



STOP

**SEX TRAFFICKING
OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**



SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN RUSSIA

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 RUSSIA

It is estimated that among 80,000 to 130,000 sex trade victims in Moscow, 20 to 25% are minors.³ Statistics provided by Moscow police indicated that more than 70,000 victims of trafficking for prostitution are in Moscow, of which 80 per cent are underage children.⁴ In 2007, 104 cases involving trafficking for sexual exploitation were investigated.⁵ In 2006 and 2007, 218 cases of trafficking in persons were detected in the country.⁶ However, no specific information on the number of

cases concerning child victims is available. The government does not disaggregate the number of trafficking cases involving children in prosecutions, convictions, and sentencing.⁷ The involvement of organised criminal networks and the lack of public awareness around trafficking also constitute a problem for addressing the issue. Trafficked victims, in particular adults and at times teenagers, are often considered as criminals who have breached immigration regulations.⁸

Who gets trafficked?

Children are trafficked to and within Russia for sexual exploitation and other purposes. Domestically, children are mainly trafficked to Moscow and St. Petersburg.⁹ In such cases, children are taken from small towns in Russia's interior, for example the distant Eastern districts of Russia, to big cities in the northwest of the country. There are also cases where children from Russia are trafficked to countries in Western Europe, particularly Germany, Italy, Cyprus, Denmark, France and Sweden. They can be trafficked to Western Europe through the former countries of the USSR, such as Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. Some of these children are also found trafficked to the United States, China, Korea, Japan, Israel and Turkey. Minors trafficked to Russia usually come from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.¹⁰

A Russian Federation Guard reported to IOM that traffickers use fake documents to traffic under aged children abroad. The majority of the victims are girls.¹¹

Factors influencing the trafficking situation in Russia are the existence of child prostitution, pornography and child sex tourism, and the limitation of the border control between Russia and other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).¹²

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 less educated, easy to overpower and easy to convince that they must do what an adult tells them to do. 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 deficient 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 sending, while others might be both sending and transit. Some countries can be all three. Russia is a sending, receiving, and transit country for women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation.¹³



CASE STUDIES

- In 2002, a 16 year old girl was kidnapped from her home town in the former Soviet Union. She had met a young man who gave her alcohol. The drink contained soporific (a sleeping drug) which made her unconscious. When she woke up, she did not remember what had happened and found herself in St. Petersburg. There she was driven to an apartment where she was forced to have sex with a number of men and also filmed for pornographic movies. After she was trusted by the traffickers and was allowed to go outside, she escaped and was detained by the police. The brothel operators were arrested for running the prostitution business, but not charged for kidnapping, as there was no proof. The victim was eventually sent back to her home town.¹⁴
- A 16 year old girl was trafficked from Azerbaijan to Moscow by a pimp who supplied her with false documents. She was beaten, raped and forced into prostitution. When she was allowed to call home, ashamed, she informed her family that she had got a job as a cook. When she could no longer stand the humiliation and abuse, she stabbed her owner several times with a knife and was consequently sent to jail. During her detention, friends of the pimp visited her and threatened that if she provided any evidence of their operation, they would harm her sister.¹⁵

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 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.

Child sex tourism is becoming a significant issue in Russia with the country being both a destination for tourists seeking sexual contact with children and Russian abusers traveling to various parts of the world.¹⁶

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.

CASE STUDY

- Andrew Mogilyansky, a dual citizen of Russia and the United States, aged 38 years old, was charged with one count of traveling for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct and three counts of engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places with children. From 2002 to 2004, Mogilyansky, Andrei Tarasov, and three others operated a prostitution business named "Berenika," which advertised women and young orphan girls in Russia for sex. Between December 2003 and January 2004, Mogilyansky traveled from Philadelphia to Russia to engage in sex with young girls. With help from Tarasov and others, three girls aged 14 years old and younger were trafficked from an orphanage in St. Petersburg to have sex with Mogilyansky in his apartment. Tarasov and the other conspirators were arrested, tried, and convicted in Russia in 2004. Tarasov is currently serving a 10-year sentence. The arrest was the result of an international investigation led by agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Office of the ICE Attache in Moscow, the St. Petersburg, Russia Police Department, the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Investigative Committee of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation.¹⁷

How can we stop the trafficking of children?

LAW AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- It is very important for the Government of Russia to ratify the *Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography* and the Council of Europe's *Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*.
- The development of a comprehensive national plan of action needs to be considered to address human trafficking problems in Russia. The enforcement of the trafficking legal provisions should be accelerated.
- National budget has to be allocated to responsible ministries and governmental organisations for implementation of anti-trafficking activities. It would be extremely useful to establish an official coordinating body that would be linked to all relevant ministry departments and aimed at overseeing the work implemented.
- It would be important to implement a central database for prosecution, conviction, and sentencing for trafficking cases and the installation of a national human trafficker registry should also be considered.

