



STOP

**SEX TRAFFICKING
OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**



SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA

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.

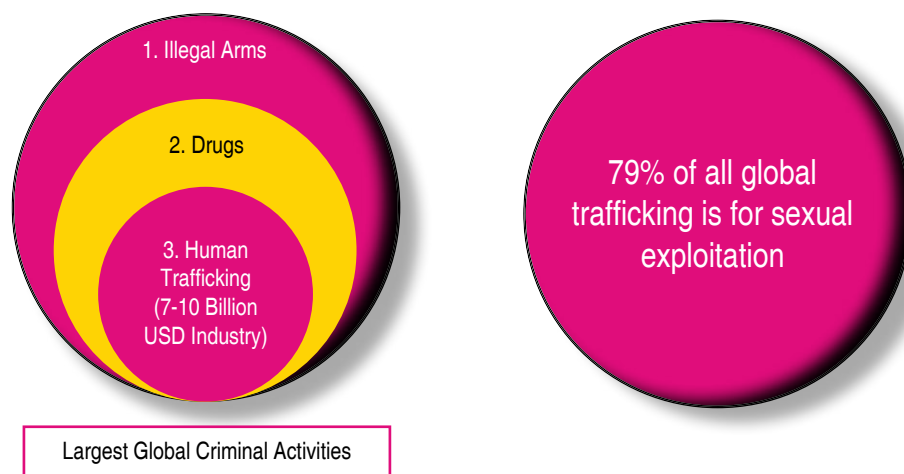
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

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



SEX TRAFFICKING IN AUSTRALIA

While there are noted cases of child trafficking in Australia, there is limited data to illustrate the scope of the problem, such as the approximate numbers of children trafficked to or within the country. Australia is considered as a destination country for human trafficking.

Who gets trafficked?

Most victims of trafficking to Australia come from Thailand, Myanmar, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Russia.³ The NGO Project Respect noted an increase of South Korean women being trafficked to Australia for sexual exploitation.⁴ Many foreign victims arrive in Australia with fake passports to gain entry into the country and then are exploited.⁵

CASE STUDY

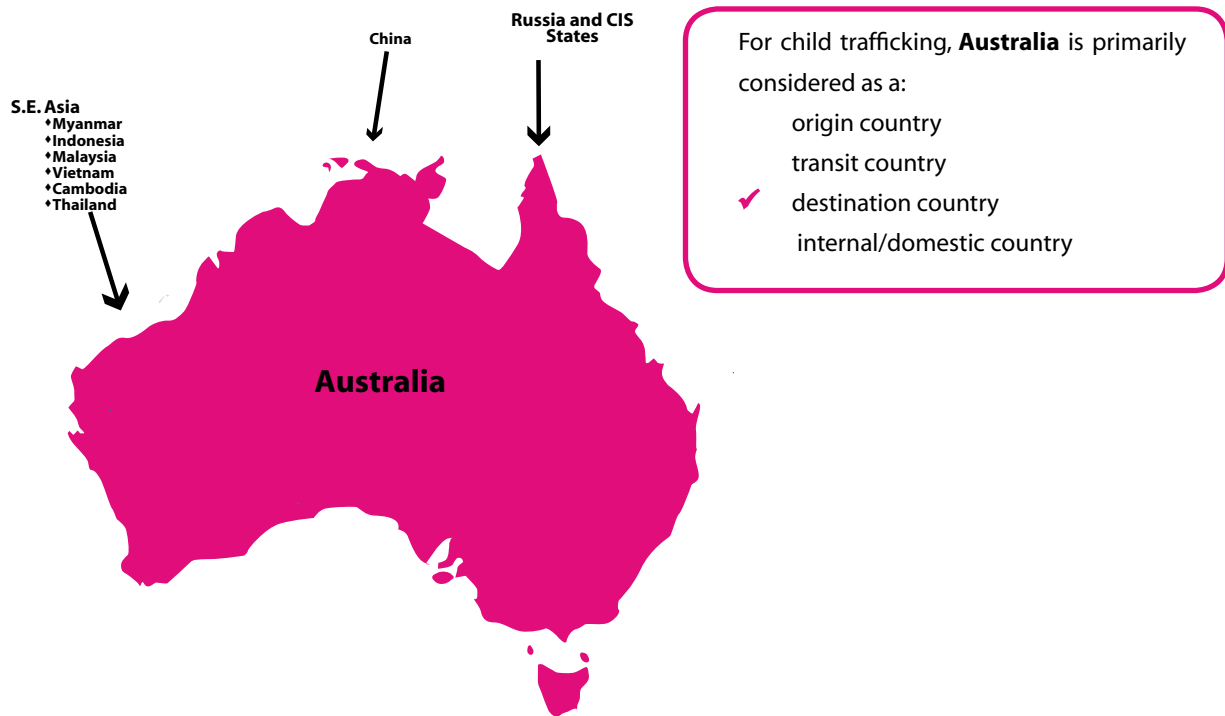
- A Thai woman, Jetsadophorn Chaladone, was trafficked at the age of 13 to a Sydney brothel in 1995. Chaladone was later rescued during a raid. In 2007, she became the first and only person in Australia to receive compensation for post-traumatic stress and depression suffered from being trafficked for sexual exploitation.⁶
- A 12-year-old girl from the Gold Coast was trafficked for sexual exploitation by her parents in 2007. The girl testified that her parents would take her out of school, forcibly keep and transport her to various clients who responded to online advertisements (this can be considered as domestic/internal child trafficking for sexual exploitation). It was estimated that the parents had made over 200 transactions from exploiting their daughter.⁷

