

# SnowBell Project

Uncovering darkness among us



The following paper recompiles the research conducted by different entities (Law enforcement, international organizations and non for profits) on a comprehensive approach which analyse the issue globally



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# Overview of the issue

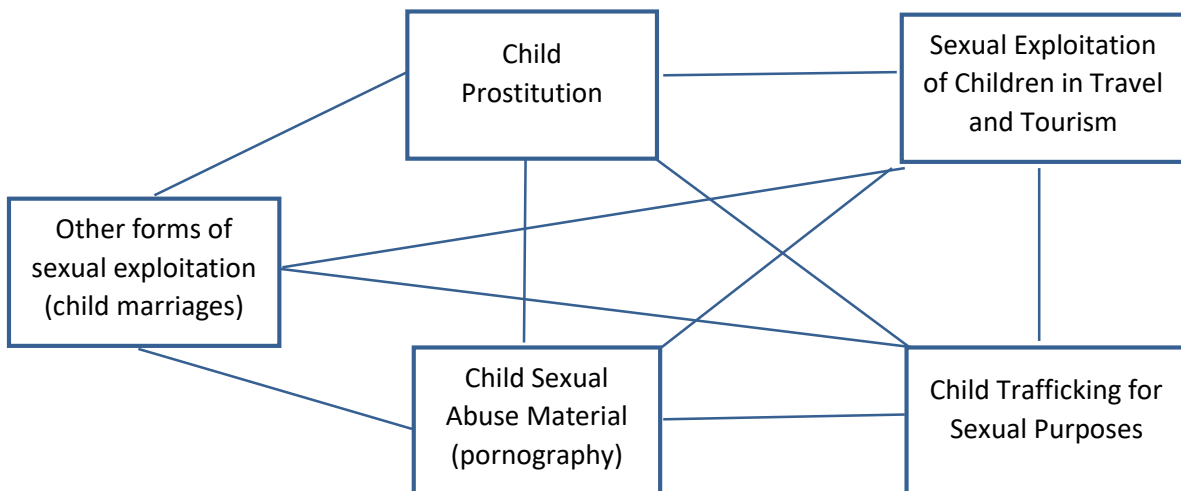
Child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) along with trafficking and material distribution, is one of the most horrendous crimes that have become one of the most profitable business in the world after drugs trafficking. The problem has really just took off with the evolution of certain technologies, and the explosion of internet where nearly 52% of the world population has access to it, after thinking the problem was over in the 90's. In Australia, the AFP has received more than 4500 reports of child exploitation within the first 5 months of the 2017. Each one of these reports contain hundreds of thousands of images and videos of children being sexually abused and tortured.

Every day, countless children around the world are sexually abused and exploited, and images and videos of the abuse are circulated online. One million child sexual abuse images were online by the 2015, and nearly 50,000 new images are added each year. The most stunning fact is that children below 10 years old represent the 70% of these reported images. Moreover, children who have been rescued are re-victimized as their abuse imagery remains online forever.

The abuse is growing day by day, and law enforcement agencies cannot deal with it alone. Many private companies, NGO's and international organizations have join to fight against it, but the truth is that these criminals lead a great advantage on the use of internet platforms, payment methods such as bitcoin and the ability to hide within the dark web.

Research to date has identified three distinct categories of CSE offenders: contact-only offenders, online-only offenders, and dual offenders who engage in both contact and online offences over time (McGuire & Dowling 2013). There is an obvious connection between online grooming and seeking to commit contact CSE offences in the physical world<sup>1</sup>.

The victimization of children can have different manifestations which are strictly interconnected and in many occasions, it is been treated under the same approach.<sup>13</sup>





## Impact of the Crime

The consequences can be devastating for child victims and also for the countries which main income comes from tourism. Each child's individual circumstances and the factors around the case such as the form of the abuse, duration and living style can bring different effects. Never the less, children who were sexually exploited suffer severe life-long emotional, psychological and physical consequences. As such, many victims have reported been beaten, raped and exposed to other forms of physical violence from perpetrators, pimps, traffickers and often police, leading to health and reproductive problems.<sup>13</sup>

The emotional and psychological damage on victimized children can have a more devastating impact. Not only the feeling of shame, guilt and low self-esteem but some victims do not believe they are worthy of rescue, attempt suicide, suffer from post-traumatic disorders or turn to substance abuse. Reintegrating children involved in sexual exploitation can be difficult as they are often stigmatized. This may come from their communities, families as well as law enforcers, caregivers and other actors responsible for their protection.<sup>13</sup>

***When effective and comprehensive psychological and social recovery and reintegration programmes are not available, child victims may run away from care facilities and fall back into sexual exploitation***

Such consequence not only claims the child but also ruptures families, causes cultural disintegration and endangers public health. For instance, when tourist destinations become known as (child) sex tourism spot and prostitution one of the major source of income, the local community is at risk for infection with HIV and other STD's. Other non-profit organizations in Latvia and Ukraine have reported a considerable increase in HIV infections due to burgeoning demand for sex tourists. Moreover, when a locality has gained such reputation, it can badly damage other industries on the loss of ordinary tourists and other investments.<sup>13</sup>

Corruption and the growth of other types of crimes can be linked to the issue as well. Estimated illegal profits of US\$20 billion per year can be linked to criminal networks for the matter, along with US\$3-\$20 billion in child pornography.<sup>13</sup>

***Sexual abuse of one child in front of a live webcam is estimated to generate revenues of US\$1,000 per night***



# Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE)

Certain technologies form part of our day to day lives which seems to be harmless. However, most people do not realize that technologies such as live streaming, social networks, chat rooms, hidden services are empowering the online sexual exploitation of children, often for profit. The process begins when an offender gain access to a potential child victim and using different methods (psychological manipulation, coercion, threatening, extortion, etc.). Then the child is victimized through commercial sexual exploitation and material of the abuse is produced.

