The commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a crime that occurs when one or more people engage a boy, girl or adolescent under 18 years of age in sexual activity for financial or other reward in kind (clothes, food, drugs, etc.).

It includes all of the following types of exploitation:

- Paid sexual intercourses and activities
- The production and distribution of child or adolescent pornography
- Participation in public or private sex shows
- Work in brothels or other places linked to commercial sexual exploitation
- Running away from home.
- Handling quantities of money, clothes or objects that are inconsistent with the boy, girl or adolescent.
- The boy, girl or adolescent belongs to a socially vulnerable group, such as a criminal group, or is a victim of domestic violence or forced labor.
- Intermediaries: facilitators or mediators of the exploitation in order to obtain financial gain (can be taxi drivers, owners and staff of hotels, massage parlours and photographic studios, etc.).

Due to the fact that commercial sexual exploitation is a very complex problem, the exploitation is a very complex problem, the exploitation is a very complex problem, etc.

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The victims

- They are boys, girls and adolescents under 18 years of age, the majority are female.
- They have lived in conditions which make them vulnerable: poverty, intra-family violence, being turned out of the family, exclusion from the education system, addiction to alcohol or other drugs, child labour and living on the streets.
- They have not chosen to be sexually exploited, nor can they consent to it.

Although they are not guilty of the situation, they feel responsible for what happens to them and cannot find a way out.

They are the people who are directly responsible for the problem.

They may be of any age, nationality, profession, marital status or sex, although the majority are male.

They may be locals (national or foreign residents) or from other areas or countries (foreign exploiters).

They sometimes bring about the movement of victims within or outside the country; this committing the victims to the crimes of sale and trafficking in persons.

In addition to sexually exploiting the victims, the client-exploiter may infect them with sexually transmitted diseases, make them pregnant, attack them physically and emotionally, restrict them as objects.

The exploiters should be reported and punished.

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Care actions for the victim

- Listen, at all times, to the victim’s opinion and keep them informed of the procedures that will be undertaken for their protection.
- Avoid scolding, complaining or blaming the boy, girl or adolescent. Remember that he or she is the victim and is not guilty of what is happening.
- Inform your immediate boss of the situation detected in order that together you may decide what intervention measures are to be taken.
- Where necessary, request the help of a professional in psychology or a social worker who is familiar with dealing with the problem.
- Contact the institution in charge of protecting children and adolescents in your country in order that they may intervene in this respect (case reference).
- Ensure the boy, girl or adolescent’s safety until the children and adolescents’ institution assumes intervention in the case.
- Prepare a report on the situation identified. Include:
  - identification details of the underage person;
  - details of the alleged exploiter;
  - description of the situation identified to date.
- Hand in the report to the child and adolescents’ institution.
- Report the crime committed by the exploiter(s) or the situation of exploitation to the legal authority competent in processing this type of reports. For this purpose, it is essential you familiarize yourself with the current legislation on sex crimes; who has the legal authority to report these, and what the procedure is.
- Provide follow-up and support to the actions undertaken by other institutions and incorporate the recommendations they make in order to facilitate the victim’s recovery.
- Participate in local networks, committees or inter-institutional coordination spaces to guarantee a system of reference and counter-reference of both the victims and the population at risk.

Remember:
You may be the only source of support for a boy, girl or adolescent victim of commercial sexual exploitation. We must fight for the victims’ protection and report the exploiters.