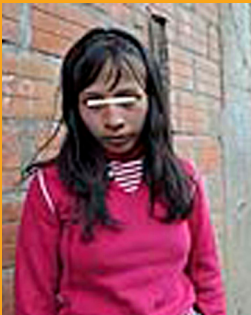




International  
Labour  
Organization



# Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children “in a nutshell”

A Resource for Pacific Island Countries

our world  
our dignity  
our future



2015 European Year for Development

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## Foreword

Commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children is considered by ILO as one of the worst forms of child labour which requires immediate and definitive action from governments. It is a violation of the fundamental human rights of the most vulnerable in our society, our children, and an outrage that must be condemned in the strongest manner, it must also galvanize us into action.

ILO research in the Pacific has shown that these issues are present in our communities and a collective effort is required in the fight against this. The “Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children in a Nutshell” is a resource designed to enhance the knowledge base on sexual exploitation and trafficking in the Pacific. It clarifies the worst forms of child labour concepts and relevant ILO and UN Conventions that deal with these issues and highlights the risk and vulnerability factors that we must guard against to protect our children.

The ILO acknowledges the collaboration of UN Women colleagues in the Pacific who have supported the development of the nutshell and provided a country contacts list for assistance or further information.

David Lamotte  
Director,  
ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries

## The commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children: A global snapshot

- In 2002, the ILO estimated that over 6 million children worldwide are held in slavery, a figure that includes an estimated 5.7 million children in forced and bonded labour and 300 000 children in armed conflict. In addition, it is estimated that about 1.8 million are in sexual exploitation and 1.2 million children trafficked.
- In 2012, the ILO estimated that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally, trapped in jobs into which they were coerced or deceived and which they cannot leave<sup>1</sup>.
- Women and girls represent the greater share of total forced labour – 11.4 million victims (55%), as compared to 9.5 million (45%) men and boys.
- Children aged 17 years and below represent 26% of all forced labour victims (or 5.5 million children).
- It is estimated that profits made from forced sexual exploitation were about US\$33.9 billion, with profits made from forced sexual exploitation as a result of trafficking estimated to be about US\$27.8 billion. Almost half of these profits were made in industrialized economies alone (US\$13.3 billion).
- It is also estimated that the total illegal profits obtained from the use of forced labour worldwide amount to **US\$150.2 billion per year**<sup>2</sup>.
- More than one third of the profits – **US\$51.2 billion** – are made in forced labour exploitation, including nearly **US\$8 billion** generated in domestic work by employers who use threats and coercion to pay no or low wages.

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<sup>1</sup>ILO. ILO global estimate of forced labour. Geneva.2012

<sup>2</sup>ILO. Profits and poverty: the economics of forced labour. Geneva. 2014

## DEFINITIONS

**Brothel:** is a place where people may come to engage in sexual activity with a prostitute, sometimes referred to as a sex worker. Any premises where prostitution commonly takes place can be regarded as a brothel (e.g. massage parlors, bars, strip clubs).

**Bonded Labour:** is a person's pledge of their labor or services as security for the repayment for a debt or other obligation. The services required to repay the debt may be undefined, and the services' duration may be undefined.

**Chattel Slavery:** A situation where one person assumes complete legal ownership over another. The slave is considered the legal property of the slaveholder, and exists today (although it is illegal) primarily in Mauritania and other parts of Northern Africa.

**Client:** a person who pays the pimp, “madam” or perpetrator for sexual services.

**Child soldiers:** Involves the unlawful recruitment or use of children through force, fraud, or coercion as combatants, or for labor or sexual exploitation by armed forces. Perpetrators may be government forces, paramilitary organizations, or rebel groups. Some children are made to work as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies. Young girls can be forced to marry or have sex with male combatants.

**Child trafficking:** Forms of child trafficking include trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, labor trafficking, removal of organs, illicit international adoption, trafficking for early marriage, recruitment as child soldiers, use in begging, and recruitment of athletes.

**Debt Bondage:** A condition where a person is held as collateral for a debt. Whatever work they do does not technically belong to them, because they are collateral. It is the most common method of enslavement in the world today, accounting for nearly 20 million of the world's slaves. The debt is passed down from generation to generation, creating hereditary enslavement. This system is well-entrenched in South Asia, and can trap entire families in slavery for illegal debts as small as \$40.

**Domestic trafficking:** Refers to the trafficking of persons within a country's national or domestic borders and is most often seen in the sex trafficking of persons by a pimp.

**Human Smuggling:** Helping someone to illegally cross country borders, often without identification or papers, for financial or material benefit. Smuggling ends with the arrival of the migrants at their destination, whereas trafficking involves the ongoing exploitation of the victims in some manner to generate profits for the traffickers.

**Involuntary Servitude:** Forcing a person to work through threats, harm, physical abuse, restraint or legal retaliation.

**Involuntary domestic servitude:** A form of forced labor involving domestic workers in private residences. Such an environment, often socially isolates domestic workers and is conducive to exploitation because authorities cannot inspect private property as easily as formal workplaces.

**Madam:** often refers to an older woman who manages a brothel, escort service or some other form of prostitution.

**Pimp:** A person who controls and financially benefits from the commercial sexual exploitation of another person. The relationship can be abusive and possessive, with the pimp using techniques such as psychological intimidation, manipulation, starvation, rape and/or gang rape, beating, confinement, threats of violence toward the victim’s family, forced drug use, and the shame from these acts to keep the sexually exploited person under control.