Perpetrators can pay not only to have access to the so called “child pornography” but also to have direct sexual abuse of the child from anywhere in the world. The places used can be private homes, internet cafes, or “cyber dens” in or near the child’s community. Disturbingly, closed and highly protected online communities dedicated to the sexual abuse have proliferated. Victims of this particular crime have been reported in Colombia, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand, and the United States. Many other countries such Australia, Britain, Canada, the Netherlands, the Philippines and the US, have prosecuted offenders paying to abuse children and offenders who facilitated the abuse.<sup>5</sup>

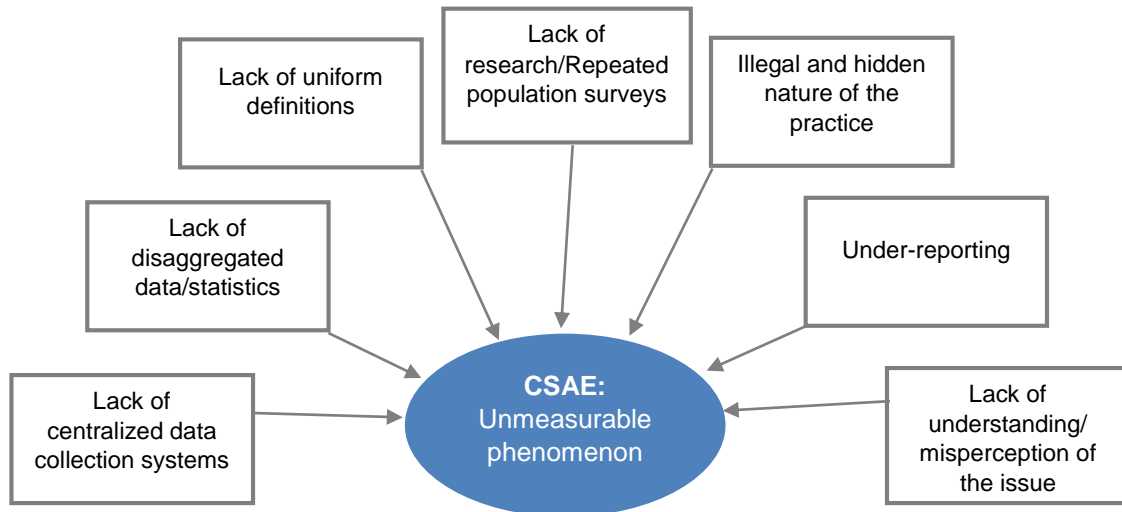
The real issue is the lack of understanding of the magnitude of the problem itself, ignoring their own community involvement and the fact that offenders are among us have allowed its growth. The low financial cost of this criminal enterprise (an internet connection and a mobile device or computer-linked webcam), coupled with its low risk nature (as seen by the relatively small number of convictions globally) and high profitability has just made the child exploitation prevalent and let it grow to stratospheric levels every year.

Despite such challenges, governments, international organizations, and NGOs are working together to address CSAE. Successful detection and prosecution of offenders have been implemented with the help of cybercrime experts providing secure cyber evidence, the adjustment of laws and procedures, training for prosecutors and care for victims.<sup>5</sup>



## Measurement

CSAE reliable data is of crucial importance for planning effective response, develop evidence based programs, interventions and measurement of the impact. As per the figure below, these are the main factors that represents a major obstacle scoping the problem.



**Factors hindering quantitative analysis of CSAE<sup>13</sup>**

## Child Sex Tourism

Child sex tourism (CST) is defined as travel abroad to engage in the commercial sexual exploitation of a child under the age of 18.

Estimates Globally, some 250,000 people are reported to travel abroad every year to engage in sex with children and adolescents, according to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). This estimate is, however, problematic as it appears to measure only those individuals who travel outside their country of origin with the specific purpose of abusing children (i.e. preferential offenders), which fails to include both domestic and situational perpetrators.<sup>13</sup>

Information whereas children in foreign destinations for prostitution is available in paedophile newsgroups and forums on Internet. In some countries, there is a thriving commercial sex industry, and such information can be obtained from taxi drivers, hotel concierges, newspaper advertisements, etc. Studies show Southern Asian countries, especially Cambodia, The Philippines, and Thailand as the most common destinations for child sex tourism. Latin American countries such as Costa Rica, Mexico, and Brazil are also emerging destinations.<sup>14</sup>

The FBI's Criminal Investigative division has implemented joint operations overseas with governments to tackle this issue and gather evidence to prosecute them in U.S. courts as 25% of child sex tourist in Asia are U.S. citizens and 80% in Latin America.<sup>14</sup>



## Perpetrators of Sexual Abuse

According to different sources, including the US Department of Justice:

- An estimated 60% of perpetrators of sexual abuse are known to the child but are not family members, e.g., family friends, babysitters, child care providers, neighbours.
- About 30% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are family members.
- Only about 10% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are strangers to the child.

