DAY FOUR: 28TH November:

*Child Sexual Exploitation*

**Jennifer’s Story**
Jennifer is fourteen years old, though she looks much older. She began her “dancing career” in a bar when she was ten years old. ‘My friend told me I could find work as a house help, I didn’t know I’d be working as a dancer’. Jennifer discovered at a very young age that she had no choice and had to go with her first customer. ‘I didn’t want to go with him. I was stripped of my clothes, and then he raped me’. This is sex tourism in the Philippines and it is not done covertly. It happens in broad daylight. *(As told by the survivor)*

**Question:**
What is my reaction to this true story?

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**Global Facts – Online Child Sexual Abuse**
- The younger the victim, the more severe the abuse.
- 84% of images contained explicit sexual activity.
- More than 60% of unidentified victims were prepubescent, including infants and toddlers.
- 65% of unidentified victims were girls.
- Severe abuse images were likely to feature boys.
- 92% of visible offenders were male.

Source: Interpol’s International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) image and video database.  

**POPE FRANCIS:** “The disorder that drives one person to take advantage of another, to treat others as mere objects, imposing forced labour on them... a kind of thinking that leads to the sexual exploitation of children.” LS 123

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**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**
“States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. (Art.19)

Suggest reading CRC during the **16 Days**  
https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention

**UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**
There is concern that many States parties are failing to properly implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. A new set of Guidelines were drafted in order to give concrete advice on how to effectively protect children from sexual exploitation.  

**UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
**Goal 5 – Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.  
**Goal 16 - Target 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

**ACTION TO PROTECT CHILD RIGHTS**
- Support organisations promoting the rights of children and working for their welfare.  
  [http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites](http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites)
- Keep informed by visiting:  

Prepared by ‘Future We Need’ (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.  
(Updated 2019)
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...


“GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC ... endangers the life of women & girls with negative consequences not only for them, but also for their children & communities. Ending this scourge is integral to the development of women’s human capital & unleashing their contribution to economic growth.” (Feb. 2018 - World Bank study)

CHILD MARRIAGE....

New data (2018) confirm that practice of child marriage has continued to decline around the world, with accelerated progress in the last 10 years. However, 12 MILLION GIRLS are still married in childhood each year (UNICEF 2018).