



Child Trafficking is the movement of children into and within the country with the intent to exploit and abuse them

Messages from research



“There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know.

There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know.

But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.”

(Donald Rumsfeld)



The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (article 3a)

United Nations (2000) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children



- third largest illegal trade after drugs and weapons smuggling
- one of the fastest growing criminal activities in the world
- comparatively low risk and high rewards for the traffickers
- since 2000 international literature has mainly focused on prevalence and recognising trafficking as a growing problem
- substantial writing about trafficking - significantly less literature based on empirical research (Gozdziaik 2008)
- numbers of trafficked people remains largely unknown and based on estimates (UNODC 2009)



Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005)

Children (Scotland) Act 1995 s22 1(a)

- safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 s22

- trafficking for sexual exploitation

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 s4

- trafficking people for exploitation



- Save the Children (2006) - subsequent seminars
- Glasgow multi-agency child trafficking meeting (2007)
- Pentameter 1 & 2 – 64 cases of trafficking (1 child?)
- Amnesty International (2008)
- Home Office / Scottish Government (2009) NRM



- 1.2 million children trafficked annually (ILO 2002)
- 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders annually – 50% are children (US Dept of Justice 2008)
- 120,000 women and girls may be trafficked into and within Europe each year (European Commission 2001)
- 21,400 victims identified through CJ process & victim organisations (UNODC 2009)
- Over 600 children identified in the UK (CEOP 2007; 2009)
- In first six months, 40 children have been referred to NRM.



2009 CPC report - a social work case file analysis of 75 unaccompanied asylum seeking children

Conclusions – there are ‘reasonable grounds’ to believe that:

- 21% of UASCs in Glasgow have been trafficked
- 7% have probably been trafficked
- for a further 15% there are suspicions about possible trafficking



Where do trafficked children come from?





United Kingdom

- China
- UK
- Afghanistan
- Nigeria
- Romania
- Vietnam

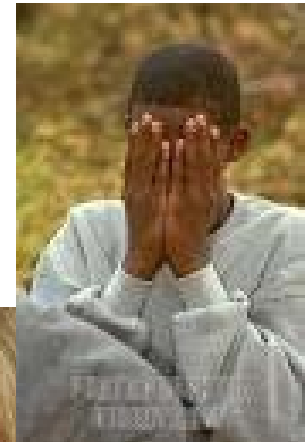
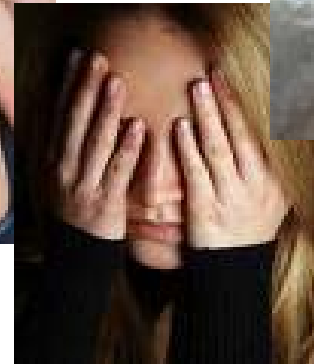
52 source countries
CEOP 2009

Glasgow

- China
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
(Afghanistan)



**What do they
look like?**





United Kingdom

- 68% females; 29% males
- 47% (16 & 17 years old)

Glasgow

- 80% females; 20% males
- 50% (16 & 17 years old)

**Why are they
vulnerable?**





Push factors

- Gender based inequalities & violence
- Poverty
- Poor education
- Absence of birth registers
- Children without carers
- Conflict
- Traditional values and culture

Pull factors

- Demand for exploitative sex
- Demand for cheap labour
- Huge profits

How do they get here?





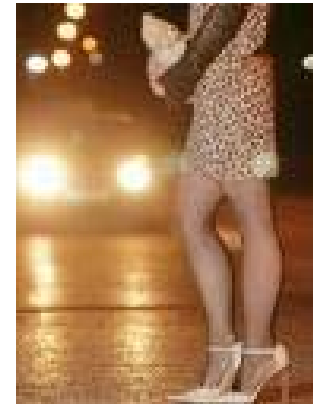
United Kingdom

- Use of safe houses in transit countries
- Up to a year for trafficking process before arrival in UK
- Use of asylum process and local authority accommodation to facilitate trafficking

