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## **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN UKRAINE**

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is sexual abuse of a child by the adult for remuneration in cash or kind to the child or the third persons. The child is treated as a sexual and commercial object. International documents, documents of ECPAT International in particular, describe 5 main forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children:

- prostitution of children,
- child pornography,
- sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism,
- trafficking of children for sexual purposes,
- early marriages.

The estimated number of women/girls providing commercial sexual services in Ukraine is 70.000 individuals, 15.000 of them are at the age of 14-19. These numbers only cover women/girls who are permanent workers of commercial sex. Number of girls who have casual sexual contacts with foreigners for remuneration has never been estimated in Ukraine.

Statistical data of law enforcement, reports of non-governmental organizations allow to recognize the problem of sexual exploitation in Ukraine exists and needs solution. In 2009-2011 the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine registered 43 crimes of engaging children into prostitution. For the same period, law enforcement identified 479 individuals at the age of 16-18 working in prostitution. In 2012 this number equaled 61, for 9 months of 2013 it reached 30. Since 2014 Prosecutor General Office of Ukraine does not collect these data. Though, due to the latent nature of the problem this statistics does not reflect the real situation. Sociologists of Ukrainian Institute of Sociological Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko estimate that every 6-7th prostitute in Ukraine is a minor.

***Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.*** As any other social phenomenon, sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism has factors which combined provide grounds for the development of the phenomenon and create the background for attracting sex tourists to Ukraine, making it the country of origin for child sex services. Low living standards, neglected children, corruption, consumerism, these all contribute to the development of the market of child sex services. Moreover, reputation of the country of beautiful and “easy-to-get” women; big economical gap between the home countries of the sex tourists and Ukraine, which influences prices; no visa regime; location on the European continent

with white-skinned children; low prices for alcohol; reputation of a corrupted country; and confidence of escaping punishment contribute to sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Ukraine. Despite the efforts to differentiate factors which influence the offer for sex services, it is hardly manageable. Lack of money pushes people to provide sex services, as 26% of families with one child, 39% with two children in Ukraine are living below the poverty line, which makes it 4.4 and 6.6 million families correspondingly. Big income gap between hosting country and home countries of sex tourists, between Ukrainians and foreign guests, allows foreigners to feel comfortable and impress Ukrainian teenagers, who see them as “royal princes” capable of making all their dreams for “fabulous life” (dinner at the restraint, expensive clothes etc.) come true. For some children a dinner paid by an “older guy” might be the only meal for the day. In such case the decision to provide sex services is caused by a will, or sometimes a need to earn money for living.

Experts believe that one of the main causes of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Ukraine is corruption and no punishment for offenders. Participants of the sex tourism forums compare legal systems and legislation on commercial sex in different countries.

***Child pornography.*** Commercial sexual exploitation of children is closely related to child sex trafficking. Trafficking of children often has a purpose of sexual exploitation, exploitation in prostitution and pornography, labour exploitation. Television and Internet with its propaganda for easy sexual relations and sexualized behavior have big influence over children and youth. Lacking understanding the reasons of such behavior, children and young people become more vulnerable for soliciting them to sexual activity.

***Child prostitution*** (exploitation of children in prostitution) is a form of commercial sexual exploitation of children which violates their fundamental rights for life, freedom, sexual integrity etc. Children are engaged to prostitution not only by offering shelter, food or clothes, but also pocket money and goods which are not available for them. Analysis of media reports has shown that parents rarely ask children about new money or things they get, which means the necessity to work with parents and inform them about sexual exploitation of children.

***Child trafficking for sexual purposes.*** The Law of Ukraine against Trafficking in Persons considers trafficking of children as a component of trafficking in persons problem or of a system of countering child abuse. Children make a specific category of victims of trafficking or other illegal agreement against a person and the least protected and most vulnerable part of the society.

Large proportion of cases of trafficking of children is not registered by law enforcement. The latent nature of these crimes has several factors. First of all, children often quickly adapt to the circumstances of exploitation, see them as natural, rarely resist the criminals and do not come for help to law enforcement or community. Secondly, victims often are not able to provide full and objective data evidence of the crimes due to their development (pre-school children, infants). Thirdly, transfer of a child for exploitation often looks legally from the side.

**Child marriage.** Early marriage is not defined in Ukrainian legislation. Art. 22 of the Family Code of Ukraine fixes the legal age of marriage at 18, both for women and men.<sup>37</sup> At the same time a person who reached 16 can claim the marriage permit to the court, and it might be satisfied if the court finds it to the best interest of the applicant. The court investigates the circumstances of the case, such as age of both partners, possible pregnancy etc. Considering low number of early marriages in Ukraine, it is difficult to analyze court practice.

Specific attention should be paid to the situation with early marriages in Roma communities. It is traditional for Roma to marry early and then have early pregnancy. When Ukraine considered generally normal to marry off a girl as soon as she reaches her reproductive age (12-13) about 100-150 years ago, among Roma it is still normal and is approved by community.<sup>40</sup> It is still challenging to receive statistical data on early marriages among Roma children in Ukraine.

Список використаних джерел

1. <http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/3.-SECTT-UKRAINE.pdf>

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### **THE DUBAI (UAE) POLICE**

The United Arab Emirates, one of the most famous tourist destinations, in which there are the largest and tallest skyscrapers in the world, is a place where the newest technologies and innovations are developed and is one of the richest countries in the world. The UAE is one of the safest countries in the world. The state takes the 5th place in terms of order and security according to the World Law Project. The list is headed by Singapore, Finland, Sweden and Norway. In the UAE, there are fairly strict laws concerning behavior in public places and alcohol consumption. The