

Trafficking of children and adolescents for commercial sexual exploitation purposes



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International Labour Office,
International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
(ILO/IPEC)



IOM International Organization for Migration



IPEC

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Trafficking of children and adolescents for commercial sexual exploitation purposes

"They came over and gagged me and put me in a black sack to cross the border. When we got there they took me to a bar. I didn't get any pay there and they wanted to force me to have sex."

(Statement made by an adolescent victim of trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation)

Taken from the documentary "If only it were fiction", IPEC/ILO (2003)

One of the most common reasons for trafficking boys, girls and adolescents is to use them in commercial sexual exploitation.

Commercial sexual exploitation is a crime that occurs when one or more people use a boy, girl or adolescent (person under 18 years of age) in sexual or erotic activities in exchange for money or the offer or purchase of clothing, food, drugs, etc.

It is a form of **sexual violence**, economic exploitation and slavery that **violates the human rights of boys, girls and adolescents**, and it includes any of the following sexual or erotic activities:

- Using a boy, girl or adolescent for **sexual intercourse or in sex acts**.
 - Using an underage person in **child pornography material**: photos, videos, films, etc.
 - Using boys, girls or adolescents in **public or private sex shows** that take place in nightclubs, at parties, etc.
- There are different methods and types of commercial sexual exploitation depending on where the exploiter and the boy, girl or adolescent (victim) are from:
- Exploitation by **locals**: people from the same country (either nationals or residents).



- **Exploitation by sex tourists:** foreigners or tourists who take advantage of their visit to the country to carry out commercial sexual activities with underage persons.
- **Trafficking:** occurs when an underage person is taken from one region to another or from one country to another, in order to sexually exploit him or her.
- **Circulating child pornography** on the internet or through any other means.

As a migration official you should be on the lookout for sex tourists and traffickers crossing borders, and for the confiscation of child pornography.

Those directly responsible for or guilty of commercial sexual exploitation are the people doing the exploiting. These include:

- **“Clients-exploiters”:** those who pay for engaging in sexual activities with boys, girls and adolescents. They may be of any nationality, age, profession and social class.
- **Procurers/pimps:** these are the people who lure or lead boys, girls and adolescents into sexual activities.
- **Intermediaries:** certain taxi drivers, owners and servers of hotels, hostels, massage parlours and photography

studios, who act as intermediaries in the exploitation for financial gain.

There are also people who are indirectly responsible for situations in which exploitation occurs since they tolerate and do not report them or do not fulfil their duties according to the law.

The truth is that those doing the exploiting take advantage of the conditions of poverty, abuse, intrafamily violence, lack of education opportunities, marginalization and social exclusion experienced by many boys, girls and adolescents, in order to subject them to situations in which they are exploited.



MYTHS REGARDING THE VICTIMS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION...

- They are involved in this activity because they want to be, because they like it, otherwise they would be doing something different.
- They have an "easy and happy" life.
- They earn a lot of money.
- They are perverted and promiscuous, and are seducers.

TRUTHS

- The victims do not chose to participate in this activity; they have been lured into it by unscrupulous people who take advantage of their financial needs.
- No underage person can consent to or authorize his/her exploitation.
- No one likes to be abused.
- Most of the money they receive goes to the procurers and the intermediaries.
- The victims have not lost their moral values; the simple truth is that their human rights have been violated.

The underage persons used in commercial sexual exploitation experience many negative consequences in their lives, such as unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS,

physical and emotional abuse, drug addictions, humiliation, low self-esteem, they feel guilty about what is happening to them and they cannot find a way out of the problem.



"I was in it for 3 years and the men offered me drinks, like "why don't you have a little glass of liquor?". They told me I was a good-for-nothing and that they were going to complain to the bar owner, and the bar owner would hit me and tell me that if I didn't do it he would hit me harder and so I had to do it because I was at a dead end, there was no way out of there".

(Statement made by an adolescent victim of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation purposes)

Taken from the documentary "If only it were fiction", IPEC/ILO (2003)

Let us make sure this story is not repeated...

REMEMBER:

All persons under 18 years of age, regardless of their sex, age, race, nationality or the colour of their skin, have a right to be protected by the State against any form of exploitation.

***Let us put a stop to the exploitation
of their dreams and hopes...***





RELOCATING BOYS, GIRLS OR ADOLESCENTS FOR EXPLOITATION PURPOSES IS A CRIME



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INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Project: "Contribution to the prevention and elimination of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic"



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OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
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