**Perpetrator:** is someone who commits an illegal, criminal or evil act. Often a person is a suspect until it has been proven that he or she carried out the offense. In terms of sexual violence and abuse the perpetrator is the person who commits the offence and in terms of commercial sexual exploitation a perpetrator can be the pimp or the client or anyone involved in such activity against the child.

**Recruiter:** (in the context of CSEC and trafficking) is a person who looks for individuals to fill positions in the commercial sex industry. The recruiter may do this through coercion or befriending an individual before passing them on to the trafficker for transportation.

**Sex tourism:** The World Tourism Organisation, a specialized agency of the UN, defines sex tourism as “trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination.”

**Sexual exploitation:** Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>(UN Secretary-General’s Bulletin on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) (ST/SGB/2003/13))



**Sexual abuse:** The actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

**STI:** refers to Sexually Transmitted Infections passed on through sexual intercourse. These are illnesses that have a high probability of being transmitted between humans by means of sexual behavior including sexual intercourse. Some STIs can also be contracted by using IV drugneedles after their use by an infected person.

**Violence against women:** Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

**Coercion:** Threats or perceived threats of serious harm to or physical constraints against any person; causes a person to believe that failure to perform will result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any persons. Types of coercion:

- *Threat of physical violence*
- *Threat of sexual violence*
- *Threat or actual violence against family*
- *Physical violence*
- *Sexual violence*
- *Withholding of passports*
- *Withholding of air tickets*
- *Withholding of salary*
- *Controlling communication*
- *Controlling movement*
- *Threat to report to the police*
- *Threat to report to Immigration*

## Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

**Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC):** In 1996, the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children defined CSEC as sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. CSEC includes the prostitution of children, child pornography, child sex tourism, and other forms of transactional sex where a child engages in sexual activities to have key needs fulfilled, such as food, shelter, or access to education. It includes forms of transactional sex where the sexual abuse of children is not stopped or reported by household members, due to benefits derived by the household from the perpetrator.

Commercial sexual exploitation in children includes any of the following:

- The use of girls and boys in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind (commonly known as child prostitution) in the streets or indoors, in such places as brothels, discotheques, massage parlours, bars, hotels, restaurants, etc.
- The trafficking of girls and boys and adolescents for the sex trade.
- Child sex tourism.
- The production, promotion and distribution of pornography involving children.
- The use of children in sex shows (public or private).

### ***What is child sexual exploitation?***

*Child sexual exploitation is when people use the power they have over young people to sexually abuse them. Their power may result from a difference in age, gender, intellect, strength, money or other resources.*

*People often think of child sexual exploitation in terms of serious organised crime, but it also covers abuse within relationships and may involve informal exchanges of sex for something a child wants or needs, such as accommodation, gifts, cigarettes or attention. Some children are 'groomed' through 'boyfriends' who then force the child or young person into having sex with friends or associates.*

*Sexual abuse covers penetrative sexual acts, sexual touching, masturbation and misuse of sexual images, for example on the internet or by mobile phone.*

*Part of the challenge of tackling child sexual exploitation is that the children and young people involved may not understand that non-consensual sex (sex they haven't agreed to) or forced sex – including oral sex – is rape.*

*Any child or young person can be a victim of sexual exploitation, but children are believed to be at greater risk of being sexually exploited if they:*

- are homeless*
- have feelings of low self-esteem*
- have had a recent bereavement or loss*
- are in care*
- are a young carer / head of household*

## Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

As defined in the Palermo Protocol, Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, for the purpose of exploitation for forced labour, slavery, servitude, sexual exploitation or removal of organs.

### Criminalization of Trafficking under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

Article 3(a) of the Protocol sets out the following elements that must be present in order for trafficking to be determined;



#### (a) Acts (what is done)

- i. Recruitment
- ii. Transportation
- iii. Transfer
- iv. Harboursing
- v. Receipt of persons



#### (b) Means (how it is done)

- i. Use of force
- ii. Threat of the use of force
- iii. Other forms of coercion
- iv. Abduction
- v. Fraud
- vi. Deception
- vii. Abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability
- viii. Giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another.



#### (a) Acts (what is done)

- i. Recruitment
- ii. Transportation
- iii. Transfer
- iv. Harboursing
- v. Receipt of persons

When prosecuting child trafficking cases, only two elements need to be present. The 'act' and the 'purpose' for exploitation!

## Forced Labour<sup>5</sup>

Forced Labour is any work or service done by a person under threat of punishment for which he or she has not agreed to or volunteered. Forced labour affects both adults and children as defined in ILO's Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29). However, the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) makes a distinction between children who are held in slavery, debt bondage or serfdom, or who are trafficked or subjected to forced labour, and those who are in "hazardous work".

TIP and forced labour are inextricably interlinked as persons who are trafficked are often done so for the purpose of exploitation- either sexual exploitation or forced labour.