International Conventions/Laws	Date of Ratification by Russia	Date of Reports Submitted	Committee on the Rights of the Child Recommendations for Russia
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	1990	Initial Report – 1992 Second Report – 1998 Third Report – 2003 Fourth and fifth periodic report is due on 14 September 2012.	The Committee recommends that the State party conduct a comprehensive study to assess the causes, nature and extent of abuse of children, with a view to developing strategies to tackle sexual exploitation, trafficking and the use of children in pornography. The Committee encourages the State party to: (a) increase its efforts to ensure effective institutional coordination in the full implementation of new provisions relating to trafficking of human beings and ensure that victims of trafficking are protected, and their status and rights are further defined; (b) focus more of its programmatic activities on prevention work (c) investigate reported acts of complicity between traffickers and State officials; and (d) ratify the Council of Europe <i>Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings</i> .
Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Not a signatory country	N/A	N/A
The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women & Children	2004	N/A	N/A
ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour	2003	N/A	N/A

PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- Specialised care and support services for child victims of trafficking, which cover the entire process of victim identification, referral system, recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation should be established. The services need to be made equitably accessible for both Russian citizens and those awaiting repatriation.
- Special training on child trafficking from a child rights perspective are required to enhance the technical skills and knowledge of all the relevant professionals. Multi-sectoral cooperation at national, regional and international levels is encouraged to enhance skills development, and exchange lessons learned and best practices in anti-trafficking efforts.

- It is crucial to conduct in-depth situational analysis studies on trafficking of children for sexual purposes and its linkages with other forms of exploitation of children to understand the specific methods used in child procurement, and the overall trafficking operation so that responsive interventions can be appropriately installed. The information can then be utilised in public awareness raising campaigns against trafficking.
- Private sector, especially in tourism and the information and communication technology industries need to cooperate with law enforcement authorities in action programmes against child trafficking for sexual exploitation and child-sex tourism, in order to tackle demand for sex with children.

TO REPORT A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING, CONTACT:

- **NGO Sisters** is an ECPAT Affiliate that runs a hotline in Moscow for women and child victims of violence and trafficking and provides specialised counseling services. Contact: +7 (495) 901 02 01
- **The Angel Coalition** is a network of organisations focusing solely on trafficking issues. It conducts trafficking prevention programmes through lobbying, education, outreach, training, exchanges, and advocacy. It also provides rescue, reintegration and rehabilitation programmes for victims of trafficking. The Angel Coalition operates a toll-free hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the victims of trafficking and provides Russian-speaking assistance.
Contact: 8-800-200-2400 (for calls from Russia)
00-800-455-05-555 (for calls from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland)
+1-866-800-0270 (for calls from the United States)
Email: program@angelcoalition.org; Website: <http://www.angelcoalition.org/eng/>

MORE INFORMATION

- ECPAT group in Russia: **The Russian Alliance against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children** was founded in 2004 by NGO Stellit based in St. Petersburg and NGO Sisters based in Moscow. They became an ECPAT affiliated group in 2005. The Alliance now includes more than 10 organisations based in different regions of the Russian Federation. They take their part in CSEC counteraction by conducting different activities such as research, preparation of informational and methodological materials, providing direct help to children during the rehabilitation and reintegration process, training specialists, raising public awareness, lobbying of the interests of children in the regional and federal governments and development of a public partnership in the sphere of CSEC counteraction.

The coordinating organisation of the Russian Alliance against CSEC is **NGO Stellit**.

Bumazhnaya str. 9, office 617
190020 St. Petersburg, Russia
Tel.: +7 (812) 445 28 93
Email: info@ngostellit.ru
Web: www.ngostellit.ru

- 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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- ⁴ The Angel Coalition. *Trafficking from Russia and the CIS: history & trends*. Accessed on 31 March 2009 from: http://www.angelcoalition.org/epjs/e_trafficking.html
- ⁵ U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2008*. Viewed at www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/
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- ⁸ ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group. *Joint east west research on trafficking in children for sexual purposes in Europe: the sending countries*. Amsterdam. 2004.
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- ¹⁰ ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group. *Joint east west research on trafficking in children for sexual purposes in Europe: the sending countries*. Amsterdam. 2004.
- ¹¹ Hughes, Donna M. *Trafficking for sexual exploitation: the case of the Russian Federation*. No. 7. Geneva: International Organization for Migration. 2002.
- ¹² ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group. *Joint east west research on trafficking in children for sexual purposes in Europe: the sending countries*. Amsterdam. 2004.
- ¹³ Hughes, Donna M. *Trafficking for sexual exploitation: the case of the Russian Federation*. No. 7. Geneva: International Organization for Migration. 2002.
- ¹⁴ ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group. *Joint east west research on trafficking in children for sexual purposes in Europe: the sending countries*. Amsterdam. 2004.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children – Russia*. Bangkok, 2006.
- ¹⁷ “Pennsylvania man charged in sex tourism case involving Russian orphans”. *US Immigration and Customs Enforcement*. 3 December 2008. Accessed on 30 March 2009 from: <http://www.ice.gov/pi/nr/0812/081203philadelphia.htm>

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