite the value of the data that are presented in this subsection it is not certain whether the same trends are followed in other localities. However, given that the Greek police is largely centralised, we have solid suspicions that this is the case. On May 15th, 2003 the Chief Constable of the Prefecture of Achaia presented the aims (and actions towards achieving these aims) of the police in the particular prefecture. He argued that the *Team for the Prevention and Suppression of Criminality* (Omada Prolipsis kai Katastolis Eglimatikotitas – O.P.K.E.) as well as the Section on Morals of the police conduct checks against trafficking in the capital of the prefecture (Patras) and other towns and villages on a weekly basis.¹⁰ However, from the figures that were obtained from the same prefecture’s police headquarters in September 2003 it is apparent that the trafficking of women (and children) not only is it not one of the priorities of the police, as the base (n) of the police checks was very small, but

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Table 1. Police checks against trafficking of women (and children) in the Prefecture of Achaia, January to August 2002 and January to August 2003, and percentage of difference.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total (8 months)
2002	3	3	0	1	2	1	1	0	11
2003	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	5
Difference									
%	-100	-33	0	0	-100	0	0	0	-55

Source: Prefecture of Achaia Police Headquarters’ Files.

CANADIAN WINNERS OF THE WOMEN'S SAFETY AWARDS 2004

A neighbourhood group that brought together local schools and street prostitutes to talk about safer streets, a project training Inuit girls to create television programs, and a municipality that markets wife assault prevention, are among the 12 recipients of the **Women's Safety Awards 2004**. Winners were honoured on Saturday, May 29, 2004 at the 20th Anniversary Celebration 'Challenging the Unknown' hosted by *Changing Together: A Center for Immigrant Women* held at the Santa Maria Goretti Community Centre in Edmonton.

Created by *Femmes et villes international / Women in Cities International*, and funded by Status of Women Canada, the awards are designed to reward good practices and policies relating to women's safety and the improvement of women's sense of safety. Women's groups, grassroots community organisations, municipal governments, youth organizations, business community groups and other groups from across the country competed in this 1st Women's Safety Awards competition. The international jury was impressed with the range of terrific initiatives with very different approaches from across Canada.

An independent international jury composed of experts in

the field selected the very best from Canada, where entrants competed in five categories: a) advocacy, networking and community mobilization, b) capacity-building and training, c) educational programs and public awareness, d) safety planning and design for public spaces and e) municipal gender-based policies in crime prevention and community safety.

Projects and policies were based on five criteria: Relevance of approach, locally-based, partnerships, diversity, women's empowerment and participation and outcomes. Award winners will be included in promotional activities sponsored by *Femmes et villes international / Women in Cities International* designed to heighten the awareness of women's safety projects and policies on the global stage. A publication presenting detailed descriptions of the 12 winning projects will be produced and will be distributed to community groups and municipal governments in the fall of 2004. This publication will include summaries of all projects received for the Women's Safety Awards (approximately 90 projects). Furthermore, results will be published on the *Femmes et villes International / Women in Cities International* website. (www.femmesetvilles.org).

THE WINNERS FOR EACH CATEGORY ARE:

Advocacy, networking and community mobilization

The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Project: Improving the Personal Security of Women and Girls in Rural, Northeastern Ontario submitted by The Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing, North Bay, Ontario.

Freedom from Violence through Education submitted by Working Women Community Centre, Toronto, Ontario.

West End Women's Safety Project (WEWSP) submitted by Mount Carmel Clinic – Sage House, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Capacity-building and Training

The Empowerment Project: A Train the Trainer Tool Kit for Delivering Self-Protection and Assertiveness Workshops to Women and Girls submitted by the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre Inc., Fredericton, New Brunswick.

City of Charlottetown Family Violence Prevention Program submitted by the City of Charlottetown and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

What's Age Got To Do With It? submitted by the B.C./Yukon Society of Transition Houses, Vancouver, British Columbia.