Since 2005, the ILO has classified forced labour in three main categories:

- Forced labour imposed by the state covers all forms of work exacted by public authorities, military or paramilitary, compulsory participation in public works and forced prison labour (within the scope of ILO Conventions No. 29 and No. 105);
- Forced labour imposed by private agents for sexual exploitation covers any commercial sexual activity, including pornography, exacted from the victim by fraud or force; and,
- Forced labour imposed by private agents for labour exploitation includes bonded labour, forced domestic work, forced labour of migrants in many economic sectors and work imposed in the context of slavery or vestiges of slavery. Forced illicit activities such as forced begging for gangs for example are also included in this category.

<sup>5</sup>International Labour Organization, Profits and poverty: the economics of forced labour, International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2014

### **Case study**

*Komal's parents felt they had no choice but to take their 13 year old daughter out of school and put her in bonded labour in order to repay the loan for her sister's dowry. Komal worked 11 hours a day, sitting cross-legged on the floor in a dark room without*



*ventilation, folding and gluing matchboxes. She often went hungry, endured verbal abuse and threats from her employer, and suffered from the noxious fumes. She became so depressed by what she saw as a never-ending bleak future, she attempted to take her own life. After three years of bonded labour, an NGO settled her family's debt, and Komal was able to leave and continue her education.*

### **Case study**

*In Burkina Faso, dozens of meters down a narrow, dark mineshaft just larger than the width of his body, Koffi searched for gold. Others working in pits pounded and rubbed dirt with mercury to find gold. He and dozens of other children as young as age six working in the mines received no schooling and no pay, even though their parents in Togo had been told they would be cared for. They had no idea they would be sold by recruiters, forced to work long hours under hazardous conditions, and routinely sexually abused by managers at the mine.*



*Case studies: <http://globalfreedomcenter.org/GFC/humantraffickingstories>*

## Child Trafficking

**Child Trafficking** is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.

A child trafficker is anyone who contributes to an element of the trafficking process with the intent to exploit the child. This includes those who play only a part in the entire process, such as recruiters, intermediaries, document providers, transporters, corrupt officials, service providers and unscrupulous employers.

Girls are affected disproportionately, and are trafficked in particular for commercial sexual exploitation and child domestic labour whilst boys are believed to be trafficked in particular for work in agriculture, plantations, mining and armed conflict. Transgender males may also be trafficked for sexual exploitation.

### **Case study**

*When Olga was a young girl, her mother's friend said she had a job for Olga that would pay more than what she was making in Moldova. That "friend" was Olga's trafficker. The trafficker took Olga to Dubai, UAE on a tourist visa. When Olga arrived in Dubai, her trafficker*



*brought her to an apartment and told her that she was going to be prostituted. When Olga protested, her traffickers beat her and threatened to kill her and bury her in the desert if she did not comply. They threatened her with more beatings if she did not reimburse them for her travel expenses. Her traffickers sent Olga to a nearby hotel where they forced her to engage in prostitution and collect money from customers to hand over to her traffickers.*

## The Nature of Exploitation and Trafficking

Children who are victims of sexual exploitation or trafficking are affected by many factors over which they have no control. Family break-up, severe trauma, parental neglect, violence and sexual abuse are only some of the causes that 'push' children into these situations.

The effects of these can be extremely devastating on the child. The loss of innocence, stigma and trauma of these events can leave children psychologically scarred as well as causing health issues.

Pimps and traffickers target vulnerable children and lure them into prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation using psychological manipulation, drugs, and/or violence. Any child may be vulnerable to such a person who promises to meet his or her emotional and physical needs. A trafficker/pimp's main purpose is to exploit the child for monetary gain.

The signs of child sexual exploitation may be hard to spot, particularly if a child is being threatened. To make sure that children are protected, it's worth being aware of the signs that might suggest a child is being sexually exploited.

### **Signs of grooming and child sexual exploitation include the child or young person:**

- going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late
- skipping school or being disruptive in class
- appearing with unexplained gifts or possessions that can't be accounted for
- experiencing health problems that may indicate a sexually transmitted infection



- having mood swings and changes in temperament
- using drugs and alcohol
- displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviours, such as over familiarity with strangers, dressing in a sexualised manner or sending sexualised images by mobile phone (also known as 'sexting')
- they may also show signs of unexplained physical harm such as bruising and cigarette marks

Often traffickers/pimps will create a seemingly loving and caring relationship with their victim in order to establish trust and allegiance. This manipulative relationship tries to ensure the youth will remain loyal to the exploiter even in the face of severe victimization. These relationships may begin online before progressing to a real-life encounter.

*Children are often lured or pushed into situations where they have no or very little control. Perpetrators often provide them or their families with 'gifts' to ensure their cooperation with their activities. Although at first these may seem genuine, these 'gifts' are used to gain the trust of victims and provide them with a sense of obligation before they are exploited.*

It is common for children exposed to sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and this may be characterized by such symptoms as anxiety, depression, insomnia, irritability, flashbacks, emotional numbing, and hyper-alertness.

These victims have very specific needs because of the nature of the crime committed against them. For example, the fact that they are removed from family and support networks greatly increases their suffering and means they are likely to feel particularly isolated.

Support services should include psycho-social counselling, the appointment of a guardian, legal assistance (where needed), shelter/housing, life skills training, (re)training and education, and return and reintegration where this is in the best interests of the child.

Identifying victims and referring them to appropriate services is the responsibility first of government services such as immigration officials, labour inspectors, social workers and police, who need to ensure that the child's rights are protected and the appropriate support services provided.

