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Conference Services

Please find attached the presentation by Ms. Alessia Altamura, Regional Associate for Europe of the Non-governmental Organization "ECPAT ", delivered to the side event "Boys in the Sex Industry" with regard to the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Vienna, 18 - 19 October 2007 is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.

Exploring the commercial sexual exploitation of boys

Ms. Alessia Altamura
Regional Associate for Europe

OSCE/ODIHR Conference
on Combating SEC
Vienna, 18-19 October 2007



Who is ECPAT International?

A global network of organizations and individuals working together to end all commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT = End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes.



Stockholm, Yokohama and beyond: **10 Years of Global Action**
Fighting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

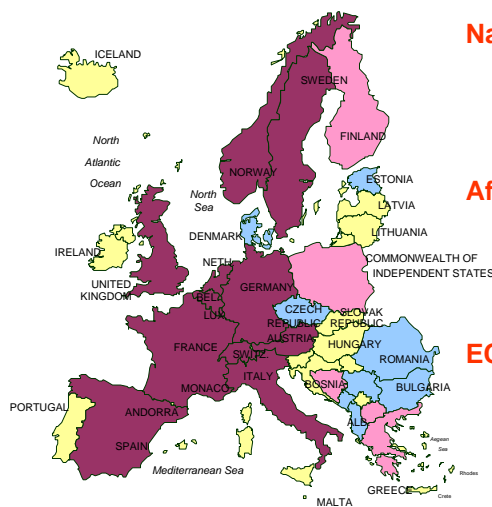
Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
Combattre l'Exploitation Sexuelle des Enfants à des fins Commerciales
Combatiendo la Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes



Currently have 81 member groups in 74 countries.



ECPAT Network in Europe



National Groups (12)

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

Affiliate Groups (7)

Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Romania, Serbia/ Montenegro

ECPAT plans to develop a network in:

the Balkan Region (Macedonia, Bosnia and Greece), Finland, Turkey and Poland



Outline

- **Overview on Prostitution of Boys in *South Asia*** (Bangladesh, India and Pakistan)
 - 1) Objectives of the research and misconceptions on boys' prostitution
 - 2) Findings from the South Asian Studies and current responses to the issue
- **Brief overview on Sexual Exploitation of Boys in *Europe***
- ***Recommendations* for actions**



Objectives of South Asia Research

- **To share the learning from studies on sexual exploitation of boy children in South Asia.**
- **To develop a framework for understanding and addressing the sexual exploitation of boys, based on the findings.**
- **To identify measures for improving prevention and protection at all levels.**



Misconceptions about Sexual Exploitation of Boys

- Boys are not seen as sexual objects and are not targets of sexual exploiters.
- Sexual exploitation of boys is perpetrated by men of homosexual orientation.
- Exploiters are mostly foreigners (CST).
- The magnitude of the problem is small.
- Boys consent to have sex with women therefore are not victims.
- Boys can withstand physical, psychological and social harm.
- Sexual exploitation of boys is limited to more open societies.



Main findings

- Children living on the street particularly affected
- Average age of boys exploited in prostitution: 12.5 (in India, even as young as 6)
- Predominant proportion of the clients are: 1) heterosexuals; 2) bi-sexual men

Causes of this:

- 1) absence of space where men may have access to female sex partners;
- 2) affordability, access and preference lead these men to have sex with males and females (including boys and girls) for sexual relief.



Main findings...cont'd

- Cases are under-reported and misreported ➡ **Scope unknown.**
But:
- Bigger problem than previously speculated
- Exploiters are mostly **local men**
- In Hyderabad (India) high percentage of **women exploiters** (widows, single women etc.)
➡ Children considered less threatening for them.

Problem: abuse by female exploiters is not acknowledged by relevant professionals



Why is this an under-recognized violation?

- **Gender constructions which create myths about male roles.**
- **Social taboos on sexual relations among same sex.**
- **Inadequate recognition on how the unequal power between adults and children affects sexual vulnerability of boys and their ability to report such crimes.**
- **Boys are not able to report.**



