

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Co-Sponsored by:

- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Capacitar International, Inc.

This issue highlights aspects of the commercial exploitation of children globally and efforts to combat it.

Vol. 3 No. 6 June 15, 2005

## Sexual Exploitation of Children Is Hidden

Because the commercial sexual exploitation of children is largely hidden, accurate data on its occurrence is difficult to collect. When surveys do exist, definitions of child prostitution and sexual exploitation vary. Some estimates include street children who may sell sex if someone makes an offer; others include children working only in brothels or massage parlors, where many are kept in a state indistinguishable from slavery. Even though incomplete, the data show a serious problem.

- In **Lithuania**, 20 to 50 per cent of prostitutes are believed to be minors. Children as young as age 11 are known to work as brothel prostitutes, and children from children's homes, some 10 to 12 years old, have been used to make pornographic movies.
- In **Cambodia**, *Human Rights Vigilance* personnel surveyed 6,110 prostitutes in the city of Phnom Penh and in 11 provinces. Of those interviewed 31 per cent were children aged 12 to 17.
- Debt bondage is often the way girls enter prostitution in many Asian countries, including **India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan** and **Thailand**. The girl must work off the money given to parents or a guardian and cannot leave prostitution until the debt is fully paid. Girls

make little money, and expenses such as rent, transportation and food are added to the debt, making it extremely difficult to pay off.

- In **Thailand**, close to \$300 million is estimated to be transferred annually from urban to rural areas by women working in the sex trade in urban areas.
- A Pakistani study found that, based only on reported cases, at least one rape incident involving a woman or child occurs on average every three hours in **Pakistan**.
- Research involving advanced secondary and university students in **Sri Lanka** revealed that 12 per cent of girls said they had experienced sexual abuse as children, and that even more boys – 20 per cent – said they had. Girls avoided divulging to the researchers their relationship to the perpetrators. Boys most often said it was a family member.
- In **south-eastern Europe**, women and children are often trafficked through the same routes used to smuggle drugs and arms. According to a survey by *India Today* magazine, there are between 400,000 and 500,000 child prostitutes in India.
- In **Mexico**, a study of six cities

Exploitation *cont. pg. 2*

## What About Boys ?

Boys are also vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. Although girls tend to be exploited in organized clubs, brothels or houses, boys spend their time on their own or in small groups and are targeted in streets, parks, plazas and beaches.

- In **Sri Lanka** an estimated 20,000-30,000 child prostitutes are primarily boys.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, beach boys, some as young as 13, become the sex tourist's annual partner.
- In **Haiti**, sex between local boys and adult male tourists from the US and Europe has existed in the tourist industry for years.
- In **Prague** men exploit boy prostitutes, the majority between 14 and 20 years of age. Foreign clients include doctors, businessmen and politicians. The younger the boy, the higher the price.
- In **Africa**, young boys are often recruited into the armed forces not only to fight, but also to sexually service the soldiers.



# Profiting From Abuse

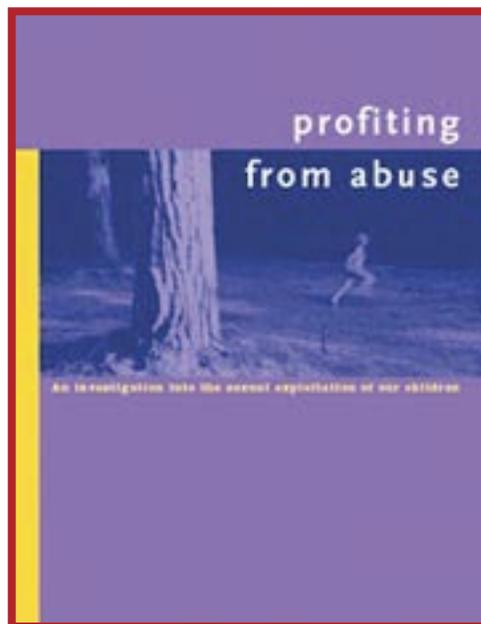
## An Investigation Into the Sexual Exploitation of Our Children

The commercial sexual exploitation of children assumes many forms and has many faces. Children are enslaved by a chain of actors, all of whom profit in some way.

The UNICEF report, *Profiting From Abuse: An Investigation Into The Sexual Exploitation Of Our Children*, won the prestigious *Notable Government Documents Award* given by the *Library Journal* of the *American Library Association* in 2002. The publication, a tribute to the courage of the many children who have been affected by the inhuman commercial sex trade, conveys the words and experiences of young people: how they become involved in the commercial sex trade, how they feel about their lives, what they need, what they fear and what they hope for.

It presents the passionate and informed opinions of distinguished personalities and authorities: *President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo* of the Philippines writes with passion about the horror she feels and about her unequivocal commitment to fight the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*, the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the UN Office in Geneva, writes a poignant essay about efforts to help young women who have been trafficked to Italy from Nigeria.



### Exploitation *cont. pg. 1*

(Acapulco, Cancún, Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara, Tapachula and Tijuana) estimates that a total of 4,600 children are sexually exploited in these cities. At the national level, some 16,000 children are believed to be exploited.

- From 1996 to 1998, girls aged 17 and under constituted approximately 40 per cent of reported rape and attempted rape victims in **South Africa**. Twenty per cent of young women surveyed in southern Johannesburg reported a history of sexual abuse by the age of 18.

[www.unicef.org/pubsgen/profit/profit.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/pubsgen/profit/profit.pdf)

## Brazil Breaks Teenage Sex Ring

Brazilian police broke up a German-based sex trafficking ring, which offered European tourists sex with teenager girls in Brazil's poor northeast and shipped women to Europe for prostitution. The ring, led by a German businessman, allowed European tourists to go to its Web site and select the age, height, weight and color of Brazilian women in packaged sex tours costing US \$ 2,000-3,000.

When police raided the headquarters in Fortaleza, Ceara state, they arrested three Germans, four Italian tourists and five Brazilian employees.

Teenage girls, ages 16 and 17, were offered for prostitution, the officer who led the operation said. The ring also sent a number of Brazilian women to Europe to work as prostitutes. Police found pornographic photos of girls as young as four, provided by mothers, who worked for the ring. Police are trying to establish whether children were offered for prostitution.

As many as 500,000 Brazilian children may be victims of child prostitution in the nation of 180 million, according to the United Nations.

A year-long congressional probe accused leading Brazilian politicians, judges and priests of involvement in widespread child and teenage prostitution. It said law enforcement agencies were doing little to stop it.

<http://www.swissinfo.org/sen/swissinfo.html?siteSect=143&sid=5298457>



# Child Prostitution

According to ECPAT (*End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes*) child prostitution is a growing problem worldwide. Prostituted children are found in virtually every country, including the US, the UK, France, Germany and Japan.

In Asia alone, more than one million young boys and girls are engaged in commercial sexual activity. Annually, children as young as seven are forcibly trafficked and sold into prostitution. No one knows the actual number of victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the world today.

The reasons for this lack of evidence vary. In some regions, such as Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, evidence is primarily anecdotal. Until very recently, there has been no serious attempt to address the issues and very little research has been conducted in these areas.

In regions where research has been conducted, data collected is inadequate to present a true picture. Research on child prostitution tends to focus on its most visible forms, where information is easily accessible. Such prostitution takes place in lower class brothels or on the streets and in other public areas, such as around bus stations or in parks. This does not present a true picture of the nature nor extent of child prostitution. A great deal of the exploitation is clandestine, occurring through contacts in nightclubs or bars, or through high-end escort services where the abuse takes place in privately-rented apartments or hotels.

Government sources may underestimate numbers or completely deny the problem exists in order to protect their international reputation. Some

media reports sensationalize numbers. Furthermore, since commercial sexual exploitation of children is illegal, researchers attempting to collect data have been harassed, intimidated, or threatened.

## Money Driven

Child trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry and the traffickers — syndicated “professionals” or persons known to the victims — are the largest profiteers. Many prostituted children interviewed by the *Institute for the Protection of Children* said relatives introduced them to prostitution, while others said friends recruited them.

Poverty is the most important factor contributing to the growth of child prostitution. Children offer themselves or, in most cases, are sold for sex. In developing countries particularly, the lack of viable economic opportunities, especially in rural areas, combined with rising expectations and the lure of acquiring modern goods, increases the desire to profit even by exploitation.

ECPAT reports highly profitable sex tours cater to Japanese, European and American tourists, allowing the child sex trade to flourish. Big-spending sex tourists are the targeted clients because of the instant money and brisk business they bring in. Child sex “customers” come from all walks of life: married or single, male or female, wealthy tourists or budget travelers. They may be pedophiles traveling specifically to exploit children or travelers who did not plan their trip with the intention of abusing children.

Many social workers point to fear of AIDS as a main reason for the thriving trade in under-aged sex partners, as customers believe them to be “safe.”

Cultural myths also play a role—some Asians seek out young partners for their reputed rejuvenating or reinvigorating capabilities.