### **Case study**

*In and out of foster homes in Southern California, USA, 13 year old Denise craved the love and support of a parent figure. She found that in an older boyfriend she met in her neighborhood. He slowly convinced her that she could earn a lot*



*of money in prostitution and acted as her pimp. She was arrested multiple times and served time in jail. Law enforcement did not identify her as a human trafficking victim so she did not receive social services and, instead, entered the juvenile justice system as an offender. She has never had her prostitution convictions expunged. Those convictions have made it nearly impossible for her to find work. She admits that most in her financial situation would have returned to prostitution by now.*

*Case study: <http://globalfreedomcenter.org/GFC/humantraffickingstories>*

## Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.

It is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women and girls' ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men and boys and it impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms under international law, including human rights conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Around the world, GBV disproportionately affects women and girls because of their subordinate status to men and boys. As such, the term is most often used to highlight women and girls' particular vulnerability to violence because of gender inequality. Nonetheless, men and boys also suffer GBV.

**Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is a form of gender-based violence!**

### Sexual violence warning signs

Early warning signs are your body's way of letting you know of potentially dangerous situations. They are useful body cues you give yourself to say that you are uncomfortable or feel threatened in some way. Everybody has them and they are different for each person. Some examples are:

- Tightening of shoulders or throat
- Sinking gut feeling
- Sweaty hands
- Shallow breathing
- Heart racing

*Extracts from "Stop Rape" pamphlet by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.*

## Violence against children and exploitation

The World Health Organization estimated that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 years experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence involving physical contact. Millions more are likely exploited in prostitution or pornography each year, most of the times lured or forced into these situations through false promises and limited knowledge about the risks.

It is extremely difficult to gauge the true extent of violence against children, especially sexual violence due to its nature as well as the lack of willingness in our societies to discuss the issue. Although perception is changing, most children and families in rural or informal communities do not report cases of abuse and exploitation because of stigma,

fear, and lack of trust in the authorities. Social tolerance and lack of awareness also contribute to under-reporting.

Evidence shows that sexual violence can have serious short and long-term physical, psychological and social consequences not only for girls or boys, but also for their families and communities. This includes increased risks for illness, unwanted pregnancy, psychological distress, stigma, discrimination and difficulties at school.

### **Supporting a friend who has been assaulted**

- Reassure them that it wasn't their fault
- Assure them that you believe them
- Let them know that it is brave of them to tell you
- Let them be in control of what happens
- Don't ask 'WHY' questions, just let them talk
- Don't make comparisons with other people's traumas
- Ring a sexual assault service to get more information or support for yourself and your friend

*Extracts from "Stop Rape" pamphlet by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre*

## Where does violence occur?

- Children are most vulnerable to violence and abuse as they are easily controlled and manipulated by those in positions of power. In workplaces where children below the minimum legal age for employment are found, employers often enjoy impunity in inflicting corporal punishment on children for inadequate performance. Children often do not complain as they do not know the laws and are also fearful of losing their employment.
- In the community, a child who is labelled vagrant or anti-social may be assaulted or otherwise ill-treated by figures in authority, including police. This often results in more destructive behaviour.
- Very young children who suffer violence in their homes lack the capacity to report. Many children are afraid to report incidents of violence against them for fear of reprisals by perpetrators, or of interventions by authorities which may worsen their overall situation.
- Children forced into prostitution frequently describe their violent treatment by clients as if it were something they deserved. Sexual abuse, physical and psychological violence, and sexual harassment are forms of violence which occur in all settings.
- In many circumstances, sexual abuse of girls and boys is common within the home or is committed by a person known to the family. But sexual violence also occurs in schools, by both peers and teachers. It is rife against children in closed workplaces, such as domestic labourers employed in private households. It also takes place in institutions and in the community, at the hands people known to the victim and others.

- Girls suffer considerably more sexual violence than boys, and their greater vulnerability to violence in many settings is in large part a product of the influence of gender-based power relations within society. At the same time, boys are more likely to be the victims of homicide, and particularly of violence involving weapons.

*We can help by:*

- *Believing people when they say they have been assaulted*
- *Not assuming that we know what happened and how the person feels*
- *Not making judgements about what happened*
- *Not interrupting or making inappropriate jokes and comments about sexual assault*
- *Knowing about the issue and challenging any misconception we hear*
- *Being open to discussing the issue when it comes up (e.g. on TV, in tutorials, in public forums, etc)*
- *Being prepared to take action by either interrupting, challenging or informing others when we hear anyone boasting of violence or intimidation*
- *Talking openly about sexual assault and relationships*
- *Not engaging in any form of sexual harassment*
- *Teaching children about inappropriate touching and empowering children to report any signs of sexual abuse.*

*Extracts from "Stop Rape" pamphlet by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre*

## Which children are most at risk to CSE and trafficking?

There are many elements that lead to the vulnerability of children to commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking and these can be classified into various categories as noted below. The presence or combination of any of these factors need not necessarily lead to exploitation but they should be a cause for concern and investigated further.