## CSAE in Australia

### Facts and statistics

- Slavery has been illegal in Australia since 1824, and in 1999 slavery offences were made part of the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995.
- 194 Australian children have been identified in online exploitation material as of 1 June 2016
- 102 Australian offenders have been identified as of 1 June 2016
- 11,000 reports made to the AFP in 2015
- Australians have been identified as travelling sex offenders in at least 25 countries and as the largest group of sex tourists prosecuted in Thailand (31% of the total)

### The cases of Shannon McCoolle and Matthew Graham

In 2016, Matthew Graham was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for distributing child exploitation material. Graham administered online websites and forums between 2012 and 2014. He shared hundreds of thousands of images, including videos of the torture and rape of a young child in the Philippines, and in one instance, encouraged the rape and murder of a child in Russia.

As head administrator of a global online network with 45,000 members, in 2015 McCoolle was sentenced to 35 years' imprisonment for his crimes. The network was operated from Australia, and allowed communication between individuals in a secure fashion share data in anonymity.<sup>3</sup>

### Offence categories

The Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth; the CCA) creates CEM and online grooming offences under the telecommunications power in sub-section 51(v) of the Australian Constitution. These offences capture only a narrowly defined aspect of CSE offending involving online behaviour. Relevant offences in the CCA are framed in terms of 'child pornography material', which is defined in section 473.1 and includes depictions of a child (or representations of a child) who is or appears to be engaged in sexual activity.

It is important to notice that The AFP enforces the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 (Criminal Code Act) which prohibits online child sex offences, but does not deal with offline child sex offences,



except for CEM and grooming offences involving the use of a ‘postal or similar service’ in Sub-Division 471 (B) and a limited number of cases involving offences committed by Australians overseas. This means that AFP investigations are likely to be based on suspected online offending in Australia.

Offence (in broad terms)	Cth	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	TAS	WA	NT	ACT
<b>Child Exploitation Material</b>									
Producing child exploitation material	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Involving child in making child exploitation material	☐	✓	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓
Distributing, dissemination and/or publishing child exploitation material	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Possession of child exploitation material	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accessing child exploitation material	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
Administering child exploitation material website	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encouraging use of a website for child exploitation material	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Using carriage services for advertising or promotion, solicitation of child exploitation material	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
<b>Child sexual exploitation with online aspects</b>									
Grooming	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	☐	☐
Procurement of child to engage in sexual activity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meeting child following grooming	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Exposing child to indecent material	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓
Making communication with intent to expose minor to indecent material	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
<b>Other</b>									
Extraterritoriality of some offences	✓	☐	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓	✓	☐
Obligations for internet service providers	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

**Comparison of the scope of legislation for various child exploitation offences across jurisdictions in Australia<sup>21</sup>**





## CSAE around the world



***Geolocation of countries when CSAE occurs as per the FBI criminal investigative division<sup>14</sup>***

Nowadays, it is highly complex to produce accurate statistics on commercial sexual exploitation of children as is a clandestine scourge. Usually, children are trafficked within underground networks, so most sexual exploitation cases never come to the attention of government authorities. In many countries, it is not even a recognized problem. It is estimated that one million children (mainly girls) enter the multibillion dollar commercial sex trade every year and the issue is global.<sup>10</sup>

Children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation, top 5 countries:<sup>11</sup>

- Sri Lanka: Over 40,000 child prostitution
- Thailand: Involved 800,000 children under 16 by 2004, being tremendously influenced by tourism
- Brazil: Half a million child sex workers involved, with girls as young as 12. Unemployment and extreme poverty are strong factors for parents to sell their children.
- United States: Range from 1,400 to 2.4 million children depending of the state. Rescued children remain the orphans of America's justice system.
- Canada: Estimated to be 16,000 reports every year

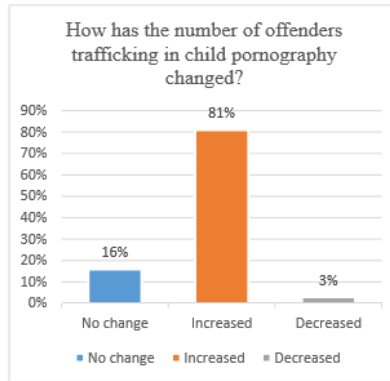
A global alliance against CSA was launched on December 2012 by the European commission and the US, gathering 54 countries (Including nations such as Australia, New Zealand, The United States, Canada, Europe, Thailand) which committed to tackle from different angles all forms of the issue: <sup>2</sup>

- Enhancing efforts to identify victims of CSAM, and ensuring that they receive support and protection
- Enhancing efforts to investigate cases of CSA online and to identify and prosecute offenders
- Increasing public awareness of the risks posed by children's activities online
- Reducing the availability of child pornography online and the re-victimization of children.

