

University of Rhode Island

From the SelectedWorks of Donna M. Hughes

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New URI journal explores sexual exploitation

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New URI journal explores sexual exploitation, violence and slavery

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<http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20170405/new-uri-journal-explores-sexual-exploitation-violence-and-slavery>

With large global reach already, the journal Dignity is first of its kind in the world

By [G. Wayne Miller](#)

Journal Staff Writer

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — A new journal devoted to the broad examination of sexual exploitation, violence and slavery has been launched by a prominent [University of Rhode Island](#) professor and researcher [Donna M. Hughes](#).

Since its debut last year, the first-of-its-kind online journal Dignity has been a global success, with people from more than 100 countries downloading articles, according to URI. Some 9,000 downloads have been recorded to date.

Hughes said the journal's primary objective is to analyze and document human-rights violations, promote public awareness and seek ways to restore "justice, rights and dignity to those who have been dehumanized and degraded."

The professor said that Dignity will also explore how "uncorrected violence and exploitation of individuals undermine the love and trust of families and the security of communities."

According to Hughes, an internationally known researcher on sex trafficking, more than 50 percent of the women in the world have experienced physical or sexual violence during their lifetimes. She estimates that 30 million people live in

slavery, generating \$32 billion for traffickers. Human trafficking is practiced in Rhode Island, she noted.

[Articles in Dignity can be downloaded for free](#) by anyone. A nonprofit publication, Dignity is hosted by the Digital Commons at [URI's Robert L. Carothers Library](#) and Learning Commons.

The journal publishes not only articles by experts in the field, but also from community organizers, advocates and service providers; its 25-member editorial board consists of professionals and academics from around the world.

“Over the years I’ve learned that grassroots activists and service providers frequently have more knowledge and understanding about violence and exploitation and their harmful influence on people than the academics who often live and work at a distance from the community,” Hughes said. “My goal is to create a journal where community activists and academics can share the same space and learn from each other.”

Professor in Gender and Women’s Studies and holder of the Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair in Women’s Studies, Hughes founded and is editor-in-chief of Dignity. Topics explored include pornography, trafficking of women and children in Africa, courtroom reform for sexually abused children, and sexual exploitation of female church members in Nigeria, according to URI. Memoirs, book reviews and editorials also are published.

Articles in the first two editions thus far range from “Donald Trump and the Sex Industry” to “Sexual Victimization of Male Refugees and Migrants: Camps, Homelessness and Survival Sex.”

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