Anonymity, availability of children, and distance from the moral/social constraints that normally govern a person’s behavior also lead to abusive conduct in other countries. Tourists often justify their behavior, claiming prostitution is culturally acceptable in other countries or that they are “helping the child” by providing them with money.

But the problem is not solely due to foreigners. According to the *Women’s Education, Development, Productivity and Research Organization*, despite a “substantial number” of foreign customers in the Philippines for example, “*Filipinos are the main users of Filipinos forced into prostitution.*”

## The Children

Sex rings actively recruit vulnerable children and youth. These children experience all the forms of cruelty that modern-day society offers: violence, intimidation, sexual assault, and torture at the hands of brothel owners, clients, and even police. Victims typically report being slapped, kicked, beaten unconscious, burned with cigarettes, and raped for refusing to work.

Children are extremely vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS. As many as 70% of the children in brothels are HIV-positive. Contraceptives and condoms are virtually unknown or unused among children. Children regularly drink a concoction of water with a bit of detergent, believing that it prevents



## Awareness

The May 2005 *International Labor Organization (ILO) Report* states that 43% of trafficked people are used for forced commercial sexual exploitation (nearly half are children) and 32% are used for forced economic exploitation. The remainder are trafficked for a mixture of the above.

## ECPAT *cont. from pg. 3*

or cures gonorrhea, the most common sexually-transmitted disease.

The psychological impact of sexual exploitation is difficult to measure, but no less damaging. Many victims report feelings of shame, guilt and low self-esteem. Some children do not believe they are worthy of rescue. Others create a different reality and say that prostitution was their choice—that they want to help support their family or that their pimp is really their boyfriend who loves them.

Some suffer stigmatization by family or suffer from knowledge that they were betrayed by someone they trusted. Others suffer from nightmares, sleeplessness, hopelessness and depression—the same feelings as exhibited by victims of torture.

Prostituted children are not only abandoned by their parents, but by the social system as well. They are often subjected to cruel and sadistic physical abuse in addition to sexual abuse. There is profound trauma associated with being used in child prostitution and sex rings. The impact of the abuse can be life-long. To cope, some children turn to substance abuse or attempt suicide.

Survivors often lose a sense of personal power and have difficulty making good choices as adults. For the adult survivor of child abuse, there is no safe place.

### Growing Problem

Indifference and ignorance, societies that view children as economic commodities, the absence of and/or

inadequate legislation, corruption, and limited sensitization of law enforcement personnel are all factors that lead, directly or indirectly, to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Despite many efforts by dedicated groups and individuals, the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a sad situation that seems to be increasing in both scale and scope.

### Confronting the Trade

ECPAT, a network of 71 organizations working in 64 countries to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of children, collaborates with the tourism and travel industry. It uses programs in tourism training schools to raise awareness about child sex tourism. These organizations then raise awareness among travel clients through use of special luggage tags, ticket pouches, education manuals, in-flight videos, advertisements against child sex tourism, and codes of conduct for tour operators.

### The Laws

Government representatives from 159 countries, together with NGOs, UNICEF and other UN agencies, have committed themselves to a global partnership against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The *Agenda for Action* calls for improved coordination and cooperation, prevention measures, increased protection, rehabilitation efforts, and youth participation.

The *Agenda for Action* is not legally

binding, but there are several international conventions that contain articles offering protection to children from commercial sexual exploitation. States that ratify these conventions are legally bound to comply with their provisions. The most widely ratified convention, and perhaps the best known, is the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. This Convention calls for appropriate measures to prevent the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in unlawful sexual activity; the exploitative use of children in prostitution, pornography or other unlawful sexual activities; and the abduction, sale of or trafficking in children for any purpose.

Another strategy is to re-conceptualize child sexual exploitation as 'degrading treatment' and therefore a violation of the *UN Declaration of Human Rights*.

Excerpted from an article by Adam Matthews November 2004 [http://satyamag.com/nov04/adamsmatthews\\_theft.html](http://satyamag.com/nov04/adamsmatthews_theft.html)

The Virlanie Foundation  
[www.virlanie.org](http://www.virlanie.org)  
ECPAT [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)



## Advocacy

# 'The Code' and Child Sex Tourism

The *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* is a project joining the private sector tourism industry, UNICEF, and the children's rights NGO - ECPAT. Their goal: to prevent sexual exploitation of children at tourism destinations.

The tour operators and their umbrella organizations, travel agents, hotels, airlines, etc. that endorse the Code, commit themselves to:

1. Establish a corporate policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children.
2. Train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations.
3. Introduce clauses in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of sexual exploitation of children.