### Family-related risk factors

- Poverty
- Social exclusion, including being from an ethnic minority
- Weakening of family and community networks
- Absence of parental figures
- History of sexual abuse within families
- Witnessing or being victims of domestic violence
- HIV/AIDS infection in the family
- Practices of prostitution among family members
- Gender inequalities and discrimination
- Low educational levels of caregivers and low value attached to education
- Prejudice against homosexuality



### Child-specific risk factors

- Absence of legal identity or documentation, lack of citizenship
- Need to earn money to survive
- Homelessness, living on the street
- Expulsion or exclusion from school
- Child pregnancy and maternity
- Consumerism

- Low self-esteem
- History of drug and alcohol abuse
- Cultural obligation to help support the family
- Negative peer pressure
- Being a victim of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse
- Being a victim of other forms of child labour
- Having been trafficked for other forms of child labour

### **Socio-economic related risk factors**

- High population density
- Working or living in or near risk environments:
  - streets or slums
  - concentration of night entertainment (bars, discos, brothels)
- High poverty and unemployment levels
- Movements of people
- Access to highways, ports or borders

### **Environment-related risk factors**

- Existence of child labour
- Tolerance of prostitution at community or national level
- Existence of sex tourism
- Consumerism
- Irresponsible exercise of sexuality, especially male sexuality
- Perpetrator preferences for young children and adolescents
- Perpetrator preferences for young children in the context of HIV/AIDS
- Proximity to military camps, large public works, mining camps
- Proximity to armed conflict zones
- Impunity caused by weak laws and law enforcement
- Corruption, organized crime



## Risk factors – what to look out for

Children at risk of CSEC or who have been trafficked may:

- Have no access to their parents or guardians
- Look intimidated and behave in a way that does not match behaviour typical of children their age
- Have no friends of their own age outside of work
- Have no access to education and no time for playing
- May use vocabulary that is not age appropriate or use words that are specifically directed towards sexual activity
- Live apart from other children and in substandard accommodations
- Eat apart from other members of the “family“
- Be given only leftovers to eat
- Be engaged in work that is not suitable for children
- Travel unaccompanied by adults
- Travel in groups with persons who are not relatives
- The discovery of cases involving illegal adoption may indicate that trafficking could be involved



## Indicators of trafficking and exploitation

Some signs that children may be exploited or trafficked are:

- History of emotional, sexual, or other physical abuse
- Signs of current physical abuse and/or sexually transmitted diseases
- History of running away or current status as a runaway
- Inexplicable appearance of expensive gifts, clothing, or other costly items
- Presence of an older boy-/girlfriend
- Drug addiction
- Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities
- There is evidence that suspected victims have had unprotected and/or violent sex.
- There is evidence that suspected victims cannot refuse unprotected and/or violent sex.
- There is evidence that a person has been bought and sold.
- There is evidence that groups of women are under the control of others.
- Advertisements are placed for brothels or similar places offering the services of women of a particular ethnicity or nationality or providing services to a clientele of a particular ethnicity

It is important to note that the indicators by themselves do not necessarily mean that CSEC or trafficking is occurring. Rather, they are indications or signs that there are problems that need to be investigated as soon as possible for the benefit of the child.

## **Case study**

*Amelia, 17, and Mara, 22, left their impoverished village in Colombia to work as waitresses in Argentina, where they had been offered good pay. Instead, their recruiters took them to Chile, where a man informed them that they would be serving men at a brothel, not customers at a restaurant. Amelia, Mara, and the 15 other Colombian women were not allowed to leave the brothel or make phone calls; there was nowhere to go for help. The group decided Amelia and Mara should escape and then seek help for the others. They*



*immediately called their families and the authorities in Colombia, which led to Chilean authorities arresting the lead woman of the trafficking ring.*

*Case study from: <http://globalfreedomcenter.org/GFC/humantraffickingstories>*

*Sex trafficking occurs within street prostitution, brothels, homes, hotels, escort services, massage parlours and other establishments posing as legitimate businesses.*

## Legal Framework

The international legal framework to fight commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children include:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and Recommendation (No. 190)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children
- ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979

All these agreements establish that:

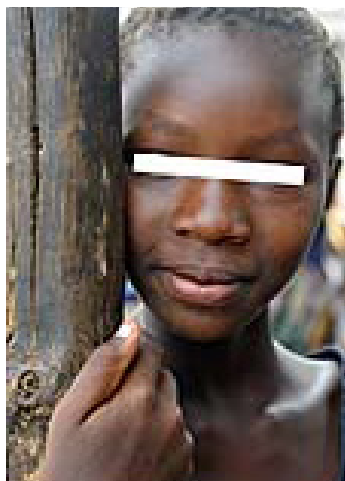
- All underage persons should be protected against commercial sexual exploitation, regardless whether they are boys or girls; and regardless of their nationality or any other discriminatory consideration.
- Adults who are directly responsible for the exploitation should be punished by law and with sentences that are appropriate to the severity of the damage caused.
- It is the responsibility of the State to ensure that the victims are protected.
- The “consent” of persons under the age of 18 to participating in commercial sexual activities cannot lift the illegality of the exploitation; children are seen as victims and any so-called consent does not waive their right to protection.

- Boys and girls have the right to live with their family. Their relatives are not guilty of exploitation, unless a member of the family has become an abuser, exploiter, procurer or intermediary for exploitation.

