

Book Review

Mapp, S. C. (2016). *Domestic minor sex trafficking*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

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Dr. Susan Mapp is head of the social work department at Elizabethtown College and a well-established scholarly writer. Her publications include two books on human rights, book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Mapp has published on topics that lend to her credibility to achieve the stated goal of her book “to pull together the knowledge that has been written, in the scholarly literature, popular literature, and mass media, together with knowledge gained from interviews with professionals around the country, in order to distill the best of what we know in order to help guide prevention and intervention services” (p. x). She begins this text by defining the crime of human trafficking as grounded in the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) by the U.S. Congress in 2000. The author explains how the TVPA was a result of global efforts through the United Nations to organize a common definition of trafficking and exploitation of human rights.

The book quickly focuses on the title as a subset of human trafficking and the purpose of her book. She moves from the broad definition of human trafficking and directly to her topic of the sexual exploitation of minor children. From 2000 to 2005, the TVPA was not specific to U.S. citizens. In 2005, Congress distinguished domestic youth as being at an elevated risk for mistreatment and sexual exploitation. As early as 2001, after the passage of the TVPA, writers and child advocates began to further explore the issue of sexual mistreatment of children and youth. In the next decade, researchers began to report on the need to empower youth and provide services for healing from the complicated trauma of trafficking exploitation.

Chapter 1 provides a rich history of the reasoning for shaping an understanding of the crime of worldwide human trafficking. The reader is engaged with the discourse as to how children are bought and sold in the United States. Chapter 2 goes on to explain the process of recruitment and the four primary methods of trafficking children. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 shed light on the harm done to children and the need for evidence-based trauma services directed toward healing and recovery from this tragedy. Mapp concludes with both macro and micro strategies for societal change. In addition, she gives us a list of prolific resources for further education.

This book is especially strong because of the base of cultured resources dedicated to anti-trafficking from survivors, academics, government agencies, organizations, and reputable news media. Mapp relies on 15 years of publications from researchers and persons affected by the sexual violence to describe the impacts of trafficking, needed services to victims, and what can be accomplished to eliminate the crime in the United States. She accurately enlightens professionals and the uninformed person of the weighty consequences to youth. Mapp condenses mountains of rock-hard work into 135 pages of informative reading on domestic minor sex trafficking.

This book is not a plan for eradicating domestic minor sex trafficking, but rather a serious synopsis of defining the crime and the potential for long-term change in society to protect children. Mapp provides essential reading for educators, clinicians, criminal justice professionals, families, and communities interested in understanding the problem of exploitation of children’s rights and the consequences of such crimes.