



**STOP**

**SEX TRAFFICKING  
OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**



# SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN NEW ZEALAND

## What is child trafficking?

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.

UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

A child is anyone under the age of 18 years.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## What's the problem?

### GLOBAL SEX TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a complex phenomenon fueled by the tremendous growth in the global sex market. Exploitation is driven by poverty, uneven development, official corruption, gender discrimination, harmful traditional and cultural practices, civil unrest, natural disasters and lack of political will to end it.

The number of child victims trafficked worldwide for sexual exploitation or cheap labour on an annual basis is 1.2 million.<sup>1</sup> Human trafficking, the third largest international crime, following illegal drugs and arms trafficking, is believed to be worth billions of dollars each year. Driving the trade is the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. Seventy-nine percent of all global trafficking is for sexual exploitation.<sup>2</sup>



## SEX TRAFFICKING IN NEW ZEALAND

To date, there have been no reported cases of trafficking in children for sexual purposes in New Zealand.<sup>3</sup> However, although the exact scale and nature of child trafficking for sexual purposes is not known, both the Human Rights Commission and the police acknowledge that there are children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the country.<sup>4</sup> For instance, the prostitution of children, child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children through information technology are manifestations of commercial sexual exploitation. In 2007, New Zealand authorities prosecuted 31 cases for the sexual exploitation of minors, resulting in 25 convictions, including five jail sentences, twelve community service sentences, three fines, two probation sentences and three acquitted cases.<sup>5</sup>

## Who gets trafficked?

Due to the lack of information on child trafficking in New Zealand, it is difficult to provide specific information on which type of children are at risk to trafficking. The demand for sex drives child sex trafficking globally while poverty, domestic violence and abuse, discrimination and the desire for a better life makes children vulnerable. Children are especially vulnerable to being trafficked because they are often poorly educated, easy to overpower and easy to control. Children may also be in a position where they believe they must help to support their families and may be sold or sent abroad by family members to do so. Street children, children in refugee camps, children whose family and community life has been disrupted and do not have someone to look out for them are all especially vulnerable to human trafficking.

Children may be at greater risk of trafficking from places where they are less protected. This may be because the law is weak or not properly enforced, or because children are less aware of the risks of trafficking and are more easily deceived. Countries are considered:

- 'Sending' or 'origin' - from where children are sent;
- 'Transit' - where the children might be moved through and temporarily kept on the way to their final destination; and
- 'Receiving' or 'destination' - where the children finally end up.

Depending on the reason for trafficking, some countries might only be sending, while others might be both sending and transit. Some countries can be all three. New Zealand is considered as a destination country for human trafficking.

In the region, there is much movement in terms of child trafficking flows. Child victims from the Southeast Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao and the Philippines) area are moved within the Greater Mekong Sub-region or sent to Taiwan, Japan and Australia.<sup>6</sup> Victims from China are moved to Southeast Asia (for transit) to Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia and Australia.<sup>7</sup> South Korean victims are also trafficked to Hong Kong, Japan and Australia.<sup>8</sup>

## Who creates demand?

Traffickers prey on children and young people to meet the sexual demands of paedophiles and people who pay for sex. Any person who patronises the commercial sex market may end up sexually exploiting a child. There is no common profile of perpetrators who sexually exploit children – they may be young, old, married, single; they come from all types of socio-economic backgrounds and work in all kinds of professions. New Zealanders have been charged with sexually exploiting children abroad, such as in India, Fiji, Thailand and Cambodia.<sup>9</sup>

### CASE STUDIES

- Malcolm Anthony Hatfield, 58-year-old Aucklander, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in Cambodia for debauchery with four boys (11-16 years old) and ordered to pay \$2,000 to each victim.<sup>10</sup>
- In March 2008, a man was found guilty of seven charges under the Prostitution Reform Act for commercial sexual exploitation of minors in his brothel. He was sentenced to 27 months in prison.<sup>11</sup>
- A man was sentenced to one year of home detention for sexually exploiting two teenagers, aged 14 and 16 years in his brothel in February of 2008.<sup>12</sup>
- New Zealand police conducted a red-light district raid in Auckland and identified 16 minors suspected of being forced into commercial sexual activities by pimps and gang leaders in exchange for accommodation, food and drugs. This case is currently pending.<sup>13</sup>

## Who are the traffickers?

Traffickers can be a stranger or someone the child knows, such as a relative or a friend. Traffickers are often part of an organised criminal network that ‘recruits’ children and supplies them with fake identification and transportation arrangements. They may also pose as boyfriends or girlfriends in order to convince children to leave for a new life.

## How can we stop the trafficking of children?

### LAW AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- New Zealand must ratify the *Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*.
- Sensitisation of law enforcement officers and other key stakeholders on trafficking in children, how to improve child victim identification, provide child-friendly legal and care processes and improvement on its prosecution of traffickers must be implemented by New Zealand.
- Further research or analysis must be conducted on the trafficking of children to and within New Zealand to assess the nature of the problem and collect segregated, detailed data regarding cases of child trafficking.
- Sentences for convicted persons sexually exploiting children must reflect the gravity of the crime. As illustrated in the case studies above, sentences of convicted offenders are very “light”.

International Conventions/Laws	Date of Ratification by New Zealand	Date of Reports Submitted	UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Recommendations for New Zealand
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	1993	Initial Report – 1995 Second Report - 2003	The Committee recommends that New Zealand ratify the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Signed (2000) but not yet ratified	N/A	N/A
The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women & Children	2002	N/A	N/A
ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour	2001	N/A	N/A

## PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- A nationwide programme for the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation (including victims of child prostitution, child pornography or online sexual exploitation) must be urgently developed to ensure efficient referral of cases and that all areas of the country are covered.
- Interventions and services need to be accessible to children, especially those in difficult circumstances, such as those living on the streets, victims of domestic violence and/or those who are substance abusers.

## TO REPORT A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING, CONTACT:

- New Zealand Police – Emergency 111
- ECPAT New Zealand: Telephone: 09 376 5252; Online reporting: [www.childalert.org.nz](http://www.childalert.org.nz)

## MORE INFORMATION

- ECPAT New Zealand: <http://www.ecpat.org.nz/>
- ECPAT International: [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)
- The Body Shop and ECPAT Stop Trafficking of Children and Young People Campaign : [www.thebodyshop.com/stop](http://www.thebodyshop.com/stop)

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## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> UNICEF. *UNICEF calls for increased efforts to prevent trafficking of children*. 16 June 2007. [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_40002.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_40002.html)
- <sup>2</sup> UNODC. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2009. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>4</sup> Ministry of Justice of New Zealand. "Protecting Our Innocence" 2006. Accessed at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/2006/stocktake-commercial-exploitation-children/index.html>
- <sup>5</sup> US State Department. *Trafficking in Persons Report 2008*. Accessed from: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>
- <sup>6</sup> ECPAT International. *ECPAT International Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children for (Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, Australia)*. ECPAT International. Bangkok 2006. <http://www.ecpat.net>
- <sup>7</sup> US State Department. *Trafficking in Persons Report 2008*. Accessed from: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>9</sup> ECPAT International. *ECPAT International Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New Zealand*. Bangkok. 2006. <http://www.ecpat.net>
- <sup>10</sup> John Hopkins University & The Projection Project. "International Child Sex Tourism." 2007.
- <sup>11</sup> US State Department. *Trafficking in Persons Report 2008*. Accessed from: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid.

## NOTES



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