

Human trafficking is a major problem in Europe today, yet very little is known about the extent of trafficking – and policy makers and civil society have contending ideas about how best to respond to the issue. This book offers a range of different perspectives on this problem. It starts by defining contemporary forms of slavery and posing sensitive questions about the relationship of trafficking to capitalism and Western policies. Case studies from around Europe address the knowledge gaps surrounding trafficking, while at the same time raising critical questions about the responses of states and NGOs to the existence of trafficking. Moreover, the authors contribute to the debates about how states and the EU respond to the issue in relation to defining the crime, creating adequate laws and protecting the trafficked. This book shows that there is a need for a rights based approach to human trafficking, putting the victim, their vulnerability and their needs at the centre of political and social responses.

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