



STOP

**SEX TRAFFICKING
OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**



SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN JAPAN

What is child trafficking?

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.

UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime

A child is anyone under the age of 18 years.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

What's the problem?

GLOBAL SEX TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a complex phenomenon fueled by the tremendous growth in the global sex market. Exploitation is driven by poverty, uneven development, official corruption, gender discrimination, harmful traditional and cultural practices, civil unrest, natural disasters and lack of political will to end it.

The number of child victims trafficked worldwide for sexual exploitation or cheap labour on an annual basis is 1.2 million.¹ Human trafficking, the third largest international crime, following illegal drugs and arms trafficking, is believed to be worth billions of dollars each year. Driving the trade is the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. Seventy-nine percent of all global trafficking is for sexual exploitation.²



CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IN JAPAN

Although there is little research on child trafficking to or within Japan, there are recorded cases by the Japanese Government and the media. For the fiscal year 2008 (1 April to 31 March), the national police investigated 36 cases of trafficking in persons.

Of the 36 victims, 7 were below the age of 20 (the report does not show a breakdown of gender and purpose of trafficking).³ Also, in the same report, two victims were Japanese, indicating internal trafficking. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Women's Consulting Office, which is the public shelter for victims of trafficking, reported 12 cases of child trafficking (girls specifically trafficked for sexual exploitation) in 2006 and 2007.⁴ In July 2005, authorities investigated 21 girls (aged from their late teens to early twenties) who were trafficked to Japan for sexual purposes.⁵ According to Japanese Government records, the police identified 117 victims of human trafficking in 2005, 58 victims in 2006 and 43 victims in 2007.⁶ Japanese children are also victims of commercial sexual exploitation, specifically the prostitution of children and child pornography.⁷ Both of these forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children can be closely tied to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, however, in Japan, there is a lack of research on linkages to trafficking processes. Nevertheless, in the first half of 2008, there was 830 arrests for child prostitution and child pornography (specifically, child pornography cases have increased by 17.2% when compared to 2007).⁸

Who gets trafficked?

Based on recorded cases of human trafficking in Japan by the Government, victims come mainly from countries within Asia (especially the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan), Latin America and Eastern Europe.⁹ For girls that have been trafficked to Japan, they often enter the country with false passports showing their age to be over 18, and believe they have secured jobs in the modelling, catering or entertainment business (and using an entertainment visa to gain entry).¹⁰ In some cases, girls enter the country as 'mail-order brides' and are thus applying for spouse visas.¹¹ However, Japanese women and children are also targeted by traffickers for forced prostitution and pornography production.¹² Japanese school children are also victimised through *enjo kosai* (compensation dating) by using *deai kei websites* (online platforms for meeting). Due to problems with family or with peers at school, victims of *enjo kosai* often try to boost their self-esteem by purchasing consumer items.¹³ These children can be at a high risk of child trafficking when they are taken to another location for sexual exploitation, such as for the production of pornography (in such cases, it can be considered as child trafficking since it involves the movement of the child for the purpose of exploitation). In a recent press release by the police, 720 girls and 4 boys under the age of 18 were reported as victims of crimes from 'dating' service websites, such as those used for child prostitution and pornography.¹⁴ Unfortunately, society tends to label these victims as delinquents instead of understanding the nature of the crime committed against them and the factors that can push children into exploitation.

The demand for sex drives child sex trafficking globally, while poverty, domestic violence and abuse, discrimination and the desire for a better life makes children vulnerable. Children are especially vulnerable to being trafficked because they are often uneducated, easy to overpower and easy to convince that they must do what an adult tells them to do. Children may also be in a position where they believe they must help to support their families and may be sold or sent abroad by family members to do so. Street children, children in refugee camps, children whose family and community life has been disrupted and do not have someone to look out for them are all especially vulnerable to human trafficking.

