



STOP

**SEX TRAFFICKING
OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**



SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN GERMANY

What is child trafficking?

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

UN Convention against Transnational Organised 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.¹ 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.²



CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IN GERMANY

Germany is considered a country of destination for cross-border trafficking in children for sexual purposes, and it is also a producer of pornographic materials.³ Big cities in Germany, such as Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Mannheim are destinations for trafficked children.⁴ It is believed that Germany's sex industry alone made approximately US\$7.5 billion dollars in 2003, thus making it a key destination for sex trafficking.⁵ In 2007, the German Government identified 689 victims of human trafficking, 81 of whom were children.⁶

Who gets trafficked?

Although the exact scale of child sex trafficking is unknown, children (especially girls, as 95% of the human trafficking victims identified in 2007 in Germany were females) are trafficked for sexual purposes into Germany mainly from Eastern European countries, especially Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Poland and Russia. Child victims have also been identified from Nigeria, Brazil and the Caribbean.⁷ In addition, there have been cases of boys from the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania who have been trafficked to Frankfurt for work in the German sex industry.⁸ Experts believe that the number of male victims is higher but they seem to be more hidden. Most of the child victims aged 14 to 18 identified are of German origin (49%).⁹ Furthermore, people are trafficked from Germany into the United Kingdom and Scandinavian countries.¹⁰ Data pertaining to criminal investigations of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, published by the German Federal Criminal Police Office, show that 454 such investigations against 624 suspects were completed in 2007. The investigations concerned 689 victims, 12% of whom were minors (almost half being Germans trafficked within the country).¹¹

There is only very limited information about younger children (under 12) trafficked for sexual purposes in Germany. The trafficking of younger children has a different structure within organised crime than the trafficking of adolescents. Often, the German Federal State police would usually investigate these cases of young children victims as sexual abuse and not as trafficking cases. Experts believe that the number of male victims is higher than thought but the problem is more hidden.¹²

Children are mainly trafficked to Germany for sexual exploitation. But some are also trafficked for work such as domestic servitude and other exploitative uses. More and more children have been trafficked for begging and stealing in the last three years.¹³ Because of the particular vulnerability of children, however, children trafficked for other uses are usually sexually exploited and abused as well.

Children are especially vulnerable to being trafficking because they are often less educated, easy to overpower and easy to convince that they must do what an adult tells them to do. They are also in a position where they believe they must help support the family and may even 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 be only a sending country, while others might be both a sending and transit country. Some countries can be all three. Germany is a destination and transit country, plus German children are trafficked within Germany.



For child trafficking, **Germany** is primarily considered as a:

- origin country
- ✓ transit country
- ✓ destination country
- ✓ internal/domestic country

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 patronizes the commercial sex market may end up sexually exploiting a child. There is actually no common profile of perpetrators who sexually exploit children – they may be young, old, married, single; they come from all kinds of socio-economic backgrounds and work in all kinds of professions. German men also sexually exploit children abroad, traveling to destinations such as Cambodia, Thailand, Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka and the Czech-German border region.¹⁴

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. They may also pose as boyfriends or girlfriends in order to convince children to leave for a new life. According to data published by the German Federal Criminal Police Office, 49% of the 714 suspected traffickers identified in 2007 were German nationals; however, 71 of these suspects were not born in Germany. The second largest group of suspects was Turkish nationals, followed by Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Polish nationals.¹⁵

CASE STUDY

Trafficker Arrested

A German citizen was arrested at the Romanian border while attempting to traffic and force into prostitution three women between the ages of 14 and 22. Through interviewing the suspect, police learned that the man recruited girls with false jobs and promises of marriage, appointments with clients and payment arrangements.¹⁶

Trafficked from Poland

Elize, 17 years old, was offered a job taking care of an elderly lady in Berlin. A Polish man drove her to Berlin where he took away her passport and forced her into prostitution. She then met a man who helped her to report to the German police. Elize was later referred to a counseling center which helped her receive support as part of the witness protection programme.¹⁷

How can we stop the trafficking of children?

