


Identification of victims.
Prosecutor – Police Cooperation.

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Eurijurist



"There are more slaves today..."




...than at any point in human history.



40% are children

...Our continent is a hunting ground for criminal gangs intent on abusing, exploiting and destroying the most vulnerable citizens.

...behind many of the victims are organised crime groups and their networks making money from human misery.




Main Problems – Lack of knowledge and experience in THB cases

- Lack of basic knowledge, awareness and experience among police, prosecution and social workers
- Problems understanding the entire THB phenomenon
- Difficulties in identifying traffickers and victims
- National authorities focus on the national dimension of investigations
- Problems related to the multi-lateral dimension of THB

■ Evidence-related problems, especially the obtaining of evidence from victims, continue to remain the main obstacle in prosecuting THB cases and in judicial cooperation in these cases

Human trafficking is not about the victims' morality, but of exploitation




LOOK BEWETH THE SURFACE



THB for labour exploitation

Challenges for Police and Prosecution

- Mix of legal and illegal activities
- Legal entities used for criminal activity



Victims don't see themselves as victims

Children Trafficked Around UK By Drug Dealers

20 child drug dealers arrested every WEEK including kids as young as 11

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Prijz Zonnepanelen 2015

1/3 of all victims of trafficking in Romania are girls below the age of 18.

20 May 2015

090 6100

The gates to Europe – a journey of hope

More than 90% of the migrants have no intention to remain in Italy

The use of internet as facilitator of THB

- Dark Web
- Advertisements (recruitments)

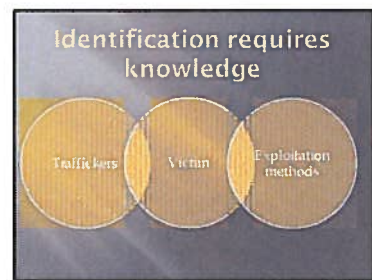
Visible Web

Deep Web

Commercial online child sexual exploitation

According to Europol live streaming of abuse for payment is no longer an emerging trend but an established reality.

INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACTION LEADS TO RESCUE OF 22 MONTH OLD ROMANIAN SEX ABUSE VICTIM



If you don't know what to look for... - you don't see it...


Thief or a victim of trafficking ?

The perception of a 'victim'

- Stereotype perceptions of a victim strongly guide the identification and related proceedings.
- Experiences of extreme violence
- National and ethnic origin
- Gender
- Age

→ Important to overcome stereotypes

And what about the male victims ?




Many children are Prosecuted
- Not Protected


The Traffickers
- What relation do they have to the victim ?



Friend of victim's parents ?
Father ?
Parents
Mother

Identify the crime

"Is it a case of trafficking when a child is selling flowers on the street?"




it could be

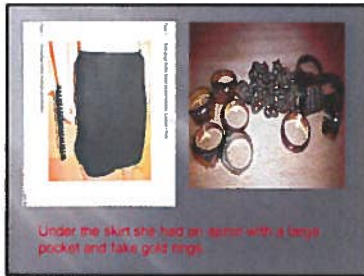
Children are often used as begging tools



In the case of Roma children, their involvement in begging, other street based activities or petty crime is often perceived according to common stereotypes as a **cultural issue** and a "personal choice" that is not condoned but tolerated.

Roma child thieves in Bergen.

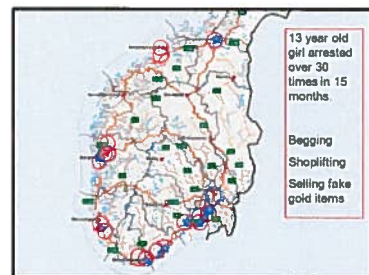




All the children were married.
The youngest got married when they were only 12 years old.

What was her Story ?

- She is from Romania
- She has 7 siblings. All grown up in foster homes.
- Married when she was 12 years old
- Pregnant when she was barely 14 years old
- Has travelled in Norway, Finland and Sweden since she was 12 years old.
 - Shoplifting
 - Sale of fake gold items
 - Begging



How could the traffickers exploit the children without anyone reacting ?

"This is how the gypsies live their lives, and we cannot save the world"


Would it made any difference if the children were Norwegian ?



Are the rights of the child negotiable ?



Respect for the Roma Culture versus The best interest of the child?
What determines our priorities?



Why the case led to prosecution

The case was built on a strong collaboration between the police, prosecutors and child protection services, and involved bilateral cooperation with the authorities in the countries of origin of the perpetrators and victims.



Evidence - human trafficking


1. Statements given from the children
2. Statements given from the defendants
3. Police register information from Norway and Sweden detailing previous criminal convictions
4. Witness statements taken in Romania
5. Search undertaken within the homes of the defendants.
6. Information from Western Union in Norway and Sweden

Some of the challenges in court

- The defendants claimed their actions were not criminal, but a part of their culture, and that the police were discriminating them because of their romani background.
- Despite of the evidence, two of the child victims (the eldest) refused to admit any mistreatment.


The Conviction

- 3 men and 3 women convicted for:
 - Human trafficking
 - Contribution to the rape of two minor girls
 - Forced marriage
 - Money laundering



That the basis of the accused's exploitation of the children, lies within the Romani culture, does not undermine the charges against the accused.


Norwegian legislation does not allow reference to tradition, or affects on the charges against the accused, when a child is exploited into forced labour.



The 17 year old albanian girl.
Arrested on the street in Bergen with a false passport.
Returned to Albania after 2 weeks in custody




What was her story ?



In this picture she is 6 years 7 years later she starts working as a prostitute in Italy
One of the traffickers was her boyfriend



Bergen




What did the girl tell the police ?

I am not a victim!
I am not a prostitute!
I don't need your help
I want to go home
Stay away from my friends



The Conviction:
The traffickers were sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years



WHY ?

Aggrieved parties often deny that they are being subjected to violence, force or other forms of coercion because they fear reprisals against themselves or their families in the country of origin.
.....In spite of the other evidence in the case, NN has denied being a victim of human trafficking or involved in prostitution.

Judgment of the Gulating Court of Appeal of 14.12.2009



"I will only tell my story if you care about it....."

Thank you
Richard Chaffin
Prostitute