LIMITED ACTIONS AGAINST EXPLOITATION OF BOYS IN PROSTITUTION

Current Responses

Laws are silent on boy prostitution

Inadequate legal framework

No support services

Few NGOs working on the issue



A glance to sexual exploitation of boys in EUROPE

Lack of research

Use of ICTs

Invisible problem

A4A REPORTS REVEALED

No specialised Support services

Different forms of exploitation



A GROSS VIOLATION

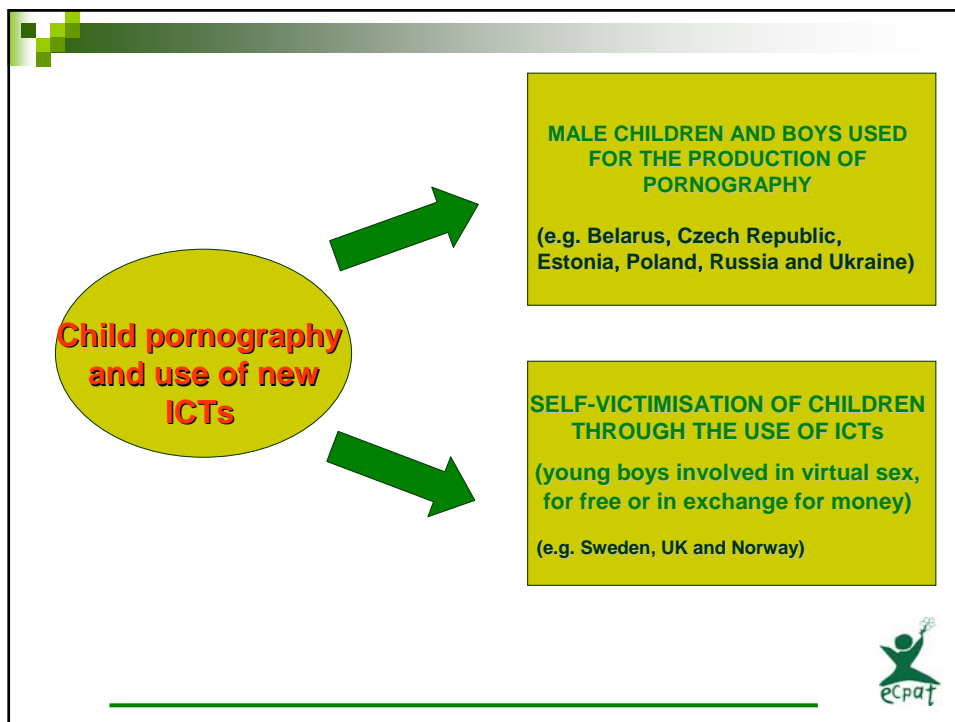
Sometimes boys victim of commercial sexual exploitation are treated as criminals!



Different forms of sexual exploitation of boys

- In France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and UK among others:
Involves mainly young boys of foreign origin, **unaccompanied children or child asylum seekers**. Cases of trafficked boys do also occur.
- In Italy, Switzerland, Netherlands and Czech Republic among others may be linked to **drug addiction**
- In Czech Republic boys prostitution is increasing and is mainly fuelled by **child sex tourism** (this might be the case of other CST destinations in Europe)





- ### An alarming trend: BOYS more involved in ENJO-KOSAI!
- In the **Netherlands**: a) boys seem to enter prostitution at a slightly **younger age** than girls, i.e. between 9 and 15 years old. b) 2% of boys (against 1% of girls) have sold sex.
 - In **Sweden**, although girls make up 70 per cent of victims of all forms of CSEC, **boys constitute the majority** when it comes to prostitution and selling sex.
 - In **Norway** (Oslo), adolescents who had sold sex form 1.4%, three times as many boys as girls.
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Recommendations for Action

Ensure legal protection and justice for boys through legal reform and enforcement

- Decriminalise exploited boys.
- Reform legislation to accord protection of boy victims from child prostitution and pornography up to the age of 18, regardless of the issue of consent.
- Offer child friendly investigation and prosecution services.



Recommendations for Action

Develop appropriate social services for boys by both government and NGOs

- Sensitisation of health practitioners and NGO personnel, develop indicators for identification and train personnel
- Integrated programmes including legal services, drop in centres, shelters, vocational training, etc.
- Prevention and HIV/AIDS campaigns need to target all vulnerable groups.



Recommendations for Action

Sensitisation of policy makers, police, public installation officials, hotel workers, even NGOs on the rights of children

- MSM focused NGOs and child rights focused NGOs need to be more aware of the situation of sexually abused boys.
- Better understanding of the rights of the child and non-judgemental environment needed by public officials.
- National Plan of Action for sexually abused and exploited children needs to be taken up to influence policy and practice.



Recommendations for Action

Public awareness raising, behavioural change and communication campaigns required targeting demand side

- Awareness raising on child rights, the law, sexual violence, sexual development and identity for children.
- law enforcement should not take the side of the exploiters or themselves exploit the boys.
- Further research to understand the demand side dynamics and context of sexual exploiters; design of interventions that bring positive change in sexual ethics and behaviour of MSM and men in general.





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