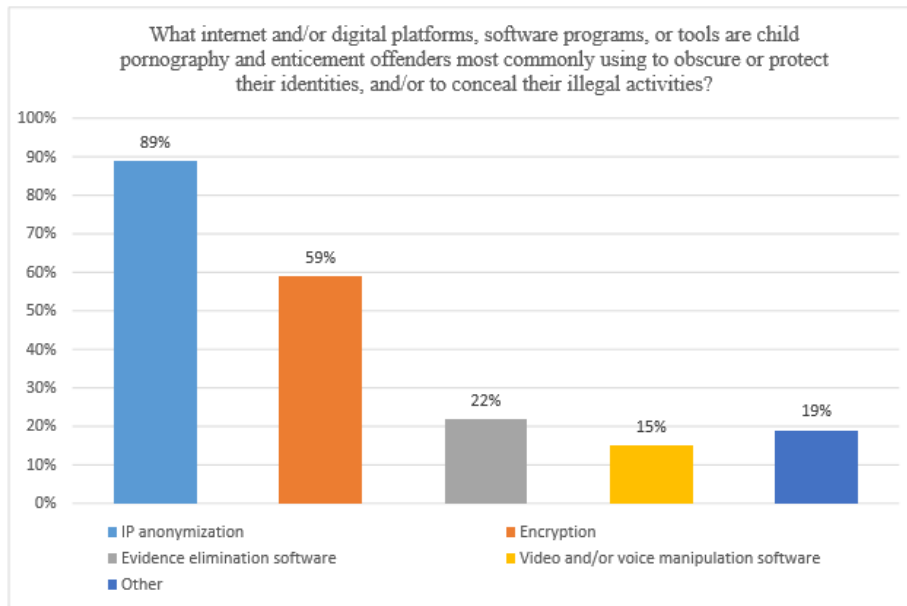


After the conference, the member countries provided an update on the progress and the results of the investigation are alarming. The following conclusions were collected from 31 out of the 37 surveyed countries: <sup>2</sup>

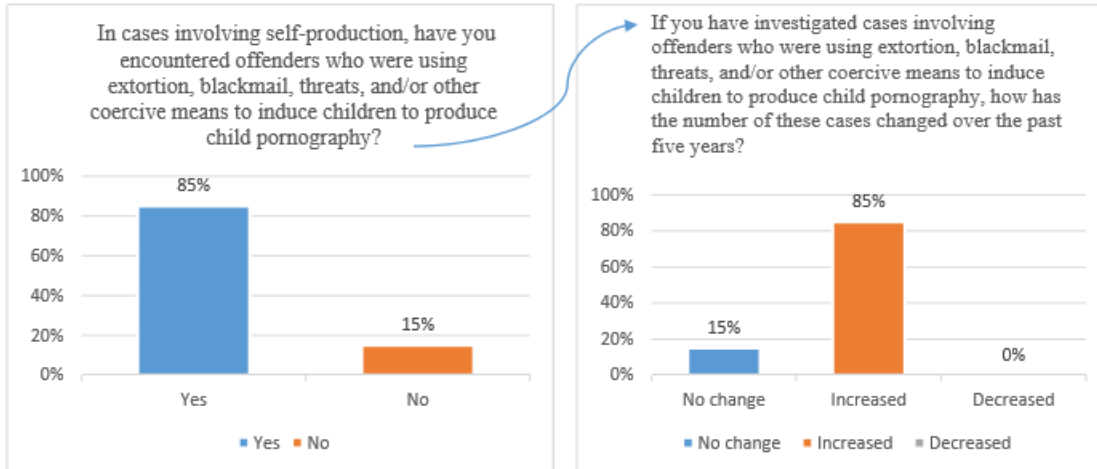
- Online child sexual abuse offenses are evolving and becoming more prevalent, more extreme, more complex and more difficult to investigate<sup>2</sup>



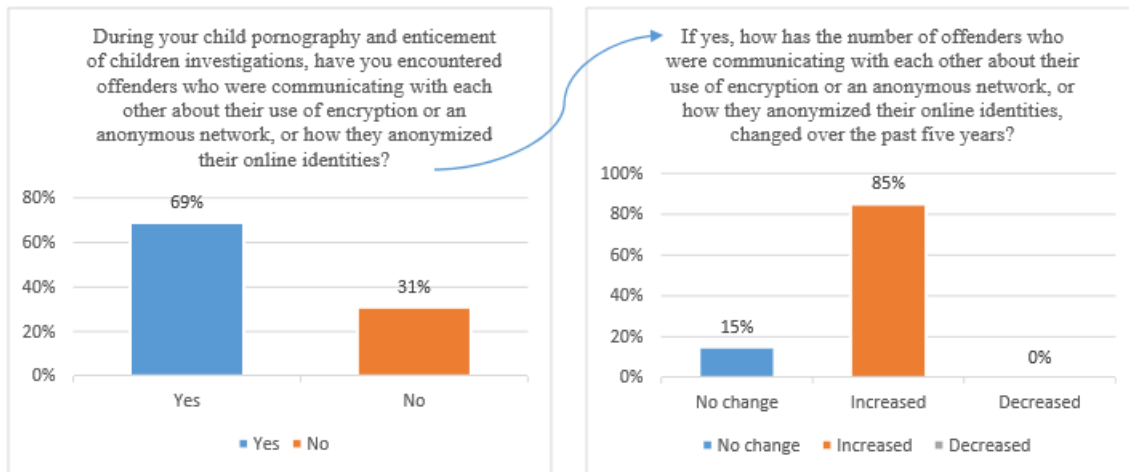
- Encryption and anonymization software have enable offenders to migrate into anonymous networks, communicate with other offenders, share CSAM and find more opportunities through mobile technology to entice children. <sup>2</sup>