4. Provide information to travelers through catalogs, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, websites, etc.
5. Provide information to local "key persons" at destinations.
6. Report annually to member organizations.

The Code, initiated in 1998 by ECPAT Sweden in cooperation with Scandinavian tour operators and the *World Tourism Organization (WTO)*, has been advanced primarily with public funding provided by the European Commission, contributions from the European ECPAT partners, and with logistic support from the WTO and the tourism industry.

The Code is currently implemented globally by over 45 companies, 50 tour operators from 13 countries (including the 25 members of the *Tour Operator Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Developments*), travel agencies, tourism associations, tourism unions, and three hotel chains.

The number of tourists impacted by the Code is estimated at over 30 million per year.



Ambassador John R. Miller, Director of the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons looks on as Marilyn Carlson Nelson, CEO of Carlson Companies Inc., signs the Code of Conduct to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. To date Carlson Companies is the only US company to commit to the Code.

## Implementing the Code

**Australia** funded the *Child Wise Tourism* program, which collaborates with some members of the tourism industry, government agencies and local community-based organizations, to educate and raise awareness about child sex tourism. The program encourages the tourism industry, including hotels, tour guides, travel agencies and airlines, to learn about the practice and to become proactive in promoting child protection.

**France's** Ministry of Education and travel industry representatives developed guidelines on child sex tourism for tourism school curricula. Also, state-owned *Air France* allocates a portion of in-flight toy sales to fund child sex tourism awareness programs. *Air France* also produces in-flight videos raising awareness around the issue of child sex tourism. These videos are shown on flights to tourism destinations.

In **Gabon**, an innovative project distributed windshield stickers for local taxis to raise awareness about child trafficking and exploitation amongst taxi drivers and their customers.

From: *Combating Child Trafficking, Handbook For Parliamentarians*  
N° 9 2005, pg. 43

(Inter-Parliamentary Union / UNICEF)

In March 2005, 60 **Japanese** travel agents signed the *Code of Conduct* to forbid involvement of children in sex tours in Southeast Asia. At home, Japan has tried to curtail visa loopholes used in the sexual trafficking of women and girls. Source: [http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,6119,2-10-1462\\_1703916,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,6119,2-10-1462_1703916,00.html)



Action

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# Actions to Combat Child Sex Tourism

The Sisters of the Divine Savior *Anti-Human Trafficking Project* member, Sheila Novak SDS, prepared a practical action packet to help make travel agents and tourism companies aware of the crime of child sex tourism and the anti-trafficking Code of Conduct.

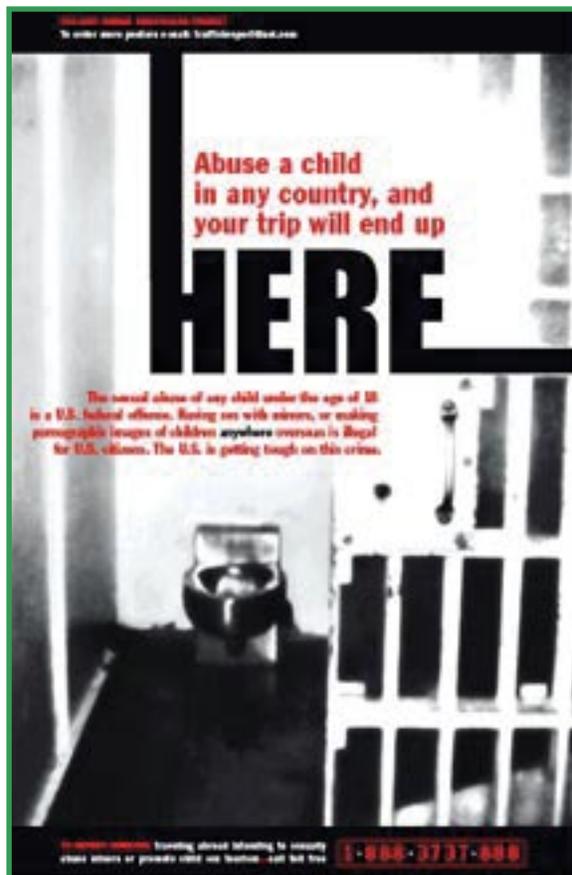
The Sisters of the Holy Names in Spokane WA used the packet to visit local travel agents. Their efforts were written up in the Spokane city newspaper, *The Spokesman-Review*, on March 30, 2005.

