



This project is funded by the European Union

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN FIGHTING AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TOURISM AND TRAVEL SECTOR



**CHILD
FRIENDLY
TOURISM**



Commercial sexual exploitation of children:

is defined as the use of children for sexual purposes in return of material benefit or any other benefit

Commercial sexual exploitation of children; *includes the use of children in pornography, child trafficking for sexual purposes, forcing children to prostitution, early marriage, and tourism with children for sexual purposes.*

Child trafficking: A severest violation of the right of the child *Means any act or action where a child is transferred to other person by a person or a group of people for money or for anything.*

Why Travel and Tourism?

The travel and tourism sector is an easy target for the sexual abuse and exploitation of children for these reasons: circulation in the travel and tourism sector (quick change in tourist population), the service users do not know the laws of the destination country, it is difficult to identify the perpetrator of the violent crimes involving children and there is a perception of impunity in the sector, the places make easy to commit a crime in the travel and tourism environments, the staff of this sector lacks knowledge, and the third persons may remain unresponsive.



MIGRANT CHILDREN ARE AT RISK FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION!

Risk factors for being subject to sexual exploitation of migrant children:

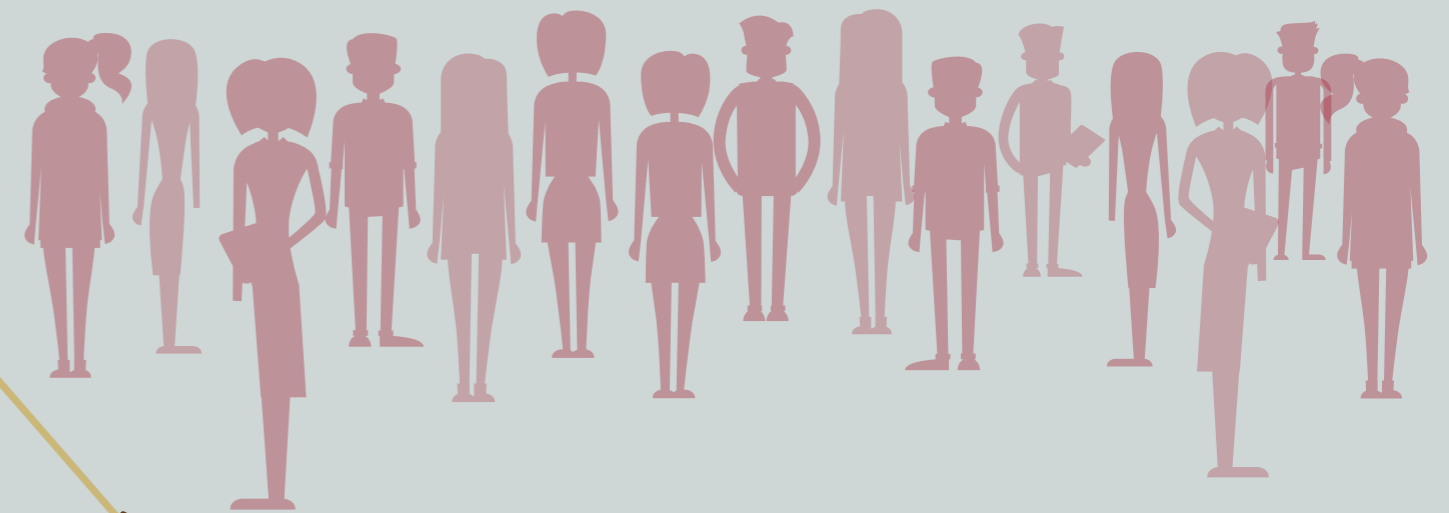
- Inability to use educational facilities
- Poverty, unfairness to access to rights and services
- Start working at an early age
- Security vulnerabilities
- Being unaware of legal rights and how to resort to an official authority
- Being shy of sharing experienced victimization due to cultural reasons
- Physical or intellectual developmental delay
- Language barrier
- Early and forced marriage

Why are Civil Society

Organizations important for fighting against sexual abuse and exploitation of children?

- Asylum-seekers, migrants and refugees may become a target for human traffickers for the purposes of sexual exploitation due to economic trouble and vulnerabilities in the social support mechanisms before they come to the host country, during transition, or during the time they spend in the host country.
- The civil society organizations (CSOs) are one of the most critical functions that can provide legal information to the migrants and operate the psychosocial support process.
- The migrants may directly share their situation with the CSO representative during the psychosocial support process or consultancy, or the CSO representative may identify anything that is suspicious during the interviews so that they can help taking necessary action.

A civil society organization is the first to be contacted by the migrants when they arrive in the host country.



