



Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Abuse Justice and Support for Children

Who is responsible?

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ECPAT UK

A leading children's rights organisation

Research, Policy, Campaigning & Advocacy, Training & Education and Youth Development organisation

- Campaigning and Advocating for protection of children and prevention of child trafficking and transnational child abuse
- Fighting for the Fundamental Rights of children to be free from the threats of Trafficking, Abuse and Exploitation.
- Youth peer support group to promote active and meaningful participation of young victims of trafficking and exploitation in upholding the rights of children
- Network in more than 75 countries across the world



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Definition of human trafficking

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”.

Child - anyone under the age of 18

**UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime:
Article 3 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially
Women & Children, (2000)**

‘Palermo Protocol



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Human trafficking in the UK – the scale

- Jan- Mar 2015 – 731 referrals to NRM from 64 Countries of origin and 198 were children from 35 countries
- 2,340 potential victims were referred in to the National Referral Mechanism in 2014;
- 671 potential child victims (29%). 34% increase on 2013.
- The most prominent exploitation type recorded for potential victims first exploited as a minor, where known, was labour trafficking



Minor Referrals – By Country of Origin

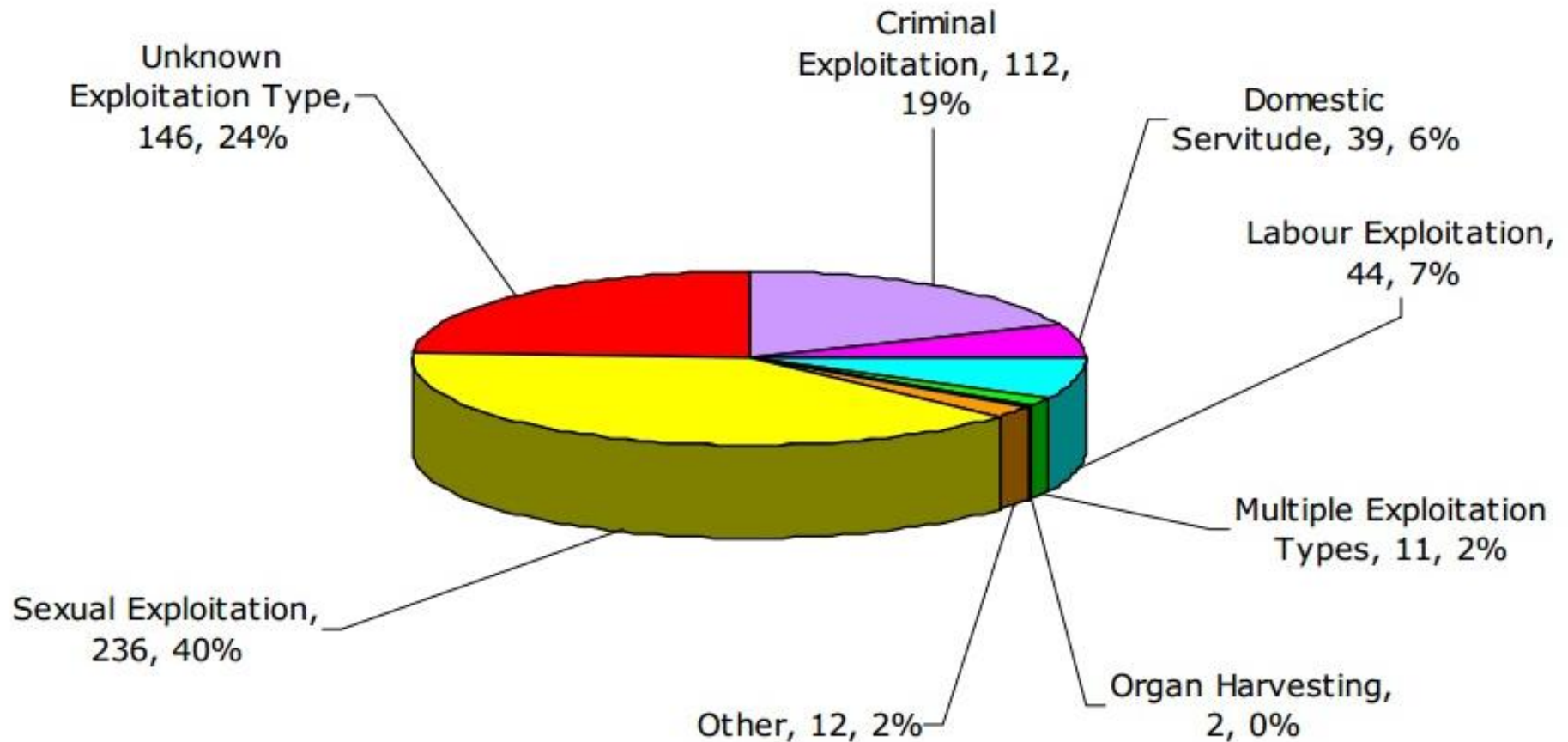
Rank	Country of Origin	Female	Male	Total	2013 – 2014 % Change
1	Albania	34	83	117	109%
• 2	Vietnam	33	76	109	43%
• 3	United Kingdom	70	5	75	19%
• 4	Slovakia	42	30	72	100%
• 5	Nigeria	38	16	54	69%
• 6	Bangladesh	9	11	20	100%
• 7	Eritrea	7	11	18	200%
• 8	Romania	13	4	17	39%
• 9	Afghanistan	2	14	16	78%
• 10	China	3	11	14	17%
• 10	DRC	12	2	14	100%