- The volume of CSAM has increased at stratospheric levels as the number of offenders who often use blackmail and extortion to receive more CSAM. <sup>2</sup>



- CSAE has entered international networks, which involves constraints imposed by the differences of countries laws and jurisdiction.<sup>2</sup>





## CSAE in the United States of America

Hundreds of American children are also being sold into sex, according to the BBC, where poverty and neglect are thought to be some of the main reasons why young kids are vulnerable to sex trafficking.<sup>8</sup>

### Facts and statistics

The findings below are the results of research conducted by the U.S. department of justice (NSOPW)<sup>4</sup>

- Approximately 1 in 7 (13%) youth Internet users received unwanted sexual solicitations
- 9% of youth Internet users had been exposed to distressing sexual material while online
- 1 in 25 youths received an online sexual solicitation in which the solicitor tried to make offline contact.
- The most common first encounter of a predator with an Internet-initiated sex crimes victim took place in an online chat room (76%).
- In nearly half (47%) of the cases involving an Internet-initiated sex crimes victim, the predator offered gifts or money during the relationship-building phase.
- An estimated 60% of perpetrators of sexual abuse are known to the child but are not family members, e.g., family friends, babysitters, child care providers, neighbours.

## CSAE in Europe

CSAE came to light in the early 1990s when evidence that Europeans were sexually abusing children in developing countries. After 20 years, Europe is still a receiving and sending region for travelling child offenders despite big efforts to eradicate the problem. Europe received 563 million visitors on the 2013, and despite global competition, is still the number one tourist destination and the largest producer of tourist and travellers who exploit children sexually.<sup>13</sup>

Below main figures about the issue are described by country and factor:

Country	Estimate (per year)
<b>Austria</b>	2,500-4,000
<b>Italy</b>	80,000
<b>Netherlands</b>	Over 3,000
<b>Norway</b>	At least 100 to 150
<b>Spain</b>	40,000
<b>Sweden</b>	4,000 – 5,000

*Estimate of Europeans perpetrators in CSAE travel and tourism by country (2016)<sup>13</sup>*



**Where does CSE occurs?**

The precise scope of the issue in Europe still remain unknown, however many organizations have gather information together regarding the emerging trends in the region. Mapping the “hot spots” can provide valuable information on the nature and situation of the issue such as origin and destination countries and how they shifted. <sup>13</sup>

Below we can find a mapping of the countries from perpetrators come from and countries where children are being exploited by foreigners in child sex tourism.

Traditional/long affected country of origin	Confirmed emerging country of origin	Potential emerging country of origin
Austria	Russia	Greece
Belgium	Turkey	Ireland
Denmark	Portugal	Luxembourg
Finland		Poland
France		Romania
Germany		Slovenia
Italy		
Netherlands		
Norway		
Spain		
Sweden		
Switzerland		
United Kingdom		

*European countries of origin for Child sex tourism (2016)<sup>13</sup>*

Traditional/long affected country of destination	Confirmed emerging country of destination	Potential emerging country of destination
Czech Republic	Albania	Armenia
Latvia	Bulgaria	Azerbaijan
Portugal	Estonia	Belarus
Russia	Moldova	Belgium
Romania	Poland	Croatia
Slovakia	Spain	Georgia
	Turkey	Greece
	Ukraine	Hungary
		Kazakhstan
		Kyrgyzstan
		Netherlands
		Montenegro
		UK

*European countries of destination for Child sex tourism<sup>13</sup>*



### CSAE around Asian countries

Because many children in Asia are extremely poor and often don't go to school, they are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Child sex tourism and online child abuse in this region increase because of cheaper flights to Asia and better access to the Internet. Because of a lack of both coordination and exchange of information between authorities, law enforcement and prosecution are often not put into practice. Few perpetrators are prosecuted for their crimes and the majority escapes their punishment.

