

- Support the national authorities responsible for **criminal investigations** by providing useful information or reporting these types of crimes to the relevant authorities and follow up the reporting process.
- **Demystify paid sex with children and adolescents** and report that exploiters are punished criminally if they do so, and where to make the complaint; etc.
- **Support the efforts to denounce an exploiter:** persons or businesses that are part of networks of commercial sexual exploitation or public/ private officials who abuse their power.
- **Always include national laws** or international treaties and conventions that support the protection of children and adolescents.
- Never write down details **like tabloids** do.
- Avoid the **stereotype** that only foreigners commit this crime.
- Help to deconstruct **myths and stereotypes** that contribute to perpetuating situations of vulnerability. Please understand that victims cannot consent to be exploited (avoid the myth that CSEC is a type of work and that victims like it).

A crime committed by those who pay and those who facilitate the activity



When illustrating...

- Avoiding the use of images or photos of victims in news because it violates their privacy rights forces them remember the exploitation and creates a permanent stigma in the society.
- Respect and protect the image of the victims, never expose or publish photos of children and adolescents and indicate their identity and put them in danger.
- Protect victims and prevent the commercial sexual exploitation by avoiding identifying the sites where you can contact the children or adolescents to sexually exploit them.
- Keep in mind, that the children and adolescents are **victims**...and...the exploiters are the **criminals**...

The publication of photographs or videos of the victims infringes on their image rights and causes revictimization and may endanger their physical integrity or even their lives.

Writing that does not revictimize

The language and terminology influence the views of society; therefore, it is important to avoid expressions that contribute to revictimization.



Use

Commercial sexual exploitation:

Use of girls, boys and adolescents in paid sexual activities.

Different forms of commercial sexual exploitation:

paid sexual activities, child and adolescent pornography, sex shows, trafficking of children and adolescents for commercial sexual exploitation purposes.

Girl, boy and adolescent victim of commercial sexual exploitation:

children and adolescents whose rights are violated by adults.

Trafficking in persons: Moving children and adolescents from one location to another or from one country to another for sexual exploitation purposes, for example CSEC.

Exploiters or "client"-exploiters: those directly responsible for the crime of commercial sexual exploitation.

Procurer: the person who lures an underage person into carrying out any commercial sexual exploitation activity.

Do not use

Child prostitution / prostituted girls, boys, adolescents / young prostitutes or minor prostitutes: "prostitution" refers to the buying and selling of "sex services" between adults. It should not be applied to children and adolescents since it reinforces the erroneous myth that the girls, boys and adolescents are "selling a service", when in reality, they are being exploited and are victims of a criminal act committed by the adult.

Smuggling in persons: this is a crime that is different from trafficking since it implies facilitating illegal border crossings.

Client: a person who pays for a service. Sexual exploitation is not a service, it is a CRIME.



Where to look for information?

Belize

National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC)

(501) 2230059

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

International Labor Organization
International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor

For more information, visit the websites:

www.oit.or.cr/ipec
www.ilo.org/ipec

Prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents



International
Labour
Organization

The media also share the responsibility

International
Program
for the Elimination
of Child Labor
(IPEC)

What constitutes commercial sexual exploitation?

When one or more people pay or promise any form of payment (money, food, clothing, cell phones, drugs, etc.) to anyone under 18 years of age, or to a third party (procurer) so a girl, boy or adolescent engages in some form of sexual activity.

Who are the victims?

The majority are female. Most are young girls and adolescents, but many victims are also young – male victims.



What are the types of commercial sexual exploitation?

- Paid sexual relations
- Production or distribution of pornographic videos or photographs showing children or adolescents, or the possession of such materials for personal use
- Using children or adolescents in public or private sex shows as “pole dancing” or “strip shows”



Commercial sexual exploitation manifests itself in different ways:

- **Exploitation by locals:**
Exploiters are nationals or foreign residents.
- **Exploitation by means of sex tourism:**
Exploiters are foreign tourists. This includes the promotion, offer and facilitation of this type of activities.
- **Trafficking in children for sexual purposes:**
Moving children and adolescents from one location to another or from one country to another for sexual exploitation purposes.
- **Pornography:**
Publishing photographs showing girls, boys or adolescents in sexual positions or in the nude, via different means (Internet for example). Also, trading magazines or films showing these types of images, or possession of pornographic material.



Myths that should be eliminated:



| Myths | Realities |
|--|---|
| The commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is widely known and few cases exist. | The magnitude of this crime is unknown since it is committed in secret. In many instances, however, CSEC it is not even considered a crime by the population and therefore goes unreported. It is only until recently that the issue has been dealt with publicly as a social, economic and cultural problem. |
| The majority of the client-exploiters are tourists. | According to studies undertaken, the majority of the exploiters are local men, nationals or resident foreigners from different social backgrounds, and with different level of education or purchasing power. |
| The boys, girls and adolescents enjoy this “work” because they get money for it. | The boys, girls and adolescents cannot consent to being exploited. They are victims and require protection. The demand of sex services by an adult does not constitute a job; it is an abusive relationship on the part of the exploiter. Commercial sexual exploitation is a crime. |
| The children and adolescents involved in commercial sexual exploitation live a glamorous lifestyle full of parties and entertainment. | The children and adolescents of commercial sexual exploitation have been lured into the sex trade or networks run by procurers, and not because they like it. Those who benefit the most are the procurers and the intermediaries, who are the ones who facilitate the trade and make a profit from it. The children and adolescents often run up debts with the exploiters for their maintenance and they suffer much physical, psychological and social damage because of this. |
| The victims of commercial sexual exploitation are small boys or girls. | The sexual exploitation can occur with anyone under the age of 18. The victims are mostly adolescent women; however, studies have shown the existence of adolescent males who are also victims of this crime. |
| Adult men can offer money or objects to an adolescent in exchange for sexual intercourse since they are thus contributing to alleviating their situation of poverty. | Any adult who takes advantage of the inequity of the relationship by offering money or other objects to a boy, girl or adolescents in exchange for sexual activities is committing crime. Under no circumstances can an adult justify paying someone under 18 years of age sexual activities. This exploitation produces indelible consequences for the victims, and it is illegal. |

How should I report on the subject and act?

Promote a shared responsibility and a cultural change

- Making the problem more visible as a **crime**, prevent people from viewing it (or ignoring it) as if it were normal or acceptable ; and stressing its illegal nature. Informing people that children and adolescents are victims.
- Analyzing commercial sexual exploitation as a **social, cultural, economic and legal problem**, and not just as sensationalist news.
- **Diversifying sources of information** on the problem. Look beyond the judicial sources to find more balanced information and support from other institutions such as government and non-government organizations, national coalitions, foundations, universities and specialists.
- **Remain vigilant regarding to compliance** of the national and international commitments to protect children and adolescents from commercial sexual exploitation.