Glasgow

- Use of safe houses in transit countries and UK
- Over a year being trafficked, some over a year in UK
- Trafficked children in the asylum process and LA accommodation

**What are children
forced to do?**





Child Trafficking

- Sexual exploitation
 - Forced labour
 - Domestic servitude
 - Cannabis factories
 - Street crimes
 - Benefit fraud
 - Forced marriage
 - Illegal adoption
- (CEOP 2009)

The backgrounds, journeys and experiences of children indicates multiple types of abuse, suggesting that children are rarely trafficked for one type of exploitation, or are at least susceptible to multiple abuses as a result of trafficking (Rigby 2009)

**Why do we not
see them?**





- Verbal & physical threats and intimidation
- Controlled through physical and sexual assault
- Destruction of ID documents
- Psychological and emotional pressure
- Voodoo and ritual oaths
- Restriction of movement
- Alcohol & drugs
- Fear of authorities



NATIONWIDE ISSUES (Pearce et al 2009)

Child Trafficking



- Children trafficked from abroad do not receive same child protection safeguards as UK children
- Disclosures (where they happen) are often not believed or children not listened to
- Difficulty of profiling as hides individual variations
- Importance of close multi-agency working and information sharing
- Specialists services needed
- Accommodation (especially B&B / hotels for over 16 year olds) not appropriate
- Children and young people are going missing
- Age assessment problematic and controversial (take away responsibility from local authorities and UKBA)
- Use of interpreters (children's fear)



- Trafficked children are not being appropriately identified
- Workers are largely unaware of indicators of trafficking making identification difficult
- Statutory child protection and / or vulnerable young person procedures absent
- Accommodation for children over 16 years of age not appropriate
- Absence of specialist support



- How many children known to authorities remain unidentified as trafficking victims?
- How many other trafficked children?
- What are their backgrounds, life histories, journeys ?
- What works to improve outcomes for trafficked children?
- What outcomes do we want for trafficked children?
- How can research, policy and practice collaborate to improve understanding and provide appropriate services?

“So far we have not attained much knowledge and therefore initiatives have been inadequate and disjointed. Policy can be effective if it is evidence-based, and so far the evidence has been scanty”

(UNODC 2009)

- **We still do not know enough about children who have been trafficked, their backgrounds, experiences, journeys and recovery**
- **We know even less about the traffickers**



- Three children have been referred to the Competent Authority via the National Referral Mechanism
- Glasgow is the fifth most popular destination for child trafficking victims in the UK (Booth 2009 Guardian report)
- Child protection team has a dataset of nearly 40 children who practitioners suspect have been trafficked
- Research continuing to further explore Glasgow situation



Glasgow CPC Inter Agency Guidance for Child Trafficking

What action should I take...

**if I have a suspicion that a
child has been trafficked?**



Where there is any suspicion that a child may have been trafficked...

- Review case *immediately*
- Refer to NRM form and Matrix
- Refer to CPC Guidance
- Consult with CP Team

What action should I take...

**If I believe a child
has been trafficked?**



Where it is believed that a child has been trafficked...

- Refer to SW Services/CP team
- Case Discussion
- Full Assessment
- Referral to Competent Authority
- CP/VYP procedures



Child Trafficking

- National Referral Mechanism / competent authority (identifying victims)
- Trafficking / smuggling distinction
- Child protection / child in need
- Appropriate child protection provision for all children
- Safe accommodation/children going missing
- Age assessments
- Services for child trafficking victims
- International social work and cultural awareness
- Validity of the indicators – risk assessment (evidence vs. suspicion)
- Multi-agency (international) data sharing and communication
- Confidentiality

Useful Numbers:

- **CP Team SWS – 420 5838**
- **CP Unit Yorkhill – 201 9253**
- **TARA (Support for women who may have been trafficked for sexual exploitation) – 276 7724**
- **UKBA - 555 1200**
- **Legal Services Agency 353 3354**