All the protocols and conventions listed above underscore the commitment of the international community to eliminate CSEC and child trafficking. Pacific Island Countries have also ratified these conventions and are therefore required to ensure that these instruments are reflected in the policies and laws that governments enact.

All underage persons should be protected against commercial sexual exploitation, regardless whether they are boys or girls and regardless of their nationality or any other discriminatory consideration.

However, governments and international agencies cannot fight CSEC and trafficking alone. Commitment and action is needed by NGO's, communities and individuals to ensure that children are protected from harm.



Although laws and policies are in place, individuals can also make certain that these are enacted by reporting any suspicious activity to police and ensuring that these are followed up with immediately.

## The Challenge: Under-reporting of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse<sup>6</sup>

Several factors explain the underreporting of sexual exploitation and abuse:

- Trading sex for food or other forms of support has become a survival tactic for the most vulnerable populations. As a result people will not speak out or report the abuse for **fear of losing much-needed material assistance**.
- The under-reporting is also related to the **fear of stigmatization**. Victims of abuse will refuse to report it for fear of being rejected or discriminated against by family or the community.
- In certain cultures girls and young women lose their dowry value if associated with sexual abuse or sexual relations before marriage. Thus, families will prefer to hide signs and evidence of sexual abuse in order to **avoid reduction of economic returns** when receiving a dowry in exchange for their daughters.
- A common deterrent against reporting abuse is the **threat of retribution or retaliation**. Children in particular fear their parents will beat them. Other victims fear retaliation from the perpetrator if speaking out or reporting the abuse.
- In most cases people **lack knowledge on how to report** an allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse. In some cases confusion of reporting procedures were also evident among individual organizations
- Vulnerable groups **feel powerless to report** an abuse. Victims fear authorities will not believe them, that they will not receive the support of the family or they will be denied physical access to contact managers of the perpetrators' organization.

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<sup>6</sup>Source: "No One to Turn To – The under-reporting of child sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers and peacekeepers," Save the Children, 2008

- Communities experiencing humanitarian crisis **lack effective legal services** to which cases of abuse can be reported. Government services might not be available or the police dislocated, resulting in a **chronic lack of faith** in the response an allegation of sexual abuse would receive.
- In order to stop the abuse from occurring, punish the perpetrator and help the victim, one must understand the **cultural barriers** to reporting sexual exploitation and abuse.

### **The Challenge: Addressing the demand for commercial sexual exploitation of children**

- Proactive measures must be taken to ensure that the fight against CSEC and trafficking is addressed at the root cause of the problem – demand. Men are the most common clients or perpetrators for children involved in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking and raising awareness with men on the harmful effects is extremely crucial.
- Due to the clandestine nature of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, society often does not see the effects of these actions and these matters are not habitually discussed in public forums. Social norms regarding masculinity and gender based violence portrayed by peers as well as in the media often lead to misconceptions by men and youths on what is acceptable behavior towards women and girls.
- In situations where there is a lack of community based support systems as well as a lack of awareness on the matter, these issues can take root and be extremely hard to eradicate.

*The education system can be used as an effective tool in raising awareness as well. In the United States, programs such as “empowering young men to end sexual exploitation” have been developed and implemented at high schools. These programs educate young men on the harmful effects of prostitution and enlists them as allies in the fight against violence against women and girls. Young men completing the curriculum have reported changes in their thinking about commercial sex and a willingness to share what they have learned with other men.*

- Work can be done to foster the belief that it is everyone’s responsibility to do their part to reduce the demand for commercial sex. It is especially important to reach young men with a strong message of demand reduction to help them understand the exploitation that is prevalent in the commercial sex trade.
- Awareness programs at the community and national level can advocate for the safety of children from commercial exploitation as well as highlighting the harm that this causes.

## **The Challenge: CSEC, trafficking and the Internet**

The rise of the internet and increased use of technology have led to more children being exploited in the commercial sex trade. For instance, pimps use the internet, text messaging, and digital and web cameras to set up “dates” for their “girls.” The girl never has to leave the van she is sitting in or the hotel room where she has been placed to be exploited, making her harder to find and harder to save.



The Internet has been significantly misused as a tool for the dissemination of child pornography. Estimates indicate that the number of child abuse images online runs in to the millions and the number of individual children depicted is most likely in the tens of thousands while the age of victims has tended to decrease and representations are becoming more graphic and violent.

The use of internet by children must be monitored closely to ensure no harmful images and/or messages are being received. With the availability of mobile phones with internet access, this is becoming especially difficult as more and more young children are now online with social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram. The best way to ensure that CSEC and Trafficking do not take place is to prevent it in the first place. Below are some tips for parents on how to protect their children from sexual predators on the internet.

### **Tips for parents on protecting your children online**

- **Place your computer in a common area of the house.** This is probably the most important thing you can do. Do not let your children be in their rooms all night on the Internet. The mere presence of parents can have a tremendous effect on a child's online activities. It's much more difficult for a computer sex offender to communicate with a child when the computer screen is visible to a parent or other member of the household.
- **Educate yourself about computers and the Internet.** You need to know how to use the Internet in order to know what your children are doing on it. Check with your ISP (Internet Service Provider) for information on using all of their services. They usually have tools that allow parents to block certain types of internet activity.