Child Exploitation/abuse

Exploitation types reported by child potential victims of trafficking identified



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Where does modern slavery take place in the UK

Brothels

Private homes

Farms

Traveller

Nail bars

Restaurant kitchens

Car washes farms

Shops

Streets

Care homes

Car washes

Garment factories

Food processing

Hotels

Shops

Offices



Response to Trafficking for Forced Criminality and Begging

EU project - RACE

Scale of the problem

- Theft in public places: shoplifting, pick pocketing, ATM linked crime,
 - Benefit fraud
 - Drugs production and distribution
 - Production and sale of counterfeit goods (DVDs, cigarettes, alcohol)
 - Begging by children and adults
 - Sham marriages
 - Other forms of theft: precious metal, charity bag collection
- More widespread than expected
 - In the UK at least 159 cases of forced labour in cannabis cultivation alone since 2011
 - In Ireland at least 25 cases since January 2014
 - First prosecutions for forced criminality in Austria, France, UK and the Netherlands





Victims and Key challenges

- Women, men and children
- Both EU and third country nationals
- Abuse of a position of vulnerability (APOV) present in all cases
- Vulnerability linked to many factors such as background (minorities, migrants); personal circumstances (poverty, addiction)

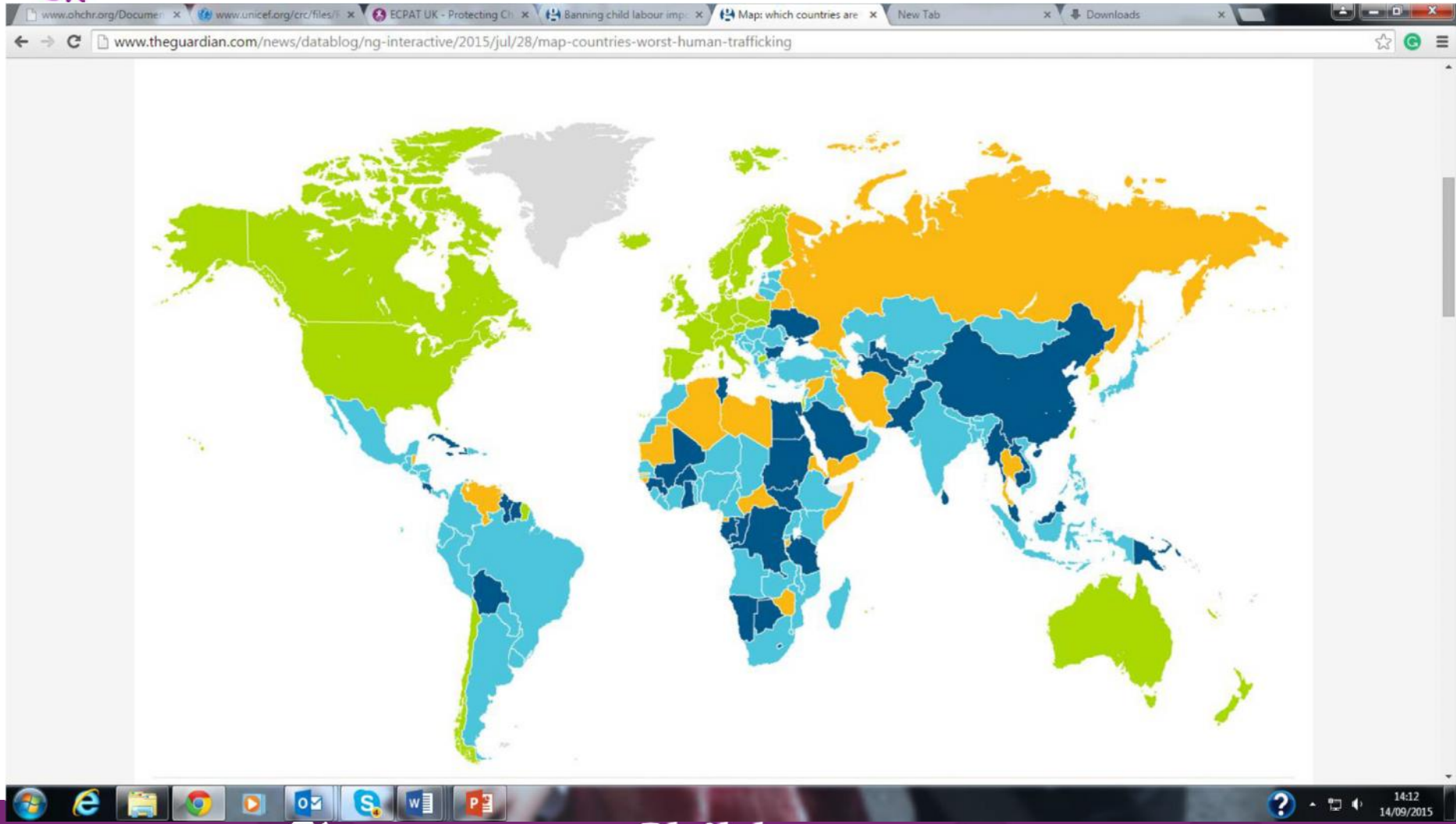
Key Challenges :

- Victims misidentified as offenders and prosecuted
- Victims exploited in multiple countries





Human trafficking Map – TIP Report