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there was also a decrease by 55 per cent in the police checks in the first eight months of 2003 compared to the first eight months of 2002, although the problem of trafficking of women in the region is acute (Table 1).

2.2 National Level

The Law 2928 of 2001 (L. 2928/2001) on 'Organised Crime' as well as the Law 2910 of 2001 (L. 2910/2001) on 'Aliens' has been two steps towards combating the trafficking of women in Greece, as in both laws there has been sections relating to the victims of trafficking. However, up to 2002 the trafficking of women (and human beings in general) was not treated as a single crime, but through a nexus of a number of sections of the Greek *Penal Code* and *Special Criminal Laws*, and specifically through section 322 of the Greek *Penal Code* on 'abduction', section 323 on 'dealing in slave trading', section 324 on 'abduction of minors for immoral acts', section 348 on 'facilitating another's debauchery', section 349 on 'pandering', section 350 on 'pimping', as well as section 325 of the Greek *Special Criminal Laws* on 'illegal detention' (for legislation and best practices in combating trafficking in the European Union see Holmes and Berta, 2002¹¹). In 2001 the Greek minister of the Interior and the minister of Public Order, after the United States State Department gave Greece its lowest rating for compliance with a set of minimum standards for the combat against the trafficking of humans, took a joint decision towards the establishment of a "work management group on trafficking to develop co-ordinate, and implement anti-trafficking policy in Greece"¹². Thus in April 2001 the *Team Against the Trafficking of Human Beings* (Omada Katapolemisis Emporias Anthronon – O.K.E.A.) was established, which designed the legal framework of trafficking of human beings that was introduced in 2002. With the new Law 3064 of 2002 (L.3064/2002) against the trafficking of human beings there are – among other – the following provisions:-trafficking is included to the list of organised criminal activities -trafficking is included to the list of criminal activities relating to the law on money laundering-there is punishment of trafficking even when this has taken place in a country other than Greece. Moreover, and this is very important from the victims' perspective, a new regulation was introduced on the provision of assistance to the victims of trafficking as well as accommodation, food, hospitalisation, legal assistance, and language services. Finally, there was the inclusion of minor victims of trafficking in educational and vocational programmes.¹³

2.3 International Level

Greece is state-party to a number of universal instruments from the 1926 *Slavery Convention* and the 1956 *Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions of Practices Similar to Slavery* to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (C.E.D.A.W.)¹⁴ On the international level there is co-operation among the Greek police force and other European police forces, as well as with the European Union, the United Nations, the United States of America, Australia, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, the Southeastern Cooperative Initiative (S.E.C.I.), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which is embodied primarily in the exchange of information on the issue of trafficking and its prevention. This co-operation on the international and specifically in the European level in respect to trafficking has been identified as a priority for the European Union member states by the Amsterdam Treaty (Title VI that covers police and judicial co-operation), and by the Tampere European Council in 1999, and since then it has intensified. Moreover, a similar sentiment was expressed at the Seville European Council in 2002. There is also participation of the Greek minister of Interior and minister of Public Order to seminars on the fight against organised crime and trafficking in particular. In addition, Greece is involved in a number of initiatives undertaken by or funded by the European Commission such as the STOP I, STOP II, DAPHNE, and AGIS framework programmes relating to the trafficking of women since 1996. Finally, recently the European Commission decided to establish an experts' group on trafficking "made up of qualified individuals competent to consider matters relating to trafficking in human beings"¹⁵. Greece as a full member of the European Union will have its own representative in the experts' group.

