

Facts Sheet 1

ENG

1. Sexual exploitation sexual violence on youth: national data (2 target groups 0-18 years old and 18-25 years old)

6,000 to 10,000 minors, mainly young girls, are involved in prostitution in France. (ECPAT International network)

The proportion of underage victims is increasing significantly. For the OCRTEH, minors represent 15% of the victims of sexual exploitation identified in 2017. "According to the French police, 60% of prostitution victims are minors. The clients too are getting younger and younger" (Scelles Foundation).

In the same year, the Brigade de Protection des Mineurs (BPM) investigated 90 cases of "voluntary prostitution", representing 150 minor victims (for 20 in 2014).

There has also been an increase in the phenomenon of Franco-French trafficking, with this form of prostitution now accounting for 14% of the victims identified on French territory.

The number of victims from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Nigeria, has increased considerably: nearly 15% of victims identified in 2017 were Nigerian, compared to 10% in 2016. "This is now the leading foreign community sexually exploited in France". Among the victims, NGOs report a growing number of minors under 15 years old (even 11 years old) and are concerned about this constant rejuvenation: in 2015, out of 100 Nigerian prostitutes detected in Paris, 25% were under 15 years old (GRETA, July 6, 2017).

Other nationalities present are China and Romania.

According to OCRTEH reports, Chinese prostitutes accounted for nearly 18% of identified victims in 2016, and 8% in 2017. 15 Chinese networks were dismantled in 2016.

The NGO Save the Children also denounced the "forced" prostitution of young migrants in order to cross the border between Italy and France. More than 1,900 girls, including at least 160 children, were thus sexually exploited between January 2017 and March 2018, on the Italian and/or French side (Save the Children Italia onlus, July 2018).

At least half of the adults in prostitution, whose number is estimated in France to be around 37,000, would have entered prostitution during their minority. (Mouvement du Nid and Amicale du Nid)

The pimps are increasingly young (18-25 years old) and already involved in delinquency (drug trafficking, fraud). They often act in small, fairly structured groups: one manages relations with the client, another rents out the room, the third acts as a lookout or driver... The ProstCost study mentions a turnover of 3.2 billion € (3.47 billion US\$).

2. Background and profile of youth main affected

The profile of minors victims of prostitution

Most of them are young girls, 15 to 17 years old on average, vulnerable, coming from all social backgrounds and who have difficulties to become aware of their status as victims.

Gender:

2020 → 90% girls and 10% boys (Amicale du Nid, cohort of 94 and 87 youth).

5% boys (Département du Nord, cohort of 145 youth).

Facts Sheet 1

ENG

Age:

Between 15 and 17 years old on average, the mean age is 16.4 years old.

57% are over 15 years old (Amicale du Nid - 2020) and 76% (for the Bobigny prosecutor's office - 2019).

The point of entry into prostitution is between 14 and 15 years old for more than half of the cases studied.

In the North, 70% of the panel studied (145 young people) were between 15 and 17 years old, but it should be noted that 9 minors (6.2% of the cohort) were 13 years old or younger.

It is important to pay particular attention to the 14 and under age group because, although they are not in the majority among minors in prostitution, they nevertheless appear in significant proportions in the studies. The General Inspectorate of Administration, Justice and Social Affairs notes that early prostitutional attitudes are reported in schools as early as the 5th grade (i.e., age 12-13).

Entering prostitution at an increasingly young age is also apparent from several testimonies, particularly from health professionals.

Vulnerability:

According to Arthur MELON, secretary general of the association Agir contre la prostitution des enfants (ACPE), these minors generally present "a vulnerable personality or a fragile psychological ground which can be explained by a traumatic event (in-

cest, maltreatment, accident...) or an insecure family environment (marital violence, alcoholism, precariousness...). This leads to emotional deficiencies, a lack of self-esteem, excessive gullibility or an attraction for risky behaviors. From this base, particular circumstances increase the potential to fall into prostitution: a family break-up, a period of wandering (running away or rejection of the family unit) or an addiction" (alcohol, drugs). "The triggering element will be the contact with the prostitutional environment by a person who has already been initiated: a pimp, a lover boy (boy who prostitutes his girlfriend) or even a friend from college.

Between 40% and 49% of the minors say that they were subjected to violence during their childhood, mainly intra-family and/or sexual violence before entering the prostitutional system.

Within the family, the young people indicate having suffered neglect (60.7%), psychological violence (52.5%) and physical violence (45.9%). The proportion of sexual violence is still high (23%), more than that of domestic violence (16.4%). At the extra-familial level, violence is physical (62.3%), psychological (50.8%) and sexual (44.3%).

This violence was generally not reported to the authorities and therefore not sanctioned by the justice system and even when it was revealed in 72% of cases, there were no legal consequences (Observatory of violence against women in Seine Saint Denis - 2020).

3. At the roots of sexual exploitation and sexual violence

For a long time, juvenile prostitution was a survival economy, linked to poverty.

The prospect of economically supporting their needs (food, housing, etc.), financing their consumption of cigarettes, drugs or alcohol, the race for social success, or their appearance, with the possession of valuable or fashionable objects, are also sources of motivation for prostituted minors.

Today, this activity is facilitated by new means of communication.

Currently, according to the Scelles Foundation, two thirds of prostitution activities are carried out through new technologies. In addition to websites, escorting catalogs or online ads, pimps do not hesitate to recruit directly via social networks. Often younger and younger, they also use the "loverboys" technique to contact young girls.

Another phenomenon was also noticed during this survey, that of the "glamourization" of prostitution. The members of the

Facts Sheet 1

ENG

Scelles foundation nicknamed it the “Zahia Dehar” phenomenon, from the name of the young girl at the heart of a pimping affair involving soccer players of the French team at the end of the years 2000, when she was a minor. Prostitution is a step, like a ‘social elevator’ to be able to leave one’s socio-professional environment. This trivialization of the trade of the body also leads sometimes to another phenomenon, baptized the “michetonnage”.

Adolescent girls, also from impoverished neighborhoods, maintain a relationship with an older man in order to obtain gifts or other benefits in return. This is a kind of prostitution that the girls refuse to recognize, thinking that they are in a position of strength vis-à-vis these men, whereas it is usually the man who takes advantage of their vulnerability.

4. Main public services operating at the national level and location

1. City Halls
2. Government
3. ASE

5. Main organization operating at the national level and location

ECPAT
<https://ecpat-france.fr/>

ACPE
<https://www.acpe-asso.org/>

MIST
<http://mist-association.org/>

Fondation Scelles
<http://www.fondationscelles.org/fr/>

Amicale du Nid
<http://www.amicaledunid.org/>) Mouvement du Nid <http://www.mouvementdunid.org/>

Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants
<http://www.acpe-asso.org>

ZéroMacho
<https://zeromacho.wordpress.com/>

Equipes d’Action Contre le Proxénétisme
<http://www.eacp-asso.org/>

ALC-Acsé
<http://www.acse-alc.org/fr/>

Collectif Ensemble Contre la Traite des Êtres Humains
<http://contrelatraite.org/>

6. Relevant approaches / Methods / Best Practices

(about raising awareness - sensibilization and prevention! not accompaniment)

- Intervention ECPAT, MIST, ...