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Transnational and on-line child abuse

- Transnational investigation into live streaming of sexual abuse of Philippine children - 17 arrests of UK nationals including:
 - One man in possession of nearly **four million indecent images of children**,
 - T.F - paid for live abuse of children and had plans to move to Philippines to set up an internet cafe.
 - M. E, a registered sex offender, sentenced to 14 years, after he pleaded guilty to 5 charges of arranging sex offences involving children as young as 3 years old.

- 400 sex offenders have disappeared “off the radar” of UK law enforcement many are feared to flow to countries where child protection systems are weak or non-existent.





Why Child trafficking?Because they can.

- **Push factors:** Poverty or abuse at home, orphaned, being in care, lack of jobs and opportunities, homelessness
- **Pull factors:** False promise of better quality of life – access to education, livelihood opportunities and may be family connections
- **Vulnerability of children** – lack of social welfare and child protection systems
- **Lack of respect for children and their rights**
- **Demand and Supply**
- **Low Risk and high profit Business**





The Profits from forced labour in Private Economy Globally

ILO estimate - US\$150 billion per year

- 46.9 bn generated in Developed Economies and EU
- Annual profits per victim are highest in the developed economies (US\$34,800 per victim),
- the Middle East (US\$15,000 per capita),
- and lowest in the Asia-Pacific region (US\$5,000 per capita) and in Africa (US\$3,900 per capita).