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3. Conclusion

The response to the trafficking of women (and children) and its victims in Greece is largely inadequate, although a number of steps have been taken. In the local level the police are not paying enough attention to the issue despite what the rank officers of the force publicly suggest. In the national level the establishment of the *Team Against the Trafficking in Human Beings* and the introduction of the Law 3064 of 2002 (L. 3064/2002) is a good starting point since it appears that something is being done for *known* victims, however, trafficking of women still is a lucrative business in the country, and it may be even more lucrative during the Olympic Games that Greece hosts in August 2004 due to the greater demand for sex workers. Finally, in the international level very little is practically done against this form of organised crime since there is only information exchange among the parties involved. There are no adequate measures to prevent trafficking and this is primarily because a well-designed migration policy is left outside the context of designing a policy against the trafficking of human beings. Moreover, the prosecution of traffickers is still difficult and rare, and thus there are no adequate provisions towards helping the *unknown* victims of trafficking. Thus it is suggested that:

- a) in the international level there should be a more integrated migration policy that should possibly focus on the alleviation of differences between the sending and the receiving countries, and
- b) in the local and national level there should be a more dynamic investigation and prosecution of offenders and officials involved in trafficking. The police, in particular, should devote much more time and resources to the investigation of this lucrative illegal trade, and in addition they should devote much more time and resources to the continuous education of police officers about trafficking so that the degree of sensitization of the force regarding trafficking and its victims is increased.¹⁶

Notes:

- ¹ School of Sociology and Social Policy of the University of Durham (UK). Correspondence: Georgios.Antonopoulos@durham.ac.uk, g_antonopoulos1@hotmail.com. The author would like to thank Mr. Dimitris Avgoustis from the *Section on Morals* of the police headquarters in the Prefecture of Achaia, and the members of the editorial board of *The Victimologist* for their valuable comments.
- ² Goodey, J. (2003) 'Migration, Crime, and Victimhood: Responses to Sex Trafficking in the EU', *Punishment and Society*, 5(4), 415-431; see also Mameli, P. A. (2002) 'Stopping the Illegal Trafficking of Human Beings', *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, 38, 67-80
- ³ Pino Arlacchi in Crossette, B. (2000) 'To Epikerdes Emporio Sklavon' [The Lucrative Slave Trade], *To Vima tis Kyriakis*, 2nd July, p.A35
- ⁴ Iselin, B. and Adams, M. (2003) 'Distinguishing Between Human Trafficking and People Smuggling', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. Available online at: <http://www.unodc.un.or.th/material/document/Distinguishing.pdf>, accessed on 19th November 2003
- ⁵ Williams, P. (1999) 'Human Commodity Trafficking: An Overview', In Williams, P. (ed.) *Illegal Immigration and Commercial Sex: The New Slave Trade*. (pp.1-10) London: Frank Cass
- ⁶ See Lazaridis, G. (2001) 'Trafficking and Prostitution: The Growing Exploitation of Migrant Women in Greece', *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 8(1), 67-102
- ⁷ Europe Intelligence Wire (2002) 'Seminar in Athens on Human Trafficking, Sex Trade', *Europe Intelligence Wire*. Available online at: <http://www.humantrafficking.com/humantrafficking/client/view.aspx?ResourceID=362>.
- ⁸ Lazos, G. (2002) *Porneia kai Diethniki Somatempora sti Sygchroni Ellada. 1. I Ekdidomeni.. [Prostitution and Transnational Trafficking in Modern Greece 1. The Prostituted]* Athens: Kastaniotis Data compiled from tables 5 and 11. Interviews with police officers in Patras, 2002
- ¹⁰ Karras, D. (2003) 'Anteglimatiki Politiki tis Ellinikis Astynomias gia to 2003: Stoli kai Drasis tis Astynomikis Diefthynsis Achaias' [Crime Policy of the Greek Police for 2003: Aims and Actions of the Police Headquarters of Achaia]. Presentation of the Chief Constable of Achaia, Patras, Greece, 15th May
- ¹¹ Holmes, P. and Berta, K. (2002) Comparative Matrix on Legislation and Best Practices in Preventing and Combating Trafficking Human Beings in EU Member States and Candidate Countries. Available online at: <http://belgium.iom.int/STOPConference/ConfDocs/ConfPaper>, accessed on 7th November 2003
- ¹² Police Brigadier Nikolaos Tassiopoulos cited in Human Rights Watch (2001) *Memorandum of Concern: Trafficking of Migrant Women for Forced Prostitution into Greece*. Brussels: Human Rights Watch, p.2
- ¹³ Astynomiki Anaskopisi (2002) 'Trafficking in Human Beings', *Astynomiki Anaskopisi*, Issue 216(2), 678-679
- ¹⁴ See Riga, S. (2003) *They are Sold Like a Doll: Trafficking in Women in Greece for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation*. Unpublished MA Dissertation, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, University of Vienna
- ¹⁵ European Commission (2003) 'Commission Decision of 25/03/2003; Setting up a Consultative Group, to be Known as 'Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings'', *The Official Journal of the European Union*, 2003/209/EC, p.1
- ¹⁶ Tsigris, A. (1997) *Emporia kai Sexualiki Ekmetallefsi tis Gynaikas: Ta Apotelesmata mias Erevnas. [Trade and Sexual Exploitation of the Woman: The Results of a Research]* Athens-Komotini: Sakkoulas Publications