In the Philippines, where many are impoverished and nearly half of the population has access to internet, many people in poor communities make income out of child exploitation. Online sessions can be conducted at low cost using cell phones or a simple computer with webcam. Prospects offenders can connect easily and make anonymous payments by wire transfer, so often naked children are exposed and exploited on camera. In several cases, family members justify this act affirming that no harm is done to the child, especially where no physical contact is done.<sup>5</sup>

### CSAE in South American countries

The use of children in prostitution is common across Latin America. The presence of open, tolerated zones and facilities for the sex trade catering to adults often facilitates the use of children. In most cases, these businesses are controlled by, or have close relationships, with criminal groups and networks involved in drug smuggling and trafficking of persons. Recruitment of children for CSEC is increasing in environments meant to be safe, such as schools, communities and families. Public tolerance of CSEC is also reported in all countries, and child victims are typically subject to public rejection and perceived as criminals rather than victims, both in communities and by authorities. In countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Nicaragua children from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities have been found to be the most vulnerable – a serious concern in a Region that hosts more than 100 million children from these communities<sup>35</sup>. ECPAT Groups in Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru have reported that children from migrant, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are more vulnerable to CSEC; which is more a consequence of socio-economic structural barriers than of specific cultural traditions.<sup>18</sup>

***27% of victims of trafficking are under 18 years of age, and more than 50% are trafficked for sexual purposes***

The massive flow of tourists to destinations with high levels of inequality has reportedly led to increased demand for sexual activity with children, especially by tourists from European countries and the United States. Tourism destinations tend to be permissive, facilitating contact with sex markets where adolescents can be contacted (brothels and surrounding areas) or permitting child sex abuse by tourists in hotels or rented apartments.<sup>18</sup>



To reduce the public visibility of the child sex trade, increased use of cell-phone contacts for prearranged encounters with male and female children was recently detected in Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru. This practice has made more difficult the process to identify perpetrators (pimps and customers) and also increased the danger and exposure of child victims.<sup>18</sup>



# Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and online distribution

***An average of 7 new child victims is identified everyday***

In many occasions, media use the term “Child pornography” which in most cases is better understood by society, but it is not the most appropriate term to describe victims of a crime. Child sexual abuse material (CSAM) would be a term used by law enforcement agencies such as the Interpol or the Australian Federal police (AFP). What is important to remember, despite the ‘virtual’ nature of these acts, is that behind the screen are real children.

The ECPAT organization has noted that there has been a significant increase in the use of live video streaming of child sexual abuse. In 2015 “image hosts” were used by perpetrators on a higher rate to upload abuse images or videos more than any other services with 42% of all confirmed child sexual abuse reports back in the 2013. By 2015, this increased to 78% of the total (53,218 reports).<sup>13</sup>

Technology evolution within the last 10 years has just enable the perpetration of CSAM. According to the International association of internet hotlines, the number of webpages containing child sexual abuse materials increased by 147 percent from 2012 to 2014. We address this issue as part of the CSE within a different category, as the law convictions are applied in a different way to these offences, as well as offenders’ type.<sup>7</sup>

Below we can find the major categories related to this offence:

- Possession of CEM
- Production, distribution, control, obtaining material that depicts people under 18 years’ old
- Engaging in sexual activity or posing sexually; depicting genitals of children for sexual purposes; or depicting children as victims of torture, cruelty or physical abuse

In Australia between 2014 and 2015, over 5,000 investigations were completed into confirmed ‘child abuse material’ that breached particular classification standards.<sup>1</sup>

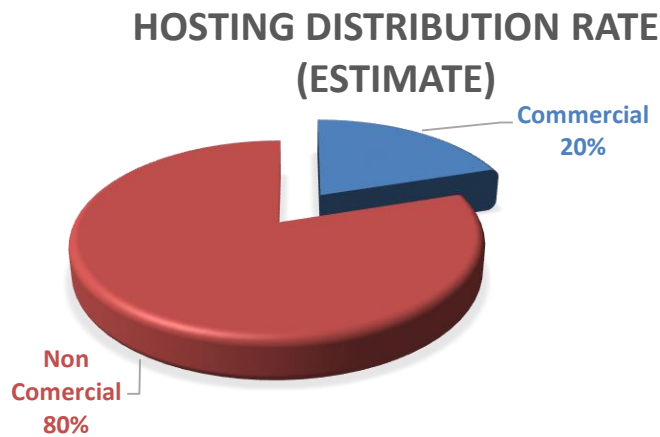
Research indicates CSAM offending behaviour does not necessarily fall neatly into strict categories of either online or offline activity (Henshaw, Ogloff & Clough 2015). In addition, some of these offenders may store and distribute images using storage technology without engaging in online activity.<sup>1</sup>





