

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?



pixabay.com

90% of child sexual abuse victims know their abusers...

Global Facts – Online Child Sexual Abuse

- The younger the victim, the more severe the abuse and resulting trauma.
- 84% of online 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 ... is the kind of thinking that leads to the sexual exploitation of children." (LS 123)

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

'States Parties shall take all appropriate 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>



Image from unsplash.com - Ravi Pinisetti

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 was drafted to give concrete advice on how to effectively protect children from sexual exploitation. (*Council of Europe 2019*)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Goal 5: Target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.

Goal 16: Target 16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, torture and all forms of violence against children.

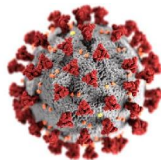
ACTION TO PROTECT CHILD RIGHTS

- Support organisations promoting the rights of children and working for their welfare. <http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites>
- Keep informed by visiting: <http://www.ecpat.org/>; <https://mecpaths.com/>
- 'Signs of child sexual exploitation' - visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRZxFekdKeY>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated 2020)

Violence Against Women and Children is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

There are approximately 150 million additional children living in multidimensional poverty. A survey found that 45% of children across 70 countries, were severely deprived of at least one of these critical needs: education, healthcare, housing, nutrition, sanitation and water.

- The harmful effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are not distributed equally.
- The impact will be most damaging for children in the poorest communities or countries and those in vulnerable situations.
- This situation is likely to worsen, unless national governments and the international community step up to soften the blow.

(UNICEF report Oct. 2020)

Those who molest children look and act just like everyone else. There are those who have, or will, sexually abuse children in families, schools, churches and youth sport leagues.



[pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

NB. Be on the alert to protect all children and to report any concerns...



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 4...

28th

November

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2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

"Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"