

Financial Fraud to Human Trafficking: Legal Reclassification and Enforcement Strategies in Deceptive Recruitment and Abandonment

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Human trafficking is a major global issue, when individuals are enticed by deceitful individuals with varying motives. In Sri Lanka, traffickers lure individuals with promises of lucrative employment opportunities abroad, but instead exploit them by charging fees and transporting them to foreign countries without any actual job prospects. The Sri Lankan law enforcement authorities identify many cases as instances of money fraud rather than human trafficking. This paper highlights the current approach to addressing such situations and the importance of comprehending the existing legislation, particularly Section 360C of the Sri Lankan Penal Code, in order to accurately classify and investigate such cases as human trafficking. This study utilised a qualitative analysis method to examine legal documents, guidelines, case files, and reports to highlight the absence of specialised training among law enforcement personnel, the inadequate collaboration between agencies, and the insufficient support measures for victims, all within the context of human trafficking.

Keywords: *human trafficking, legal framework, deceptive recruitment*