*Mette Rømer, Postdoc,*

*Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University*

*Mail:* *romer@socsci.aau.dk*

***Workshop 15. Women, vulnerability and welfare services***

*The Role of Social Work in the Field of Undocumented Sex Worker Migrants*

* *The case of Denmark.*

Human trafficking is a contemporary global problem that is acknowledge by the international community. Reportedly, 45.8 millions of children’s, women’s and men worldwide are being trafficked across borders and within countries for exploitation. Based on a qualitative study of the role of social work in relation to undocumented sex workers this paper analyzes how social work organizations are involved in combatting human trafficking. By drawing on the *Danish National Action Plan in Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings* it maps and identifies how the Danish Welfare State has outsourced the identification of potential sexual traffickers to Non-governmental organizations by given them an authority mandate. Hence, the paper discusses the authoritative role NGOs has been given. This in terms of the transformation the Danish Welfare State has undergone as well as the dilemmas social workers given the authority mandate in NGO’ are facing in their outreach practice. Based on observations of social workers outreach work among undocumented sex workers in street prostitution and at brothels around the country the paper identifies and discusses how the welfare state transformation in outsourcing an authoritative mandate leaves the social workers in a dual role between social work and migration control. Hence, the paper shed lights on how the Danish Welfare State is undergoing a transformation in the field of undocumented sex worker. A field that embraces a vulnerable group of women but also powerful women who is resistance against the only service the Danish Welfare State offers them – namely the possibility to be return to their homeland through the Assisted Voluntary Return Reintegration (AVRR) Program.