

Human Trafficking and Occupational Justice

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Introduction: Human trafficking is a complex global issue with increasing prevalence and severe health outcomes for people who have been trafficked. It is a violation of human and occupational rights. Applying an occupational justice perspective to the issue of human trafficking, adds depth to our understanding of this issue.

Objective: To analyse human trafficking from an occupational justice perspective, to enhance understanding of the issue, and identify potential roles for occupational therapists in practice.

Approach: Case studies from international reports on trafficking were analysed from an occupational justice perspective. The analysis involved identifying examples of occupational deprivation, marginalisation, alienation, and imbalance within the case studies.

Results: People who are marginalised due to poverty are vulnerable to human trafficking. Once trafficked they experience occupational deprivation, alienation, and imbalance and are further marginalised in the receiving site. Severe trauma and complex health problems are experienced by people who are trafficked.

Conclusion: An occupational justice perspective enhances an understanding of human trafficking and the importance of occupation for health and wellbeing. This knowledge, can strategically position occupational therapists to make an impact in the fight against human trafficking at both the individual and societal level.