

# 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)

The available figures do not reflect the reality of sexual exploitation in the territory. There is a real need to quantify this phenomenon. However, the associative sector made the estimation, that there is approximately between 7000 and 10000 minors in prostitution at national level. The available data also comes from the statistical software used by the police, that has counted 400 minors victims of pimping in 2020, to which is added 50 cases of pimping of minors in 2020 that were received by the Brigade of Protection of Minors of Paris. Then, in the French overseas territories, the same phenomenon can be observed, but no studies have been carried out that would make statistics available.

The phenomenon of minors in prostitution is alarming, and represents 25% of the victims of pimping. It is necessary to distinguish

the minors (under 18) from youth between 18 to 25 years old as the law operates differently. As a minor in prostitution, he or she should be protected and is not considered as responsible but as a victim that needs protection. Since the law of 4th March 2002, the prostitution of minors is forbidden and minors are considered as victims. Then, in 2016, abolitionist law came to reinforce the fight against the prostitutional system. The person who prostitutes themselves must first and foremost be considered as a victim, a vulnerable person, who must benefit from protection and a real possibility of reintegration. But for youth above 18, when reaching the age of majority they don't benefit from the same accompaniment and won't have the child protection measures only the abolitionist law of april 2016.

## 2. Background and profile of youth main affected

The profile of youth in prostitution corresponds to youth being in average between 14 or 15 years old (without underestimating youth under 14, even if it is a minority it's still significant). We can also note that the different information available relates that, among the adult victims, most of them began prostitution when still minors. Hence the need of identifying pre-prostitutional behaviors to prevent from prostitution. The most at-risk youth in entering prostitution are the youth who had experienced situations of vulnerability and of violence.

- 7 out of 10 minors who are victims of prostitution have been subjected to violence before entering prostitution

- 4 out of 10 minor victims, their mother was subjected to domestic violence. That's why the recruitment of pimps strategically focuses on recruiting in places of child welfare (ASE: aide sociale à l'enfance) and from judicial youth protection (PJJ). Victims are also identified in other key places such as

in social networks, internet, youth centers and schools. Youth who are unaccompanied foreign minors (MNA) are at high-risk as well as some of them could have experienced sexual exploitation during their migratory journey or when arriving at the host country (e.g: accomodation in exchange for sex). This youth is supposed to be protected by the law but a lot of them don't receive support.

We can hear the notion of "proxénétisme de cité" (pimping in the suburbs), which is the representation made from the media as if prostitution affects only teenage girls from working class areas. But it should be pointed out that there are networks of pimps in more privileged areas (such as in nightclubs or during the "integration week-ends" of prestigious schools.

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### 3. At the roots of sexual exploitation and sexual violence

Sexual exploitation is part of a continuum of violence rooted in the patriarchal system that produces violence.

#### Sexual exploitation comes from:

- 1- Vulnerability factors: emotional deprivation, childhood abuse, hyperaggressiveness, dropping out of school, suicide attempts, economical violence
- 2- Social relationships: meeting new person (older men), getting influenced, creating emotional dependence
- 3- Physical factors: low self esteem, humiliation, etc
- 4- Materials: need to meet its needs

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

#### In Martinique:

**ASE:** Aide Sociale à l'Enfance

**PJJ:** Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse

#### National level:

- Conseil National pour la protection de l'enfance (CNPE)
- Groupement d'intérêt public enfance en danger (GIPED)
- Observatoire Nationale de la protection de l'enfance (ONPE)
- Observatoire départemental des violences envers les femmes (Seine-Saint-Denis)
- Délégation départementale aux droits des femmes et à l'égalité
- Missions Interministérielle pour la protection des femmes victimes de violences et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains (MIPROF)

### 5. Main organization operating at the national level and location

#### In Martinique:

- Le Mouvement du Nid
- Culture&Egalité
- Union des Femmes de Martinique
- Victimes de violence: 3919
- SIAO hébergement d'urgence: 115

#### At the national level:

- L'Amical du Nid
- Le Mouvement du Nid
- Association Charonne
- Agir contre la prostitution des enfants (ACPE)

### 6. Relevant approaches / Methods / Best Practices

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

- Videos (reproducing real abusive situation)
- Comics
- Communication campaigns
- Training of social workers educations, police officers
- Non formal sexual education : make youth and adult aware of their sexual right by playing (sexploration game)