## Commercial and non-commercial hosting

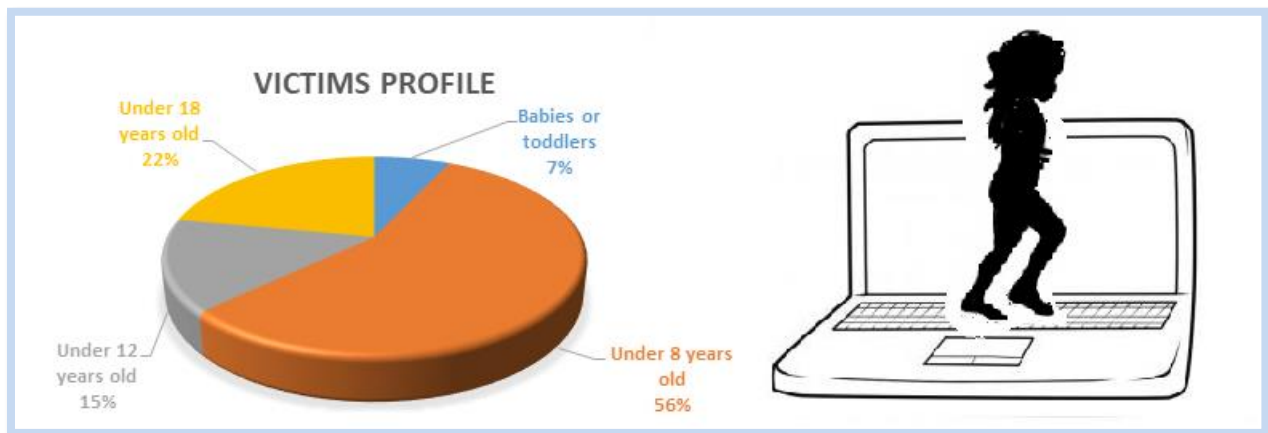
Online child exploitation has been recognized to be a multibillionaire industry and one of the fastest growing. Never the least, some research has suggested that the majority of CSAM is not commercial, which means offenders can access it at no cost.<sup>21</sup>



INHOPE and The Internet Watch Foundation have variance on this estimation (87% vs 79%), so we represented.<sup>21</sup>

## Victims Profile

This is highly complex to determine as different sources point again variance on the numbers. However, the findings of the internet Watch Foundations were quite disturbing<sup>21</sup>



According to the UK child exploitation and online protection centre (CEOP), children of white ethnicity between 11 and 14 represent the main victims for sextortion. However, information from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) reveals that girls of white ethnicity still represent the main victims of CSAM, but the age is considerably lower, with more than 80% of the victims younger than 10. It also shows an increase in infant victims of sexual abuse and in abuse of an extreme and sadistic nature.<sup>6</sup>



Approximately 60% of the abuse against babies and toddlers involved explicit and extreme sexual assaults, and 34% were showing sexual torture to children.<sup>21</sup>

### Victim's characteristics in cases of online sexual coercion and extortion

- Naivety of the children, either on relational level or technical level
- Absence of parental control
- Willingness to share self-generated sexual content
- Significant amount of time spent online each day
- Use of social networks, especially on mobiles
- Befriending strangers and having sexual conversations with them
- Lack of technical knowledge

Usually male cases are financially motivated while females are attached for sexual purposes.

### Offenders

Evidence suggests that some offenders use CEM without ever directly sexually abusing a child, therefore no direct link between committing abuse and viewing material. However, it represents a strong risk factor for child sexual abuse for individuals already disposed to it.<sup>16</sup>

Below a typology of CEM offenders is proposed:<sup>16</sup>

- Curious and impulsive users
- Users who access and share images to fuel their sexual interest
- Hands on offenders who also use child pornography
- Users who distribute images for non-sexual motivations (financial gain for instance)

### Offenders profile sexual motivation

- Usually males seeking female victims
- Operates alone but shares content
- May act internationally and nationally
- Knowledge of languages
- May know the victim in person
- Main goal is to obtain sexual material and or sexual favours online

### Offenders profile financial motivation

- Both genders
- Members of an organised criminal enterprise
- Operates in teams based in developing countries
- May act internationally and nationally
- Targets male victims in countries linked by language
- Does not know the victim in person
- Main goal is to obtain money



## How is commonly CEM accessed?

It is very difficult to accurately estimate the scale of CEM market due to its clandestine nature. Never the less, robust data have been obtained from P2P networks studies, which indicated that:

- Almost 245,000 US computers had shared 120,418 unique CEM files in a 12-month period.
- 9,700 CEM files are trafficked daily by 2.5 million distinct peers in more than 100 countries
- It seems not difficult to find CEM on the internet, whether deliberately or accidentally within email spams, within legal pornography websites or software download.<sup>16</sup>

## Key elements of online sexual coercion and extortion of children

In many occasions, CEM is recorded not only by offenders, but also victims. This material can be created by the minors for private purposes and get hacked, or created during a deceptive conversation with a perpetrator. Some of the manipulative tactics for material acquisition can be:<sup>19</sup>

- Reciprocation (I will show if you show)
- Developing a bond, romantic/friendship relationship
- Pretending to be younger
- Pretending to be females really wanting males
- Accessing the child's online account and stealing material
- Recording the child on a video chat
- Initially offering things to the child such as money or drugs in exchange of sexually explicit material
- Pretending to work for a modelling agency

The treats these perpetrators can use in order to obtain sexual material can be:

- Physically threatening to hurt or sexually assault the child or family members
- Threatening to commit suicide themselves
- Threatening to create sexual content of the child using digital editors
- Saving sexual explicit conversations and threatening to post them online

## CEM on the Darknet

The use of the Darknet is increasingly popular among first world countries. Furthermore, a great number of offenders with security and technical knowledge have taken advantage of hidden services such as TOR to manage networks of child abuse material, making untraceable the exchange of images through websites, private messages or emails.<sup>6</sup>



Within this environment, offenders share guidance on how to sanitize material or mislead investigators, cleaning background from images and digital print. Furthermore, they show best practices on how to rape, kidnap, murder and dispose the child's body openly within forums, which is openly discussed. Children abuse material of a sadistic and violent nature is more available, with younger and younger children every time. <sup>6</sup>

A common feature of most message boards is a VIP or restricted section within this environment, with access that involves vetting procedure that often requires production of new child sexual abuse material, bringing challenges to law enforcements as for most jurisdictions, cannot provide this type of material without breaking the law. Services like "TOR chat" which is designed to be untraceable, makes it easy for offenders to engage with others, for what mobile apps are already available.