Legal Legislation on Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

In Turkish Penal Code (TPC), the sexual exploitation of children is not entirely defined as an offense, however, the most apparent types of sexual exploitation of children are provided in the different articles of TPC. The relevant articles of Turkish Penal Code No. 5237 concerning the acts deemed as sexual abuse and exploitation are listed below:

- Article 80 of TPC: Offense of Human Trafficking
- Article 103 of TPC: Sexual Abuse
- Article 104 of TPC: Offense of Sexual Intercourse with Minor
- Article 102 of TPC: Sexual Assault Offense
- Article 97 of TPC: Abandonment Offense
- Article 226 of TPC: Obscenity
- Article 227 of TPC: Prostitution

The following law also describes the acts that are deemed sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.

- Law No.5395 on Protection of Children

IMPORTANT!

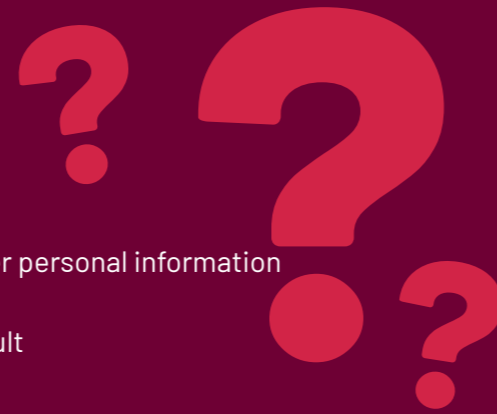


In TPC, the sexual exploitation of children is not entirely defined as an offense, and this makes it difficult to keep a record of cases. It is recorded as a case of human trafficking, child labor or sexual abuse in the statistics and/or database of CSOs, which causes inaccessibility of accurate data on the size and visibility of problem.

The child trafficking for sexual purposes may take place between the countries or within the same country.

Suspicious Situations

- Children who have difficulty in describing where they are
- Children who refrain from/be afraid to say where they live or give other personal information
- Children who feel uncomfortable or anxious when they are with an adult
- Children who do not have an identity card or travel warrant
- Children who look like telling a taught story when you try to have personal information
- Children who look like unaccompanied or not have an older family member but travel with an adult
- Adults who do not look like a sibling or relative and travel with more than one child
- Children who are forced to marry by their family at early age
- Children who regularly came to your community center but suddenly stopped coming
- When you ask a question to the child, the adult with them answers it
- The child is not seen during family visits although it is known that a child lives there
- Unexplained increase in income of the family or child
- Family constantly rejects to communicate with the CSO
- The child wears too eye-catching clothes for his/her age
- Behavioral and emotional signs in the child



What can you do?

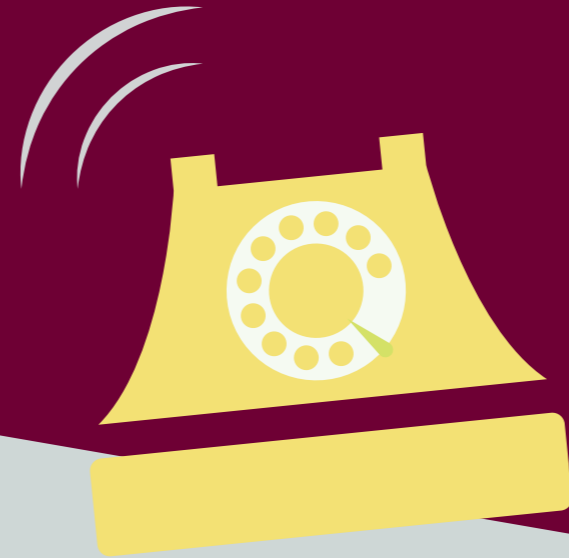
- Remember to focus on the high benefit of the child!
- The victims may feel shy to share their experience for cultural reasons, build a trust relationship.
- Systematically record and report the obtained data.
- Make sure that measures are taken to ensure physical safety of the child.
- When required, refer the child to a specialist.
- Inform the family and child of legal procedure, attorney and translator support, aid in kind and financial aid.
- Cooperate with Provincial Directorate of Migration, and Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services
- Remember that children who are a victim of sexual exploitation have right to use the measures set out in the Law on Protection of Children.
- Keep in contact with persons who could provide information such as hotels, taxi stands, shops, etc. located near out organization
- Remember to rely on the child's statement when they describe the case.
- Cooperate with other CSOs operating in this area.
- Do not ignore any suspicious situations just by saying "it's cultural", pay attention.



Hotlines

You Can Call in case of Emergency

- **157** Communication Center for Foreigners (YİMER)
- **444 48 68** UNHCR-SGDD Hotline
- **155** Police Department
- **156** Gendarme
- **183** Social Support Line
- **168** Turkish Red Crescent Emergency Line



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of International Children's Center and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