The demand for sex drives child sex trafficking globally, while poverty, domestic violence, 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 persuade to do what an adult tells them to. 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 upon the reason for trafficking, some countries might be only be considered as sending, while others might be both sending and transit countries. Some countries can be all three. As stated earlier, Australia is primarily considered a destination 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 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.

Australia is also classified as a sending country in terms of child-sex tourism, where sex offenders go abroad to reach vulnerable children. For example, Australian citizens make up the largest percentage of perpetrators arrested and prosecuted for child-sex tourism in Thailand, based on data from the years 1995-2006 (31%).⁸

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. In the period from 2003 to 2008, thirty-four people were charged with trafficking-related offences, resulting in eight convictions.⁹

CASE STUDY

- Two Australian men working in the Solomon Islands invited a 14-year-old local boy back to Australia for Christmas holiday after befriending the boy's parents. The boy went with the men with his parent's permission. After losing contact with their son for a week, the parents began to worry and contacted the police. The boy was discovered by the Australian police after being sexually abused by the men. Due to police intervention, the boy was rescued and able to return home. The men were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and the boy received criminal injuries compensation.¹⁰

How can we stop the trafficking of children?

LAW AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Review the *Action Plan on Trafficking and the National Policing Strategy to Combat Trafficking* to include issues and strategies related to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and the special needs of child victims.
- Sensitise law enforcement officers and other key stakeholders on trafficking in children, improving child victim identification, providing a child-friendly legal process and improving upon the prosecution of traffickers.
- Conduct further research or analysis on the trafficking of children to and within Australia to assess the nature of the problem and collect segregated, detailed data regarding cases of child trafficking.

| International Conventions/Laws | Date of Ratification by Australia | Date of Reports Submitted | UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Recommendations for Australia |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) | 1990 | First report – 1997 Second and third report (combined) - 2004 | The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts towards effective implementation of its plan to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons and conduct a comprehensive study to assess the nature and magnitude of the problem, especially with respect to children. |
| Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography | 2007 | First report due 2009 | N/A |
| The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women & Children | 2005 | N/A | N/A |

| International Conventions/Laws | Date of Ratification by Australia | Date of Reports Submitted | UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Recommendations for Australia |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour | 2006 | N/A | N/A |

PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- The Australian Government must continue to provide strong protection and services to child victims of trafficking and ensure child-friendly module for care and protection. Currently, on a case by case basis the government does provide: legal protection, stay permits (can become permanent visa), medical and psychosocial care, food and living allowances and housing.¹¹
- The Australian government should increase its funding into prevention and recovery programmes in countries where child sex trafficking exists, especially in South East Asia which is a major destination region for Australian child sex tourists.

TO REPORT A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING, CONTACT:

The Australian Federal Police

Emergency: 000

List of complete numbers and services:

<http://www.afp.gov.au/contact.html>

Child Wise

1 800 99 10 99

MORE INFORMATION

- Child Wise: <http://www.childwise.net/index.php>
- ECPAT International: www.ecpat.net
- The Body Shop and ECPAT Stop Trafficking of Children and Young People Campaign : www.thebodyshop.com/stop

Endnotes

- ¹ UNICEF. *UNICEF calls for increased efforts to prevent trafficking of children*. 16 June 2007. Accessed from: http://www.unicef.org/media/media_40002.html
- ² UNODC. *UNODC report on human trafficking exposes modern form of slavery*. 12 February 2009. Accessed from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>
- ³ Fergus, Laura. *Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation: Briefing No. 5*. June 2005. Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies
- ⁴ Project Respect. *How are Women Trafficked?* Accessed on March 4 2009 at: http://projectrespect.org.au/our_work/trafficking/why_trafficking
- ⁵ ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Australia*. Bangkok. 2006. <http://www.ecpat.net>
- ⁶ Natalie Craig. 'Sex slave victim wins abuse claim'. *The Age*. Melbourne. 29 May 2007, 4.
- ⁷ Paula Doneman. 'Sold by her parents - 11-year-old prostituted over the Internet'. *The Sunday Mail (Brisbane)*. 20 January 2008. Accessed from: <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/ht-child-trafficking>
- ⁸ John Hopkins University and The Protection Project. *International Child Sex Tourism*. 2007.
- ⁹ UNODC. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2009.
- ¹⁰ Australian Government. *Tomorrow's Children: Australia's National Plan of Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*. Department of Family and Community Services. 2000. Accessed from: <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/ht-child-trafficking>
- ¹¹ UNODC. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2009.



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