



DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES

POLICY DEPARTMENT
CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS



GENDER EQUALITY

**Gendering the EU's Anti-
Trafficking Policies: A
Success Story?**

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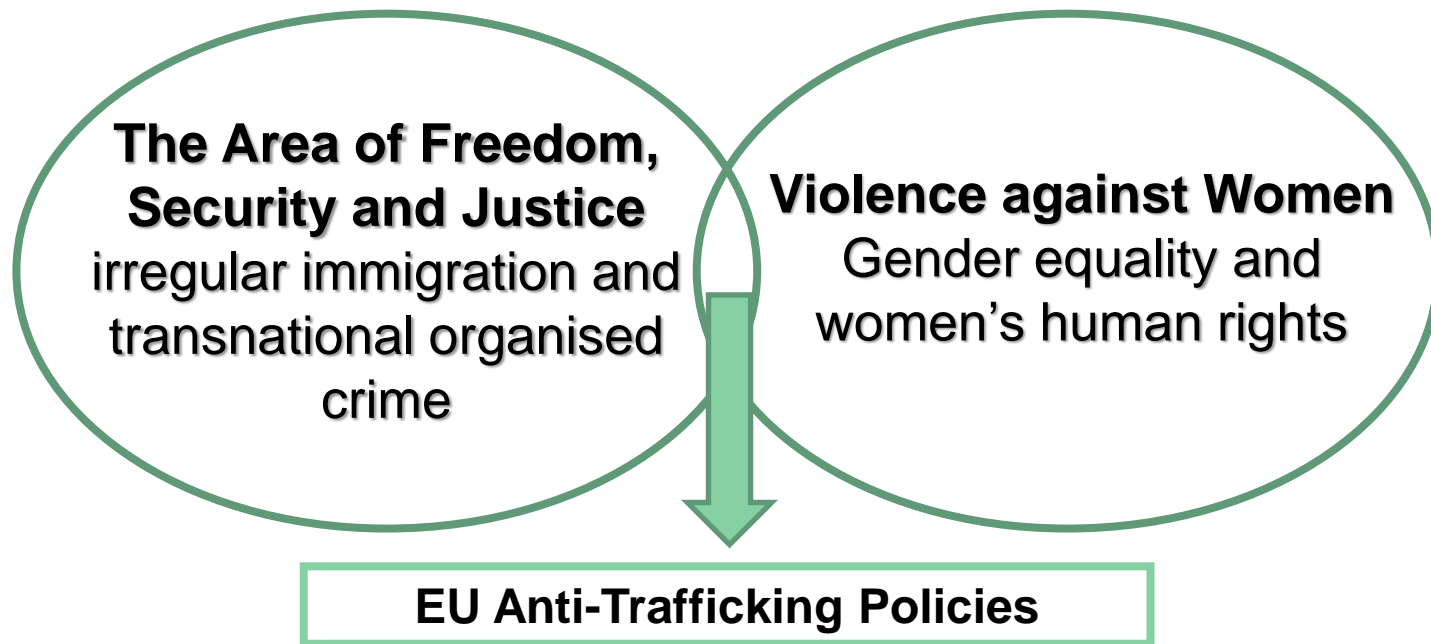
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Gendering the EU's Anti-Trafficking Policies

- Focus on the human rights and protection of victims.
- Began in the early-1990s, promoted by the WRC (EP) within the EU's violence against women policies, and culminated in the 2011/36/ EU Directive.
- **Successful in discourse but, in practice?** Protection remains optional and conditional, ultimately subjected to the objectives of migration and crime control.

The intersection of Gender and Security in the EU's Anti-Trafficking Policies

Human Trafficking as a political and policy concern in the EU:



Strengthens and expands the problematization and solutions proposed from a security perspective while constraining the gender ones

Effects: 'Constraining' Gender

- **'Individualisation' and 'foreignization':** focus on trafficked victims themselves (always TCNs).
- **Intervention limited to the most 'extreme cases':** life threatening, vulnerable victims, serious violence/harm, organised crime.
- **Conditional:** upon victims' collaboration and the demonstration that they entail no security risk for the EU.

Causes: The Gendered Approach

- **Incorporates the security perspective:** carving out a space of protection for victims: lack of agency and abuse:
contradictions ignored + stark victim/criminal dichotomy.
- **Disidentifying trafficked victims as ‘threats’:** attesting their lack of agency and abuse through ‘vulnerability’ and ‘slavery’:
exclusionary intersectionality + gendered cultural essentialism =
 - *Individualization and foreignization of protection measures.*
 - *Limitation to extreme cases.*
 - *The construction of trafficked victims as a ‘risk’.*

Thank You!
