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COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IS A CRIME!



**CHILD
FRIENDLY
TOURISM**



Child trafficking, a severest violation of the rights of the child, means any act or action where *a child is transferred to other person by any person or a group of people for money or for anything.*

According to data of UNICEF,
approximately
1 million children
in the world are forced to prostitution
every year.

A large part of children that become a victim of sexual exploitation do not report this to the public authorities because they are afraid that perpetrator would do harm to him/her or their family, they do not know where to go, or they feel desperate.

You may be the voice of them.

**PROTECT THE RIGHT
OF CHILDREN**



Who are the perpetrators and what are their methods?

The persons who try to exploit you, your child or any children that you know may resort to threatening, oppression or methods including other typed of violence, or other methods such as deceiving or taking advantage of despair. The perpetrators may be familiar persons in the immediate circle of relatives and the child, or individual criminals such as human traffickers or members of an organized crime. Several methods that may be used by such persons for the child trafficking or sexual exploitation of the child are listed below:

- To promise families with economic distress that they would give their child a better life
- To offer housing, money, expensive gifts, or a job
- To promise to provide identity card or travel warrant
- To promise transportation to go abroad by sea boat, ship, etc.
- To use methods that can be culturally acceptable such as early marriage/polygamy/co-wife for the sexual exploitation of the child .

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF THE CHILD IS VIOLATION OF THE CHILD'S RIGHT AND A CRIME!

The sexual exploitation of the child is defined as the use of a child for sexual purposes for money and/or material benefit like commercial commodity or any other benefit, and this type of exploitation may take place in different ways.

- Sexual abuse
- Use of a child for pornography
- Sexual abuse of the children on social media or telephone
- Use of tourism and travel sector for the purpose of sexual exploitation
- Child trafficking for sexual purposes
- Forcing to or convincing for marriage
- Early marriage or forced marriage (the marriage age is 18 in Turkey.)
- Polygamy/ co-wife (not a mechanism that provides official citizenship, it is not legal and valid)



SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS A TRAUMATIC LIFE EXPERIENCE THAT INTERRUPTS PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

- The victims feel terrified, despair and embarrassed.
- They may be worried about their future.
- They do not know where to go to get help because they do not know the law.
- They are afraid that person(s) involved in exploitation would do harm to him/her/their family or friends.
- They may be forced to have a sexual intercourse, as a result, they may have sexually transmitted diseases or unwanted pregnancies.
- They may be forced to work in inappropriate physical conditions.
- Their cognitive, physical and emotional development may be negatively affected.
- Marrying a child may seem a sole remedy due to difficult conditions and despair. However, this may cause unrepairable damage to the child's physical and emotional development as well as lead to major health problems.
- According to Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery of 7 September 1956 (to which Turkey is a party), early marriage of children is a slavery practice.

REMEMBER!

In Turkey, the marriage deemed legal by the law is "civil marriage". According to Turkish Civil Law, child marriage and polygamy are crimes and require penal sanction. A non-civil marriage such as religious marriage is not legally valid.

Groups at Risk:

There are examples of children at risk below. The listed conditions may pose different risks to different children, and the risks may not be limited to the following.

- Children in puberty,
- Children that devoid of the right to education
- Children who are a victim of war
- Unaccompanied children (children separated from their families or children with no guardian)
- Children experiencing economic trouble
- Working children, children forced to work/beggary
- Children that differently develop (mentally/physically)
- Children being pushed into crime/child victim of crime
- More than one person living in a house

Suspect Situations indicating that Child may be at risk

- The child makes friend with persons quite older than him/her
- The child is not home for long hours other than work/school hours
- Constantly making new “friends”
- Leaving home by a luxury car and/or different cars
- Unexplained monetary gain and gifts
- The child cuts off communication with the family
- Absence of mind
- Behavioral changes in child
- Striking change in use of social media and telephone
- The child often asks to stay in a friend’s house
- The child wants to have a frequent baths/showers
- Physical signs (battery marks, etc.)
- Inappropriate conversations or behaviors regarding sexuality.
- Normalization of sexual acts
- Increased nervous breakdown of disabled children

In case of doubt, families should avoid to adopt blaming, threatening or oppressive attitude to their children.

Where to Resort to and Contact Details: **DO NOT REMAIN SILENT!**

In case of doubt, call the following units to report

- **155**- Police emergency line
- **156**- Gendarme (where there is no police and outside the provincial and municipal boundaries)
- **183**- Social Support Line
- **112**- Emergency Medical Service
- **157**- Communication Center for Foreigners (YİMER)

YİMER provides continuous service for 24/7 in 6 languages including Turkish, English, Arabic, Russian, German and Farsi. It is also used as a report and help line for visa procedures, residence permit for foreign, international protection and temporary protection, rescuing the victims of human trafficking, rescue operations for the victims of migrant smuggling.

444 48 68- UNHCR-SGDD (Association for Solidarity with Asylum-seekers and Migrants) Hotline

It provides service in Arabic, Farsi, English and Turkish languages for the refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey. It is open Monday to Thursday at 09.00 am to 17.00 pm, and at 09.00 am to 16.00 pm on Friday.

168- Turkish Red Crescent – Emergency Line

It provides service in 5 different languages including Turkish, Arabic, English, Farsi and Pushtu.



Are you worried about legal procedure and report?

I feel alone. Who could help me?

- You can call 183 – Social Support Line of Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services.
- You can call Emergency Line of Turkish Red Crescent (Alo 168) to ask for guidance from Red Crescent Community Center. This line provides service in 5 different languages including Turkish, Arabic, English, Farsi and Pushtu. The language support, psychosocial support, legal support and attorney assistance are also provided through this line.
- You can contact Association for Solidarity with Asylum-seekers and Migrants (SGDD), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)(444 48 68) or MUDEM (Immigrant Aid Society)(+903124272702).
- UNFPA Immigrant Support Line (08508880539) provides continuous support 24/7 (medical assistance and psychological support line) for sexually transmitted diseases and intersex individuals.

What if my friends find out!

Your privacy is protected by any authorities you resort to during the legal procedure.

I don't know Turkish!

You may ask for free translator from the police department and/or prosecution units during the legal procedure. In addition, the organizations working with immigrants (SGDD, Human Resource Development Foundation, Danish Refugee Council etc.) would provide translation and accompaniment support for you to use services. You may call YİMER (157) to ask for language support.

I have no attorneys!

After you have reported to a judicial unit, it is mandatory to appoint an attorney to you (pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure). If no such appointment occurs, you have the right to object. Furthermore, you may call the Bar Association (professional society of lawyers) during or before the legal procedure to ask for voluntary legal support. Union of Turkish Bar Associations gives priority to reports concerning children.

I have no money/financial potential!

The services including attorney support or translation during the legal procedure is free of charge. You can contact the Provincial Directorate of Family, Labor and Social Services, District overnates and Provincial/District Municipalities to ask for aid in kind or financial aid, and you may receive an aid for your needs.

***IN TURKEY, THE LAWS ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ARE APPLICABLE TO PROTECTION OF ANY CHILD WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.**



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