- **Spend time with your children online.** Ask your children how they use the Internet and have them teach you about their favorite destinations. Make "surfing the Net" a family experience. Just as you look for good television programs for your children, take the time to find the best and most useful websites for them.
- **Make reasonable rules and set time and use limits and enforce them.** You should set guidelines about what your children can and cannot do on the Internet. Try to understand their needs, interest and curiosity. But, you must set limits on when they may use the Internet and for how long.
- **Educate yourself and your child about the dangers of the Internet.** Teach your children about sexual victimization and other potential dangers of the Internet. Talk openly and honestly with your children about what they are doing on the Net and what your concerns are.
- **Do not allow your child to go into private chat rooms, especially when you are not present.** Computer sex offenders will often meet potential victims using chat rooms. Later, they'll attempt to communicate with children by way of e-mail or instant messaging. If you can, try to keep your child out of chat rooms altogether. You never know who is in a chat room watching and waiting for a victim.
- **Reinforce the guiding rule, "Don't talk to strangers".** Tell your children what they are told online may, or may not, be true. No matter how much their online "buddies" seem like friends who share interests, they are still strangers. Remember, cyber molesters and paedophiles pretend to be children online as they can't be seen.

- **Put accounts in your name and know your child's passwords.** The Internet account and primary screen name should be in your name, not your children's names. It's also a good idea to know your children's passwords and let them know you will check their online activity.
- **Never allow your children to arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they met online without your permission.** Many predators want to meet a child for sexual contact. Your child should never meet a stranger alone in a face-to-face meeting. If you ever do agree to a meeting, make sure it is in a public place and accompany your child.
- **Do not let your child give out any personal information of any kind on the Internet.** Children should never give out their name, home address, telephone number or school name. They should be aware that even naming a friend, local sports team, shopping mall or community event could give away their identities.
- **Do not let your child download or upload pictures without your permission.** Predators will often send photographs or visuals to children as part of a grooming process to gain trust. Some of the photographs may be pornographic and may even involve child pornography.
- **Utilize your Internet Service Provider's parental controls and commercial blocking and filtering software tools.** Most ISP's have parental controls - use them. Other filtering and monitoring software programs can be purchased separately. Monitors show a history of use so you can see where your child has been on the Internet. Filters block access to objectionable material. Remember, while parents should utilize monitors and filters, do not totally rely upon them. There is no substitute for parental guidance and supervision.

- **Be sensitive to changes in your children's behaviours that may indicate they are being victimized.** Be alert to personality changes. If victimized online, children may become withdrawn from their families or secretive about their activities. Computer sex offenders work very hard at driving a wedge between children and their parents.
- **Be alert to a teenager or adult who is paying an unusual amount of attention to your children or giving them gifts.** Most sexual offenders are not just satisfied with the computer. Eventually, they want to talk to the children on the telephone, engage in "phone sex" and set up a meeting. As part of a "seduction" process, a sexual offender may send letters, photographs, gifts or packages to potential victims. Some offenders have even sent children digital cameras and plane tickets.
- **Be aware of other computers your children could be using.** Your children probably use computers at the library, school, friends' houses and internet cafes and these may not have parental restrictions and may be used to view inappropriate material. Talk to your children about other computers they use.
- **Be aware of your child using another person's screen name.** Watch for your child using an online account belonging to someone else in order to bypass filters or monitors on your computer. Computer sex offenders may provide potential victims with a computer account for communication with them.
- **Develop a "contract" with your children about their Internet use.** You may want to develop an agreement or "contract" with your children about their use of the Internet. A pledge from your children to follow certain rules on the Internet may develop trust.

- **Review the user 'history' or logs of your computer to see where your children have been.** By clicking on Windows Explorer and checking such files as Cookies, Temp History, Internet History or Cache files, you can see what your children have been doing online. You can also check the recycle bin or deleted files to see what's been erased. If you suspect your child is deleting material, some programs will "undelete" files. Remember that some things are not stored unless a person saves or prints it, e.g., instant messages and chat conversations.

## Action points for communities

- The most cost-effective way to fight child trafficking is to stop it before it happens. Effective prevention requires an understanding of the problem at its root and finding ways to minimize risk factors.
- Educating young people in the community on the harmful effects of CSE and trafficking is extremely important in eradicating these issues. If youths and children are aware of these, they can look out for signs and possible danger signals and be better prepared.
- Child participation is crucial. Individual children can be helpful in identifying children that are most in need, as well as in finding meaningful ways to assist them
- Awareness programmes should be carried out in communities through neighbourhood committees and pamphlets may be distributed on CSE and trafficking.
- Community vigilance or monitoring committees can be developed to identify risk factors and ensure that these mitigated and do not develop further. These can be linked with community police programmes to ensure that risks identified outside the community which may have an impact within the community are also accounted for.
- Community child protection policies can be developed to ensure children's rights are protected. Everyone in the community can be informed of these and educated on the harmful effects of violence against children.

