

Comparative Canadian Online News Coverage Analysis of Sex Trafficking Reported Cases in Ontario, and Nova Scotia

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Abstract : Sex trafficking is a worldwide crisis that requires trauma-informed and survivor-centered media attention to accurately disseminate information. Much of the previous literature on sex trafficking tends to focus on the frequency of incidents, intervention, and support strategies for survivors, with few of them looking to how the media is conducting their reporting on sex trafficking cases to the public. Utilizing data of reports from the media of cases of sex trafficking in the two Canadian provinces with the highest cases of sex trafficking, Ontario and Nova Scotia, the authors sought to analyze the similarities and differences of how sex trafficking cases were being reported. A total of twenty articles were examined, with ten based within the province of Ontario and the remaining ten from the province of Nova Scotia. The authors coded in two processes, first, who the article was about, and second, the framing and content inclusion. The results suggest that there is high usage and reliance of voices and images of authority, with male people of color being shown as the perpetrators and white women being shown as the survivors. These findings can aid in the expansion of trauma-informed, survivor-centered media literacy of reports of sex trafficking to provide accurate insights and further developing robust methods to intersectional approaches to reporting cases of sex trafficking.

Keywords : sex trafficking, media coverage, Canada sex trafficking, content analysis

Conference Title : ICDSV 2021 : International Conference on Domestic and Sexual Violence

Conference Location : Los Angeles, United States

Conference Dates : October 28-29, 2021