

# **“Trafficking of Children for Prostitution”**

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## ***Protecting Our Children: Working Together To End Child Prostitution***

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Girls and boys are trafficked-meaning they are recruited, transported, and harbored-for the purpose of prostitution throughout the United States and around the world. We know that child prostitution is a local crime, but increasingly it is a transnational crime, as well.

### ***Trafficking of children into the United States***

In transnational trafficking, foreign children are brought into the U.S. for sexual exploitation and prostitution by a process that is referred to as trafficking.

The perpetrators range in size from large networks that bring 100s of girls and women into the U.S., to small family run groups that traffic dozens of girls and women to the U.S., to individual men who buy a child for their personal use. There are also perpetrators who smuggle illegal migrants into the U.S. for exploitation of their labor, who sexually exploit the girls. Most the perpetrators traffic both girls and women.

They recruit victims to fill a demand. In order to stop the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation and prostitution, we need to learn more about the perpetrator demand for certain types victims, who are targeted by age, appearance, race, the language they speak, or country of origin.

In the past few years, girls have been trafficked into the U.S. from countries as diverse as China, Mexico, Honduras, India, and Vietnam.

Since January 2001, at the Federal level, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice has had nine cases involving the sexual exploitation of 53 children. Five of those

cases involved 44 juvenile victims used in prostitution. The remaining four cases involved nine child victims who were sexually assaulted by the defendant or sexually exploited in bars.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Trafficking of children in the United States for prostitution***

Inside the United States, children are moved from state to state or city to city for sexual exploitation, the making of pornography, and prostitution. U.S. pimps use the same manipulative and coercive techniques to recruit and control children as they do in transnational trafficking. We might think of this as internal or domestic trafficking of children. For example, in one case from a few years ago, a family based prostitution ring with 15 members was discovered in the Midwest. They had sexually exploited over 50 females, over half of which were girls. The victims were trafficked to 24 states and Canada.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Trafficking of U.S. children abroad for prostitution***

This case also demonstrates that US girls are trafficked to other countries for prostitution. There is evidence that US girls are taken to Canada and Mexico for prostitution.

### ***Use of new information technologies for the trafficking of children***

New information technologies, such as the Internet, enable pimps and predators to recruit victims or advertise the victims to sex offenders. Children are stalked by perpetrators in chat rooms. Once the perpetrator establishes contact and trust, the perpetrator arranges to meet the child and sexually abuse them, and sometimes, later sell them to other perpetrators. In one case, a girl from Georgia was lured to Greece by a man she met online. There are indications that he planned to use her in the production of child pornography.<sup>3 4</sup> New information technologies are already used in many aspects of the sexual exploitation and prostitution of children. This trend will continue.

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<sup>1</sup> Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 5 December 2002

<sup>2</sup> "Family-run, multi-state prostitution ring busted," *CNN*, 12 August 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Interview, April Hindin, Postal Inspector, Tampa, Florida, 15 May 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Jill King Greenwood, "Missing-girl case points to Greece, two suspects charged," *Tampa Tribune*, 27 January 2001, p. 12.

### ***Trafficking of children for production of pornography***

Girls and boy are trafficked for use in the making of pornography. Over the past few years, several large international child pornography operations have been broken up. The largest, initiated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, has resulted in 4,500 searches and dozens of arrests internationally.<sup>5</sup> The market for child pornography in the U.S. causes the trafficking of children in other parts of the world. For example, Russia has inadequate laws controlling the production and distribution of child pornography. Consequently, Russia has become a premier site for abusing and exploiting children in the making of pornography. There is evidence that orphans and homeless children are abused and exploited and children are trafficked from the rural regions to the larger cities for the making of child pornography. These children are also used by child sex tourists who travel to Russia to abuse children.<sup>6</sup> This is of concern for us in the U.S. because our citizens are buying the child pornography and creating the demand for trafficked children.

### ***Conclusion***

As we work to end the sexual exploitation and prostitution of children, we will increasingly need to work beyond the boundaries of our cities, states, and country.

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<sup>5</sup> Personal communication, Raymond Smith, Program Manager, Criminal Investigations, Child Exploitation, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, December 2002.

<sup>6</sup> Donna M. Hughes, "The Impact of the Use of New Communications and Information Technologies on Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation: A Study of the Users," Report submitted to the Council of Europe, May 2001, [http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/study\\_of\\_users.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/study_of_users.pdf).