Josa, Doris Montenegro, Carolina Constanza, Lorena Cruz Heredia, Paula Patricia Velásquez Centreno and José María Tojeira.

The subjects covered represented the fundamentals of Victimology and Victim Assistance with special coverage on topics of relevance to Central America especially those human rights violations, mostly abuse of power victimizations resulting from the civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador. As has been the tradition with these courses considerable emphasis was placed on providing students with direct contact with victims to ensure they grasp the emotional dimension of the victim experience. Thus, a unique field trip was organized for the middle Saturday, June 12th to learn about a massacre which took place at the Rio Metayate Bridge, in the Chalatenango State, in 1981 during the Salvadoran civil war. We visited the site of the massacre, the site of the mass grave and eventual exhumation, the town of Guazapa where the survivors are now living and the site of the new mass grave in the town cemetery where the remains of these victims were finally put to rest this year. The students and five teachers brought food supplies and flowers for each of the ten families we had invited to meet with us. It was a sad, dramatic, and memorable event for all the participants. It was a surprise to many of the Salvadoran students who had not known of this massacre at all. Perhaps the most important aspect of this field trip was the student's realization of the depth of trauma which was suffered and which continues to take its toll even today. I was pleased to bring greetings to these survivors on behalf of the World Society of Victimology and to express our solidarity with their emotional

plight, their legal cause and their continuous struggle to recover.

The graduation ceremony was held at the university chapel and was opened by the university Rector, Padre José María Tojeira. As he opened the "Clausura" with comments about the many human rights violations suffered by the people of El Salvador and Guatemala, a storm burst upon the evening with bolts of lightning and thunder serving as a dramatic backdrop to the final event of this. This graduation was dedicated to the memory of Ramón Mauricio García Prieto Giralt who was assassinated by a government death squad, remnants of the civil war which lingered even after the peace accords had been signed. This case became a *cause célèbre*, and a short film was shown and the book about this case published by the Human Rights Institute of the University Centroamericana (IDHUCA), was presented to the audience. The mother of this victim dramatically recited a poem referring to a mother's loss and suffering as part of this dedication. During the program, a band of musicians called "Grupo Maya" played the special music and songs made popular as part of the social struggle of El Salvador's indigenous people.

After receiving two weeks of lectures and having all made presentations and written up their action projects, thirty six students graduated from this course and received their diplomas. As a final tribute to the students the coordinator of the Salvadoran Association of Victimology, Salvador Menéndez Leal, honored them with words of encouragement and passed out the new pins of membership to those who had just become members of the World Society of Victimology as a show of solidarity with the WSV.

Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to the faculty and staff who had volunteered their time to help make this course a success. It was an emotional, joyous and memorable event which was followed by a reception filled with family and friends taking photographs and exchanging congratulations.