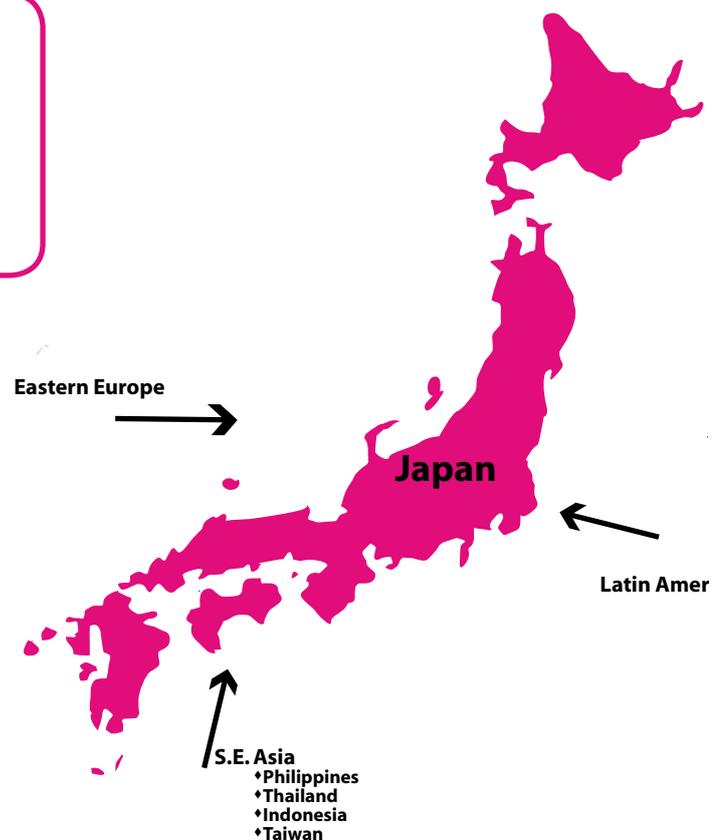
Children may be at greater risk of trafficking from places where they are less protected. This may be because the law is weak or not properly enforced, or because children are less aware of the risks of trafficking and are more easily deceived. Countries are considered:

- 'Sending' or 'origin' - from where children are sent
- 'Transit' - where the children might be moved through and temporarily kept on the way to their final destination; and
- 'Receiving' or 'destination' - where the children finally end up

Depending on the reason for trafficking, some countries might only be sending, while others might be both sending and transit. Some countries can be all three. Japan is mainly a destination country for trafficking in persons.

For child trafficking, **Japan** is primarily considered as a:

- origin country
- transit country
- ✓ destination country
- internal/domestic country



Who creates demand?

Traffickers prey on children and young people to meet the sexual demands of paedophiles and people who pay for sex. Any person who patronises the commercial sex market may end up sexually exploiting a child. There is actually no common profile of perpetrators who sexually exploit children – they may be young, old, married or single; they come from all kinds of socio-economic backgrounds and work in all kinds of professions. Demand for the sexual exploitation of children is sustained by several factors, one of these being child pornography, which is considered a significant problem in the country.¹⁵ In addition, Japanese sex tourists travel to other Asian countries to sexually exploit children, especially Southeast Asian countries. In one example, six Japanese nationals were arrested in Cambodia (in 2000 to 2006) for sexually exploiting children.¹⁶

CASE STUDIES

- In August 2008, 32-year-old Shunichi Nakagawa from Japan, was arrested in Sihanoukville, Cambodia for creating child pornography. He gave a group of boys aged 11 to 15 years old \$2-\$5 dollars to pose nude while he took pictures. Nakagawa admitted to the police that he paid the children to pose nude as models for his upcoming “book of drawings”.¹⁷
- In 2006, police arrested Japanese Issei Hara, 28 years old, for having engaged and paid for sexual activities with a 15-year-old girl in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2003. The arrest came about because Hara posted pictures of the abuse on his website.

Who are the traffickers?

Traffickers can be a stranger or someone the child knows, such as a relative or a friend. Traffickers are often part of an organised criminal network that ‘recruits’ children and supplies them with fake identification and transportation arrangements. They may also pose as boyfriends or girlfriends in order to convince children to leave for a new life. In Japan, organised criminal networks, such as the Japanese ‘yakuza’ are often involved in the trafficking of persons. These criminal networks operate at both ends of the trafficking process in sending countries and in Japan.

CASE STUDY

- In 2005, Japanese police arrested a Thai woman, Phinkaew Krissanee, 24, a nightclub hostess, and Kiyoshi Shiratori, 65, a funeral home employee in Hino, western Tokyo, for allegedly violating the law banning child prostitution and pornography. Phinkaew admitted that she made the arrangements for Thai girls and women’s entry into Japan and that in the four years since she’s been in Japan, she had ‘sold’ about 10 Thai girls and women to pimps, earning 2 to 2.5 million yen for each person.¹⁸

How can we stop the trafficking of children?

