



# Children and Youth

Child trafficking victims are often exploited in **prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, forced marriage, sweatshop work, begging, armed service, domestic servitude,** and **migrant farming.**

### ***Sex Trafficking Case Study:***

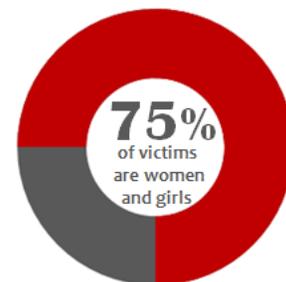
Camila was only 14 when she was persuaded to leave her job as a maid and subsequently forced into prostitution in a bar in the Amazon. She was repeatedly restrained, raped, and drugged. The traffickers coerced and bribed Camila to recruit her friend Sandra into sex trafficking. Camila was given her freedom, but Sandra was then sexually exploited and humiliated. One night, while riding with a customer, Sandra made a break from the car and shouted for help from the police. They took her to a center for juvenile offenders where she was detained for two years. Camila was able to return home and filed a criminal complaint against her traffickers, but she feels trapped in her memories. (Adapted from U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report, 2012)

### ***Labor Trafficking Case Study:***

Drissa was offered what sounded like a good job on a cocoa plantation in the Ivory Coast but found himself trapped in slavery. He worked from dawn to dusk in unbearable conditions. When he tried to escape, he was badly beaten as an example to the others. Some did not survive. Those that survived were sent back to work as soon as they could walk. They had to rely on the maggots feeding on their flesh to clean the wounds and save them from gangrene. The brutality, fear, isolation, hunger, and exhaustion broke Drissa's spirit, locking him in years of slavery. (Adapted from [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org))



The ILO estimates that  
**5.5**  
million children worldwide are  
victims of trafficking



## Recommendations for Action

### *UN and Member States*

- Create and enforce anti-trafficking, migration and labor laws that protect children and youth.
- Regulate and monitor the labor market with attention to issues related to child trafficking and exploitation.
- Collect and share data on child and youth trafficking.
- Ratify and implement international conventions and protocols relating to trafficking of children and youth.
- Implement legislation and law enforcement practices that treat children who have been trafficked as victims and not as criminals.
- Provide timely and age-sensitive response services including safety, health care, and psychological counseling that support survivors.
- Ensure that the empowerment of children and youth is a focus of the Post 2015 Global Development Agenda.
- Implement training on human trafficking for all UN staff and expatriates, police, border patrol, social workers, and health care providers.

### *Civil Society*

- Implement awareness campaigns, both inter-organizational and communal, including in-person and online training, Public Service Announcements, and the creation of resources for educators and youth.
- Advocate for stronger legislation at all levels of government that will prosecute traffickers and protect victims.
- Post the National Human Trafficking Hotline number (1-888-373-7888 in the US). Callers can report potential cases, get help, or request information and training. Download a hotline postcard at [www.unicefusa.org/postcard](http://www.unicefusa.org/postcard).
- Take Slavery Footprint's survey to learn how many exploited people work for you and raise your voice for ethically sourced products. Visit <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>.
- Keep Learning. Visit [www.unicefusa.org/endtrafficking](http://www.unicefusa.org/endtrafficking) and [www.notmylife.org](http://www.notmylife.org) to learn more about what UNICEF and other organizations are doing to protect children.
- Campaign for ratification and effective implementation of international legislation such as the Palermo Protocol and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Develop and implement safe migrations programs and provide support to migrant populations.
- Build child-led forums such as "Neighbourhood Parliaments of Children" (<http://childrenparliament.in/>) to ensure children become agents of social change in the prevention of trafficking.
- Hold Businesses accountable for the following recommendations.

### *Businesses*

- Develop and implement policies against exploitative labor practices to encourage good business that eliminates unsound practices that could lead to rising prices and consumer boycotts. Follow the Children's Rights and Business Principles guidelines, which can be found at <http://www.unicef.org/csr/12.htm>.
- Train staff on the issue of human trafficking, including how to spot and prevent it.
- Source from suppliers who provide good working conditions and pay a living wage. Support labor inspections while educating and encouraging workers to cooperate with them.
- Be vigilant against the use of child labor in supply chains as well as monitoring suppliers' implementation on the work floor.
- Sign The Code of Conduct at [www.thecode.org/](http://www.thecode.org/) and join the Global Business Coalition Against Trafficking (GBCAT).

**“Trafficking of children is a grave violation of their rights, robbing them of their childhood, their well-being, and the opportunity to reach their full potential.”**

**- Dr. Susan Bissell, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF**