

Trafficking foreign women for forced marriage in Yunnan Province: Demographic information and business process

Abstract Trafficking in foreign women for forced marriage is one of the worst abuses of human rights. Women are trafficked for various exploitative purposes in China, forced marriage being the most common. While there is a rich literature on human trafficking globally, there is no study exploring the particular characteristics of trafficking women for forced marriage in Yunnan province of China. Through analyzing court data collected from judgments published on the “China Judgements Online” website, this study presents a comprehensive picture of trafficking women for forced marriage in Yunnan province, especially the demographic information, trafficking process, main recruitment strategies, routes of trafficking, follow-up arrangements, and penalties for traffickers. The data shows that the traffickers are predominantly male with limited education. Most traffickers are Chinese nationals, and ethnic minorities are overrepresented in the business. The vast majority of the victims in Yunnan province are from Vietnam, followed by Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos. False employment opportunities, violence, going on trips, and introducing high-quality marriage are the usual recruitment methods used by traffickers. According to the provisions of China’s Criminal Law, both the purchase of trafficked women and the act of trafficking in women are illegal. This article seeks to make a contribution to this crucial topic.