Source: Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour, ILO

http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/publications/WCMS_243027/lang-en/index.htm



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Children 'particularly vulnerable'

- Traffickers 'groom' children to use them as criminals in crimes such as theft, shoplifting, cannabis cultivation, benefit fraud, drug selling and forced begging
- Growing phenomenon – in UK 'forced criminality' accounted for at least 24% of all child trafficking
- Children difficult to identify – Stockholm syndrome, fear, grooming, threats, violence, multiple abuses, trauma, loyalty to family members involved
- Age difficult to ascertain with false documents or no documents
- Failures to identify & safeguard at many levels: Police stations; prosecutors; courts; social workers; borders
- children seen as criminals/immigrants first, victims of child abuse second
- Failure to treat as a child protection issue
- Children lack knowledge of their own rights – need for specialist and independent legal guardians
- Lack of specialist child-specific training among practitioners
- Risk of going missing – lack of understanding of risk, protocols around missing and specialist accommodation





The impact of trafficking on children

- Deprived of their rights to health and freedom from exploitation and abuse; right to an education and the life opportunities this brings.
- The creation of a false identity and implied criminality of the children, together with the loss of family and community, may seriously undermine their sense of self worth and are vulnerable to Physical and psychological harm.
- Loss of childhood





The Hospitality sector

- **High risk sector** (one in 6 offences in hotels and B&B)
- Products and services supplied to the hotel being produced by forced or bonded labour, labour exploitation and unethical labour practices
- **Notice on Hotel** - Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act - Where there is reasonable belief that child sexual exploitation is taking place, Police can require the hotel (or equivalent) to provide the names and address of guests over a specific period. The hotel operator will hold a responsibility to help protect the children from sexual abuse
- **New Civil orders** – SHPO and SRO - restricting offenders activities including travel
- CEOP of the NCA – ICPC and a an on-line reporting system.
- **The Code** of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism - six criteria
- ECPAT UK - e-learning tools and training modules





UK's Modern Slavery Act 2015

- **Criminalising the acts of slavery, servitude and trafficking** - for forced or compulsory labour and sexual exploitation.
- **Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Order and Risk Order STPO & STRO** - restrict the activity of those who pose a risk or have been convicted -preventing a person from participating in a particular type of business, working with children, visiting a particular place or travelling to a specific country
- **Anti-slavery Commissionaire** – Independent with extended remit to include protection of victims
- A Commitment to introduce **Child Trafficking Advocates**



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Modern Slavery Act 2015....

- **Slavery Safeguarding Leads** - trained and accredited professionals who will refer cases to a single case management unit, with a multi agency panel making the trafficking decision within agreed time lines.
- **Statutory defence to protect victims from being criminalised,**
- **Transparency in supply chains (TISC)** – legal responsibility on companies (£36+ million a year) to publish an annual “slavery and human trafficking statement” disclosing steps taken to ensure their business and supply chains are free of slavery.
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- **The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)** - process of identifying, referring, assessing victims of trafficking and to be supported by the Government as directed under Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings (2005). Nearly 7000 people have been referred to the NRM since its establishment.





Recommendations

- Transpose fully the EU Directive (2011/36) –
 - Art. 8 EU Directive Non-criminalisation of victims
 - Increase awareness amongst criminal justice practitioners (police, prosecutors)
 - Insufficient transposition (policy rather than protection in law)
 - Link to National and Trans-National Referral Mechanisms
 - Training for criminal defence practitioners, Judges on THB and Non criminalisation
 - Upstream prevention and awareness raising
- Regular training to all frontline professionals who may encounter persons trafficked for forced criminality and begging - support victims
- Develop multi-agency approaches
- Collect and disaggregate data on child trafficking for range of exploitation
- Use of EUROPOL and EUROJUST tools - Joint Investigation Teams, more investigations will uncover more victims,
- Guarantee safe accommodation to child victims of trafficking





Cross-border cooperation – Multi agency

Law enforcement, protection services, Civil Society

- Increased sharing of intelligence
- Greater role for Europol to make recommendations to LEAs to instigate investigations
- Closer cooperation between Europol and Eurojust and interpol
- Make it a requirement for EU Law Enforcement Authorities to conduct and share human trafficking analysis to share with and be analysed by Europol



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Thank you

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