Often, child sexual abuse material is exchanged via "TOR mail" in exchange for Bitcoins. Never the less, some offenders claim that such paid services with memberships do not fit the TOR environment as compromises the security in place. As such, a good level of trust needs to be achieved in order to purchase material where offenders argue that only if it's new would worth it, otherwise should be freely available.



# Children Trafficking

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*Recruitment,  
transportation, transfer,  
harboring or receipt for the  
purpose of EXPLOITATION*

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***Trafficking in  
children***

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Defining child trafficking is being challenging for years, especially since “trafficking” relates other forms of exploitation alongside trafficking for sexual exploitation. As such, the focus of governments and other jurisdictions has moved in different directions.<sup>15</sup>

In some regions, the new definition introduced uncertainty regarding child workers. In West Africa, the term “Trafficking” has been used to refer children transported within the country to be employed as domestic workers and were treated badly. Under these circumstances, it’s been estimated that hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of children are trafficked. A similar case occurred in Latin America where the term was used to refer to migrants smuggling.<sup>15</sup>

Evidence on children in trafficking show that in large countries such as China and India, the number of children trafficked for sexual purposes within the country is greater than the number trafficked abroad.

Since 2011, relevant evidence has been collected to improve the categorization of these crimes and define laws targeting the issues in a different way. It also helped improve responses in topics such as:

- Characteristics of children who have been trafficked which helps to predict what categories children are likely to fall in future
- Techniques that traffickers use to control child victims
- Characteristic of traffickers
- Characteristics of offenders who pay for sex with children, including their motivation

## Current status of child trafficking for sex purposes

- 50% of trafficked victims are children
- Estimate of 76% of transactions for sex with underage girls starts on Internet
- 2 million children are subjected to prostitution in the global commercial sex trade (UNICEF)
- There are about 20.9 million victims of trafficking worldwide as of 2012
- 1.5 million victims in the US
- Average life span of a victim is reported to be 7 years (found dead from attack, abuse, HIV and other STD’s, malnutrition, overdose or suicide)



***Children are often targeted by traffickers as they are deemed easier to manipulate than adults. More money to make from girls and boys exploitation, especially virgins***

Pre-pubescent girls are reported to be injected with hormones to bring on puberty faster, as such young girls are expected to have a great earning potential as per the greater demand.

## Child Trafficking in Latin America

In Latin America, trafficking in persons is not a well-understood phenomenon, not only because of its complexity but also because there are other connotations of the word “trata” in Spanish (trafficking). Poor understanding of the issue has made it difficult to gather accurate data for research. According to UNODC, 1,600 cases of children trafficked in the Latin America Region were reported between 2007 and 2011; more than half were female children trafficked for sexual exploitation. In some countries children constitute the majority of identified human trafficking victims.<sup>18</sup>

In the Dominican Republic the ECPAT group identified cases of children as young as five years who had been trafficked from Haiti for sexual exploitation in Dominican urban centres. A similar situation was detected in Guatemala, where 36% of individuals surveyed in five cities were aware of at least one case of trafficking for sexual purposes, the majority of which (76.9%) involved a child victim.<sup>18</sup>

## Where do trafficked children come from?

Children victims can come from all backgrounds, including boys and girls from 1 to 18 years old. Sex trafficking victims up to roughly 25 and often start at the age of 14 from different races, ethnic groups and religions.<sup>20</sup>

## Causes

In many cases, trafficking is linked movements of people in search of employment and better life opportunities elsewhere, or of people driven away due to war. Restrictive migration, refugee and asylum politics has resulted in an increase of illegal migration, making it profitable for others to smuggle or traffic people across borders, being a daily reality for children to travel without company. A lot of people flee the social instability of the country of origin, violent situations, civil war, war (Kosovo, Bosnia, Montenegro, Macedonia, etc.). Other reasons to be found are:

- Poverty
- Promise of work
- Wedding promises
- Kidnappings
- Illegal adoptions
- Re-consolidation of families
- Fleeing harmful traditional practices



## Physical and mental consequences of trafficking for victims

- Long term health problems
- Sleeping and eating disorders
- Sexually transmitter diseased
- HIV, pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties
- Drug addiction
- Feat and anxiety
- Depression, guilt and shame
- Traumatic bonding with the trafficker

## Routes

Trafficking is seen as a growing problem in Europe, particularly on cases of prostitution of women and children from Central and Eastern Europe, but also from countries such as Nigeria and China. The trafficking routes in the world today are:

- From Latin America via the middle East to Europe
- From South East Asia to Northern Europe and the middle East
- From Eastern Europe and West Africa to Western Europe
- From Burma to Thailand, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, the Philippines and other countries in the region to Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan



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