LAW AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Germany must comply with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child as it agreed to do as a signatory to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
- Protection against trafficking should be granted to all children under 18 as required by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
- To reduce impunity and ensure enforcement of extraterritorial law, police and judicial cooperation must be strengthened with countries that register a high level of crimes against children being committed by German nationals.
- Resources for police and public prosecution services fighting human and child trafficking should be increased at the state and federal level.
- Multi-stakeholder trainings must be conducted for local police officers, social and youth services and other authorities working with children to identify cases of child trafficking for sexual exploitation.

International Convention/Law	Date of Ratification by Germany	Date of Reports Submitted	UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Recommendations for Germany
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	1992	Initial Report: 1995 2001	Pursue its efforts to combat sexual exploitation of and trafficking in children by effectively implementing its Plan of Action
Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Signed on 6 Sep 2000 but not yet ratified	Not yet	N/A
The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	June 2006	N/A	N/A N/A
ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour	2002	N/A	

PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- Prevention activities need to focus more on the interconnection between the various forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children and clearly inform children on all the different risks associated with trafficking, prostitution and pornography.
- Prevention programmes must give more attention to migrant minors who are at high risk of being involved in commercial sexual exploitation.
- More research on trafficking issues (on victims, demand and traffickers strategies and involvement of organised criminal groups) must be carried out to inform targeted prevention strategies, policies and assistance programmes.
- More investigations have to be conducted to assess the problem of boys victims
- Provisions for the care and guardianship of children involved in trafficking must be fully implemented at the federal level, and through the creation of a specific budget for victims' assistance services.

TO REPORT A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING, CONTACT:

- Human Trafficking Hotline 01802006110 and Email: stoppt-zwangsprostitution@web.de

MORE INFORMATION

- ECPAT Germany: www.ecpat.de
- ECPAT International: www.ecpat.net
- The Body Shop and ECPAT Stop Trafficking of Children and Young People Campaign : www.thebodyshop.com/stop

Endnotes

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- ² UNODC. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2009. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>
- ³ ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children-Germany*. Bangkok. 2006. http://www.ecpat.net/A4A_2005/PDF/Europe/Global_Monitoring_Report-GERMANY.pdf
- ⁴ Ackermann, Lea. Unpublished, Boppard, Germany. 2009. For further information contact Solwodi (www.solwodi.de).
- ⁵ Fabien Novial, "Germany, a Gateway to the West for Eastern Europe's Trafficked Women," Agence France Presse, 26 January 2004
- ⁶ German Federal Criminal Police, "Human trafficking National Situation Report 2007", Wiesbaden, 2008
- ⁷ German Federal Criminal Police. *Human Trafficking National Situation Report 2007*. Wiesbaden. 2008. Available at: http://www.bka.de/lageberichte/mh/2007/mh2007_en.pdf
- ⁸ International Organization for Migration. *Trafficking in Unaccompanied Minors: Germany*. Paris. 2002. Available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/migration/Source/MalagaRegConf/Trafficking_unaccompanied_minors_European_Union_en.pdf
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- ¹⁰ US Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 2008.
- ¹¹ German Federal Criminal Police, "Human trafficking National Situation Report 2007", Wiesbaden, 2008
- ¹² In Via(Hg): *Handel mit Kindern – Ein Überblick über den IST-Zustand in Deutschland 2007*, Berlin
- ¹³ In Via(Hg): *Handel mit Kindern – Ein Überblick über den IST-Zustand in Deutschland 2007*, Berlin
- ¹⁴ Global Monitoring Report: Germany, 2006. http://www.ecpat.net/A4A_2005/PDF/Europe/Global_Monitoring_Report-GERMANY.pdf
- ¹⁵ German Federal Criminal Police, "Human trafficking National Situation Report 2007", Wiesbaden, 2008
- ¹⁶ Top News. Suspected German Human Trafficker Arrested in Romania. August 2008. Accessed at: <http://www.topnews.in/suspected-german-human-trafficker-arrested-romania-261633>
- ¹⁷ In Via, 2007, Berlin, unpublished manuscript, ECPAT Germany.



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