

Panel:
"HUMAN RIGHTS AND BOY, GIRL AND TEENAGE MIGRANTS."
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING IN
CHILDREN*

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TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

By trafficking in persons we refer to the capture, transport, receipt of persons through the use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deceit, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another for purposes of exploitation.

Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (Palermo Protocol, Art. 3, Act to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Art 1).

What is CSEC?

“The commercial sexual exploitation in children is a fundamental violation of the rights of children. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or in kind to the children or to a third person or persons. The children are treated as sex objects and as merchandise. CSEC is a form of coercion and rape against children; it amounts to forced labor and a contemporary form of slavery”.

* Note from the organizers: In Mexico, migrant children, often unaccompanied minors, are deemed to be at high risk from commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking in children.

- It is a global phenomenon that does not belong to any culture, ethnicity, religion, social group or economic context.
- It is a form of torture, as each act of abuse of the body is a cruel and inhumane treatment that causes pain, embarrassment and attacks the dignity, life and health of children who suffer from it. Furthermore, their submission reduces or degrades them to the status of "object."

WORLD PANORAMA OF CSEC

- 2 million children are sexually exploited through prostitution and pornography.
- 1.2 million is the number of "trafficking" victims for these purposes or as cheap labor.
- 246 million children work, of which nearly three-quarters, 171 million, do so in dangerous conditions or are subjected to the worst forms of slavery or similar practices to slavery (sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, serfdom, child recruitment for activities of sexual exploitation such as the promotion of prostitution, for the production of pornography or pornographic performances (ILO/IPEC 2003, 24-25).
- 65% of children who are on the streets in the capitals of Latin American countries are involved in one way or another in sexual exploitation.
- 15% live on what they earn from this practice (Castaña 2001).

PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography is the display of genitalia and sexual acts of all kinds, where sadomasochistic images, pedophilia and other paraphilias, individually or in groups, abound.

It is a billion dollar industry that sells sex debasing men and women. It is the exploitation of human beings (Lazo, Marin and Marroquin 1997).

Pornography is an industry (involving people who profit from it, working directly in it and consumers who pay for it in return for sexual gratification (Piñeros [11-08-04]).

It constitutes a form of sexual exploitation in which children are sexually abused for sexual gratification, financial gain or personal achievements, wherein the children's human rights to dignity, equality, autonomy and physical and mental well-being, are breached,

It involves the:

- Producers
- Intermediaries
- Broadcasters and distributors
- Consumers

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Any representation, by whatever means of communication, of a child under 18 years of age, or resembling a child, engaged in real or simulated sexual activities, explicitly or implied, for any purpose.

The consent of the children to participate in pornography in accordance with international law is illegal.

In the various forms of commercial sexual exploitation it is impossible to assume that a child voluntarily chooses this condition.

The connotation of children's willingness to participate in such activity is dispelled, and the responsibility lies with the third party, that is whoever induces, compels or encourages the boy or girl who are assumed to be victims (ILO/IPEC 2003, 26).

TYPES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

According to material or content:

Soft pornography: this type of pornography involves explicit "seductive and suggestive" nude images of children, or people looking like children and adolescents, rather than sexual activity. It includes them in various erotic poses, but not participating in any sexually explicit conduct.

Hardcore pornography: this is the display of carnal intercourse, sexually explicit, or both, involving children, adolescents or people who look younger than 18. (Ruiz, 1999).

Purposes:

- Commercial pornography produced for profit.
- Pornography produced for circulation and exchange.
- Pornography used for other criminal purposes (blackmail, trafficking, etc.).
- Pornography produced for personal consumption only, among other purposes.

The Internet and Child Pornography

- Emergence of national and transnational networks of operators (global information networks media most used).
- Allows for the capture of vulnerable segments of the population, especially children and youth.

- Easy accessibility to the Internet by children, often without adult supervision, enables them to be hooked for use in these practices of exploitation, especially pornography.

People who exploit children use new means of technology because it is easier, faster and cheaper to download video or photographic materials and have instant gratification.

Pornography via the Internet facilitates the capture of children to be used in the production of pornographic material; hence this activity becomes profitable.

- Email, chat rooms or online discussions, virtual communities, and even live sex acts.
- Web pages with explicit sexual content.
- Chat rooms, or conversations between several people, where they can exchange all types of child pornography, are most commonly used by pedophiles.

Some of the techniques used for child pornography over the Internet are:

Visual: includes photographs, videos, films and cartoons. In the latter drawing is used to represent sex scenes with children, accompanied by texts whose main argument is always the sex and violence. In general, girls and youth are represented with bodies of adult women. Many of these comics describe sexual abuse of girls, boys or youth or the seduction of children, or youth by adults or by other minors.

Audio: This type of pornography includes messengers, audio-chats, and video-chats, among others, with sounds suggestive of sexual activity involving children or youth, or people with children's voices or pictures.

Text: Stories, reports or testimonials. Many of these are part of "Letters from our readers" or "e-mails from our visitors," which are sent to the website telling their own experiences, giving the impression of real-life situations relaying a message that it could happen again with the participation of the reader.

In any one of these texts descriptions can be found of child abuse, rape or incitement to sexual violence, or school kids obsessed with seducing adults.

It is estimated that 27 000 pedophiles or child molesters exist on the Web, better known in the market as producers of child pornography, who sell all sorts of children pornographic material.

One million children are photographed and filmed each year to meet a demand that generates between 2,000 and 3,000 million dollars a year.

The production, distribution, possession and use of child pornography involves the conversion of children, of childhood itself, into a sex object for commercial purposes.

VULNERABILITY FACTORS OF CSEC

- All children and youth regardless of their economic or social status.
- Poor social conditions (such living on the streets, no family ties, migration, high-risk employment, drug use, victims of another form of sexual exploitation).

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF CSEC

Impact on Personality

- How they perceive themselves.
- How they perceive their environment.
- How they think.
- How they act.
- How they express their emotions.
- How they relates to others.
- Symptoms of PTSD, such as sleep and eating disorders.
- Mood disorders.

- Personality disorders.
- Profound alterations in self-esteem, self-image, self-concept and self-efficacy.
- Self-destructive behaviors, such as psychoactive substance abuse or suicide attempts.
- Social isolation.
- Permanent and pervasive feelings of shame, guilt, fear.
- Difficulty in socializing.
- Feelings of hopelessness and dissatisfaction with life.
- Difficulty in achieving a healthy perception of sexuality.
- Tendency towards the hypersexualization of affection and interpersonal relationships.
- Tendency to exchange affection for things and to form pseudo-affective, superficial, extremely dependent, or utilitarian relationships.

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