## Action points for national authorities and stakeholders

- Learning from former victims is instrumental in determining risk factors and their interplay. It is also crucial in targeting the children that are most vulnerable to (re)trafficking.
- Local communities at source and destination points need to be empowered to understand what creates vulnerability to trafficking and determine age-specific remedial action that includes education for children under 15 and school/work solutions for children of minimum working age.
- Recruiters and middle men are only half of the equation. We must also address the responsibility of clients and employers who take advantage of vulnerability for special gain. Public indifference must also be fought. This includes indifference to such activities as child begging and exploitation of children in domestic work.
- State policy must provide protection and this policy must be enforced. Law enforcement and policy initiatives should include restrictive and preventive steps to stop the recruiters, traffickers and exploiters from causing more harm. It should also focus on the creation of decent work alternatives for families whose children are at risk of trafficking.
- Focusing on preventing migration pushes trafficking further underground. It is better to emphasize reducing vulnerability to trafficking in the process of movement. This implies an understanding of risk factors and cause-effect relations.
- Providing financial support to families and children who are at risk of CSE and trafficking is also crucial as is providing them with alternative methods of generating income – which can involve the provision of skills training and certification.

## Contact List

Contact any of the following in your country for more information, referrals or assistance:

Country	Agency Name	Phone/Hotline/Email	Address
Cook Islands	Punanga Tauturu Inc. (Cook Islands Women's Counselling Centre)	Phone: (682) 21133 (682) 551349 Email: lrto@pti.org.ck	PO Box 205 Rarotonga Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia	Chuuk Women's Advisory Council (HIV and STI Program)	Phone: (691) 330 4777 (691) 330 2579 Email: chuukhivaidprogram@yahoo.com	PO Box 400 Weno Chuuk State 96942, FSM
Fiji	Empower Pacific	Lautoka Counselling Centre Phone: (679) 625 4226 Email: lautoka.empowerpacific@gmail.com	
	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre	Phone: (679) 331 3300 (679) 920 9470 Email: fwcc@connect.com.fj	
	Medical Services Pacific	Mobile Speed Dial: 5640 Phone: 9910894	
Kiribati	AiaMaeaAinen Kiribati (AMAK)	Phone: (686) 28517 Email: amakwomen@yahoo.com	PO Box 75, Bikenibeu Tarawa, Kiribati
	Crisis Centre	Phone: 28085	
	Kiribati Family Health Association	Phone: (686) 22885 Email: kfha@tskl.net.ki	BO Box 497 Bairiki Tarawa, Kiribati
	Kiribati Police Service Domestic Violence & Sexual Offence Unit (DVSO)	Hotline: 188 Police Main Headquarter 192 stations Phone: 26187	Police Headquarter PO Box 470 Betio Tarawa Kiribati



<b>Country</b>	<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Phone/Hotline/Email</b>	<b>Address</b>
Nauru	Healthy Island Promotion Centre	Phone: (674) 444 3883 ext. 115 444 3881	
Niue	Niue Council of Women	Phone: (638) 4144	
Papua New Guinea	Meri Toksave Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC)	Phone: (675) 321 1397 Email: ume.wainetti@cimcpng.org (National Program Coordinator Ms. Ume Wainetti)	PO Box 1530 Port Moresby www.cimcpng.net
Republic of the Marshall Islands	Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI)	Phone: (692) 625 4296 Email: wutmi@ntamar.net	PO Box 195 Majuro Marshall Islands
Samoa	Domestic Violence Unit (ask for DVU)	Phone: 22222	
	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Development – Division of Women	Phone: 27752/27753	
	Samoa Family Health Association (SHFA)	Phone: (685) 269 29 Email: sfha@lesamoa.net	PO Box 3029 Apia, Samoa
	Samoa Victim Support Group	Hotline: 800 7874 Phone: 27904	
Solomon Islands	Christian Care Centre (Overnight shelter): SEIF Ples 24677	Phone: 24677	
	Family Support Centre (counselling):	Phone: 28406	
	National Referral Hospital:	Phone: 20619 26999 A/h: 7500772	

Country	Agency Name	Phone/Hotline/Email	Address
Solomon Islands	Police	Hotline: 132 23666 (toll free) Phone: 21383/23666	
	Police Sexual Assault Unit:	Phone: 23600 ext. 357 A/h: ext. 313 Emergency: 24452	
	Public Solicitor's Office (Legal aid, protection order):	Phone: 7479326 7484778	
Tokelau	OritaNauHokai – Office of the Faipule	Email: nuah@tokelau.net.nz	
Tonga	Domestic Violence Unit	Phone: (676) 26296 (676) 28983	Domestic Violence Unit Tonga Police Force Tonga
	Tonga National Children and Women's Centre	Phone: (676) 26567 (676) 28843	Halaleva Tongatapu
	Women and Children Crisis Centre	Phone: (676) 22240	Tungi Colonnade Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Women's Centre (VWC)	Hotline: 678 24000 Phone: 678 25764	



From 2008 to 2013, the Tackling Child Labour through Education or TACKLE programme, a global child labour programme funded by the European Union, was implemented by the International Labour Organization in 12 countries (eight countries in Africa, two in the Caribbean and Fiji and Papua New Guinea in the Pacific).

TACKLE strengthened the capacity of the Fiji and PNG governments, social partners and civil society groups to implement policies and strategies to address child labour issues, including conducting research, training, legislative reviews, awareness and advocacy, child labour inspections, and direct actions with children in child labour, children at risk, families, schools and communities.

“Building regional efforts for eliminating the worst forms of child labour and trafficking in Pacific Island Countries” is an ILO Pacific sub-regional project that builds on the initiatives of TACKLE in Fiji and PNG and extends technical support to Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Samoa.

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