This course was the result of many months of planning between the UCA and the WSV primarily the indefatigable work of Annette Pearson on behalf of the WSV and Berta Alicia Ruiz and Júlio Sosa on behalf of the Institute for Human Rights of UCA. I wish to recognize the special contribution made by Spanish victimologist Padre Antonio Beristain who gave lectures on Basic Concepts of Victimology, Crime Victim Types, and Victims of Terrorism in Spain. Another special guest lecturer was Dr. Sonia Rivera director of the Attorney General's Victim/Witness Assistance Office from Puerto Rico who presented lectures on Child Victims of Sexual Abuse in Puerto Rico, Victims of the Penal Process in Puerto Rico, and The Program for Victims and Witnesses of the Attorney General's Office in Puerto Rico. We sincerely appreciate their efforts in traveling from outside of Central America to teach for our course.

I would especially like to thank our hosts Benjamín Cuéllar Martínez, the director of the Institute, and Padre José María Tojeira, Rector of the UCA, for their generosity, kindness and flexibility in the execution of this course. I would also like to thank the Executive Committee of the World Society of Victimology for their continued support for these important events.

International Consortium of Criminology Associations

The First Societies of Criminology Key Issues Conference was held in Paris, France from May 13 - 15, 2004. This was a joint project, involving the efforts of 30 professional societies and associations of criminology. Some 350 persons from more than 30 countries were in attendance. The meeting agenda, paper abstracts, and list of participants can be found at <http://www.asc41.com>.

As a result of this meeting, an International Consortium of Criminology Associations (ICCA) has been organized, with the following goals:

A. Promote the establishment and/or further development of:

1. Academic criminology worldwide, with a goal of seeing vibrant academic departments of criminology in every university in the world.

2. Professional societies and associations of criminology worldwide, with a goal of seeing dynamic societies of criminology functioning in every country of the world (holding annual meetings, publishing journals and newsletters, operating a web page, interacting with other professionals and practitioners, etc).

3. Indigenous, criminological knowledge, with the goal of seeing reputable professional criminological journals published in every country of the

world.

B. Hold a bi-annual, focused/theme meeting under the IC-CA banner, to both advance the criminological knowledge base, and to enhance the level of professional exchange among criminological associations from around the world.

At the present time, the ICCA web page can be found at <http://www.asc41.com>.

For now, the web page is being hosted by the American Society of Criminology, but the Consortium will soon have its own, free-standing URL. For more information, contact Chris Eskridge at ceskridge@uni.edu/402-472-6755.

Canadian winners of the women's...
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Educational Programmes and Public Awareness

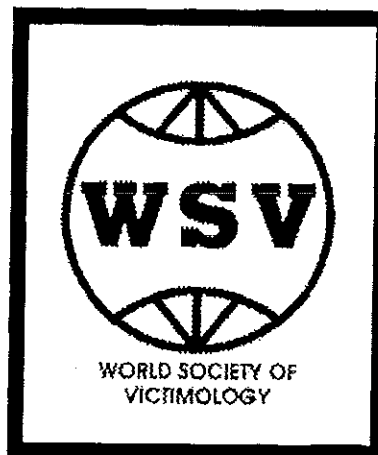
The WTN/IBC Girls TV Camp – Nunavut submitted by the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, Toronto, Ontario.

Women and Violence: Education is Prevention submitted by SWOVA Community Development and Research Society, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia.

Project Respect submitted by the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, Victoria, British Columbia.

Safety Planning and Design for Public Spaces

Conscience urbaine submitted by L'Écho des femmes de la Petite Patrie, Montréal, Québec.



Municipal Gender-Based Policies in Crime Prevention and Community Safety

Cowichan Valley Safer Futures Program submitted by the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, Duncan, British Columbia.

Confrontation Management for Women at High Risk, submitted by the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver, British Columbia.

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Post graduate studies in Victimology

The International Centre for Comparative Criminology at the Université de Montréal (Canada) offers 2 scholarships for post doctorate positions. Each scholarship is for one year and is worth \$25,000 CAD.

Candidates are required to have completed their Ph.D. in criminology or a related area. Positions are available for 2006.

The Université de Montréal is a French university and candidates are expected to have a good knowledge of French or English. Research can be conducted in either language. The research does not have to include a comparative component and it is not required that the project include Canadian data.

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