

## **Proposal Sample**

**Title - Sex Trafficking and Attribution of Victim Blaming: Vietnamese Public's Perceptions on Sex Trafficked Victim**

**Program of Study – Behavioral Science**

**Presentation Type – Choose one of the following: PowerPoint**

**Mentors and Mentor Email - Dr. Kevin Conner (kconner@liberty.edu)**

**Student names and emails – Tram Nguyen (thuyen@liberty.edu)**

**Category – Choose one of the following: Applied**

**Abstract:** Sex trafficking is a prominent social issue in Asian countries, specifically in Vietnam. Hundreds of Vietnamese women are trafficked daily across the world, but mainly in Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea, Laos, China, and Thailand. Trafficked individuals are reported to have symptoms of depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, suicidal tendencies, and experience of physical violence. Unfortunately, the anti-trafficking effort in Vietnam is not sufficient. In 2016, the Vietnamese government identified 1,128 victims of trafficking; however, the number of trafficked individuals was expected to be higher in reality. There is a gap between reports and reality because the data collection was not conducted properly due to two major issues. First, trafficking is not comprehensively defined in the Vietnamese Law, is narrower compared to the international version, and fails to acknowledge the complexity of trafficking situations. For this reason, it leads to another serious problem: stigmatization. Only some victims are identified as trafficked individuals, while many others are believed to be voluntarily involved in the sex industry. People who are involved in prostitution are unlikely to be identified as trafficked individuals and are inclined to be criticized before and after entering shelter houses. Therefore, most sex trafficked individuals do not want to report the incident due to their fear of being stigmatized. Prior studies suggested that as people are more likely to believe in human trafficking myths they are more likely to stigmatize and blame the victim. According to the current level of awareness of human trafficking of the

Vietnamese general public, there is a need to study the relationship between human trafficking myths and victim blaming. Participants will take the Human Trafficking Myth survey and respond to a vignette portraying sex trafficking in Vietnam. The results will be used to verify the Vietnamese general public's perceptions of the victim's responsibility.