



Committee: OHCHR

Topic: The sale and sexual exploitation of children.

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Being the principal human rights committee in the United Nations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is in charge of promoting and protecting the human rights of people worldwide. The OHCHR's goal is to ensure a future in which the rights and freedoms given to humans are enjoyed and respected, as well as to safe keep the three base pillars of the United Nations, these being peace and security, human rights, and development.

It is also the committee's work to help countries to execute their obligations as countries to protect their citizens' rights, as well as stand objectively when reporting a violation to human rights.

The first topic to be talked about is the sale and sexual exploitation of children, which are defined as the transfer of a child in exchange of monetary value and as "acts committed through non-consensual abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality for the purpose of sexual gratification, financial gain, personal benefit or advantage, or any other non-legitimate purpose", according to the Swarthmore College.

Human trafficking, nowadays, is a business that makes around 150 billion dollars, estimates the International Labor Organization. From which 99 million come from sex trade, and the other 51 million from forced labor. There are different reports that estimate 300 000 children are victims of sex trade.

In a 2014 study conducted by UNICEF, around 120 million girls under the age of 20 have been victims of forced sexual intercourse or acts, and while boys have reported experiences of sexual abuse, their numbers are lower than the girls. The estimates in violence against boys globally are unavailable due to "the lack of comparable data in most countries," says UNICEF, but girls do report their abuses three times more than boys in high-income countries.

According to the CDC, children living in poverty have 5 times higher chances of being abused compared with children from higher socioeconomic status.

In 2012, a study conducted in the United States gathered that 678,810 children were victims of abuse or neglect, from which 51.1% were girls and 46.8 were boys; 44% were white children, 21% were African-American and 22% were Hispanic; and out of that number, 1,593 children died as a result of their abuse.

In the same study, 94% of the victims knew their perpetrators or abusers, which tells us that this problem is not always caused by gangs or organized groups, though they are not an exception. 27% were abused by their mother, 17.1% by their father, 21% by both parents, and 14.3% by a non-parental person.

Children can develop different behavioral signals when they have been abused, the most common being anxiety, depression, self-harm, and withdrawal, among others. How a child responds to trauma has different influential factors, which are age, developmental status, type of abuse, duration of the abuse, its severity and the relationship between the child and the perpetrator.

The CDC also concludes that children that have suffered from abuse and neglect are more likely to increase their risk of injury, as well as suffering reproductive health problems, involvement in sex trafficking, among other consequences in their futures.

Usually, people who have been abused during their childhood are more likely to be abused in their adulthood. According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, 51% of adults that were abused during their childhood suffer from domestic abuse in their adult life, and for March 2016, 6.2 million people between the ages of 16 and 59 were abused as children and have also been abused in their adulthood.

According to the Institute of Human Rights, in the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and considering that abused children might demonstrate violent behaviors going into adulthood, 14% of all men and 36% of all women in prison in the United States have experienced child abuse, and children who were abused are nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activities.

Save the children in India has gathered certain behaviors in adults that might be indicators of sexual abuse during their childhood, as are insisting on time alone with children without interruptions, have little interest in spending time with people their age and instead choosing to spend time around children, give gifts or money to children for no apparent reason, among others. All of them, once again, indicate that without proper treatment, an abused adult will develop abuser tendencies.

To prevent child abuse some viable solutions are the following, offered by the CDC:

- Provide public psychological help
- Create programs to help victims
- Create social awareness

Some helpful sources are the following:

Thorn Organization (Ed.). (2019). Child Pornography and Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://www.thorn.org/child-pornography-and-abuse-statistics/>.

Swerling, G. (2019, August 1). Gangs and sexual exploitation pushing more teenagers into care, warns Children's Commissioner. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/31/gangs-sexual-exploitation-pushing-teenagers-care-warns-childrens/>.

Mekinc, J., & Music, K. (2015, May). SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE TOURISM – THE DARK SIDE OF TOURISM. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/279170419_SEXUAL_EXPLOITATION_OF_CHILDREN_IN_THE_TOURISM_-_THE_DARK_SIDE_OF_TOURISM.

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. (2000, May 25). Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>.

Joyful Heart Foundation. (n.d.). Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/learn/child-abuse-neglect/effects-child-abuse-neglect>.

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, February 26). Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>.