LAW AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- A review of the *National Plan of Action to Prevent and Eradicate Human Trafficking* and research must be conducted to assess the situation of child trafficking for sexual exploitation (including domestic trafficking); include specific issues and strategies related to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and the special needs of child victims.
- Sensitisation/training of law enforcement officers and other key stakeholders to take proactive steps towards combating the trafficking of children (such as expansion to cover rural areas), to improve child victim identification, provide a child-friendly legal process and care, and to continue to improve upon its prosecution of traffickers.
- Japan must ratify the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*.

International Conventions/Laws	Date of Ratification by Japan	Date of Reports Submitted	UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Recommendations for Japan
<i>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</i>	1994	Initial Report – 1998 Second Report – 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Amend legislation on sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure equal protection for boys and girls; (b) Increase the number of trained professionals providing psychological counselling and other recovery services to victims at Child Guidance Centres; (c) Train law enforcement officials, social workers and prosecutors on how to receive, monitor, investigate and prosecute complaints, in a child-sensitive manner; (d) Develop preventative measures that target those soliciting and providing sexual services, such as materials on relevant legislation on the sexual abuse and exploitation of minors and education programmes, including programmes in schools on healthy lifestyles; (e) Raise the minimum age of sexual consent.
<i>Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</i>	2005	Initial Report – 2008	Not yet available
<i>The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women & Children</i>	Signed in 2002 but not yet ratified	N/A	N/A
<i>ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour</i>	2001	N/A	N/A

PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- Create a national focal point on the commercial sexual exploitation of children to counter the lack of coordination.
- Structured awareness-raising targeted to children and the general public on commercial sexual exploitation is recommended as a prevention initiative. Focus should highlight the consequences of commercial sexual activities and how children can protect themselves.
- Establish a national system for care and support programmes for children victimised by commercial sexual exploitation, including a national reporting hotline .

TO REPORT A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING, CONTACT:

- Japanese Police: 110
- Japanese Immigration Bureau:

Sapporo	011-261-7502
Sendai	022-256-6076
Tokyo	03-5796-7111
Nagoya	052-955-0927
Osaka	06-6941-0771
Hiroshima	082-221-4411
Takamatsu	087-822-5852
Fukuoka	092-623-2400
- Anonymous Hotline for Protecting Children & Women: 0120-924-839

MORE INFORMATION

- ECPAT STOP Japan: <http://www.ecpatstop.org/>
- ECPAT Japan Kansai: <http://homepage3.nifty.com/ecpat/>
- ECPAT International: www.ecpat.net
- The Body Shop and ECPAT Stop Trafficking of Children and Young People Campaign : www.thebodyshop.com/stop

Endnotes

- ¹ UNICEF. *UNICEF calls for increased efforts to prevent trafficking of children*. 16 June 2007. http://www.unicef.org/media/media_40002.html
- ² UNODC. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2009. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>
- ³ National Police Agency (Life and Environment Section) Report on February 5, 2009. http://www.npa.go.jp/safetylife/seikan42/h20_zinshin.pdf
- ⁴ UNODC. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2009. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>
- ⁵ UNIAP Thailand. "Japan probes 21 Thai trafficking cases". *E-Digest News, Bangkok Post*. 10 February 2006.
- ⁶ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. "Japan's Update for the Third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents" November 2008. <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human/index.html>
- ⁷ ECPAT International. *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children – Japan*. Bangkok. 2006.
- ⁸ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. "Japan's Update for the Third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents" November 2008. <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human/index.html>
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ ECPAT International. *ECPAT International Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Japan*. Bangkok 2006. <http://www.ecpat.net>
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² US State Department. *Trafficking in Persons Report 2008*. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>
- ¹³ ECPAT International. *ECPAT International Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Japan*. Bangkok 2006. <http://www.ecpat.net>
- ¹⁴ National Police Agency (Life and Environment Section) Report on February 5, 2009. http://www.npa.go.jp/safetylife/seikan42/h20_zinshin.pdf
- ¹⁵ ECPAT International. *ECPAT International Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Japan*. Bangkok 2006. <http://www.ecpat.net>
- ¹⁶ John Hopkins University & The Protection Project. "International Child Sex Tourism". 2007.
- ¹⁷ APLE Cambodia. *The Cambodian Daily Newspaper*. August 19, 2008. http://www.aplecambodia.org/downloads/APLE%20in%20the%20news%20-%20articles%20and%20newspaper%20clippings/English/APLE%20in%20the%20news/Japanese_National_Arrested_on_Charges_of_Child_Pornography_.pdf
- ¹⁸ "Thai Woman Admits to Selling Girl". *Japan Times*. July 2005. <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20050705a2.html>

NOTES



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