Sister Sheila, in collaboration with Natalie Carlson, a student from CA Cabrillo College Department of Graphic Arts, also prepared a poster (right) to warn travelers of the U.S. PROTECT Act legislation (see pg. 7). This poster can be taken to local travel agencies or hotels and motels to help raise awareness that having sexual encounters with minors is a federal felony with sentences up to 30 years in prison.

*If you wish copies of the poster or the action packet on commercial child sex tourism, please e-mail Sheila Novak SDS at [stoptraffick@aol.com](mailto:stoptraffick@aol.com) A donation toward printing and mailing costs is appreciated.*



Brochure available from ECPAT [info@ecpatusa.org](mailto:info@ecpatusa.org)





## Action

# What the U.S. Is Doing

The US Department of State *Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons* released a fact sheet detailing efforts by the US and other governments, NGOs and businesses to combat child sex tourism.

In 2003, the United States strengthened its ability to fight child sex tourism (CST) by passing the *Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act* and the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization (TVPA) Act*.

These laws increase penalties to a maximum of 30 years in prison for engaging in CST. Since the passage of the PROTECT Act, there have been over 20 indictments and over a dozen convictions of child sex tourists.

The *Department of Homeland Security* has developed the *Operation Predator* initiative to combat child exploitation, child pornography, and child sex tourism. The United States also is funding the NGO *World Vision* to conduct major public awareness campaigns overseas.

To bolster interagency, NGO, and private sector cooperation, the State Department has designated a point of contact to focus specifically on fighting CST. To report suspected incidents of child sex tourism call the *US Immigration and Customs Enforcement* tipline at: 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

Excerpted from the *CST Fact Sheet*.  
See pg. 4.

# Save the Children Sweden

published a report, *"Beyond All Tolerance: Child Pornography on the Internet - A Growing Problem Demanding New Counter-Measures,"* on the organization's experience in combating child pornography on the Internet. The aim of the report is to present ideas on how NGOs might work to fight against this problem.

The report begins with a description of the problem and then presents information on the Internet, on how pedophiles use the Internet, and on what *Save the Children Sweden* has done. It ends with suggestions and recommendations to fight child pornography on the Internet in other countries.

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Action

## Online Course on Sex Trafficking: University of Rhode Island

Today, the buying and selling of women and children for sexual purposes is one of the most profitable criminal activities in the world. Each year, an estimated one million children enter the global sex trade. On the Internet, child pornography and enticement of children for sexual purposes are the most significant cyber crimes, and distribution of obscene material is the most under-prosecuted cyber crime. Tolerance of the sex trade around the world has resulted in increased prostitution, sex tourism, and ubiquitous pornography. These forms of sexual exploitation have devastating consequences for the health and well being of millions of women and children. Victims suffer from physical injuries, psychological trauma, addictions, and infectious and sexually transmitted diseases. For the majority of victims their survival is at risk.

*Advanced Topics in Sex Trafficking (Women's Studies 490)* is an online course that will focus on the sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children through trafficking, pros-

titution, and pornography. Topics covered will include: the organization and operation of criminal networks, official corruption, the role of the state in facilitating and combating sexual exploitation, health effects, perpetrator behavior, and policy debates. There will be particular focus on victim needs and services. Course materials include theoretical essays, research reports, expert testimonies, prevention education materials, protocols for services, and curricula for recovery programs.

Students will access and participate in the course through WebCT at the University of Rhode Island. The class will be offered during the Fall semester (Sept 7 - Dec 9). Registration is open to non-URI students on July 6, 2005.

The instructor of the course is Dr. Donna M. Hughes, Professor and Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair in Women's Studies Program, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, USA 21788

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes>

For more information, email Dr. Hughes at: [dhughes@uri.edu](mailto:dhughes@uri.edu)

**Toll-Free Hotline:**  
(Trafficking Information and Referral)  
**1.888.3737.888**

### Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

**Abuse: UNICEF**  
[www.unicef.org/pubsgen/profiting/profitng.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/pubsgen/profiting/profitng.pdf)

**CST Fact Sheet 041405.pdf**  
[www.state.gov/g/tip](http://www.state.gov/g/tip)

**Code of Conduct**  
[www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)

**Save the Children Sweden**  
[www.savethechildrensweden.org](http://www.savethechildrensweden.org)

**ILO Report**  
[http://ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.GLOBALREPORTSLIST?var\\_language=EN](http://ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.GLOBALREPORTSLIST?var_language=EN)

**Editor's Note:**  
*If you know of good video/book resources, please notify us so we can pass the word on to other readers.*  
**Thank you!**

*Stop Trafficking!* is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*  
<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafer/sds/stoptraff/index.html>

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