

**Zorica Stojadinović**

## **LEGAL-HISTORICAL REVIEW OF REPORTING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Summary:** This paper deals with one of the most widespread forms of organized crime – human trafficking, through the history of legal thought – the birth of awareness and ideas about this problem, and the need for a legal framework, but on the other hand, also through the media discourse on this topic, through looking at importance that the media had in preventing, fighting and suppressing this form of organized crime. The work will provide a historical presentation of legal acts, which had as their subject human trafficking, that is, slave trade, as the first form that is encountered and recognized throughout history in legal regulations. Furthermore, the paper will point out the development through the history of legal thought, and the way in which the slave trade grew into human trafficking in its modern form, as it is still present today. In parallel, the paper will also provide an account of the birth of the idea of media reporting on this global problem, and indicate how throughout history, starting with the first media reports on the slave trade, the media discourse developed, improved, and as such became a powerful tool in the fight against this form organized crime. Finally, the paper will provide a brief overview of contemporary trends in media reporting on human trafficking, which lead to responsible and ethical media reporting, and the use of the media to its full potential, as a means of information and notification, in the fight against a global problem and one of the most widespread forms organized crime and as such became a powerful tool in the fight against this form of organized crime.

**Keywords:** human trafficking, organized crime, exploitation, media, media reporting, media discourse

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